

# THE RINGING WORLD

No. 214. Vol. VIII.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1915.

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

Price 1d.

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



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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
MESSRS. GILLETT 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.

### RINGERS' OPPORTUNITIES.

As we have frequently noted in this column, much uncertainty still prevails, not only among ringers, but among clergy as well, as to when our church bells should be rung while the war lasts. The one point of agreement is the discontinuance of peals except for special objects, and these, up to the present time, have been chiefly of a mournful nature. Sir Arthur Heywood, in another column, however, suggests an occasion when the bells might very fittingly be rung for a joyous celebration—one not connected with the Church's calendar, but one which, from the unity of purpose which now marks the Motherland and her Colonies, is of fuller significance and more pregnant with inspiration for the nation than ever before—Empire Day. This year it falls upon Whit-Monday, which will be an extremely convenient day for the celebration from the ringers' point of view, while, as it comes within the octave of a Church festival, the ringing will serve a dual purpose. With the suggestion coming from so influential a quarter doubtless many ringers will avail themselves of the opportunity.

As to the question of general ringing, we think the following, which appears in the annual report of the Master to the members of the Oxford Guild, strikes a line which will commend itself to the Exercise as common-sense advice: "It is no time for peal ringing (in the technical sense) or for ringing tours, etc. We should be otherwise engaged. But Sunday is still Sunday, and the truths of Christmas, Easter and of all the festivals of the Catholic Church remain unchanged, be the earth never so unquiet. So the bells have still a message and the ringers their work, and to do this well they require practice. Again, inasmuch as we are a Church Guild, let us not, anyhow entirely, forsake the assembling of ourselves together, that is the Guild meetings. A notice in church to the parishioners of the place of meeting would be the means of ascertaining the general feeling with regard to a limited amount of ringing on such an occasion and the incumbent could act accordingly; but Guild meetings, even without ringing, are an opportunity of social intercourse, and, above all, for united prayer for those for whom such is desired. With regard to muffled ringing, I would suggest that this were limited, as, for instance, to such days as Good Friday, November 2nd (known as All Souls' Day), New Year's Eve, the occasion of the death, or more correctly of the burial, of incumbent, churchwarden or ringer, or some occasion of great public mourning." A lead of this kind is a thing which ringers will be glad to avail themselves of, and it is, perhaps, a pity that something was not done at an earlier stage by the Central Council, from among whose members authentic opinion could have been obtained.

# 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 BELLEINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

CHAS. CARR, LTD.,  
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,  
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and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

## TEN BELL PEAL.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.  
ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF  
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, April 17, 1915, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,  
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 6006 CHANCES;**

Tenor 24 cwt., in E flat.

JAMES E. GROVES ... .. Treble	JAMES L. WELLS ... .. 6
JAMES GEORGE ... .. 2	GEORGE HUGHES ... .. 7
THOMAS MILLER ... .. 3	BENJAMIN GOUGH ... .. 8
MORRIS J. MORRIS ... .. 4	ALF PADDON SMITH ... .. 9
ALBERT LITTLE ... .. 5	SAMUEL GROVE ... .. Tenor

Composed by JAMES GEORGE, and  
Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

This was Mr. George's 550th peal and his 100th peal of Stedman Caters. Rung on the fourth anniversary of the long peal of Treble Twelve at Ashton-under-Lyne in which Mr. James George rang the tenor. At the conclusion of the peal Mr. George kindly entertained the company.

## EIGHT BELL PEALS.

DRIFHLINGTON, YORKSHIRE.  
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 17, 1915, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANCES;**

Tenor 16 cwt.

ROBERT ELLAM ... .. Treble	ALBERT NORTH ... .. 5
WALTER KNOTT ... .. 2	HERBERT DRANSFIELD ... .. 6
WILLIAM CLARKE ... .. 3	EDWARD CROWTHER ... .. 7
HEMMINGWAY DRANSFIELD ... .. 4	JOHN F. CLAYTON ... .. Tenor

Composed by JOSEPH TEBBS, and  
Conducted by JOHN F. CLAYTON.

THRAPSTON, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 17, 1915, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES.

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANCES;**

Tenor 14 cwt. 0 qrs. 7 lbs.

JOHN COLEMAN ... .. Treble	WALTER GILBERT ... .. 5
FRANK KIRK ... .. 2	LESLIE GROOM ... .. 6
WILLIAM J. GILBERT ... .. 3	DANIEL REDHEAD ... .. 7
FREDERICK ARNOLD ... .. 4	JAMES M. NICKERSON ... .. Tenor

Composed by E. J. GABE, and  
Conducted by JAMES M. NICKERSON.

This peal was rung to celebrate the 21st birthday of the ring of the 6th.

## NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

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

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	77	12	6
Mr. W. J. Nevard, Great Bentley	0	5	0
Ringers of Chedzoy, Somerset (per Miss E. Winter)	0	5	0
	£78	2	6

## LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society was held at Hunslet on Saturday week, when the bells of the Parish Church were kindly placed at the disposal of the members, and various touches were rung during the afternoon and evening.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. Peacock; vice-presidents, Mr. G. Bolland and Mr. E. Mann; treasurer, Mr. J. Guy; secretary, Mr. W. Barton. Mr. P. J. Johnson was elected as the Central Council delegate. Mr. George Wettleton was elected a trustee, in place of Mr. H. Lockwood.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and to the local band for their kind arrangements, was carried on the motion of Mr. H. Williams, seconded by Mr. J. Guy. Mr. J. Kemp ably responding. After the meeting the tower bells were again utilised, while some of the members had a touch on the handbells.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

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

Miss K. Bowen Cooke, hon. member of the Chester Diocesan Guild, with Y.M.C.A. at the Advance Base in France.

Pte William Johnson, of Workop Priory Church, 2nd/8 Sherwood Foresters (3538), now at Luton.

Spr. H. J. Taylor, Hereford Cathedral, Reserve Signal Section, Royal Engineers, Aldershot.

Pte W. D. White, St. Mary's, Taunton, Somerset Light Infantry.

Pte H. F. Holding, of Christ Church, Crewe, R.A.M.C., now in Dublin.

Pte George Williams, of Christ Church, Crewe, Cheshire Regt.

Driver J. E. Foulds, and

Gunner Sydney Lane, of St. Bartholomew's, Colne, Lancs. County Palatine Artillery, now at St. Annes.

John Henry Martin,

John Turner and

Alec Wilkin, of Pen Ditton, Cambs, Kitchener's Army.

R. H. Richardson, of St. Laurence's, Surfleet, Lincs, K.O. Yorkshire Light Infantry, making the ninth member of the company to join since the outbreak of the war.

From St. Helen's, Eserick, near York, a five-bell tower, six ringers have enlisted, the following being the latest to go:—

John Steel, and

Reginald Rochester, Royal Engineers, stationed at Chatham.

Arthur Lofthouse, Seaforth Highlanders.

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

## SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD'S SUGGESTIONS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It has been a very real pleasure to me, after each of the past London meetings of the Central Council, to invite the members to meet me and accept my hospitality. I greatly regret that, owing to the present financial pressure, I am unable this year to follow the same course. I should also like to express the opinion, which I gather is held by the majority of ringers, that, while there can be no objection to a social gathering similar to those arranged at the country meetings of the Council for the evening of Whit-Tuesday, it is desirable there should be none of the usual "pleasure" ringing of church bells on that or the following day; for there are at the present time many sore hearts and anxious minds upon which the unexplained sound of bells would inevitably jar.

What, however, seems to me not only an opportunity but a duty lies open to ringers on "Empire Day," which this year falls on Whit-Monday. Just as in so many of our churches we, in this stressful hour, give public expression to our loyalty by singing "God save the King" at the conclusion of divine service, so should every loyal ringer—and all ringers are loyal—do his best to voice on "Empire Day," with the most widely-appealing of musical instruments, the national sense of rejoicing upon the magnificent way in which all our Daughter Colonies have whole-heartedly united with the Mother Country to preserve the existence of the most glorious Empire the world has ever seen.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR HEYWOOD.

Durfield, April 19th.

## ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

## THE REV. E. V. COX'S COMING DEPARTURE.

The last quarterly meeting of the society's year was held at Willenhall on Saturday last, when upwards of 50 members were in attendance. Various methods were rung upon the bells during the afternoon and evening, but a course of London was unsuccessful. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. V. Cox, and a practical address given by the Rev. W. E. Thomas, in the absence of the Vicar (the Rev. A. M. Pratt).

Tea was partaken of in the Church Institute, after which a little surprise was sprung upon the assembly by the clerical secretary, the Rev. B. V. Cox, who intimated that he would, in the course of a few weeks, be leaving the district to take up a curacy at Bampton, Devon. The speaker expressed feelings of gratitude to the members for the support given him during his six years term of office.

The society will thus lose one of the most conscientious and energetic officials it has had since its inception.—Mr. W. R. Small voiced the feeling of the members when he said that all would be sorry to lose Mr. Cox, but that they should not be selfish if it was for the latter's gain.

Feeling references was made to the death of two members at Wombourne, viz., Messrs. R. Cartwright and W. Rogers, and of Pte F. J. Keen, of Tamworth, who fell in battle.—A vote of sympathy to the representatives of the deceased was moved, and carried by all standing.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Rev. W. E. Thomas for his address, to the organist for his services, the ladies who had arranged for the tea, and to the Institute Committee for the use of the rooms.

We regret that owing to pressure on our space we have had to hold over the reports of some Easter tours and numerous reports of miscellaneous performances.

## THE MIDLAND COUNTIES MEETING.

## A MEMBER'S CRITICISMS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As a member of the Midland Counties Association, I think some of the recent actions of the management are open to very severe criticism. The last and most serious action is in connection with the annual meeting held at Derby on Easter Monday, and I will confine my remarks to this only.

As you have previously drawn attention to the matter in your leader, I think it will be generally known that this meeting was first advertised with the usual additions regarding arrangements for ringing and teas. In a later edition, the advertisement stated there would be no church bell ringing, and that the arrangements for teas were cancelled.

Assuming that the first advertisement was inserted by the secretary on instructions received from the committee, many members and others (including yourself) wondered what was the cause of the change, and I have awaited with much curiosity your report on the meeting. The explanation of the change, as published in this week's "Ringing World," is simply and solely that the President could not attend a meeting conducted on the usual lines, owing to his views, and that the arrangements were altered to come into line with his sentiments.

Sir Arthur Heywood's position as President of the M.C.A. may be such that he has the right to direct the affairs of the Association, but if he has this right, is it fair to use it, when it is practically certain that it will interfere with the sentiments of a large number of members?

In your leader this week I consider you hit the right nail on the head in your remarks on the attendances at meetings, and I agree that it is useless to expect members to travel from long distances to attend meetings for business only, especially when they do not know what business is on the agenda. I see there was one very important item settled at the Derby meeting, at which, I understand, under four per cent. of members were in attendance; when the four representatives of the Central Council for the next three years were elected. As one of the objects of the meeting was quashed at the eleventh hour, surely an important item like this could have been postponed; it is almost the only thing in which an ordinary member has a voice.

One also wonders what the clergy, who consented to the use of the bells, and other Associations, are thinking of the M.C.A.? I know what many members think!—Yours truly,

ALFRED C. WRIGHT.

Strathallan, Darley Dale, 17th April, 1915.

Dear Sir,—The general opinion of the Nottingham District is that Sir Arthur Heywood has, to use a vulgarity, "done it on us." The notice distinctly stated that there would be no church bell-ringing. Now we find two towers open. The excuse of the weekly practice is decidedly "weakly." Had Sir Arthur's remarks been published a fortnight previously or some explanation offered, things might have been different, but when a meeting is shorn of its most attractive feature, it is no use blaming the war. Besides, opinions differ, and in this case even, the clergy were not opposed to a little ringing. We are not unreasonable and expected some curtailment of the privileges we usually enjoy, but to advertise a meeting in the "Business as usual" terms, and then to countermand it next week without any explanatory matter, is, to put it mildly, "a bit thick." It has robbed the annual meeting of all its authority, as the meagre attendance cannot be accepted as representative. With no other nominations, the officers of the Association cannot be otherwise than accepted by the rank and file, but where there is competitive election, the matter ought to have been left over to a more representative meeting, and the old delegates undisturbed. I submit respectfully that Mr. W. E. White withdraws from the Central Council in favour of Mr. Gobey, until a proper election can take place. As one nominated for the post, I am pleased that I was unsuccessful, for I could not conscientiously have accepted office from such a poor meeting, and I am perfectly certain, from the letters I have already received, that with a full company present the result of the election would have been different. As it is, the representation of the M.C.A. takes a step backward, which should surely not be a motto of the Association. I sincerely trust that Sir Arthur will set the example in peal ringing when the time comes (which we hope will be very soon), with as much force of character as he has shown in the opposite direction during the present crisis, and I might point out also, that the ringing at these meetings is not so much for pleasure as for instruction, if the rules of the Association are carried out. Personally, I was looking forward to a bit of Cambridge, or, perhaps, London, but now it may be a year before I can get it.—Sincerely yours,

35, Hazelwood Road, Nottingham.

ALBERT COPPOCK.

ST. MELLONS, MON.—Llandaff Association.—On Feb. 27th, 720 Kent Minor: S. Dawe 1, F. J. Bailey 2, W. B. Biss (conductor) 3, C. O. Hobbs 4, F. Chamberlain 5, J. W. Jones 6. First 720 of Kent on the bells.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.—On Sunday, Feb. 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: W. G. Bedford (first quarter) 1, J. Guttridge 2, W. Henley 3, T. Smith 4, T. Gosling 5, G. Beeby 6, W. Welling (conductor) 7, F. Guttridge 8. Also 168, with Pte R. Runham (Coldstream Guards) ringing the 3rd.



## THE EXPERT AGAIN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—My letter in your issue of March 26th was a reply to "Once a Beginner," but now that Messrs. Grimes, Thompson and Pye (who for convenience I will call the experts) have taken up the argument, I appeal to you for space to reply to them.

In the first place, let me make it perfectly clear that my previous letter is not intended to "decry" their performances. Decrying a man's performance, and questioning whether such performances are doing good, from a learner's standpoint, are entirely different things. And it is apparent to me that these experts do not, or will not, recognise the difference between the two. Mr. Pye asks, "Why do I make a target of him?" Well, he is the person referred to by "Once a Beginner," and naturally the discussion should keep to him.

I would ask the experts if they expect to see their performances praised in "The Ringing World" by a writer using an assumed name. If their doings are so beneficial to the learners, they will not require any praise from a writer seeking the cover of the "Old Umbrella," but will speak for themselves.

The most remarkable thing about their letters is the number of learners they claim to have helped. Take, for instance, the peals of 1913, and you find that 102 peals (on tower bells) were rung, in which either Mr. Grimes or Mr. Pye took part. These peals required 852 ringers (or thereabouts); out of this number only 50 rang their first peals in the method, not one learner ringing his first peal. Looking at these figures makes me wonder who Mr. Grimes calls "the learners," surely these 50 men ringing their first Surprise peal cannot be called learners. To class them as third-rate experts would be nearer the mark. Learners from my standpoint are those who have learnt to handle the bell, and can ring it to touches in plain methods. In the majority of cases such learners usually are anxious to ring the first peal in either Grandsire Triples or Plain Bob Major, and it would be interesting to know how many such learners has Mr. Pye helped through their first peal in these methods. And again, 55 of these peals were rung within a twelve miles' radius of St. Paul's, and any learner can form his opinion whether these peals are rung in a favourable district or not.

Having been a reader of "The Ringing World," and possessing a copy of every issue since its commencement, I know exactly what page 666 contains, and being interested in change ringing I usually read the contents, and still claim to form my own opinion whether such contents are right or wrong. Also I know where Mr. Pye has rung peals, but we should remember that England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales have been toured over and over again by men each in pursuit of their particular hobby. Surely the experts will not be so foolish as to say that their tour of 1913 was arranged for, or did any good to the learners in Devonshire. It has become an established fact that the tours of this band are arranged for peal ringing for pleasure, with a first-class band from start to finish.

It is not now a question of how much these excessive peal ringers are doing for the learners, but how much harm are they doing to the Exercise. Take, for instance, the years 1912 and 1913. Many complaints were made against peal ringing in various parts of the country, in some odd cases towers were closed. The Exercise has received carefully-worded warnings from such gentlemen as Sir Arthur Heywood and Mr. F. E. Dawe, and yet previous to the war, the experts were ringing peals as usual. Being assured by Mr. Pye that the "fenlands of Lincolnshire would never have stopped him from getting about," I accept his word, but let me tell Mr. Pye that when he has a more intimate knowledge of this county, both with regard to the way in which the churches are situated, and the facilities for travelling, he will come to the conclusion that it would be impossible even for him to ring 50 or 60 peals a year in the county; that is, unless he happens to be one of those fortunate gentlemen who have plenty of money, and can spend his whole time following his hobby.

I cannot speak for 95 per cent. of the beginners in the Exercise, but what I can do is to assure the experts that quite 95 per cent. of the beginners in the two counties I have mentioned, do not look upon the peal of London Surprise Major rung at Southgate on March 24th, 1913, as being anything remarkable or helpful to them, especially when we remember that the peal total of four of those taking part exceeds 300 peals in that particular method.

My first letter says "Mr. Pye's band has rung a peal of Stedman Caters over and over again." I know perfectly well the man who has called this composition "several times," and the experts should read my letter more closely before putting this part down as alluding to Mr. Pye.

In conclusion, let me appeal to the experts to help a few more so-called "lame dogs" over their first peal stile. By so doing they will be doing again that which they are so fond of telling us they have done in the past. It will produce a better feeling between expert and beginner, and then there will be no need for a learner to make complaints in the columns of "The Ringing World," while it will certainly save the experts from classing such complaints as "total ignorance and cheek."—Yours faithfully,

Grantham.

S. PROCTOR.

## 100 PEALS OF STEDMAN CATERS.



Mr. JAMES GEORGE, of Birmingham.

Last Saturday, the fourth anniversary of the record peal of Treble Twelve at Ashton-under-Lyne, in which Mr. James George rang the tenor, that youthful veteran rang his 100th peal of Stedman Caters, and his 550th peal.

This took place at Welnesbury, when Mr. J. E. Groves called Mr. George's well-known 5005 peal.

## LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Favoured with beautiful weather, the quarterly meeting held at Trevelin, Pontypool, on Saturday last, proved quite successful. Among the first to put in an appearance was the band from Llanfrehfa, who are quite young lads, and, considering the long draught of rope, they handled their bells remarkably well. Their conductor, Mr. Powell, is deserving of great praise for the way he has brought them out.

The bells, which are a light ring of eight, came from the Croydon foundry, having been erected about 27 years ago, would now stand overhauling. They were kept going during the afternoon and evening. In the schoolroom an excellent tea was generously provided by the Vicar (the Rev. Edward Morgan) and churchwardens of the parish. The Vicar's wife and other ladies, who had kindly volunteered their services, attending to the wants of the visitors.

At the conclusion of the tea, the Vicar passed round a box of cigars, and, needless to say, this was much appreciated.—The Vicar presided over the business meeting, and said he considered it a very great compliment to him that the Association should visit his parish. He congratulated the Association on the good work which he knew had been done in the Diocese since its formation, and hoped it would stimulate his own ringers to ring the higher methods.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. W. Jones) then moved a vote of condolence with Mr. Fred Atwell, one of the Association's oldest members and leader of the St. Woolos ringers, Newport, who had, during the week, had the misfortune to lose his wife, and had been left with a very large family, several of whom were still attending school.—The motion was carried, all standing in silence.

Reports of instructors were received, progress being reported at St. Mellons.

The place for the next Monmouthshire quarterly meeting was discussed, Machen being chosen, the Glamorganshire quarterly meeting having been previously arranged to be held at Bridgend.

New members were elected, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens then brought the meeting to a close. Touches in Standard methods were afterwards rung on the bells, and concluded a most enjoyable gathering.

# THE BELL OF RUGBY SCHOOL CHAPEL

(Weight 64cwt. 2qrs. 20lbs.)

DEDICATED 21st JULY, 1914.



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## BELLS OF ENGLISH CHURCHES.

### ST. PHILIP'S, BIRMINGHAM.

By J. R. JERRAM.

The Church of St. Philip was erected early in the 18th century, and this year sees the bicentenary of its consecration. Some time appears to have elapsed before anything was done in the way of providing bells for the steeple. In the Vestry minutes we find "3rd Aprill 1727. By an order of a generall meeting this day it was agreed that Joseph Smith shall receive the mettle from Mr. Bradburn in order to cast a Bell for the parish church of St. Philips in Birmingham to be done with all expedition." And further on we find "At a meeting 13th day of June 1727, ordered that

*Third.*

AT PROPER TIMES MY VOICE I'LL RAISE AND  
SOUND TO MY SUBSCRIBERS PRAISE \$\$\$  
T: LESTER FECIT, 1750.

*Fifth.*

PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT, 1772.

*Sixth.*

MESSRS. CLAUD JOHNSON & GEORGE STUBBS CHURCH  
WARDENS 1796. THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT.

*Eighth.*

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1823. \$\$\$

*Ninth.*

THOMAS LESTER FECIT 1750.



ST. PHILIP'S, BIRMINGHAM.

a frame of good Timber be erected & fixed in the Steeple of the New Church for Hanging of Eight Bells & that the Two Bells already made be hung there with all convenient speed."

From the above extract it appears that Joseph Smith, of the Edgbaston foundry, first supplied two bells and afterwards a peal of eight. This appears to have been replaced by the present peal of ten, cast by Thomas Lester, of the Whitechapel foundry, in 1750-1, six of which still remain, but the rest have been recast since by Pack and Chapman, and Thomas Mears, junr.

The present tenor is 55½ inches in diameter, weight 29 cwt. 0 qr. 18 lbs. The inscriptions are as follows:—

*Treble and Seventh.*

THOMAS LESTER OF LONDINI (sic) FECIT, 1750.

*Second and Fourth.*

THOMAS LESTER OF LONDON FECIT, 1751.

*Tenor.*

IN WEDLOCK BANDS ALL YE WHO JOIN WITH HANDS  
YOUR HEARTS UNITE SO SHALL OUR TUNEFULL  
TONGUES COMBINE TO LAUD THE NUPTIAL RITE.  
\$\$\$ [below] PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT  
1772.

The eighth was a bell which the founder had in stock, and was supplied to replace the old eighth which was cracked. She is said to be much inferior to the original bell.

Among the "Recollections of Mr. John Day," which appeared in print about twenty years ago, the following incident which occurred in 1834 is recorded. It appears that at that time a certain church official and his son who was a ringer, were employed to do any repairs to the bells which were needed from time to time. In those days days great Musical Festivals were held annually in aid of the General Hospital, for which the bells were rung before and after the performances. It was observed that just



before each Festival the bells invariably got out of order and required repairs. Shortly before the Festival of 1834, when the ringers met for ringing one Sunday morning, they were told by the elder of the two worthies above mentioned that the tenor was in a dangerous condition and could not be rung, and they found the rope drawn up into the clock-chamber. As she was all right the last time they had rung they were somewhat suspicious and determined to investigate matters. They accordingly gained admission to the clock-chamber and let down the rope and pulled her up. They rang as usual and found nothing the matter. The fraud was thus discovered and the two officials were taken to task by the authorities, who refused to employ them for any bell repairs again.

There is a peal board in the belfry dated 1844 recording two peals, also others recording peals rung in February, 1893, September and December, 1894, December, 1895, and in February, March and May, 1896. The last peal on the bells was a 5017 Stedman Caters rung by St. Martin's Guild on August 22nd, 1903.

Mr. H. B. Walters, in his notes on these bells taken in March, 1908, and published in his "Church Bells of Warwickshire" remarks, "Bells very grimy and encrusted with accumulated deposits which largely obscure the lettering. The tower is said to be in an unsafe condition and the bells are no longer used for ringing; in fact the treble only is used for services, and the tenor tolled for funerals, the rest being silent except for the clock chimes."

As to the present state of affairs we learn that some few years ago the stonework of the tower had got into a very badly decayed condition, and the vibration set up by the bells when ringing caused "scales" of stone to drop down, to the danger of pedestrians passing by. Consequently ringing was stopped, and in 1911 the tower was "dressed" and chemically treated.

In the interval, however, the belfry had been turned into a choir practice room, the floor having a series of raised platforms to which the music desks for the choristers were fixed, a harmonium was introduced, and heating apparatus (hot water) installed. This was done under the Rectorship of Canon Carnegie (now Rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster), who is reputed to have little sympathy with bellringing.

The venture, however, was hardly a success, as the room was never much used, and when last an official of St. Martin's Guild went up there with a view to inspecting the place and bells (by permission of the present Rector, Bishop Hamilton Baynes) in January, 1914, the desks, etc. were covered with dust to such an extent that copies of music lying on them could hardly be seen until the dust was touched!

At that time Bishop Baynes was approached about the bells, and gave permission to a band to try them, he agreeing to move the desks, etc., in the meantime. This was done, and the bells were found ringable, but not pealable, the ninth going very badly. They have only been rung twice since that date, one occasion being on the "Johnson" Dinner day, 1914.

The church authorities do not seem able to decide to spend money on the bells (although it is rumoured that a certain wealthy lady who is, or used to be, a member of the congregation would defray the whole cost if approached), and consequently they remain silent.

The present ten are a "middling" lot, with the exception of the tenor, which is a beauty, and ought to be cleared out and replaced by a good ring of twelve, consistent with the importance of the church, which is now the "pro-cathedral."

## CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

The Easter meeting of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association was held at Scarborough on Bank Holiday. This meeting was arranged at the annual meeting last Whitsuntide, but the war breaking out and the town having been subjected to bombardment, the committee seriously thought of postponing the gathering. When this intimation, however, was conveyed to the Vicar, churchwardens and ringers at Scarborough, a special invitation came from them that the meeting should be held as arranged.

The committee, therefore, went ahead with the necessary arrangements, and the meeting was presided over by the President (the Rev. W. P. Wright) who was supported by the vice-presidents (Mr. G. F. Alexander and Mr. W. Pick), one of the churchwardens (Mr. W. Lowson) and the secretary (Mr. T. Melcalfe).

Dinner was provided at Bailey's Cafe, and was attended by ringers from Hemingbrough, Robin Hood's Bay, Selby, Sharow, Pateley Bridge, Middleham, Ormesby, and the local company.

The President submitted the loyal toast, which was most enthusiastically drunk with musical honours.

The election of several new members then took place, including the Rev. C. H. Cooper, Vicar of Scarborough, as an hon. member.

The President proposed that the best thanks of the Association be given to the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing the Association the use of the bells, and for the pressing invitation to hold the meeting at Scarborough. He also included their thanks to Mr. J. R. Barton, the energetic captain and leader of the local ringers, for making the necessary arrangements for the dinner and comfort of the visiting members. This was seconded by Mr. G. F. Alexander, and responded to by Mr. Churchwarden Lowson, who gave the Association a most hearty welcome, and said he hoped they would make good use of the bells during the afternoon. He hoped to pay a visit to the tower later in the afternoon, which promise, by-the-way, he fulfilled, bringing with him his "better half."

### REMOVAL CAUSES PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

The President next made reference to his having to resign the presidency of the Association as he had accepted the living of a large parish in Sheffield, which would keep him away from the two most important meetings in the year—their Easter meeting and the annual meeting which was held on Whit-Monday. As they all knew, these days were very important and busy days for a Vicar in a large town, and by remaining as their President it would not be fair to the members of the Association, seeing that it would be impossible for him to attend the principal meetings of the year. He, therefore, very reluctantly had sent his resignation as President of the Association to the secretary. He need hardly say how much he felt having to sever his connection to a certain extent with the great many friends he met at those meetings, besides the pleasure he had received in ringing with them. He had been connected with the Association since its commencement sixteen years ago, being its first secretary, then vice-president, and of late years its president. He had hoped if ever there was a change that it would have taken him into the Tees-side or its immediate neighbourhood, but at present that was not the case.

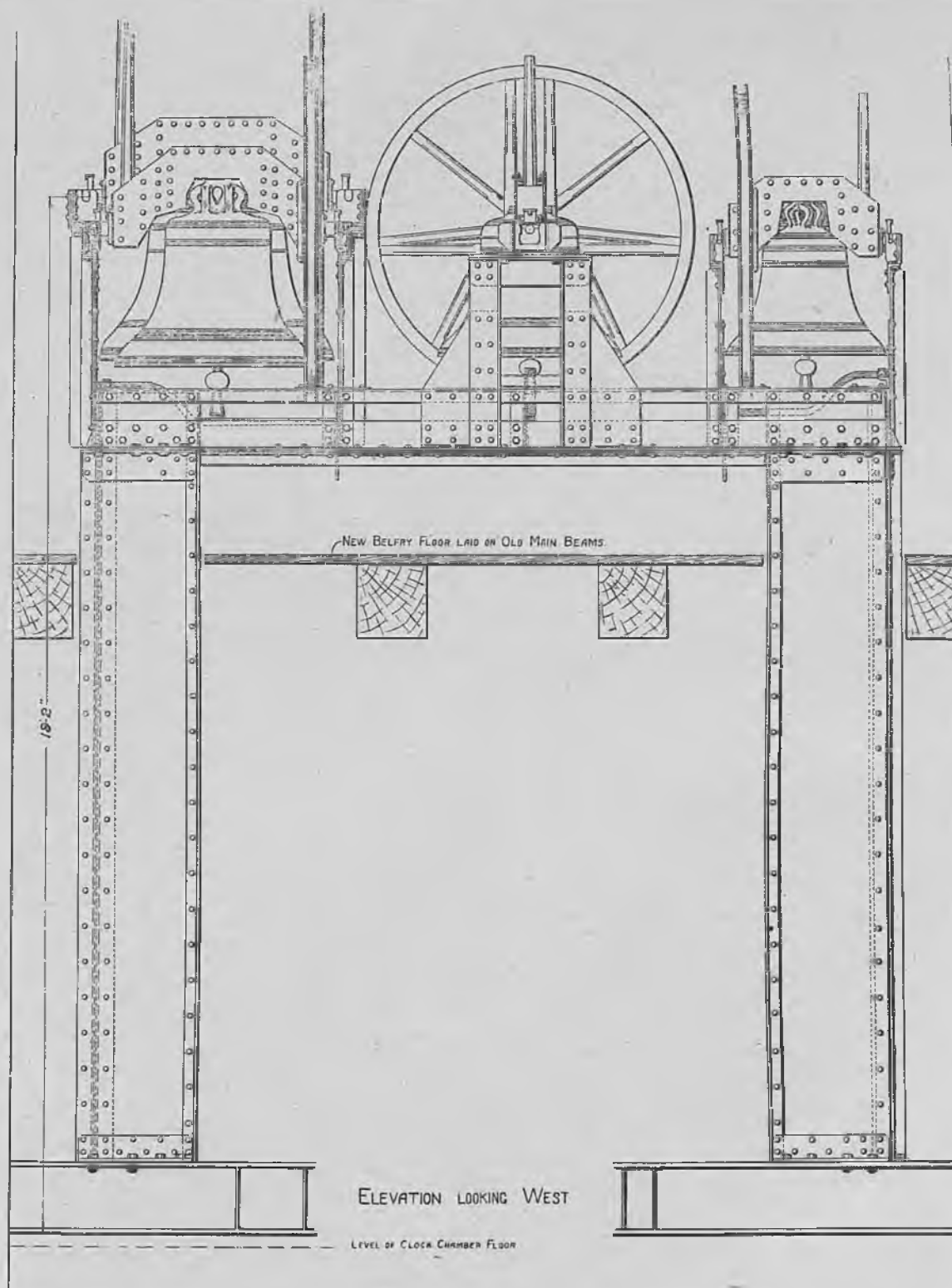
The President next referred to the death of Mr. G. J. Clarkson, of Stockton-on-Tees, whose death had come as a great shock to them. They all felt that Mr. Clarkson had done a great deal of spade work in the early days of the Association, being instrumental in its formation, and being also its first president, which office he held for about ten years. He was a man whose ear, when ringing, was bad to beat; he was a perfect striker, and, when teaching a band, was most particular about the striking—a thing most essential to learners, which he (the speaker) was sorry to say was greatly neglected by some teachers who thought they were great ringers.

The ringing done during the day was of a fair average, considering the obstacles that had been put in the way by the railway companies having suspended all cheap travelling. This kept many good ringers from attending the meeting. The methods rung were: Bob Minor, Kent Minor, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major.

## SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A well attended quarterly meeting of the Western Division was held at Pulborough on Easter Monday. Ringers, to the number of 40, were present from Arundel, Angmering, Brighton, Billingshurst, Chichester, Heene, Slinfold, Shipley, West Tarring, Warnham, and some of the local band, and also Miss Parker, hon. secretary of the Ladies' Guild. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Treble Bob and Double Norwich Major, and a course of Cambridge Surprise Major were rung, Miss Parker taking part. Tea was provided at the Five Bells Inn. The Rector not being able to be present, Mr. P. H. Doick presided. The usual business followed.—Mr. Frank Bennett proposed, and Mr. Lindup seconded, that the annual general meeting should be held as usual for transacting the necessary business, even if no ringing could be done, and this was carried.—The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for granting the use of the bells.—The tower was again visited afterwards, and further ringing indulged in.





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### BELLS DEDICATED AT IDLE.

The new peal of bells presented to the Parish Church at Idle, Yorks, were dedicated recently by the Bishop of Ripon. The occasion was really a great parochial festival, for the service was one at which the Bishop inducted the new Vicar (the Rev. W. T. Forster), and after the service there was a tea at which between 600 and 700 persons were present, and this was followed by a great evening meeting, at which the Vicar of Bradford presided.

The bells were the gift of Mrs. Horner, of Caton, and a native of Idle, and are a splendid peal from the Loughborough foundry. After the formal dedication the Bishop delivered a short but interesting address on "The Message of the Bells" to a large number of ringers who had assembled in the tower. The Bishop said that the bell ringers, like other church workers, had a message. When they took part in ringing they sent a message of invitation to the people to come to church. The power of the message they sent out depended on the heart they put into the work.

The opening ringing was done by the Calverley company, who have taken a great deal of pains in training the Idle contingent. The other ringers who took part were a selected band of the Yorkshire Association, and the Shipley, Bingley and Bolton companies. They rang various short touches of Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, and Grand-sire.

The ringers present included the Rev. C. C. Marshall, of Leeds (President of the Yorkshire Association), Messrs. W. Idle (Dewsbury), G. Bolland (Tong), J. Cotterill (Halifax), H. Williams (Leeds), Denison Taylor (Loughborough), J. Broadley, P. Maude (Pudsey); Saml. Wheatley, Walter Popplewell, Sydney Keighley, Walter Stanhope, Harold Wheatley, Wilfred Lee, Chas. Pratt (conductor), and Fred Waller, Calverley; T. B. Kendall, J. Ross, J. Broadley, G. A. Nettleton, J. Joyce, W. Joyce, E. Murgabroyd, and E. Simpson, Shipley; James Nichols, Arthur Ainge, Baldwin Norfolk, Arthur Gill, John Palfraiman, Firth Hopwood, B. Howe, Samuel Palfraiman, Bolton; W. Foster, A. Hopewell, J. Jacques, H. Gill, F. Goodings, G. Whittaker and H. Foster, Bingley.

On Saturday week the Earlsheaton Society, in answer to an invitation, visited Idle to ring on the new peal of bells. They were met at the tower by Mr. Foster, who gave them a hearty welcome. Four courses of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung, and on its completion the ringers expressed themselves highly delighted with the "go" and tone of the bells, which in their opinion were excellent. The ringers were: A. Goodall 1, J. Garforth 2, J. Hewett 3, H. Dransfield 4, W. Idle 5, G. H. Hardy (conductor) 6, Hubert Dransfield 7, G. Taylor 8. Afterwards they were entertained to tea by Mr. Idle. The rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing.

### FUNERAL OF MRS. W. PYE.

The interment of the late Mrs. William Pye, whose death, at the age of 45 years, we have already recorded, took place in accordance with her expressed wish in the quiet little churchyard of Aldborough Hatch, near Romford, the home of her husband's early days. The sympathy which is felt with Mr. William Pye in his heavy bereavement found expression in the many beautiful wreaths that were sent, and the large number of kind letters which he has received, while, in addition to the family mourners, many ringers attended the funeral to pay a last mark of respect to one who has truly been described as "an ideal ringers' wife." She was never so happy as when doing a good turn to others, and many ringers will recall the whole-hearted welcome extended to them whenever it has been their pleasure to call at 8, Sanson Road. But while in health she was always anxious to be helping others, her one fear in her last illness was that she was giving trouble to others. Mrs. Pye, as has already been stated, passed away on Good Friday, and, by a strange coincidence, an elder sister of hers died also on a Good Friday a few years ago at almost the hour of the day. Mrs. Pye's illness had extended over several months, and early this year she underwent an operation in one of the London hospitals. Although this appeared at the time to have been successful, she gradually sank, and passed peacefully to rest.

At the weekly practice night, at St. John's Church, Leytonstone, two 720's were rung with the bells muffled.

### DEATH OF ANOTHER RINGER'S WIFE.

A great blow has befallen Mr. Fred Atwell, of Newport, Mon., and leader of the St. Woolos ringers, by the death of his wife. Mrs. Atwell was apparently quite well in health until two days before, but on Sunday week she had a seizure, and passed away on Tuesday morning, leaving a large family. As a mark of respect the bells of St. Woolos Church were rung half-muffled the same evening.

The funeral took place on Friday, at Malpas, six of the Newport ringers acting as bearers. In the evening the bells were again rung half-muffled in touches of Triples.

**TOTTENHAM**—For evening service at St. Ann's Church, on March 28th, 720 Bob Minor in 25 mins.: W. Ringrose 1, E. Hibble 2, E. Davidson 3, H. C. Stubbs 4, F. Fensome 5, H. O. Ross (conductor) 6).

### NOTICES.

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

**ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.**—Established 1755.—Quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's, Deritend, on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided free for those members who advise me not later than the 20th inst. of their intention to be present.—A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Wandsworth, Birmingham.

**THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—A district meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at Newport tomorrow (Saturday), April 24th. Bells available from 3 p.m.; business meeting in the Church Room at 5 p.m.—William Watts, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex, District Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at East Crompton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting 6.30.—Joseph Ogden, Secretary.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Frome and Midsomer Norton Deanery Branch will be held at Midsomer Norton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available at 2 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m. Tea (members 6d. each) and business meeting at 5 p.m.—I. B. Holmyard, Honorary Secretary, Midsomer Norton.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woolton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 4.—Walter Hughes, Honorary Secretary.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Branch.—A meeting for practice will take place at Evesham on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available: Hampton (6) 3 p.m. till 4, Bengeworth (6) 4 till 5, Evesham (10) 5.30 till 9.—J. Hemming, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Colne on Saturday, April 24th, 1915. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Newchurch, on Saturday, May 1st, 1915. Bells ready at 5 o'clock. Meeting at 7.30 p.m.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

**GUILD FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF SALOP.**—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Church Stretton, on Saturday, May 1st, 1915. Ringing at the Parish Church at 3 p.m., business meeting at 5 p.m. in the Vestry.—H. B. Beckwith, M.A., Bidgemount, Shrewsbury.

**BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Weston on Saturday, May 1st. Tea at Glass's Restaurant at 4.15 p.m., meeting to follow. Service in the Parish Church at 5.30 p.m. Bells available all the afternoon.—E. E. Burgess, Honorary Secretary, Taunton.

**SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBY-SHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting for the transaction of the business of the above society will be held at Ranmoor (Sheffield) on Saturday, May 1st, 1915, the following being the arrangements for the afternoon: The bells will be available from 3 to 5.30 p.m., service in the church at 5.30, tea will be served in the Parish Room at 6 o'clock, followed by the business meeting, after which the bells will be available until 9 o'clock. A good attendance is desired. Tea will be provided gratis to all who notify Mr. R. W. Collier, 88, Cruise Road, Ranmoor, not later than Tuesday, April 27th.—Sam Thomas, Secretary, pro. tem., 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting will be held at Dorchester on Monday, May 3rd. Service at St. Peter's Church 12.30, preacher Rev. H. C. Coote. Luncheon at St. Peter's Church Institute, at 1.30, by kind invitation of the Rector and local friends. Towers open: St. Peter's (8), Wyke Regis (8), Fordington (6), Puddletown (6) and Upwey (6).—F. L. Edwards, Honorary Secretary.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—**ALTERATION OF DATE.**—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Deptford, S.E., on Saturday, May 8th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and Address by the Rev. W. F. Jepson (Vicar) at 5.30 p.m. Tea to follow at the Whidbourne Institute. Those who intend to be at tea must send me notice not later than first post, Tuesday, May 4th.—T. Groombridge, Hon. District Secretary, 35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, May 8th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Tea by invitation of J. F. Stilwell, Esq. Members intending to be present please notify me by May 5th.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Secretary, Heston, Hounslow.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Middleton on Saturday, May 15th. By kind permission of the authorities the bells of St. Leonard's Church will be available from 3.30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Schools at 5.30 p.m.—W. H. Shuker and J. H. Banks, Honorary Secretaries.

**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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