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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th, 1923.

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

Price 8d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, SURREY.



The Recast Tenor (30 cwt.) at
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.
New Ring of Ten opened May 14th, 1921.

**BELLS,
CARILLONS,
CLOCKS.**

A VALUABLE AGREEMENT.

There has just been issued in printed form the 'conclusions' arrived at by the conference between the Central Council and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and this report will, we understand, come up for discussion at the Council's meeting at Salisbury. The conclusions have been arrived at as a result of complete agreement between the representatives of both bodies, and the report is a complete vindication of the position which ringers have all along taken up in regard to bell hanging in ancient, and indeed in all, bell towers. In past years there has been a feeling among ringers that the restoration or augmentation of bells in old steeples has, in a number of cases, been obstructed by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, through, it has been felt, the mistaken but wholly honest belief that such work could not be carried out without detriment to the tower. Led by the late Sir Arthur Heywood, who laid the foundation of the movement with his book upon the subject, fortified by the indisputable scientific calculations of Mr. E. H. Lewis, and with the many practical proofs provided by the leading firms of bell founders in hanging bells upon sound engineering principles, the Central Council, through the Towers and Belfries Committee, have convinced the Society that it is perfectly possible to carry out such work, and the 'conclusions' of the conference lay down the principles by which it can proceed. To have reached this stage is eminently satisfactory, and the report is an extremely valuable agreement, for we now have two interested bodies pulling in the same direction instead of in opposition, and we hope that this report may reach all Church authorities contemplating bell restoration.

The methods which the conference recommends should be applied when bells are to be rehung or augmented in ancient towers are just those which any ringer conversant with the subject would advocate, and which all our leading founders in these days put into practice. There is one recommendation, however, which we are pleased to see included in the findings of the conference, and that is, that 'in no circumstances should a pre-Reformation bell be recast or its canons removed, and that when such bells cannot be retained in the ring, that they be used as single bells or preserved as a valuable and interesting work of the past.' This is a point which we have urged in this column, and we are glad to see that the preservation of these relics is thus strongly advocated. As bells, many of these castings are not fit to take a place in modern peals, but as examples of the work of old founders and specimens of an ancient craft, in which after all, ringers have a deep interest, these antiquities of the pre-Reformation period, all too many of which have disappeared, ought to be saved from the melting-pot.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, 1923, in Three Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 37½ cwt.

GEORGE A. PICKERING ... Treble	JOSEPH W. PARKER ... 7
CHARLES L. ROUTLEDGE ... 2	JOSEPH E. R. KEEN ... 8
*GEORGE R. HOLMES ... 3	ALFRED F. HILLIER ... 9
THOMAS T. GOFTON ... 4	WILLIAM H. BARBER ... 10
RICHARD THOMPSON ... 5	JAMES GEORGE ... 11
†JOSEPH A. GOFTON ... 6	JOHN FOREMAN ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal on twelve bells. † First peal of Cinques on tower bells. Quickest peal on the bells. Rung on the eve of the 20th birthday of the ringer of the 5th, also the 81st birthday of the conductor's mother, and the 63rd birthday of Mr. W. Story, President of the Association.

TEN BELL PEALS.

DUDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

*WILLIAM A. PUGH ... Treble	SAMUEL BAKER ... 6
SAMUEL J. HUGHES ... 2	REUBEN HALL ... 7
HERBERT SHEPPARD ... 3	ALBERT T. SCRIVENS ... 8
EDWIN J. TYLER ... 4	JOHN GOODMAN, JUN. ... 9
JAMES TYLER ... 5	BENJAMIN GOUGH ... Tenor

Composed by WM. MICKLEWRIGHT. Conducted by J. GOODMAN, JUN.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters and first attempt. Arranged and rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. John Goodman, sen., the 'father' of the Dudley band, also to Miss Tyler, daughter of the ringer of the 4th.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD
AND THE OXFORD SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1923, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5037 CHANGES;

TOM PAYNE ... Treble	RICHARD G. RICE ... 6
TOM SHORT ... 2	FRANCIS E. TAYLOR ... 7
MRS. A. E. LOCK ... 3	GORDON CAUDWELL ... 8
WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS ... 4	HARRY MILES ... 9
ALBERT E. LOCK ... 5	REGINALD PLAISTER ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by F. E. TAYLOR.

First peal as conductor.

FULHAM.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD
AND THE ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY.

On Thursday, Jan. 11, 1923, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES W. DRIVER ... Treble	*FREDERICK H. CROOK ... 6
WILLIAM H. WOOD ... 2	FRANK SKEVINGTON ... 7
WILLIAM H. HOLLIER ... 3	HARRY A. FOLKARD ... 8
GEORGE C. ILES ... 4	ARTHUR HARDING ... 9
ARTHUR COTMORE ... 5	HORACE BELCHER ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by FRANK SKEVINGTON.

* First peal of Stedman Caters. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. F. Skevington and H. A. Folkard.

**ALFRED BOWELL,
CHURCH BELL FOUNDER,
IPSWICH.**

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

FLIXTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

ASTLEY JOHNSON Treble	JAMES W. WASHBROOK 5
SAMUEL WOOD 2	HARRY CHAPMAN 6
ROBERT DAVIES 3	JAMES H. COLLIER 7
WILLIAM H. SHUKER 4	WRIGHT JOHNSON Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.
Rung for the silver wedding of Mr. G. B. Stott.

LONG BATON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(Long Eaton Branch.)

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S No. 1.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ALBERT H. WARD Treble	CHARLES GEARY 5
JOSEPH BAILEY 2	*CECIL WALLACE 6
EDMUND C. CHASTY 3	ARTHUR BRAINES 7
WILLIAM R. DRAGE 4	THOMAS HUTCHINSON Tenor

Conducted by A. H. WARD.

* First peal of Stedman.

RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE ... Treble	PERCY E. JONES 5
WILLIAM HENLEY 2	HENRY H. CHANDLER 6
FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW ... 3	*RICHARD CARTER 7
JOSEPH J. PRATT 4	WILLIAM HONOR Tenor

Conducted by J. J. PRATT.

First peal on the bells since rededication. * First peal.

SIDMOUTH, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

EDWIN SHEPHERD Treble	WILLIAM HOWE 5
*KENNETH GODFREY 2	GEORGE BETTS 6
ALFRED MONKLEY 3	*GEORGE BURROWS 7
FRED STUCKEY 4	*EDWARD MARKS Tenor

Conducted by EDWIN SHEPHERD.

* First peal. The ringers of 2nd, 4th, 7th and 8th hail from Ottery St. Mary, the rest belong to Exeter.

SHADWELL, LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 30½ cwt.

GEORGE B. LUCAS Treble	WILLIAM MILLER 5
CHARLES T. COLES 2	JAMES E. DAVIS 6
GEORGE R. PYE 3	WILLIAM PYE 7
ALBERT W. COLES 4	REUBEN SANDERS Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by GEORGE R. PYE.

First peal in the method on the bells.

CARSHALTON, SURREY.—On Saturday, Nov. 25th, at All Saints, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), for Confirmation service; H. J. Skelt 1, Mrs. A. Clark 2, J. Cooper 3, A. Bundle 4, D. Cooper (first quarter-peal on inside bell) 5, A. Clark 6, F. Holder (conductor) 7, C. Kippin, junr., 8.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qr. 8 lb. in D.

*RAYMOND PHILPOT Treble	ERNEST WEATHERBY 5
†CHAUNCEY F. ELLIS 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 6
GEORGE W. STEERE 3	ALFRED H. PULLING 7
JOHN H. B. HESSE 4	HARRY HARRIS Tenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal on tower bells. † First peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled for the watchnight service. Grandsire was rung to oblige Mr. Ellis, a visitor from Canada.

BOLSTERSTONE, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. in F sharp.

LEONARD SHAW Treble	ARCHIE BREARLEY 5
JOHN A. BREARLEY 2	*JOHN WILMOT 6
SAMUEL HARRISON 3	JOHN R. BREARLEY 7
ALBERT HELLIWELL 4	WILLIAM HARRISON Tenor

Composed by J. BARKER. Conducted by JOHN R. BREARLEY.

* First peal 'inside.' The bells came round shortly before midnight, and rounds and 'firing' welcomed the new year.

PORTSMOUTH.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, PORTSEA,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb.

JOSIAH D. HARRIS Treble	WILLIAM TATE 5
EDWIN J. HARDING, JUN. 2	RICHARD J. STONE 6
TOWER R. TAYLOR 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
SAMUEL J. HARDING 4	EDWIN J. HARDING, SEN. Tenor

Conducted by JOSIAH D. HARRIS.

Rung with half-muffled clappers for the watchnight service.

HORBURY, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND LEONARD,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

*ARTHUR WHITE Treble	GEORGE HUNT 5
HERBERT ROWLEY 2	*FRED LOCKWOOD 6
GEORGE F. PICKLES 3	*GEORGE W. PICKLES 7
†GEORGE BENNETT 4	ROBERT THICKETT Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHT. Conducted by HERBERT ROWLEY.

Mr. Bennett hails from Ossett, the rest belong to Horbury. * First peal. † First peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

LUTON, BEDS.
THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(St. Mary's Society.)

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

HARRY WALKER Treble	HARRY WOOD 5
ALFRED KING 2	FREDERICK HUNT 6
THOS. BLACKBURN 3	THOMAS KENDALL 7
CLIFFORD ROLLINGS 4	LEWIS A. GOODENOUGH Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by L. A. GOODENOUGH.

First peal in the method by all except ringer of the 3rd, and the first in the method on the bells. The band are Sunday service ringers.

CHELMSFORD.—On November 28th, at the Cathedral, before the Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. Kirton 1, A. Saltmarsh (first away from treble) 2, C. Gentry 3, L. Clark 4, P. Timson 5, J. Wood 6, O. Pearce (first quarter as conductor) 7, W. Pease 8.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

ROBERT WOOD Treble	ERNEST E. GOSLING 5
RONALD FRANKLIN 2	ARTHUR CROSS 6
*DAVID TINDALL 3	WILLIAM WELLING 7
FREDERICK TINDALL 4	FREDERICK MIDDLETON ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM WELLING.

* First peal. Rung by the local band during the closing hours of 1922.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART

Tenor 25½ cwt.

JOHN CAPP Treble	ALFRED W. GROVES 5
ALBERT D. STONE 2	JOHN DEARLOVE 6
WILLIAM C. HART 3	KEITH HART 7
ARTHUR T. VERELLS 4	BENJAMIN BASSETT ... Tenor

Conducted by KEITH HART.

Rung half-muffled for the old year.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Monday, Jan. 1, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

CLIFFORD SKIDMORE ... Treble	ARTHUR WHATMORE 5
*HARRY HOLDEN 2	HARRY PRICE 6
WILLIAM POTTER 3	CHARLES E. PERKINS 7
JOHN KENDAL 4	WALTER MASTERS ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES E. PERKINS.

* First peal in the method with a bob bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to Harry Holden.

BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM.
THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.)

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. Aidan,

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

Tenor 10½ cwt. in F sharp.

GEORGE PICKERING ... Treble	WILLIAM H. BARBER 5
CHARLES L. ROUTLEDGE ... 2	ALFRED F. HILLIER 6
ROBERT RICHARDS 3	JOSEPH E. R. KEEN 7
JOSEPH ROWELL 4	WILLIAM W. SINCLAIR ... Tenor

Composed by SIR A. HEYWOOD. Conducted by C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

The first peal on the bells which were dedicated on Dec. 7th last. Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair kindly entertained the band to a sumptuous tea after the peal.

PENDLETON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1923, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

J. W. WASHBROOK ... Treble	TITOS BARLOW 5
SAM WOOD 2	WILLIAM COOPER 6
JOSEPH LOWE 3	HARRY CHAPMAN 7
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 4	AMOS TRIPPIER Tenor

Composed and Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

This peal was rung as a welcome to Councillor Trippier after recovering from a serious illness.

KINGSLEY, STAFFS.—On Saturday, Nov. 25th, at the Church of St. Werburgh, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob: E. Bradshaw 1, J. E. Wheeldon (conductor) 2, W. Carnwell 3, A. Edwards 4, H. Carnwell 5, E. Edwards 6. J. E. Wheeldon hails from Norton.

WOOLWICH.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... Treble	PERCY J. SPICE 5
JOHN J. LAMB 2	ISAAC EMERY 6
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 3	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 7
ISAAC G. SHADE 4	ROBERT BRETT-SMITH ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. Francis Groves, of the local band, who was interred at Plumstead Cemetery on the same day.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(DEVIZES BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1923, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 33½ cwt.

JAMES BIBBY Treble	WILLIAM BAXTER 5
WILLIAM LOUTH 2	CHARLES ANDREWS 6
SIDNEY PEPLER 3	SAMUEL J. HECTOR 7
JESSE FRANCIS 4	CHARLES WARWICK and FRED HAYES Tenor

Conducted by S. J. HECTOR.

DARLASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD
On Thursday, Jan. 4, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Lawrence,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

JOHN DAVIES Treble	WILLIAM FISHER 5
FRANK W. PERRENS 2	THOMAS J. ELTON 6
EDWIN J. TYLER 3	BERT HORTON 7
EDGAR MARLOW 4	BENJAMIN GOUGH ... Tenor

Conducted by BERT HORTON.

First peal in the method as conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. B. Horton, wife of the conductor.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH, ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH
ASSOCIATION

On Friday, Jan. 5, 1923, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE WHITING ... Treble	*LESLIE G. BRETT 5
*THOMAS RAMSEY 2	GEORGE BENNETT 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	THOMAS W. LAST 7
ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN ... 4	ERNEST E. LANHAM ... Tenor

Composed by G. H. CROSS.

Conducted by G. WHITING.

* First peal and proposed members of the Association before starting.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Thursday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours and One Minute,
At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb.

ARTHUR W. HOODLESS ... Treble	HERBERT MINGAY 5
CHARLES TAYLOR 2	FRED METCALF 6
WALTER M. GODDARD ... 3	RALPH S. LONG 7
STEPHEN BROMFIELD ... 4	*GEORGE ATKINSON ... Tenor

Conducted by R. S. LONG.

First peal as conductor. First peal of Stedman by ringers of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and tenor. * First peal on eight bells. Rung for the festival of Epiphany, also as a birthday compliment to Charles Taylor and in honour of the engagement of the conductor to Miss May Robinson, of Sheffield. First peal of Stedman in Grimsby district by all resident district members.

GOUDHURST, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1922, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt.

ANDREW MARSHALL Treble	FREDERICK BUTCHERS ... 5
*GEORGE WAGHORN 2	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... 6
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, JUN. 3	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN. 7
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 4	HARRY PARKES Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE. Conducted by HARRY PARKES.
* First peal of Major.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 14 cwt.

FREDERICK WHITE Treble	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. 5
GEORGE THOMPSON 2	GEORGE H. DAYNES ... 6
DAVID VINCENT 3	WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES ... 7
THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 4	HERBERT MARKWELL ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

First peal and first attempt on eight by D. Vincent, who was proposed a member before the start. Quickest peal on the bells.

DEANE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

HARRY CHAPMAN Treble	JOSEPH LEATHERBARROW ... 5
J. W. WASHBROOK 2	SAM WOOD 6
THOMAS B. WORSLEY ... 3	TITUS BARLOW 7
GEORGE POWNALL 4	ALLAN BAILEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 11½ cwt.

*JAMES J. WILSON Treble	FRANCIS BIBBY 5
WILLIAM BIBBY 2	HENRY W. WILDE 6
EDWARD JENKINS 3	JAMES MORGAN 7
JOHN E. BIBBY 4	CECIL RADDON Tenor

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

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

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

HARRY BROUGHTON Treble	WILLIAM SMITH 5
E. HARRY STONELEY ... 2	JAMES F. CLARKE ... 6
SHIRLEY BURTON 3	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 7
HAROLD J. POOLE 4	JOHN OLDEHAM Tenor

Composed by N. J. PIRSTOW. Conducted by W. P. WHITEHEAD.
First peal as conductor (age 15).

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

EDWARD WHITEHEAD Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON 5
HAROLD J. POOLE 2	HARRY BROUGHTON ... 6
E. HARRY STONELEY ... 3	JOHN OLDEHAM 7
GEORGE CLEAL 4	JAMES F. CLARKE Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by HARRY BROUGHTON.

THURCASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Six Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 10,912 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

REDVERS F. ELKINGTON ... Treble	ARTHUR CATTELL 5
SYDNEY COX 2	J. LESLIE WILLARS ... 6
JOSIAH MORRIS 3	ERNEST J. JELLEY ... 7
FRED STANFORTH 4	ERNEST MORRIS Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH W. PARKER. Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

Longest peal in the method yet rung by this Association. Longest by all the band except ringers of the 3rd, 5th and tenor.

HOGHTON, LANCES.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BLACKBURN AND PRESTON BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

*THOMAS CALDERBANK ... Treble	JOHN BALL 5
FRED CHAMBERS 2	JOHN BROWN 6
ARTHUR CHAMBERLAIN ... 3	ARTHUR TOMLINSON ... 7
TOM STANCLIFFE 4	JOHN WATSON Tenor

Composed by T. HAIGH. Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

* First peal in the method. Ringers of the treble and 6th hail from Houghton, 5th from Samlesbury and the rest from Blackburn.

BLAKENHALL, WOLVERHAMPTON.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... Treble	HERBERT KNIGHT 5
JOHN BASS 2	*BERT HORTON 6
WILLIAM FISHER 3	FRANK W. PERRENS ... 7
EDGAR MARLOW 4	ROBERT MATTHEWS ... Tenor

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FRANK W. PERRENS.

* First peal in the method. First Surprise peal as conductor.

REDHILL, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

*GEORGE F. PEARCE Treble	FREDERICK W. RICE ... 5
†WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 2	†WALTER CLAYDON ... 6
GEORGE ELLIS 3	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... 7
†HUGH R. THORPE 4	ALBERT ELLIS Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Oxford.

BUNBURY, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 1923, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BONIFACE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb.

ROBERT SPERFING Treble	JAMES SWINDLEY ... 5
RICHARD T. HOLDING ... 2	HARRY OVERTON ... 6
HARRY F. HOLDING 3	JAMES H. RIDING ... 7
GEORGE R. JONES 4	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. ... Tenor

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JAMES H. RIDING.

First peal in the method on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor. The band wish to thank Mr. Dutton, the People's Warden, for his hospitality after the peal.

Bell Ropes

MADE OF BEST ITALIAN HEMP.

➤ GREAT REDUCTIONS. ➤

Kindly write for Prices. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Estab. 1780.

DAVID MAXON, Rope Works, Grantham.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HORSMONDEN, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Monday, Dec. 25, 1922, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 20 cwt.

REGINALD BUTCHERS ... Treble	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN. 4
*GEORGE BURT ... 2	REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 5
*ALBERT FIELDER ... 3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT ... Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT T. LAMBERT.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. G. Burt was made a member of the Association previous to starting for the peal.

FULBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1922, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 720 each of Fulbeck Bob, Double Bob and Single Court, and two 720's each of Oxford Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

VICTOR G. NISBETT ... Treble	CALEB L. SIMCOCK ... 4
RICHARD W. PORTER ... 2	CHARLES W. BAINES ... 5
GEORGE SCOTT ... 3	CHARLES W. ELSE ... Tenor

Conducted by C. W. ELSE.

This peal was rung as a compliment to Mr. Charles Wallhead on the occasion of his wedding.

SHARNFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT)

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

*HARRY WOOD ... Treble	CHARLES H. BRIGGS ... 4
GEORGE WOOD ... 2	FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 5
†WILLIAM COPE ... 3	FRED COTTON ... Tenor

Conducted by F. COTTON.

* First peal. First peal of Minor. Rung on the eve of the twenty-ninth anniversary of the opening of the peal of six.

LOWICK, NORTHANTS.
THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford Bob, Double Court Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Bob Minor, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

ARTHUR BELLAMY ... Treble	ANDERSON Y. TYLER ... 4
*AMOS SMART ... 2	JAMES HUDSON ... 5
LEONARD J. WYMAN ... 3	REGINALD C. LOVEDAY ... Tenor

Conducted by REGINALD C. LOVEDAY.

* First peal in seven methods and first attempt. Quickest peal on the bells. The Rector (Rev. A. C. Dicker), kindly entertained the ringers to tea at the Parish Room after the peal.

GAYTON, NORTHANTS.
THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores with 10 different callings.

JAMES W. HAYNES ... Treble	*JOHN A. TOWNSEND ... 4
FRED HOPPER ... 2	HAROLD FOLWELL ... 5
*RAYMOND ASPLIN ... 3	ALFRED MONK ... Tenor

Conducted by J. A. TOWNSEND.

First peal on the bells. * First peal. Ringer of the treble belongs to Pattishall, 5th to Fosters Booth, 2nd and tenor to Northampton, 3rd and 4th to Milton. After the peal, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hillyer kindly entertained the band to tea, which was much appreciated by all.

GODSHILL, ISLE OF WIGHT.—On Thursday, Nov. 30th, at All Saints' Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: W. Johnson 1, H. Phillips 2, A. Callaway 3, J. Bacon 4, W. Upton 5, H. Barton (conductor) 6. First 720 Kent by all except the conductor.

TIMBERSCOMBE, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETROCK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*S. GRABHAM ... Treble	H. PHILLIPS ... 4
*E. THORNE ... 2	*E. GOULD ... 5
†ISAAC FARMER ... 3	*A. WEBBER ... Tenor

Conducted by ISAAC FARMER.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal as conductor.

STANTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Double Oxford, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and one 720 of Oxford Bob.

JAMES HEMMING ... Treble	FREDERICK J. JOHNSON ... 4
THOMAS HANDS ... 2	GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 5
JOHN HALL ... 3	JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN HALL.

This was the quarterly peal for the Southern Branch.

THORNHAM MAGNA, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH AND IPSWICH ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 360 each of Beverley, Canterbury, London, Wells, Durham, York, Westminster, Hull, Bourne, Ipswich, Netherseale, Annable's London, Norwich and Cambridge Surprise.

CHARLES NUNN ... Treble	WILLIAM CLOVER ... 4
JAMES BETTS ... 2	WILLIAM ROSE ... 5
GEORGE BROWN ... 3	GEORGE CATTERMOLLE ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CATTERMOLLE.

First peal in 14 Surprise Methods by all and on the bells.

WESTHALL, SUFFOLK.
THE NORWICH, ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Dec. 30, 1922, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In five methods, being 8 six-scores each of Morning Star, April Day, Old Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles, and 10 of Grandsire.

JAMES WOOLNOUGH ... Treble	JACK FORD ... 3
ERNEST COOK ... 2	FRANK FORD ... 4
JOHN LARTER ... 3	JOHN LARTER ... Tenor

Conducted by J. LARTER.

SANDHURST, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(SONNING DEANERY BRANCH.)

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's each of Woodbine and Oxford, and three of Kent Treble Bob.

CYRIL W. BARLOW ... Treble	ERIC H. BARLOW ... 4
GEORGE A. RICHES ... 2	GEORGE ENGLEFIELD ... 5
CHARLES DOE ... 3	JOHN MOTH ... Tenor

Rung half-muffled for the passing year, finishing five minutes before midnight. Each ringer conducted one 720, except the ringer of the tenor who conducted the 1st and last.

SHREWSBURY.—At St. Chad's Church, on Nov. 9th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 57 mins.: G. Byolin 1, J. Griffiths (aged 14, first quarter-peal), 2, J. E. Lilley 3, R. Pole 4, D. J. Boucher 5, W. Fairhead 6, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 7, J. Evans 8.—On December 16th, 704 Grandsire Cinques: F. Lycott (aged 14), 1, J. Griffiths (aged 14), 2, G. Jones 3, J. E. Lilley (aged 14) 4, R. R. Pole 5, D. J. Boucher 6, E. G. H. Hiskox 7, A. Short 8, T. Pritchard 9, W. Fairhead 10, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 11, J. Evans 12. Longest length of Cinques by all except 3rd, 4th and 11th ringers. Rung after meeting late for a quarter-peal of Cinques.—On Dec. 9th, 418 Grandsire Cinques.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD
(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Oxford Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Kent, Oxford Single Bob, College Single and Plain Bob.

CHARLES COLES... .. Treble	FRANCES E. TAYLOR 4
WILLIAM HARRIS 2	FREDERICK CLINKARD... .. 5
*HARRY TOLLEY 3	WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS ... Tenor

Conducted by W. H. B. WILKINS.

* First peal with a bob bell. The above peal was rung for the midnight watch service. Quickest peal on the bells.

MATHON, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, 1922, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, College Single, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 8 cwt.

ANDREW LAYTON... .. Treble	CHRIS. BOWERS 4
ROLAND LEWIS 2	*WILLIAM RANFORD 5
DAVID HORNE 3	GEORGE JORDAN... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. RANFORD.

* First peal in seven methods as conductor. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. C. Powell, who was formerly a ringer at the above church.

HELD OVER.

A number of peal reports are unavoidably held over, as is a letter from the Rev. H. Drake and other contributions to our columns.

CIRENCESTER.—At the Parish Church, on Thursday, Dec. 7th, for the Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,259 changes), composed by R. F. Deal: F. W. Bond 1, H. Lewis 2, W. H. Hayward 3, W. C. Cuss 4, W. G. Cook 5, J. Butler 6, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 7, S. R. Hicks 8, H. C. Bond 9, J. Hayward 10.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ALDEBURGH-ON-SEA, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH, ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1923, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT MALVERN HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. T. PILGRIM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in A.

ROY PILGRIM 1—2	NORMAN R. BAILEY 5—6
ALBERT J. LINCOLN 3—4	*JACK PILGRIM 7—8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by NORMAN R. BAILEY.

Witness: LEONARD W. BALE.

* First peal of Major.

CAMBRIDGE.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1923, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

IN TRINITY COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

REV. A. H. F. BOUGHNEY ... 1—2	W. H. J. HOOTON 5—6
J. B. WOOLLEY 3—4	C. W. WOOLLEY 7—8

Conducted by W. H. J. HOOTON.

This is believed to be the first peal of Double Oxford 'in hand.'
Composer unknown.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1923, in Two Hours and Thirty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE 'HOOP & GRAPES' HOTEL, 80, FARRINGTON ST., E.C. 4.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

HERBERT LANGDON 1—2	THOMAS LANGDON 5—6
CHALLIS F. WINNEY 3—4	S. WARREN STURGIS 7—8

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

Umpire: THOMAS BENNEY.

Witnesses: F. G. SYMONDS and EDWIN F. PIKE.

First peal by S. W. Sturgis, who is on a visit to this country from Groton, Mass., U.S.A.

JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,

LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE

LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

**Foundry
Established
A.D. 1570**
(12th year
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**Bellfounders and
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for

Recasting, Retuning and Rehanging.

HANDBELLS

In Sets of any number.

BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

As will be seen from a notice, the new trebles, completing the ring of twelve at Exeter, are to be dedicated on Feb. 3rd.

What was probably the first peal on twelve bells, was a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, recorded as having been rung on Tuesday, the 19th of January, 1724. Among those who took part in the peal were Benjamin Annable and Robert Catlin, who was a London bell founder, and carried on the business brought from Reading by Samuel Knight.

On January 19th, 1767, the London Youths rang 6,200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch, and ten years later, on Jan. 20th, 1777, the Cumberlands rang 6,240 in the same method on the same bells.

On January 21st, 1788, a peal of 5,600 Bob Maximus was rung at the Church of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge.

In 1898, on January 21st, a peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, which set the lead for modern Surprise Royal ringing, was accomplished at Cheltenham. It was believed to be the first peal of Surprise Royal, although, of course, it is now known that a peal in this method was rung at Wakefield in 1822.

A peal of 'Garthing's Trebles'—Garthon's peal of Grandsire Triples—was rung at St. Margaret's, Lynn, on January 20th, 1740.

'That most ingenious and intricate peal, Norwich Court Bob Maximus,' was rung for the first time at St. Peter Mancroft on January 20th, 1817.

The first peal by the Winchester Diocesan Guild in Hampshire was rung 39 years ago last Wednesday, at Soberton, Hants, and was Mr. George Williams' first peal. Curiously enough Mr. Williams rang his first peal as conductor in the same tower exactly a year later. Since then he has rung over a thousand!

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the annual meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Association is postponed until February 3rd.

'Long peals' of Cambridge Major are few and far between, but the enterprising Leicester men rang, last Saturday, a 7,008 by Mr. Fred Dench.

Mr. Wilfred Overton, of Bridgnorth, writes to point out that the peal of Oxford Bob Triples at Holm Lacey, published in our last issue, cannot be claimed as the first in the method by the Hereford Diocesan Guild. A peal in this method was rung by the association at Bridgnorth on January 11th, 1902.

The annual meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association is to be held at Nottingham on January 27th (the same day as the dinner to honour the memory of William Doubleday Crofts), and not on the 20th, as advertised last week.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Foundry, have recently secured the order for a large carillon for Oshawa, Canada.

The peal of eight at Northallerton, North Yorks, has been rebung by the same firm.

Congratulations to Walter P. Whitehead upon his first peal as conductor. To call a peal of Superlative at the age of 15 years is more than a promising performance.

In their annual report the Lancashire Association have set an example in bringing the doings of the Central Council under the special notice of their members by printing a summary report of the last meeting.

The Lancashire Association has now a total membership of 1,450, of which 1,163 are ringers attached to towers in the county.

At Beverley Minster belfry, just before midnight on New Year's Eve, the old custom was observed of reading Tennyson's poem, 'King out, wild bells.' Following a touch of 395 Grandsire Caters the Vicar read the poem, and after the hour of midnight had struck the new year was welcomed by another short touch.

On January 6th, after the Epiphany ringing, the Westminster Abbey company of ringers were entertained to lunch by the Dean (Bishop Ryle) and Mrs. Ryle, at the Deanery, an exceedingly enjoyable time being spent.

A Weymouth paper has recorded the 'keen appreciation and delight' of the inhabitants of the town at hearing the bells of Christ Church, King Street, at midnight on New Year's Eve, for the first time for many years. Hymns were rung, and the bells 'pealed forth a joyful welcome to 1923.' Congratulations are extended to those who have put these bells in order after they had been allowed to rust in inactivity for so long a time.

We should also join in the congratulations were it not for the fact that these bells are saucer-shaped and worked on the barrel principle.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Council will be held on May 22nd (Whit Tuesday) next, at Salisbury. Full particulars of the meeting will be published later. Notice of any proposed motion should be sent before April 21st.

Secretaries please note that the annual subscription is now due, and should be sent to the hon. secretary, Mr. E. Alexr. Young, 155, Rushey Green, S.E.6.

BELL HANGING IN ANCIENT TOWERS. CENTRAL COUNCIL AND SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

1. Bell cages can be made to satisfy the various requirements of bell ringers, archaeologists and architects, having particular regard to the protection of ancient towers.
2. The design and workmanship of a cage are of more importance than the material of which it is made.
3. When the renewal of an old bell cage or the recasting of an old bell is under consideration, the benefit of any doubt should remain with the retention of what exists.

In these words the Conference between the representatives of the Central Council and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings summarise their agreed findings on the subject of bell hanging in ancient towers, a subject upon which there has been considerable disagreement between the two bodies in the past.

The report containing the conclusions of the conference has just been printed, and it opens with the general statement that 'during the past quarter of a century or so very many different statements with regard to the right way in which bells should be hung in old towers have been made; and a considerable difference of opinion appeared to exist between the recommendations made by the society and the Central Council. Added to this difficulty the bell hanging firms were still, to a great extent, experimenting with metal cages, and recommending new and untried methods of construction.'

The Conference between the two bodies resulted 'in complete agreement,' and the principles agreed upon are put forward as a guide to be used by those who have the care of rings of bells in old towers, i.e., towers built before the end of the 16th century or thereabouts. The first recommendation is that with regard to any question concerning their church bells or work in their towers. Parish authorities are strongly urged to consult the Advisory Committee set up in their own diocese or the Central Committee for the Protection of Churches and their Treasures, with whom the parties to the conference would be prepared and willing to advise on technical points.

The recommendations go on to deal with the technicalities of bell hanging, urging the importance of the careful distribution of the strains and stresses, the protection of belfries from birds and weather, the proper ventilation and care of the ringing chamber, the care of the bells and their fittings.

The report advocates that in no circumstances should a pre-Reformation bell be recast or its canons removed, and that, when such bells cannot be retained in the ring, they should be used as single bells or preserved as a valuable and interesting work of the past, also that bells of special interest of post-Reformation date, such as those cast by such famous founders as Miles Gray or Abraham Rudhall should not be recast without reference to the authorities referred to above.

'Clocking' of bells is strongly deprecated, and attention is directed to the necessity to quarter-turn a bell when it wears thin, and also to the importance of the form and condition of the clapper. The report adds this significant paragraph, 'With regard to bearings it is doubtful if any advantage is gained by the use of ball bearings.'

To the report, which is signed by Mr. A. R. Powys, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and Mr. E. Alexander Young, secretary of the Central Council, is appended a schedule setting out the merits and demerits of various materials for the construction of frames, viz., oak, chestnut, teak and metal. The only demerits urged against the metal frame are that it needs regular painting to prevent corrosion, and has not got the shock-absorbing qualities of timber; but, it is added, in a properly constructed frame in proper condition shock does not arise.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A most successful meeting of the Hunts district was held at St. Neots on Saturday last. The ringers present came from a wide area, St. Neots, Eynesbury, Eaton Socon, Great Staughton, Ramsey, Roxton, Chatteris, Everton, Sandy, Cambridge, Hitchin, Long Stanton, Newmarket and Fulbourne being represented. Various touches were rung on the magnificent eight at St. Neots, and at Eynesbury (6) and Eaton Socon (6), the methods including Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich. A short service was held in the fine church of St. Neots, with an address by the Vicar. At the tea, which was held in the commodious Church Room, 32 ringers were present.

At the subsequent meeting the chair was taken by the Rev. W. Knights, Vicar of St. Neots, and several new members were admitted. It was decided, if possible, to hold the next meeting at Huntingdon on February 10th.

A hearty vote of thanks to the incumbents of St. Neots, Eynesbury and Eaton Socon for the use of the bells, and to the Rev. W. Knights for his excellent address, was proposed by the district secretary (the Rev. H. B. Woolley), seconded by Mr. J. Willis, and carried unanimously.

This district is evidently 'a live branch.'

BRISTOL UNITED GUILDS' DINNER.

This infant had its second trip on Saturday last, and, although I should say there were not quite so many present as last year, it was in every way quite as successful.

The speech of the Ven. Archdeacon of Bristol was much appreciated by everyone. It was delivered in a quiet, conversational tone, that made those present feel that he was speaking to them personally. He knows what ringing is from practical experience, and the association is fortunate in having such an excellent representative as one of its vice-presidents.

The musical programme last year was an excellent one, but this year it was even better. Mr. Emery's party were reinforced by friends of Mr. Leaker from St. Thomas' choir, and as one of those present remarked, 'the concert alone was worth the money.' To do proper justice to it would mean to describe each item, and I am afraid space cannot be spared for this. Suffice to say, there was not a weak item from start to finish.

The ringing preceding the dinner included four courses of Stedman Cinques at St. Mary Redcliffe, conducted by Mr. Albert Walker, one of those taking part being the esteemed and respected hon. secretary of the Bath and Wells Association, Mr. E. E. Burgess, of Taunton, and this was his first pull on twelve. Judging from this instance there is no reason why we should have to wait long for a peal of Cinques by a local band at Taunton.

Sunday duties sent many away from the dinner earlier than we could have wished, notably Mr. Pates, of Cheltenham, who, to avoid arriving home at 3 o'clock in the morning, had to leave Bristol by the 7.48 train. The chairman also had to leave before the close or walk seven miles. He chose the former (so should I). Our friends from Birmingham, London and Croydon stayed over the week-end, and rang Cambridge Royal and Stedman Caters at St. Stephen's for service.

Congratulations are due to the secretary for the smooth manner in which everything passed off, and to the treasurer for his active assistance. A meeting will shortly be held to fix the date for next year's function and election of officials, and against these two the words 'no change' will undoubtedly be written by the unanimous vote of all present.

W. A. CAVE.

RESTORATION OF OTLEY PARISH CHURCH BELLS.

The dedication of the Otley Parish Church bells, which have just been recast and rehung in a new metal frame, took place on Friday, December 22nd. Before the dedication ceremony by the Vicar (Canon R. P. Hadland), an address was given by the Rev. C. C. Marshall, Vicar of St. Chad's, Far Headingley, and President of the Yorkshire Association.

After the dedication service the bells were rung for about half an hour. Many of the townspeople were listening for the familiar notes, and their beautiful tonal quality was a subject for general comment. Later the ringers were invited to supper provided by a few friends in honour of the occasion. Here they were joined by Canon Hadland and Mr. C. F. Johnston, of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, the firm of bell founders who have carried out the repairs and alterations.

Commenting on the Otley bells and the ringers, Mr. Johnston said that he was taking home with him a photograph of the three oldest ringers—Mr. W. D. Glough, Mr. C. Ralph and Mr. J. Horner—whose total age is 214 years, and whose total years of service in ringing is 170 years. That was a record to be proud of, and he doubted if it could be beaten anywhere in the country.

Canon Hadland congratulated the staff of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston on their workmanship. He said there were quite a lot of men in Otley who really understood the engineering part of the alterations, and they had spoken most appreciatively of the steel framework which had replaced the old oak beams. The bells had also been subjected to a most minute inspection, and everybody was full of praise for the obviously excellent job made of them. The old peal was thought to be excellent, but the new peal was better still.

The recast bells now form a ring of eight, with a 17 cwt. tenor.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A most successful meeting of the Bedford District was held at Bromham on Saturday last, when members attended from Bedford, Clapham, Turvey, Kempston, Biddenham, and the local company. Ringing commenced about 3 o'clock, with a well-struck 240 Violet Treble Bob. Tea was served by Mrs. Mortimer, about 20 sitting down to a splendid spread.

At the business meeting, Miss E. Steel was in the chair, and three new members were elected, viz., C. Sargent and W. Stapleton, of Turvey, and J. Seamarks, of Bromham.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Turvey, of which notice will appear in 'The Ringing World.'

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Miss Steel, to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to Mrs. Mortimer for preparing tea, was carried with applause. The tower was then again visited, and the bells kept going until 8 o'clock to standard methods, after a very enjoyable afternoon and evening being spent.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

ESTABLISHED 1844.



ROYAL EXCHANGE, 1921.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1921.

THE CROYDON BELL FOUNDRY

CARISBROOKE, 1921.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, 1921

DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

With reference to the announcement in these columns on Dec. 29th, that the bells at Durham Cathedral, which have just been rehung, cannot yet be rung owing to the condition of the tower, it should be pointed out that the defects that have appeared in the stonework are in no way whatever due to vibration caused by the ringing of the bells since their restoration. As a matter of fact the bells have not yet been rung, and it is not intended that they should be rung until the extensive repairs to the tower have been completed. The defects which have recently appeared are old ones, and were discovered before the bells were completed.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Bolton Branch at Holy Trinity, Bolton, was another proof of the progress that is being made in this branch. Considerably more interest is being shown in the higher methods by the younger aspirants of the art. Over 40 members were present from 17 towers, and the methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Kent, Oxford, Double Norwich, Superlative and Cambridge in the Major methods, many taking part in their first touch in these methods.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at the Bolton Parish Church.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**THE WAR MEMORIAL SCHEME.**

A very successful meeting of the Rochester District was held at Northfleet on January 6th, upwards of 50 members attending. This district is well served with the quality of its ringing, and this was maintained at the meeting, all methods up to Cambridge and Superlative being the order.

The ringers' service was held in the church, conducted by the curate-in-charge (the Rev. H. H. Hurwood), the organist and choir also being in attendance. In an excellent address, it was very gratifying to hear the reverend gentleman saying how pleased he was to know that the ringers were doing good service by their attendance in the belfry and at church—one hears nowadays the reverse of that from some pulpits.

Tea and business meeting were held in the Schools adjoining. The tea had been prepared by the Ladies' Committee of the church, and a hearty vote of thanks was proposed to them for their kind thought and attending to the ringers' wants.

The Rev. H. H. Hurwood presided over the business meeting, supported by the churchwardens (Messrs. P. A. Terry and Snelling), Mr. G. Clements, the district representatives (Messrs. Haigh and Spice), and the district secretary, Mr. F. M. Mitchell. — Mr. John Avis (Milton-next-Gravesend) was elected a life member, Meopham tower was again brought into union, and two honorary members (the Rev. Taft, Meopham, and J. Clements, Northfleet) and sixteen practising members were elected.

Mr. W. Haigh gave a report of the annual committee meeting, and the action of the representatives in voting for the war memorial to be proceeded with was approved, the members unanimously supporting them in their vote.

The district secretary urged all members and secretaries of towers to hurry on with their collecting cards, and stated that their total sum raised to date towards the memorial was over £10. He also asked them to try and get more honorary members.

Two towers were put up for the next meeting, in April, Cliffe finally being chosen. This peal is to be rehung, and it is hoped it will be completed in time for the association to visit (and if this should meet the eye of the bell hanger, it is hoped he will make a note of it). If Cliffe is not available Meopham was decided upon.

Mr. W. Haigh proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the curate-in-charge for the use of the bells, for his excellent address, and presiding over the meeting; to the organist and choir, and the churchwardens for their attendance, and to the Ladies' Committee for providing such an excellent tea.

The Chairman, in responding, said they were pleased to welcome the ringers to Northfleet, and were pleased to see such a large number present. They would be assured of a hearty welcome at any future date.

Ringling was again indulged in, and all expressed the opinion that this was the 'best meeting for a long time.'

In addition to the district members, ringers attended from Dartford and Maidstone districts, Southend and Swindon.

A collection at the service for the war memorial realised 13s. 6d.

SPEEDY RINGING.

How fast is it possible to ring changes? This question arises from the fact that at Long Stanton on Sunday afternoon, after an unsuccessful attempt for a handbell peal of Grandsire Caters, a 720 Bob Minor was rung 'in hand' in 10 mins. 40 secs., which is at the rate of about 67.5 changes per minute! The ringers were: W. H. J. Hooton (conductor) 1—2, J. B. Woolley 3—4, C. W. Woolley 5—6. The report adds that this was the fastest 720 by all. That is not surprising.

EXTENSION OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR.

Sir,—Now that Mr. York Bramble and the Rev. E. B. James have produced their figures, and also made their full statement of criticism of my figures, kindly allow me your space to make one reply, for the sake of your readers, in support of the accuracy of mine and the error of theirs.

Do both these gentlemen recognise the two basic laws which must control both construction and extension of all treble dodging methods? That there is one bell commonly termed the pivot bell, which must make a place either 1st, 3rd, 5th or 7th, at the same time as the treble lies her whole pull behind, which is the centre line of a single method. The second half of the method is simply a reflection of the first half, opposite hand, backwards.

When we come to a double method this reflection or centre line occurs when the treble has completed half her journey outwards, viz., passing from the 3—4 to 5—6 dodging positions, or, say, one quarter of the treble's course. The whole work in any double method is revealed in this first portion up to the reflection line, but the keystone to any double method is found in the position in which the two necessary places are made as the treble crosses the line. 1st, 3rd's, 6th and 8th places can all be made, as follows: 1st and 6th, or 1st and 8th's, 3rd's and 8th's, or 3rd's and 6th's. The last is what occurs in Bristol Major.

Now then, turn to the figures of Major and take stock of all the work which has been done. We find that 1234 are doing ordinary Treble Bob dodging, while 5678 have been making places, 5th's and 8th's in their turn, exactly fitting with the repetitious rows of 1234 as these bells dodged. While the necessary 1st and 4th's places are made to allow the treble to pass from 1—2 to 3—4 dodging positions, 5678 alternate with a snap to fit. If this work is carefully examined we find we can sum the whole work up under two items.

(1) That the treble dodges all positions up and down, and (2) that all other bells make the nearest place to the treble immediately before and after passing or dodging with her. I give a half lead of Major, Royal and Maximus, and invite all to examine them when they will plainly see the accuracy of the extension I published.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR CRAVEN.

MAJOR.	ROYAL.	MAXIMUS.
12345678	1234567890	1234567890et
21436587	2143658709	2143658709te
12346857	1234685079	1234685079e9
21438675	2143860597	2143860579e9
24136857	2413685079	2413685079e9
42316587	4231658709	4231658709te
24135678	2413567890	2413567890et
42315768	4231576980	4231576980et
24351786	2435179608	24351796e8t0
23457168	2345716980	2345716980et
32541786	3254179608	32541796e8t0
35247168	2345719068	23457196e8t0
53427618	3254791086	3254791et608
35246781	3527490168	352749e16t80
32547618	5372941086	5372941et608
23456781	5739240168	352749e11068
24365871	7593420618	537294et1086
	5739246081	57392e4t0168
	5372940618	7593e2t41086
	3527496081	795e3t240168
LEAD END.		
12436587	3254769801	97e5t3420618
14263857		795e3t246081
	LEAD END.	7593e2t40618
	1537294068	57392e4t6081
	1352749608	537294e6t801
		LEAD END.
		197e5t302846
		1795e3t20486

'CHANGES' AT LAVENHAM.

The touches brought round at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Lavenham, during 1922 amounted to the grand total of 118,380 changes, made up as follows: 83,631 on tower bells (in which are included 49,000 of Sunday Service ringing) and 34,749 on handbells. The following methods were rung: Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples and Caters, Union Triples, Bob Major and Royal, Kent Major and Royal, Oxford Major and Royal, Double Norwich, and Double Oxford Bob Major, Forward Major and Royal, Canterbury Pleasure, Albion, Sowerby Treble Bob Major, Superlative and Cambridge. In addition to the above several thousands of Minor changes were rung. The tower bells were rung for every Sunday morning and evening service throughout the year, also early services on Easter and Christmas mornings. Sixty-one ringing friends from thirty-two parishes visited and rang at the tower during the year.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

ERITH. — On Sunday, January 14th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: L. Cullum (first quarter of Triples) 1, F. Cullum, senr., 2, D. Harvey 3, W. Smith 4, H. Holden (conductor) 5, A. Morton 6, J. Morton 7, R. Middleton 8.

LONG STANTON. — On Sunday, January 14th, for Matins, 640 Double Norwich. — Hazell 1, E. M. Atkins 2, Rev. H. B. Woolley 3, G. W. Cook 4, C. W. Woolley 5, J. Butler 6, W. H. J. Hooton (conductor) 7, J. B. Woolley 8.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX. — At the Church of St. John the Baptist, on Sunday, January 14th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, in 50 mins.: Miss G. Baker 1, Miss D. G. Feltham 2, J. J. Pratt 3, W. Henley 4, L. Potter 5, S. Honor 6, E. Hancox (conductor) 7, R. Carter 8, W. Honor 9, H. Chandler 10.

BATTERSEA. — At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, January 14th, for a special Masonic service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: A. Clark 1, G. Watkin 2, W. Essery 3, C. Mitchell 4, E. Reeve 5, H. Mance (conductor) 6, H. H. Mance 7, G. Barber 8.

CADOXTON. — On January 14th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Minor, in 40 mins.: R. Jones 1, I. Bowen 2, D. J. Lewis 3, A. Devonald 4, R. Rees 5, J. E. Bloxham (first quarter as conductor) 6. First quarter-peal of Bob Minor for ringers of 1, 2 and 5. All are Sunday Service ringers at Cadoxton.

FREISTON, LINCOLNSHIRE. — On Sunday, January 14th, for morning service, at St. James' Church, 720 Bob Minor, in 25 mins.: W. Bradley 1, W. Skinner 2, J. Sharp 3, A. Burebnall 4, A. Sharp (conductor) 5, A. H. Palmer 6.

SHREWSBURY. — On Sunday, January 14th, 315 Stedman Caters: C. R. Lilley (conductor) 1, J. Griffiths 2, G. Boylin 3, J. E. Lilley 4, R. Pole 5, D. J. Boucher 6, T. Pritchard 7, W. Fairhead 8, G. Jones 9, J. Evans 10. — 704 Grandsire Cinques: F. Lyeett 1, J. Griffiths 2, G. Jones 3, W. B. Kynaston 4, R. R. Pole 5, D. J. Boucher 6, E. G. H. Hickox, B.A., 7, A. L. Short 8, T. Pritchard 9, W. Fairhead 10, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 11, J. Evans 12. Longest length of Cinques by a local band for over a century.

EALING, MIDDLESEX. — At St. Mary's Parish Church, on Sunday, January 14th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes), in 47 minutes, for morning service: L. H. Page 1, *A. H. Fulwell 2, F. W. Goodfellow 3, A. M. Stacey 4, *J. H. Hunnisett 5, *H. J. Hunnisett 6, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 7, H. A. Folkard 8. *First quarter-peal in the method. For evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), from Holt's Original, in 40 mins.: G. W. Stevens 1, A. H. Fulwell (first quarter-peal as conductor) 2, J. E. Churchill 3, F. W. Goodfellow 4, J. H. Hunnisett 5, H. J. Hunnisett 6, L. H. Page 7, C. Cooper 8.

HAMMERSMITH. — At St. Paul's Church, on Sunday, January 14th, for morning service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with tenor covering: *H. F. Rivers 1, *W. Stevens 3, H. Dyas 4, A. Cutmor 5, R. Mackrill 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, A. Stratton 8. *First 720 in the method.

FULHAM. — At All Saints' Church, on Sunday, January 14th, for evening service, 1,299 Stedman Caters: A. Cutmor 1, E. A. Arthurton 2, W. Hollier 3, W. Wood 4, H. Folkard 5, H. Crook 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, A. Harding 8, J. W. Driver 9, G. F. Edwards 10.

BRAINTREE. — On Sunday, January 14th, for evensong, at the Parish Church, 672 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: W. H. Dyson 1, W. J. Sadler 2, G. Wiffen 3, H. E. Hammond 4, C. H. Howard (conductor) 5, F. Ely 6, G. Lindridge 7, L. W. Wiffen 8.

BARLBORO', DERBYSHIRE. — For evening service, on Dec. 31st, a 720 of City Delight, in 23 mins.: H. Hibbard 1, G. Ashby 2, P. Morris 3, H. Kirk 4, W. Sturman 5, P. Hibbard (conductor) 6. — On Dec. 16th, this band rang a 720 of London Scholars Pleasure, being the first in these methods by the local band.

HIGH WYCOMBE. — At the Parish Church, on New Year's Eve, an attempt was made for a peal of Stedman Caters, and after ringing for 2 hrs. 18 mins., and just as the single for the third quarter was coming up, a rope and wheel parted company, so on the Sunday evening following the ringers tapped off 1,299 Stedman Caters, in 51 mins., and 'finished the job': F. Hayes (conductor) 1, G. Twitche 2, J. W. Wilkins 3, R. Coles 4, A. J. Hoing 5, E. Markham 6, J. Gransbury 7, B. R. Coles 8, S. T. Goodchild 9, P. S. C. A. Smith 10.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND, KENT. — On Sunday evening, Dec. 31st, with the bells half-muffled, to ring out the old year, a date touch of Minor (1,922 changes), in 1 hr. 4 mins., 122 Plain Bob, 360 Cambridge Surprise, 720 Woodbine, 240 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, 120 each of Double Oxford and Oxford Bob: F. A. Mitchell 1, H. Argent 2, J. Byles 3, L. Beckett 4, G. Morrad 5, F. M. Mitchell (conductor) 6. First date touch by ringers of 1, 2, 4 and 5.

LONDON. — On Sunday, Dec. 31st, for evensong, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, 1,268 Stedman Caters, in 45 mins.: F. I. Hairs 1, Miss A. Parkins 2, R. Richardson 3, H. S. Ellis 4, J. E. Davis 5, W. A. Alg. 6, C. W. R. Grimwood 7, J. A. Trollope 8, W. H. Hewitt (conductor) 9, S. Southby 10. First quarter of Stedman Caters by Miss Parkins.

THE 'SIMPSON PRINCIPLE' OF BELL TUNING
IS IT OVERDONE?

During nearly three weeks' enforced idleness in bed and confinement to my bedroom, the question of the Simpson Principle of bell tuning has been the predominant theme running through my mind.

In any remarks I may make I wish it to be clearly and distinctly understood that I do not wish to make any imputation against the firms who so strenuously advocate this particular principle; their work, honour and integrity being unimpeachable. I only attack the principle as applied to church bells generally.

I am prepared to admit that, from a scientific, musical and logical point of view, the Simpson principle of tuning may be correct, when applied to a bell used singly, where it does not matter how long you have to wait for the note which eventually comes, though belated, but in applying that same principle to a peal of bells where the sounds follow in quick succession, it becomes quite a different matter.

I ask any ringer carefully to listen for and note this fact on Simpson-tuned bells, and see for himself if it is not strictly true, that when the clapper strikes the bell you get a very odd iron twang, the full note coming when it is mixed up with all the other twangs and notes, the result being pandemonium, which may be described as the striking of so many iron pots followed by a conglomeration of sounds ending in a weird howl. This has been my experience of the Simpson Principle up to the present time. I do not say all peals are as bad as each other, the bells in some belfries being a little further off; therefore, the noise is somewhat subdued, but that pandemonium is there all the same. Now, I am asked to believe that all this is good bell music. My good old trusty ear, which has given me lifelong pleasure and enjoyment, tells me it is anything but that.

Some years ago I was cycling with a friend to a ringing meeting where there had been recently installed a Simpson-tuned peal of bells, which I had heard several times, though my friend had not. As we came within hearing we dismounted and listened, and almost at once he said, 'They are certainly not a bad peal of bells.' I said, 'Wait till we get near, we are at present a mile away.'

We eventually came close, and after some minutes listening to the ringing, came to the conclusion that my description of the noise was a true one, which was confirmed to an even greater degree when we got up into the belfry. I have rung several peals on these bells, as well as on another peal of bells tuned on the same principle a few miles from here, where fortunately the ringers are a little further away from the bells and the noise is less painful, but in ringing a peal, as the bells work themselves into certain positions, that periodical howl is nothing short of nerve racking.

A year or two ago I was at the inauguration of a new peal of bells in the neighbourhood, replacing a beautiful modern peal of eight fit to grace any Cathedral tower in the land, for the sole reason that they were not Simpson-tuned. This I have always considered to be little short of sacrilege, a fact which I did not hesitate to tell that famous church dignitary who was responsible for their installation in a conversation which I had with him some time after. 'But,' he said, 'surely you do not question the musical ability of — and of —?' I said, 'No, I do not, they are not ringers, though, but theorists and slaves to a principle.' It was, however, easy to see the impression formed in that worthy's mind by those musical theorists.

Now, in replacing that beautiful peal of bells, have they given us a better peal in their stead? I am absolutely convinced in my mind they have not, and that the old peal was better than the new, and that opinion is shared by many of the local ringers and others who have heard and rung on both peals.

My true ideal of a good peal of bells is where the full note is produced immediately the clapper strikes the bell. Abraham Rudhall always gave us that note, and he knew how to give us good music with his beautiful bells which have never been beaten. Take Painswick bells, and those of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, both Rudhall's bells, I believe: what better music could you wish for than these bells give? Then, to come to more modern founders, take Southgate and Swanscombe. It is always a pleasure to listen to and ring on these beautiful peals of bells. These particular peals of bells I have quoted are only some of those with which I happen to be acquainted, and are, of course, only a few among very many others.

In conclusion, as a word of advice to those incumbents and church authorities who may be augmenting or recasting their bells, I say do not allow yourselves to be talked to by these musical 'cranks,' so that you do not know whether you are standing on your head or your heels, but if possible borrow one of our good friend William Willson's battleaxes, and approach the bell founder, something like this: 'We want our bells augmented or recast (as the case may be). Are you prepared to give us bells similar to Rudhall's? If not, hands off. We will hie ourselves to another bell founder who will.'

In all seriousness, I believe, the Simpson principle of tuning, as applied to church bells, is overdone; the note it produces being a very thin, weak, soulless one, and a reaction against it is inevitable. In fact, I think that reaction has arrived, for many eminent ringers throughout the country are loudly condemning it.

E. BARNETT, Senr.

NOTICES.

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

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practices: Mondays at 7.30 p.m.; Bishopsgate, Jan. 15th; St. Clement Danes, Jan. 22nd; Sundays, St. Clement Danes, 1st and 3rd, at 10 a.m.; Bishopsgate, 2nd and 4th, at 5.15 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stoke Green, near Slough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Swinton Parish Church, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 o'clock. Reports now ready. All ringers welcome.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver St., Miles Platting, Manchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next Branch meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Ramsbottom, on Saturday, January 20th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30. Subscriptions are due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's St., Ramsbottom.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th., at All Saints', Fulham. Tower open from 4 to 8 p.m. Business meeting to follow, election of officers, etc. All ringers invited.—F. A. Smith, Hon. Sec., 14a, Oxford Avenue, Merton Park, S.W.20.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A combined meeting of the Fylde and Preston branches will be held at Kirkham, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30.—W. Taylor, Preston Branch Sec., Tower House, Penwortham.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Mary's Islington (Upper Street), on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3.30 p.m. Service. Tea at about 1s. per head. Business after (election of officers, etc.). Large attendance requested.—E. C. Russell, Hon. Dis. Secretary, 57, Market Street, W.2.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Albans on Saturday, Jan. 20th. St. Peter's Tower (10 bells) available from 2.30 till 6 p.m. The Cathedral bells available after. Tea arrangements will be made on the day. All ringers and friends welcome.—Wm. Nash, District Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Central District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Richmond on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service 5. Tea 5.30.—A. J. Trappitt, Hon. District Sec., 47, Beddington Grove, Wallington.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Great Bromley on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Tea at 5.30.—R. W. Stannard, Hon. Sec., 12, Ireton Road, Colchester.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Northampton District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Kingsthorpe on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells ready at 2.30. Subscriptions for 1923 now due.—S. J. Lawrence, 60, Harlestone Road, Northampton.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the New Year will be held at Worksop on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Bells available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service in the Priory Church 4.30 p.m. Meat tea in the Priory Gatehouse at 5 p.m. A good attendance is desired.—H. Haigh, Hon. Sec.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wirral Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at West Kirby on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Tea and meeting immediately after.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at Hamer. Bells ready at 3. Meeting 6.30. Reports are now ready.—T. K. Driver, 31, Samuel Street, Middleton.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Cheshunt on Jan. 20th. The bells will be ready from 3 o'clock. Tea at the Green Dragon Hotel at 4.30, 1s. 6d. each. Service in church at 6.30, with an address by the Vicar. Would those intending coming kindly notify me so as to arrange for tea? All members and friends will be made welcome.—W. H. Lawrence, Hon. District Sec., Little Munden.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Alfege, Greenwich, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., 1s. per head. Service at 6 p.m. Business meeting to follow. Will secretaries of bands please hand in times of Sunday ringing and practice nights, methods, etc., for the annual report? Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—T. Groombridge, Hon. District Sec., 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Frome Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Buckland Dinham on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Wokingham, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45, followed by business meeting. Ringing before service and after meeting at All Saints' and St. Paul's Churches.—F. Dentry, Hon. Sec., Church Street, Twyford, Berks.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—The annual meeting will take place in St. Peter's belfry on Monday night, Jan. 22nd. Will as many as possible please attend?—A. Braines, 7, Seale Street, Derby.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (established 1637).—The subscription of 1/8, which enables members who have not attended 20 times in the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral, on Jan. 30th; * St. Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd, all at 7.30 p.m. * Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Rd., Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting of the above will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Ringing at St. Mary's (10 bells) 2.30 to 6 p.m. and St. Peter's (10 bells) 4 to 6 p.m. Business meeting in St. Peter's tower 4.45 p.m. There will be a short service in St. Mary's Church 4.15.—Thos. H. Kirkby.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spilsby on Saturday, Jan. 27th. A special motor bus will leave Boston Post Office at 2 p.m. Ringing at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Will those requiring tea please inform John Phillips, Butterwick, Boston?

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—A dinner will be held at the Flying Horse Hotel, Market Place, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 27th, at 6.30 p.m., to honour the memory of William Doubleday Crofts (1737—1809), one of the greatest ringers of his day. A first-class musical programme will be given. Applications for tickets (6s. each) to be in the hands of the local Secretary by Tuesday, January 23rd.—Thos. H. Kirkby, 7, Selkirk St., Carrington.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Annual meeting at Southgate on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Ringing from 3 p.m. District Committee meeting in the Choir Vestry at 4 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at the Cherry Tree at 5.45, followed by usual business meeting. Will all requiring tea please advise me by Wednesday, Jan. 24th? — C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5. Tea at 5.45 at the Lime Tree Hotel, followed by business meeting; 6d. per head will be charged for tea. All members requiring tea must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the meeting or sent to the district secretary.—W. Latter, Hon. District Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m. Reports ready.—Peter Crook, Sec., 201, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Wotton-under-Edge on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells from 3 p.m. Tea 4.45. Service 6 o'clock.—W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Sec., Ham, Berkeley, Glos.

SALOP GUILD.—Annual meeting on Jan. 27th, at Wellington, Salop. Meetings in Church Hall 3 p.m., committee meeting 4, peal committee meeting 4.30, annual meeting, 5.30. Tea at Y.M.C.A. Cafe for those who send notice by 20th to Mr. J. L. Hayward, 12, Haybridge Road, Hadley, near Wellington.—Rev. F. Tennison, Hon. Sec., St. Alkmund's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Wellingborough District.—A Quarterly meeting will be held at Higham Ferrers on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available at 2 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Wednesday, Jan. 24th?—F. Barber, District Sec., School House, Gordon Road, Wellingborough.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—A Meeting will be held at St. Michael's, Bray (near Maidenhead), on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available from 3 to 9 p.m. Tea at 4.30 (6d. per head). Service at 5.30, all ringers are welcome. Kindly notify not later than Jan. 24th.—J. N. Beale, 46, Boyne Valley Road, Maidenhead, Berks.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leominster and Presteign District.—Annual meeting of the district will be held at Leominster on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (10) available 3.30. Service 5 p.m. Tea 6 p.m., at Belliars, Etman Street, 6d. each to those notifying me not later than Jan. 23rd.—A. Talbot, District Sec., Staunton-on-Arrow, Pembridge.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—A Meeting will be held at Boreham on Saturday 27th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Service at 5. Tea 5.30, for which provision will be made for those who let me know by Wednesday, 24th.—P. Timson, 80, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Ilchester Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Martock on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Service at 4 o'clock. Tea and meeting to follow. Visitors requiring tea should give notice early to F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—The next quarterly meeting of the above society will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, on Jan. 27th. Bells ready at 3.30 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—Samuel Booth, Hon. Sec.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.—Guliborough District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Long Buckley on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Usual arrangements. Will those requiring tea please notify me by the 23rd?—W. Bott, Hon. Sec.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Doncaster on Saturday, Jan. 27th. The bells at the Parish Church (8) and Arksey (8) will be available for ringing throughout the day. Divine service at 4 p.m. Preacher, the Bishop of Sheffield (Right Rev. L. H. Burrows, D.D.). All applications for tea tickets (for which a charge of 1s. 9d. each will be made) must reach Mr. H. Walker, 2 Beech Crescent, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster, not later than first post Wednesday, Jan. 24th.—Percy J. Johnson, Hon. General Sec., 90, Blackman Lane, Leeds.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—Mid-Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Mary Church, Torquay, on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Service 4.15 (by Vicar). Tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Those requiring tea please notify me by the 24th inst.—H. J. Hole, Hon. Sec., Tauntonia, Church Street, Paignton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Southern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Barkston on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Tea will be provided for those who notify me by Jan. 24th.—S. Proctor, 72, Bridge End Road, Grantham.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Mersham on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available from 2 until 5 p.m. Service at 5. Tea by the Guild at 5.30, followed by special business meeting and social evening.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., Appledore, Kent.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A meeting of the above will be held at Chester-le-Street on Saturday, Jan. 27th. Bells available from 3 p.m.—H. Tyson, 23, Bungalow, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The annual meeting of the Bristol branch will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27th, at St. Thomas's Schoolroom (Christ Church City not being available). St. Philip's and St. Thomas's towers will be open for ringing from 3 p.m., and service at St. Thomas's Church 4.30, followed by tea and meeting in the Schoolroom. Business: Election of officers, etc., and suggestions for creating a Bell Repair Fund.—P. C. Williams, Branch Hon. Sec., 22, Bruce Avenue, Easton, Bristol.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Divine service at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 at the Church House, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

EXETER CATHEDRAL.—Augmentation to ring of twelve. Dedication service for two new bells on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, followed by special evensong at 3 p.m. Ringers admitted to tower after 4.30. Refreshments provided at Deller's Cafe.—Apply for tickets before Jan. 29th to T. Laver, Hon. Sec., 22, Cathedral Yard, Exeter.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service 4.45. Tea 5.30, followed by business meeting. Tea, free to members, who must let me know by Jan. 27th. Visitors to pay 1s. Committee meeting at Acton on Thursday, Feb. 1st, at 8 p.m.—W. H. Hollier, 29, Duke Road, W.4.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Reading on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Service at St. Laurence's Church at 5 p.m. Bells available: St. Mary's from 3 p.m., St. Laurence's from 4 p.m. Tea, business meeting and smoker at the Central Cafe (Cinema), Friar Street, at 6 p.m., at 2s. 6d. each. 1s. 6d. will be allowed by the branch to all who let me know their intention of being present by Jan. 31st.—F. W. Hopgood, Hon. Branch Sec., 75, Kensington Road, Reading.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—The meeting of the above, arranged to be held at Aliphington on Saturday, Feb. 10th, has been postponed, owing to the dedication of the augmented peal at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. The bells of the following towers will be available from 12 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3rd: St. Sidwell's (10), St. David's (8), St. Petrock's (6), Heavitree (8).—J. C. Oke, Assistant Sec., 35, St. David's Hill, Exeter.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—The annual general meeting will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Field on Feb. 3rd. Bells available at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided in the Church Room at 6 p.m. to those who notify me by Feb. 1st.—J. W. Cornford, Hon. Sec., 7d, Morgan Mansions, Holloway, N.7.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Guild's form of service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Parish Hall. Will those intending coming kindly notify me by Tuesday, Jan. 30th? Subscriptions for 1923 now due.—J. B. Hessey, Hon. District Sec., 11, Queen's Street, Chertsey.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at Northchurch on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service, with short address by the Vicar, 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Berkhamstead bells will be available in the evening.—F. J. Reeve, Hon. District Sec., Clifton House, Tring.

LADIES' GUILD.—Midland District.—Owing to the death of Canon Reader Smith, Vicar of Edgbaston Parish Church, on Saturday last, the meeting of the above Guild cannot be held there, but will be held at St. John's,

Deritend, Birmingham. Times as advertised.—A. Groves, Hon. Sec.

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