

No. 250. Vol. IX.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st, 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.

SUNDAY'S MUFFLED RINGING.

The suggestion which has the approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury and which has also been concurred in by the Archbishop of York and the majority of the Bishops, that the ringing on Sunday—the Day of Intercession—should be muffled, to emphasise “our sense of the loss the country has sustained by the death of the brave men who have given their lives in the cause of what we believe to be loyalty to righteousness and truth,” will, so far as we can gather, be acted upon very widely indeed. The opportunity which presents itself of uniformity of action has seldom occurred before in connection with the bells, and ringers generally intend to seize it so that a universal tribute may be paid to the memory of those thousands of heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice in their country's honour. The appropriateness of the day cannot be questioned and the clergy are readily falling in with the idea, which could have, of course, no more weighty approval than that which has been obtained.

We cannot accentuate too strongly the need of making known the reason of the muffled ringing, because its significance lies in the fact that the ringing will not be merely an honour paid by the ringers themselves, but will be a public tribute, in which the ringers are acting as interpreters. That is the difference between an ordinary muffled peal and the purpose of the ringing next Sunday. When a band meets to pay its last tribute to a departed colleague or townsman the act is largely a personal one; here, in this case, the ringers will be playing a national part. The Intercession services will be national and the impressive prelude to them of muffled bells will be national also; although there will, of course, be some cases in which local circumstances will prevent churches coming into line.

Never before, we believe, in the history of ringing has the observance of an event received the direct sanction of the two Archbishops and of so many Bishops as those whose messages we have been able to publish. That, in itself, is something which adds to the importance of the opportunity which occurs next Sunday, and north and south, east and west, ringers will seize the occasion to express through the bells the feelings of the public towards those whose lives have been given in upholding liberty and right. To honour the memory of these men is the least we can do, and it falls to the lot of the ringers to give public expression to those feelings in a way that none else can do.

Apart from the ringing on Sunday, the opportunity of doing something more in the following week must not be overlooked. Those who are unable to take part in the muffled ringing on Sunday may desire to do so on one or

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

FRAMES

IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines.

Best Workmanship and
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**ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
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BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

ESTABLISHED 1780.

JOHN NICOLL,

**Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,**

60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway).

Late 188, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.

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

other of the succeeding days, and Saturday, January 8th, as the Archbishop of Canterbury has pointed out, will probably prove the most suitable day, as well as the most convenient. Wherever hands can be gathered for peals the opportunity should be taken, and even if a peal is out of the question, shorter touches might be possible. Ringing on this day, also, has the general approval of the Bishops, and ringers can go to their incumbents with no stronger case to ask them for the use of the bells. But whatever may be done in the week, we are sure that ringers everywhere will see to it that they join in the great tribute of muffled ringing which will pour out in impressive cadences from hundreds of church towers on Sunday next.

1915.

To-day we see the last of a year which will remain ever memorable in history. It has brought more widespread sorrow than any year since the dawn of civilisation, and yet it has brought out the finest traits that are latent in man and womanhood. Few people, we think, will regret the passing of 1915. So far as ringing is concerned it has been a comparative blank. Like all other things which in the past went to make up our complex social system, ringing has had to give place to the sterner duties which war has called men to undertake, and, looked at from that standpoint, of course, it has been a bad year for ringing.

But there is one feature that stands out boldly in the annals of the year and upon which the Exercise is to be congratulated, and that is the number of men who have gone from our belfries to uphold the honour of the Empire on the battlefields of the world. From every tower some have gone, and, alas, many have already given their lives. But the memory of these latter, and the recollection of the large number of ringers whose deeds have shown them to be ready to make a similar sacrifice if need be, will ever remain to show that the ringers of England are no wit behind the rest in their patriotism.

This removal of men from the belfries has effected a considerable advance in the number of ladies who have taken up ringing, and to them is due the fact that, in many towers, it has been possible to keep the bells going for the Sunday services. We hope, however, that the assistance they are now giving will not be looked upon as merely temporary in character. "When the boys come home" their help will still be valuable, and we have no doubt that those who are responsible for the belfries will see that they are not lost to the Art. In many places the maintenance of service ringing has proved a somewhat difficult, if not a discouraging task, and the church authorities owe a debt of gratitude to those ringers who, in numberless cases, have struggled so hard to keep the bells ringing.

The peals of the past year scarcely need to be mentioned. Those rung on tower bells have been nearly all muffled peals, for peals on other occasions have been, and rightly so, few and far between. What the future may have in store none of us know, but until the day arrives when a victorious peace is proclaimed ringers will continue to restrain their activities and confine themselves merely to discharging their duties. We all naturally look forward to a brighter year in 1916. We look forward with hope to the restoration of peace, and to the time when such a cataclysm as that into which humanity is now plunged may be made impossible, and as we all hope for better things so may we be allowed to wish our readers

**"A BRIGHT, A HAPPY AND A PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR."**

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Monday, December 27, 1915, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. John the Baptist,**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;**

Tenor 19 cwt.

GEORGE HOLLIS ... ..	... Treble	SAMUEL WESLEY	5
ALBERT H. WARD ... ..	... 2	ARTHUR KNIGHTS	6
WALTER ALLWOOD ... ..	... 3	BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ...	7
WILLIAM T. PEGLAR ... ..	... 4	JAMES GEORGE	Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN, and
Conducted by BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS.

The peal contains the 12 6-4-8 course ends, and is the first peal composed and rung in the method on this plan.

SIX BELL PEAL.

ASHBOCKING, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Andrew,**A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;**Comprising 720 each of London, Ipswich and Cambridge Surprise,
and two 720's each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob.

Tenor 10 cwt., in A.

GEORGE FARNISH ... ..	... Treble	GEORGE BENNETT	4
GEORGE FLEMING ... ..	... 2	ALBERT FLEMING	5
GEORGE PRYKE ... ..	... 3	WILLIAM BURGESS	Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM BURGESS.

This was the Conductor's 50th peal.

HANDBELL PEALS

RETFORD, NOTTS.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1915, in Two Hours and Two Minutes,
At the Residence of Mr. SEGAR,**A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANCES;**Two 720's of College Single Reverse, two of St. Clement's, and
three Plain Bob.

JOHN HURST	1-2	JOHN SEGAR, Jnr.	3-4
GEORGE TURNER	5-6		

Conducted by G. TURNER. Witness: R. MILES.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.On Monday, December 27, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
At 98, CLYDE ROAD, TOTTENHAM,**A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANCES;**

MISS ELSIE L. BENNETT	1-2	AIR-MECHANIC FRANK I.	
WILLIAM SHEPHERD ...	3-4	HAIRS, R.N.A.S.	7-8
JAMES HUNT	5-6	ALFRED W. GRIMES ...	9-10

Composed by JAMES HUNT and
Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

Umpire: REUBEN SANDERS.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.On Monday, December 27, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,
At 98, CLYDE ROAD, TOTTENHAM**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANCES;**

MISS ELSIE L. BENNETT	1-2	AIR-MECHANIC FRANK I.	
WILLIAM SHEPHERD ...	3-4	HAIRS, R.N.A.S.	7-8
JAMES HUNT	5-6	ALFRED W. GRIMES ...	9-10

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE and
Conducted by WILLIAM SHEPHERD.

Umpire: REUBEN SANDERS.

Both the above were rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer
of 7-8. The band wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunt for their
kindness during the afternoon and evening.**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

A meeting of the Western District of the Yorks Association was held at Keighley, and, although the weather was unfavourable, some 60 members and friends put in an appearance, the following towers being represented: Bradford Parish, Bingley, Denholme, Gargrave, Guiseley, Halifax, Headingley, Holbeck, Hunslet, Kildwick, Lightcliffe, Pudsey, Queensbury, Shipley, Skipton, Silsden, Tong, and the local company. The bells, a fine peal of eight (just recently recast and rehung) were well utilised by the visitors, a variety of methods being rung, ranging from Grandsire Triples to Superlative Surprise Major.

A committee meeting was held in the Vestry at 4.30 p.m., and at 5 p.m. a substantial meat tea was served to the visitors.

The business meeting followed, the President (Mr. G. B. Bolland) being in the chair, supported by the Rev. L. S. Robinson (Rector of Keighley), Mr. P. J. Johnson (Ringing Master), Mr. J. Cotterell (treasurer), members of the committee, etc.—It was proposed, and carried unanimously, that Liversedge be approached with a view to the next meeting being held there in March.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Cotterell, the following new members were elected: The Rev. A. C. Blunt, Vicar of Gargrave; J. Bozeley, Gargrave; E. Swallow, N. Sykes, W. Sykes, Kirkheaton; W. Lee, Calverley; and E. S. Morgan, Ashton-under-Lyne.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells and vestry.—The Rector, in replying, remarked upon the fascination which ringing had for the ringers, and the wonderful way in which they kept together. He paid a tribute to the regularity of his own ringers every Sunday, and also expressed the hope that before long the ringers would be busy in their respective bellfries ringing a joyous peal to mark the final victory of the allied forces, and the inauguration of a long peace.

Mr. Johnson proposed, and Mr. Lawson seconded, a vote of thanks to the local company for making all the necessary arrangements, and also to the ladies who had kindly assisted with the tea.—Mr. T. Bancroft, of the local company, in responding, said how pleased they were to have the Association at Keighley, and hoped they would soon come again, but under different conditions.—A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

Afterwards handbell ringing was indulged in, bringing a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

HANDBELL RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The first 720 of Kent Treble Bob and the first quarter-peal of Plain Bob in South Africa have been rung on handbells at Johannesburg. The Rev. G. H. Ridout sends us the following report of the touches—

On 4th November, 1915, at St. Alban's Vicarage, Johannesburg, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Capt. C. W. Kearns 1-2, Rev. G. H. Ridout 3-4, F. P. Powell (conductor) 5-6. First "in hand" in the method by all, and first "in hand" in South Africa.

Also recently three 720's of Bob Minor as above. And on 25th November, 1260 Bob Minor, as above, conducted by the Rev. G. H. Ridout, being the first quarter-peal by trebles, first in hand by tenors, and first as conductor; also first in hand in South Africa.

RINGING ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

To the Editor.

Sir.—Is it usual to ring the bells at 12 o'clock on Christmas Eve, as well as on New Year's Eve? I have not heard it done in any other place but this.—Yours, etc.

READER OF "THE RINGING WORLD."

King's Cliffe, Peterborough.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The following further amounts have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	120	4	2
"Wanderer" (November contribution)	0	2	0
"A Ringer's Mother" (2nd contribution)	0	2	6
Bushey Society (November contribution)	0	3	6

£120 12 2

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers who have joined H.M. Forces:—

W. J. Ikin, of St. Mary's, Selly Oak, Royal Garrison Artillery, now at Gosport.
From Farnham Royal, Bucks:—
Richard J. Harris, Heavy Howitzer Brigade, R.M.A., Portsmouth.
Herbert T. Batten, Army Ordnance Corps, Woolwich.
Wm. Henley, Army Ordnance Corps, Woolwich, Med. U.
From St. Andrew's Parish Church, Farnham, Surrey:—
William G. Elkins, Royal Flying Corps, now in France.
Edwin Prior, Hampshire Regiment, now at Gosport.
Alfred R. Elkins, Hants Aircraft Parks, R.F.C., T.F., Farnborough.

MUFFLED RINGING FOR DEAD HEROES.

MANY BISHOPS SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.

With hardly an exception the Bishops of the Church have expressed hearty agreement with the proposal, endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, that the bells of our churches should be rung muffled on Sunday next—the national Day of Intercession—to the memory of all those men of the Empire whose lives have been heroically given in this great war. The Primate's letter published in our last issue made it perfectly clear that the day suggested was eminently suitable, and, after his statement, we imagine there will be few churches where the memory of our dead soldiers and sailors will not be honoured by muffled ringing.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's letter, as we mentioned last week, was laid before each of the other Bishops, and their approval of the suggestions is almost unanimous. Last week we published the replies from the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, the Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Lincoln and the Bishop of Southwark. We give below the replies which have since been received, and these include one of full concurrence of the Archbishop of York.

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

With regard to the ringing of muffled bells as a sign of remembrance of those who have fallen in the war, the Archbishop of York agrees with the suggestion made by the Archbishop of Canterbury. — Robt. A. D. Booker, Private Secretary.

THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.

In this Cathedral (Wells) there is a very ancient custom of ringing a muffled peal on Innocents' Day, and this so nearly coincides with the dates you suggest that I think it would be quite appropriate to let that be the mark in this Cathedral city, and, perhaps, at another church in Wells. If, however, it is desired to have a muffled peal specially rung in memory of the brave men who have given their lives in the war, I see no reason why January 8th should not be used for that purpose. But I should not object to a muffled peal being rung in accordance with what the Archbishop says in the paragraph you quote; only great care would have to be taken that it does not conflict with the hours of service in the particular place.—G. W. BATH AND WELLS.

THE LORD BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM.

I am in agreement with the Archbishop on the muffled peal question; but it must be made quite clear to the general public beforehand as to the intention of the ringing. If you can get a general agreement as to day and hour it should be well announced in the Press, etc.—H. R. BIRMINGHAM.

THE LORD BISHOP OF CARLISLE.

I gladly support the proposal which you suggest, for muffling the church bells on Sunday, January 2nd, or Saturday, January 8th, as a tribute to our fallen heroes.—J. W. CARLISLE.

THE LORD BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD.

I fully agree with the suggestion of the Archbishop, and hope that it will be generally carried out in the Diocese of Chelmsford.—J. G. CHELMSFORD.

THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

The Bishop of Durham asks me to say that you are at liberty to state that he is in full sympathy with the sug-

gestion to ring muffled peals from church belfries on the occasions of which the Archbishop has approved.—Edward H. Maish, Chaplain.

THE LORD BISHOP OF EXETER.

The Bishop of Exeter desires me to say that he fully concurs with the views of the Archbishop of Canterbury as to the question of the ringing of muffled peals in our churches in memory of those who have fallen in the war.—Hubert G. Chalk, Chaplain.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LLANDAFF.

I entirely concur with the suggestion made by the Archbishop of Canterbury as to muffled peals being rung in our belfries in memory of our fallen heroes.—E. V. LLANDAFF.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

The Bishop of Liverpool desires to say that he is in full sympathy with the Archbishop's suggestion to ring muffled peals for our brave dead soldiers and sailors on January 2nd and January 8th.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.

I am quite willing to support the proposal for the use of muffled bells on the Day of Intercession, 2nd January.—E. A. MANCHESTER.

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH.

I readily fall in with the views expressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject which you raise. I myself am quite in sympathy with this suggestion, but in any particular church, of course, the wishes of the Incumbent would have to be consulted.—B. NORWICH.

THE LORD BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

I am in entire sympathy with your suggestion as to the muffled peal of bells on either January 2nd or 8th, and probably the latter date would be most suitable.—E. C. PETREBURG.

THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON.

I have no objection to the proposal which you make, should any of the clergy wish to follow it, but I quite agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury when he says that the matter is one for local consideration and decision. Opinions will differ according to temperament.—T. W. RIPON.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

I am thoroughly in accord with the proposal that bell ringers throughout my Diocese shall ring a muffled peal on the first Sunday in the New Year in commemoration of those who have fallen in this war; or, failing the possibility of collecting the bell ringers for the Sunday, that they should render this tribute to our brave men on Saturday, January 8th. I shall be able to draw attention to this in my letter to my Diocesan Magazine at the New Year.—J. R. ROFFEN.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. DAVIDS.

I am in sympathy with the Archbishop of Canterbury's suggestion.—J. ST. DAVIDS.

THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. EDMUNDSBURY AND IPSWICH.

The Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich desires me to say that he quite approves the suggestion as to muffled peals in commemoration of the fallen on a day early in January.—H. Bernard Tower, Chaplain.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SHEFFIELD.

I am entirely in favour of the proposal to have muffled peals rung as a tribute from our belfries to the fallen heroes on the occasions of which the Archbishop of Canterbury has approved.—LEONARD H. SHEFFIELD.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WAKEFIELD.

The Bishop of Wakefield concurs in the suggestions made by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury as to muffled peals in the New Year, subject to his own suggestion of local modifications.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

I need hardly say that I am willing for the very desirable object of unity, to concur in what His Grace has suggested: Sunday, January 2nd, where possible; Saturday, January 8th, where not. I should myself have preferred the last day of the year; but probably you have reasons against that.—E. WINTON.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

To my mind there are few more pathetic expressions of grief than the ringing of a muffled peal, and for this reason I doubt whether it would be advisable to accentuate the sorrow we are enduring as manfully as we can. I would rather ring out the joyous bells of hope all over the country on Saturday, New Year's Day, and thus express our belief in a just victory, and our confidence in the happiness of those who have fallen.—HUGH WORCESTER.

The Bishop of Oxford is away on the Continent, and was, therefore, unable to reply.

IMPORTANT RINGING CENTRES GIVE THE LEAD.

From many of the important centres of ringing we have received intimations that the bells next Sunday will be muffled, and the clergy have already taken steps to make known the reasons. For instance, at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on Sunday, the Rector (Canon J. W. Willink) made reference to the proposal and asked the people, when they heard the grandly solemn music of the old bells, to give their thoughts to those brave heroes who had laid down their lives, both on sea and land, and by so doing had made the greatest sacrifice it is in the power of man to make.

The bells of St. Martin's will be rung muffled before both morning and evening services on Sunday, and will thus give a lead to the Midlands.

In the north, churches will doubtless follow the example of the Cathedral at Newcastle, where the bells will be muffled on Sunday, and a peal attempt made during the week.

Ipswich among many towns in the Eastern Counties will take its part, by muffled ringing for morning service at St. Mary-le-Tower, and in other important centres of ringing such as London, Bristol, and the big Lancashire and Yorkshire towns the solemn tribute is to be paid to the dead. Edinburgh is also joining in.

We would again point out the importance of letting the public know as widely as possible the significance of the muffled ringing, and, where it has not already been done, steps should be taken to obtain the assistance of clergy by getting them, if possible, to make some allusion to it in the course of Sunday's services.

The suggestion to have a special touch after evening service seems to have found favour in many quarters, and, as this would emphasise the occasion, it is a departure which might very fittingly be made in all the towers possible. In many places, particularly near the East Coast, evening ringing is forbidden for military purposes, and in those cases, of course, it is out of the question, but there are hundreds of churches, outside the area where the

ban is in operation, at which this special touch might be rung.

As was pointed out last week, the most effective ringing will be obtained with the bells open at handstroke and muffled at back.

PEALS OF THE PAST.**THE FIRST 5,000 OF TREBLE BOB.**

It is now nearly 200 years since the first peal of Treble Bob Major was rung. On December 27th, 1718, the Union Scholars achieved the distinction by ringing 5120 changes in what we now know as the Oxford variation at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, London. In Snowdon's "History of Treble Bob" he tells us that in accordance with a custom prevailing at that time, the Society called the method after their own name—"Union Treble Bob"—as they considered themselves entitled to do this by reason of their being the first company who accomplished a peal in the method. Still, although the name of Union Treble Bob held to it to some extent, as may be seen by many of the earlier records of the College Youths and other societies, yet this license does not seem to have been generally admitted by ringers, as the name of "Oxford" was also used for it. It was not until after this peal had been rung that the need for the interior proof of Treble Bob was discovered. The discovery resulted in two out of every three of the compositions of that date being found false, but the 5120 rung by the Union Scholars was one of the very few true peals. The calling of the peal is in the Union Scholars' Peal Book, which is now in the British Museum. The particulars of this memorable peal, as entered in the records, are as follows:—

December the 27th, 1718.—This society rang, at St. Dunstan-in-the-East, the first true and compleat peal of 5120 Union Bob: John Hedley 1, Robert French 2, William Freeborn 3, Edward Franks 4, Richard Oswald 5, Thomas Perrin 6, Robert Bawld'g 7, William Balding 8.

The copy of an old peal board, which was formerly in the now vanished Church of St. Dionis, Backchurch, London, is given in another column, in a description of the bells and church. It is interesting to note that it recorded the first peal on the bells, which was rung 130 years ago last Monday, the 27th. It was a 5040 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, and among the names of those taking part are the well-known ones of John Reeves and Christopher Wells.

One of the early long lengths of Treble Bob was rung on Boxing Day (December 26th), 1831. This was a peal of 15,168 of Kent, accomplished at St. Mary's, Elland, Yorks, and it was not superseded until the famous 15,840 was rung at Belmal Green in 1868. For some time it was given out that the Elland peal was rung by eight men only, but at length it became known that ten men took part in it, the ringers of the 3rd and 4th having to be relieved. The following are the details of the performance:—

Monday, December 26th, 1831, at St. Mary's, Elland, was rung in 8 hours 43 minutes. Hugh Wright's peal of 15,168 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, being the greatest length composed in that system: W. Haigh (Huddersfield) 1, B. Crowther (Elland) 2, L. Noble and T. Pitchforth (Elland) 3, Jon. Womersley (Huddersfield) and J. Noble (Elland) 4, Jno. Womersley (Huddersfield) 5, J. Hanson (Huddersfield) 6, W. Dumbleton (Huddersfield) 7, S. Goodier (Huddersfield) 8. The first part was conducted by Jonathan Womersley, and the last two by S. Goodier.

December 28th was the anniversary of the first peal of Stedman Cinques rung in Birmingham. This was in 1820, and the length, 6,800, rung in 4 hours 35 minutes, constituted the record number in the method at that time. There is a tablet in St. Martin's belfry recording the performance as follows:—

1820, Dec. 28th.—Six thousand six hundred Stedman Cinques, in four hours thirty-five minutes by the following persons. Conducted by Mr. Thomas Thurstans: William Bennett (treble), James Jarvis 2, Thomas Chapman 3, Thomas Worrall 4, Joseph Powell 5, Henry Coope 6, Samuel Lawrence 7, Joseph Riley 8, Charles Thurstans 9, William Hassall 10, Thomas Thurstans 11, William Marsh tenor.

The first occasion on which Holt's Original was conducted by a ringer taking part in the ringing was on Christmas Day, 1753, at Saffron Walden, a performance which was repeated on New Year's Day, 1754.

Another interesting New Year's Day performance was the first peal of Treble Bob in Lincolnshire as the following peal tablet in the belfry of All Saints', Gainsborough, records:—

ANNO 1848 DOMINI.

Change Ringing.

On Saturday, Jan. 1st.

The Sheffield St. Peter's Company of Change Ringers visited this Town and Ushered in the New Year with the First Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major ever Rang in the County of Lincoln. Comprising 5088 Changes in the Time of 3 Hours and 20 Minutes.

Artists Namely.

Treble: Wm. Hudson.	5th: Corns. Andrews.
2nd: Thos. Whaley.	6th: George Wilson.
3rd: Isaac Lomas.	7th: Jas. Frith.
4th: Jno. Lomas, junr.	Jas. Taylor, Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by William Hudson.
Weight of the Tenor, 20 cwt.

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TWO VANISHED LONDON CHURCHES— AND THEIR BELLS.

By J. R. JERRAM.

There formerly stood in the City of London, within a short distance of one another, two churches; both built from Wren's designs to replace older ones which were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and both of which have disappeared within the last half-century.

In this article I propose to give a short account of these two churches and their bells.

ST. DIONIS, BACKCHURCH.

The first I shall notice is St. Dionis, Backchurch, which stood on the north side of Fenchurch Street. This church was finished in 1677, though the tower was not added until ten years later. In plan it may be described as an irregular trapezium; that is to say the north side was considerably longer than the south, and the west end much wider than the east end. The aisles were separated by Ionic columns and pillars, leaving an entablature, from which sprang the arched and groined plaster ceiling. In each of the groins so formed was a circular clerestory window, the ceilings of the aisles being flat, with round-headed windows in each bay. There was a western gallery containing a fine organ by Renatus Harris in 1724. The pulpit, with its sounding-board, and the reredos were good specimens of seventeenth century art. The tower surmounted the western bay of the south aisle, and was somewhat of the Italian style, having a heavy cornice at the top surmounted by a balustrade. It rose well above the surrounding houses, being ninety feet in height. When it was finished a peal of six bells, cast by Christopher Hodson, was placed therein. These were superseded in 1726 by a peal of ten, cast by R. Phelps of the Whitechapel foundry, with a tenor of 19 cwt. One or two were afterwards recast, and when the bells were removed in 1879 the inscriptions were as follows:—

Treble.

R : PHELPS FECIT 1732.

Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Ninth.

R : PHELPS FECIT. 1726.

Fourth.

T. LESTER FECIT. HENRY BURT & DANIEL
TAYLOR CHURCH WARDENS. 1750.

Eighth.

THOMAS LESTER FECIT. HENRY BURT & S.S.
1750 S.S. *Tenor.*

RICHARD PHELPS FECIT ++ MESSRS. IAMES
HERBERT CHARLES BALL CHURCH WARDENS.
1726.

The following tablets were in the belfry:—

THE ANCIEST SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS did ring on
Tuesday, December 27th, 1785, 5040 OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL,
in 3 hours 30 minutes. The first on these bells:

Jno. Reeves	<i>Treble</i>	Chrsr. Wells	<i>Sixth</i>
Jno. Anderson	<i>Second</i>	Chas. Grant	<i>Seventh</i>
Geo. Harris	<i>Third</i>	Jno. Inville	<i>Eighth</i>
Nl. Williamson	<i>Fourth</i>	Wm. Lowndes	<i>Ninth</i>
Thos. Blakemore	<i>Fifth</i>	Jno. Heap	<i>Tenor</i>

The peal was called by T. Blakemore.

SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. Established 1637. On Monday,
November 22nd, 1852, the company rang a true peal of STEDMAN
CATERS, containing 5079 changes, in 3 hours and 15 minutes. Per-
formers:—

Charles Goozee	<i>Treble</i>	Wm. Lobb	<i>Sixth</i>
Jas. Mash	<i>Second</i>	Rt. Haworth	<i>Seventh</i>
Rt. Jameson	<i>Third</i>	Geo. Ferris	<i>Eighth</i>
Cornis. Andrews	<i>Fourth</i>	Jno. Bradley	<i>Ninth</i>
Jas. Dwight	<i>Fifth</i>	Geo. Hand	<i>Tenor</i>

Composed and conducted by Chas. Goozee.

Cornelius Pugh, Esq. } Churchwardens.
John Norman, Esq. }

About the year 1876 the church was condemned to be demolished, but was not actually pulled down until three years later. In 1879 the bells were removed to All Hallows, Lombard Street, to which parish St. Dionis was united at the demolition of the church. In that steeple they still hang, but are seldom, if ever, rung, as far as I can ascertain.

What became of the peal boards above mentioned when the tower was demolished I don't know. When the bells were in St. Dionis' tower they were hung the wrong way round, i.e., from left to right. The last peal on them in their old home was rung by ten members of the College Youths towards the end of the year 1878 (I have not the exact date). It was a peal of 5200 Kent Treble Bob Royal, and was rung by H. W. Haley, 1; W. Cooter, 2; M. A. Wood, 3; G. Ferris, 4; H. Haley, junr., 5; S. Reeves, 6; G. A. Muskett, 7; J. Pettit, 8; F. Bate, 9; H. Booth, 10. Composed and conducted by H. W. Haley.

ST. BENET, GRACECHURCH.

Near to St. Dionis, at the junction of Fenchurch Street with Gracechurch Street, formerly stood the beautiful little church of St. Benet, Gracechurch.

In plan it was a simple parallelogram, 60 feet by 30 feet, consisting of five bays without aisles, and had a groined plaster ceiling; the groining springing from corbels and being slightly flattened, so as to form an ellipse. Each bay was divided by a broad band ornament, the church being lighted by a double range of windows, the upper ones circular and the lower square with round heads.

The reredos was of the Corinthian order, and over it was a large piece of carved work painted in perspective, representing the pillars and arched roof of a building appearing from under a purple festooned curtain raised by two cupids. There were also paintings of Moses and Aaron. The font was richly carved and had a good canopy. The pulpit and sounding-board were also richly adorned with carving and parquetry.

The west end of the church was divided into two bays, one occupied by the vestibule and gallery stairs, and the other the base of the tower; which was of three stories, and was surmounted by a dome covered with lead, crowned by a turret and spire. This steeple, which was one of the handsomest in London, contained one large *Service-bell*, weighing about 16 cwt., and inscribed:—
THOMAS CARR IOSEPH CRAYKER CH: WAR-
DENS. 1692. IAMES BARTLET MADE ME.

There was also a small *Call-bell*, weighing about 1 cwt., inscribed:—A.B. 1668. [i.e., Anthony Bartlet.] There was also a clock with a suspended dial. I need scarcely say that the belfry did not contain any peal boards.

This beautiful church was demolished in 1871, and part of the proceeds of the sale of the site and materials, which amounted to £23,894, was devoted to building and endowing St. Benet's Church, Mile End Road, Stepney. What became of the two bells I have not been able to ascertain.

In conclusion, I would say that it is a great pity that the new church at Stepney (a modern gothic building) was not a faithful reproduction of the old one in the city. At least the steeple might have been re-erected as it was before; even if it was necessary to build the church on a larger scale.

Originally there were three churches in the City of London dedicated to St. Benet, all built from Wren's designs. Each had a tower crowned with a dome, surmounted by a

turret and small spire. St. Benet Fink (which stood behind the Royal Exchange) was pulled down in 1844. The only one now remaining is St. Benet, Paul's Wharf; and this was threatened with demolition some forty years ago, but was fortunately preserved.

Owing to an accident, the illustrations of the two churches for this article cannot be inserted, but will appear next week.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

BARKING, ESSEX.—St. Margaret's Society.—On Sept. 26th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) in 44 minutes: *J. Norris, junr., 1, *A. Perkins 2, *A. Warboys 3, E. G. Fenn 4, G. Cottis 5, A. C. Hardy 6, C. Fenn (conductor) 7, R. Fenn 8. * First quarter-peal. A. Perkins hails from Crediton, Devon. — On November 21st, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins.: T. Faulkner 1, W. Beard 2, A. Warboys (first quarter-peal of Stedman) 3, G. Faulkner 4, E. Andrews 5, A. Hardy 6, C. Fenn 7, R. Fenn 8.—On December 5th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), by A. J. Perkins, was rung in 48 mins.: A. C. Hardy 1, A. Neal 2, A. Warboys (first quarter-peal in the method) 3, G. Cottis 4, E. Andrews 5, G. W. Faulkner 6, R. Fenn 7, C. Fenn (conductor) 8.

BURLEY.—On Thursday, December 2nd, 720 Bob Minor: A. Armitage (first 720) 1, F. Hutchinson 2, Wm. Barton (conductor) 3, A. Heap 4, E. Perkins (first 720 inside) 5, G. Slack 6.

PUDSEY.—On Sunday, December 5th, 720 Kent Treble Minor: R. Farrer 1, S. Ward 2, J. Ambler (first 720 in the method) 3, Wm. Cordingley (conductor) 4, Wm. Barton 5, P. Cordingley 6. Also on Sunday, December 12th, 720 Bob Minor on handbells: *R. Hyland 1—2, Wm. Barton 3—4, *J. Ambler 5—6. Conducted by Wm. Barton. * First true 720 on handbells.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.—On December 5th, for morning service, 480 Oxford Treble Bob; for afternoon service, 180 Double Court, 120 College Single, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, the following taking part: F. J. S. Saird (Royal Naval Air Service), Rifleman B. Prewett (London Rifle Brigade), J. Spencer, E. Chatten, W. Mellin, F. W. Naughton, G. Bertram, A. J. Naughton, L. Naughton. The 480 and 120 were conducted by F. W. Naughton, and the 720 and 180 conducted by B. Prewett.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Parish Church, for morning service, on Sunday, December 5th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), in 45 mins.: Robt. Holloway 1, G. Harbour 2, W. H. Hollier (late of Dover) 3, G. Hes 4, H. Miles 5, W. H. Lawrence 6, J. Armiger Trollope 7, Q.M.S. J. R. Mackman (conductor) 8. Afterwards touches of Bob Major and Royal and 468 Grandsire Caters were rung on handbells: Geo. Harbour 1—2, H. Miles (Kensington) 3—4, Sergt. J. R. Mackman (East Surrey Regiment) 5—6, J. A. Trollope (conductor) 7—8, W. Lawrence 9—10.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On December 5th, for morning service, at the Parish Church, 360 Grandsire Doubles: R. Law 1, G. Gray 2, A. Jordan 3, T. J. Watts 4, W. Watts (conductor) 5, H. W. Watts 6.—On Monday, December 6th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, R. Law 3, A. Jordan 4, T. J. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6, H. W. Watts 8. Also 240 Stedman Doubles.

WEST EALING.—For the evening service, on Sunday, December 5th, 720 Bob Minor: C. Edwards 1, C. H. Hughes 2, W. Lawrence (conductor) 3, G. Harbour 4, A. W. Davis 5, Thos. H. Taffender 6. It was intended to ring a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, but two visitors from a distance failed to come, probably owing to the rough weather.

KEIGHLEY, YORKSHIRE.—On Sunday, December 5th, for evening service, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: R. W. Jennison 1, C. Green 2, H. Green 3, A. Jackson 4, J. Hall 5, T. Bancroft (conductor) 6, S. Mugatroyd 7, J. Coulton 8.

STOURBRIDGE.—On Sunday, December 5th, at St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor, with 7. 8 covering: V. Harmon 1, C. W. Cooper 2, A. E. Whatmore (conductor) 3, W. A. Pugh 4, G. Popnell 5, J. Newman 6, W. Hand 7, Pie Frank Clifford 8.

EATON NESTON, NORTHANTS.—On December 5th, for divine service, 720 Double Court: R. W. Parker 1, F. Hopper 2, W. J. Allen 3, T. Law 4, W. Farey 5, J. W. Sharp (conductor) 6. Also two courses of Kent Treble Bob and 120 Stedman Doubles.

BARROW-ON-HUMBER, Lincs.—At the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, on December 10th, 720 Bob Minor (42 singles), in 27 mins.: R. Pratt 1, Wm. Crowder 2, P. Hoodlas 3, Hy. Ebbitson 4, Ed. Danuti 5, A. Hoodlas (conductor) 6. The ringers of the 3rd and 6th belong to St. Peter's, Barton-on-Humber.

LEATHERHEAD.—On Sunday, December 12th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1269 changes), in 47 mins.: T. Nownham 1, Corp. A. C. Otway 2, A. H. Winch 3, W. E. Otway 4, J. Wyatt 5, H. Boxall 6, J. Hoyle 7, E. Hull 8, A. Dean (conductor) 9, W. Lynch 10.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.—On Sunday, Dec. 12th, for evening service, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal Double Norwich Major (1488 changes), in 59 mins., by members of Oxford Guild: Harry Wingrove 1, G. Guttridge 2, Wm. T. Horne 3, Cecil Mayne (conductor) 4, W. H. Fussell 5, Wm. Welling 6, R. Buckland 7, John C. Truss 8. A happy afternoon had been previously spent with handbells, at Burkes Parade, thanks to the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Mayne.

BRIGHTON.—At St. Nicholas' Church, on Sunday, December 12th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1260 changes), in 44 mins.: R. Hoather 1, H. Statham 2, C. Palmer 3, H. Rann 4, F. Tindale 5, G. Ades 6, F. Bennett 7, W. Palmer 8, Company Q.-M.-S. Mackman (10th East Surrey), conductor, 9, E. Tugwood 10.

BARKSTONE, LINCOLNSHIRE.—On Sunday, December 12th, for evening service, at St. Nicholas' Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor, in 26 minutes, in honour of Pte F. E. Smith, of 3/5th Leicesters: W. Stokes (14 years of age) 1, Pte F. E. Smith 2, A. Drury 3, J. Miller 4, W. E. Woods 5, A. Palmer (conductor) 6.

WITNEY.—Oxford Diocesan Guild. — On December 13th, at St. Mary's Church, 896 Grandsire Triples: Pte F. T. C. Caple 1, A. Brooks 2, E. Brown 3, A. Kinchin 4, J. Monk 5, Sergt. G. C. Rice (longest length as conductor) 6, J. Brooks 7, G. Brooks 8.

LEICESTER.—On Tuesday, Dec. 14th, at St. Martin's Church, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Rev. Canon Sanders, M.A., LL.D., for many years Vicar of St. Martin's, and who was prominently connected with the local charities, and a member of the Education Committee of the borough of Leicester, who died Dec. 8th, in his 69th year, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1265 changes) was rung in 50 minutes, with the bells half-muffled, by the following members of the St. Martin's Society: *P. Harrison 1, S. Cotton 2, L. E. Allen 3, H. G. Jenney 4, H. Broughton 5, E. Morris 6, T. L. Allen 7, F. H. Dexter 8, A. Martin 9, T. Taylor 10. Composed especially for the occasion by F. H. Dexter, and conducted by H. Broughton. * First quarter-peal of Caters. Also first quarter as conductor in any method.

NORTH STONEHAM, HANTS.—Winchester Diocesan Guild.—At the combined practice on Dec. 18th, amongst other touches, 1120 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Pte Jones (A.S.C.) 1, J. B. Williams 2, C. J. Fray 3, Rev. E. Bankes James 4, L. H. Page 5, G. Williams (conductor) 6, W. H. George 7, W. T. Tucker 8. Messrs. A. Marks, Thompson and Wilkins also took part in shorter touches of Double Norwich and Stedman Triples.

BASINGSTOKE.—On Saturday, Dec. 18th, in honour of the marriage of Mr. V. A. S. George (a member of the Basingstoke band), and Miss O. North, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted, but unfortunately came to grief about two-thirds of the way through. This was followed by a 504 in the same method: Miss R. A. White 1, F. G. Wilson 2, Mrs. E. Mack 3, W. Hunt 4, F. G. Paice 5, A. Burgess 6, H. White 7, Miss E. D. White 8.

LINCOLN.—Lincoln Diocesan Guild (Northern Branch).—On Sunday, December 19th, for evensong, at St. Peter-at-Arch Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 42 mins.: G. Chester 1, G. Flintham 2, T. Pyle 3, W. Clarke 4, C. H. Chester 5, I. Vickers 6, J. A. Freeman (conductor) 7, J. W. Musson 8.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On December 19th, for evening service, 160 Double Norwich Major: W. W. Bailey 1, G. Wilson 2, E. H. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, J. M. Bailey 5, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 6, C. Sampson 7, E. S. Bailey 8.—On Christmas morning, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): C. Sampson 1, G. Wilson 2, J. M. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, E. H. Bailey 5, E. S. Bailey 6, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 7, J. Titterton 8.—On December 26th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Bailey 1, E. H. Bailey 2, G. Wilson 3, A. Keeble 4, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 5, J. Titterton 6, J. M. Bailey 7, C. Sampson 8.

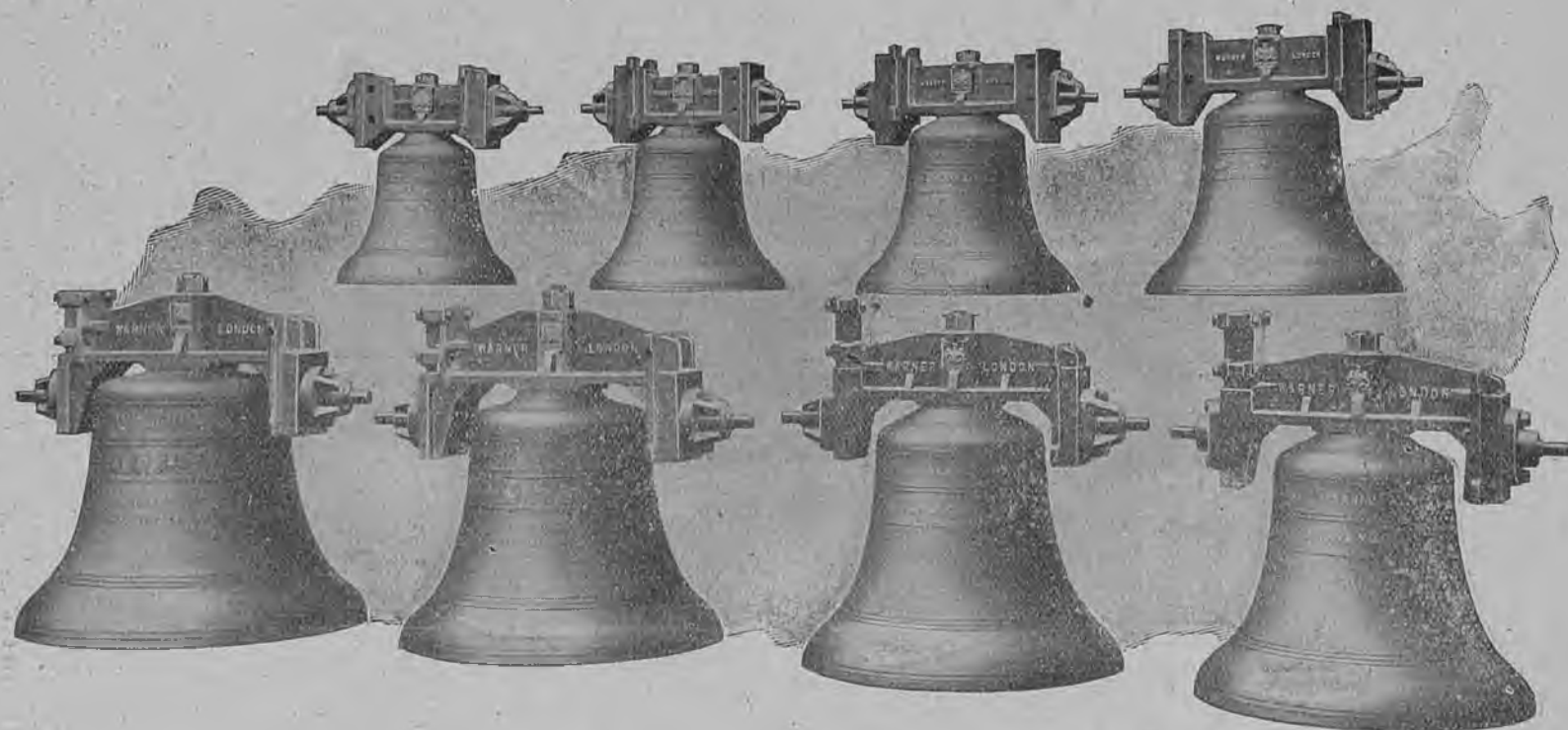
SOUTHBROOM, DEVIZES.—At St. James' Church, Southbroom, on December 20th, being the Eve of St. Thomas' Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes), in 43 mins.: H. Brownlee West 1, S. Hillier (conductor) 2, G. W. England 3, A. Little 4, T. Weeks 5, P. Hiscock 6.

HERSHAM, SURREY.—On Christmas morning, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major (1312 changes), in 47 mins.: H. Edser, senr., 1, W. Shepherd (conductor) 2, A. F. Shepherd 3, W. A. Woodrow 4, A. Woodrow 5, F. Shepherd 6, F. J. Shepherd 7, J. Emery 8.

IPSWICH.—At the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, on Christmas Day, for the morning service, a touch of Stedman Cinques: Pte A. S. Bond (R.A.M.C.) 1, Edgar Pemberton 2, C. J. Sedgley 3, R. H. Hayward 4, W. L. Catchpole 5, W. Motts 6, J. Rose 7, H. C. Gillingham 8, W. P. Garrett 9, J. Motts (conductor) 10, R. H. Brundle 11, C. Crapnell 12.

PULBOROUGH.—On Christmas Day, at the Parish Church, the following touches of Grandsire Triples. For early Communion service, 1260 changes, P. Knight 1, S. Stone 2, S. W. Corden 3, Sergt. A. B. Corden 4, G. H. Lee 5, P. H. Doick 6, A. Greenfield (conductor) 7, H. J. Doick 8. For Matins, 504 changes: C. Greenfield 1, S. Stone 2, P. H. Doick 3, G. H. Lee 4, A. Greenfield 5, Sergt. A. B. Corden (conductor) 6, S. W. Corden 7, H. J. Doick 8. For evensong, 1260 changes: C. Greenfield 1, S. Stone 2, P. H. Doick 3, G. H. Lee 4, A. Greenfield 5, Sergt. A. B. Corden (conductor) 6, S. W. Corden 7, H. J. Doick 8.

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GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held at Stone on Saturday week. Owing to the inclement weather, the gathering was very small, but those who attended received a hearty welcome from the Vicar (the Rev. T. Veal). Among the visitors were Mr. J. W. Jones, secretary of the Llandaff Association, of Newport, Mon., and Mr. J. H. Sheppard, of Swindon. The bells, a light peal of six, were available during the afternoon and evening.

Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar, was partaken of in the School-room, after which the business meeting was held, the Vicar presiding. The Branch Hon. Secretary presented the accounts for the year, which were passed as most satisfactory, and also read a report of the year's work. He said the branch had held 12 meetings, with an average attendance of 22. Fourteen new members had been elected, of whom six were lady ringers, and three honorary members had been added to the branch. The total membership of the branch was now 81 performing and ten honorary members, of that number, 28 performing and one honorary member were serving in H.M. Forces.

The Rev. T. A. Garnett was elected president of the branch, on the retirement of Mr. F. K. Howell, who is the present Master of the Association. Mr. H. W. Fussell was re-elected vice-chairman, and Mr. G. Sheppard was re-elected representative on the management committee. Mr. W. A. Lewis was thanked for his past services as secretary, and re-elected unanimously. One new member was elected, and Thornbury was selected as the next place of meeting on January 15th.

It was decided to publish notices of future meetings in "The Ringing World."

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, and for providing such an excellent tea, the motion being suitably acknowledged.

Service was afterwards held in the Church, the Association special form being used. The Vicar gave a most appropriate address, and the service was rendered the more enjoyable by the assistance given by the organist, Mr. F. Floyd, and his able choir, to whom best thanks are tendered.

INSCRIPTION AT BRAILES AND ETON.

To the Editor.

Sir, — In "Bells of Buckinghamshire" (p. 384) and "Bells of Warwickshire" (p. 24), the inscription on the tenor at Brailes, and also on the knell-bell at Eton is given as follows:—

GAUDE QUOD POST IPSUM SCANDIS
ET EST HONOR TIBI GRANDIS
IN COELI PALATIO.

These bells are from the first half of the XV century, and are both recast.

Ellacombe is quoted ("Bells of Somerset," suppl. p. 135) as saying that the words are supposed to be from some ancient Ascension Day hymn.

I venture to suggest that they are likely to be found in the third verse of the Sequence for St. Mary Magdalene (22nd July) which begins GAUDE PIA MAGDALENA.

This hymn is referred to in Julian's Dictionary of Hymnology, p. 1639, as being found in various books of the hours, dating back to the fourteenth century.

One written in Spain about 1440 will be found in British Museum (Add. 28962, f. 426); one half a century earlier, written in England, in Bodleian Library, Oxford (Bodl. 850, f. 104); and another at Cambridge, and many others.

A translation of the hymn, by Provost Ball, of Cumbrae, is given in "New Office Hymn Book" (1905), No. 136.

Probably some one of your readers could get access to a copy of the hymn in Latin, and verify.—I am, yours sincerely,

G. H. RIDOUT.

St. Alban's Church, Johannesburg.

RINGERS FORGO CHRISTMAS BOXES.

For many years it has been the custom for the Guild of ringers at Southover, Lewes, to make a collection at Christmas among parishioners and others, the amount thus obtained being the only "remuneration" they received for their services. At a meeting held last week, however, they unanimously decided to forgo the collection this year, in view of the many other demands upon the public. In commenting on the decision taken, one of the vice-presidents (Mr. J. T. Glandfield) pointed out that by their action the ringers were indirectly contributing more than £5 to other local funds.

The Guild, like many other hands, has found it necessary to enlist the help of ladies to keep the service ringing going, and it was decided to postpone consideration of their status in the Guild until the annual meeting in February. Similarly, the question of filling the post of captain, rendered vacant by the resignation, through pressure of business, of Mr. F. Sturt, was left over.

GREETINGS FROM FRANCE.

Corpl. James E. Davis, No. 61857, R.E., sends best wishes for the New Year to all ringing friends. His address is now: Royal Engineer Details, British Expeditionary Force, 4th General Base Depot, Rouen, France.

NOTICES.

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

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The monthly meeting of the above society will be held at Headingley St. Chad's on Saturday, January 1st. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the schoolroom.—William Barton, Secretary, 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters should be paid before February 29th. Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on January 4th and 18th, for business, and on the 13th and 27th for handbell practice.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting of the Devizes Branch will be held at St. James's Church, Trowbridge, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916, at 3 o'clock. Service in Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock, 9d. each to those who advise me before January 3rd next. Important business meeting to follow; good attendance hoped for.—Henry Brownlee West, Hon. Secretary, Avalon, Devizes.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A meeting for practice will be held at Loughton on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available from 3 to 6 p.m. All ringers welcome.—H. Rumens, District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Bloxwich on Saturday, January 8th. Bells available at 3. Short service at 5.15, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. J. C. Hamilton). Tea (9d.) in the schoolroom at 6. Please send word not later than Tuesday, January 4th.—H. Knight, Honorary Secretary, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, January 8th. Bells ready at 5.—Walter Hughes.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Mark's, Preston, on Saturday, January 8th, 1916. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the tower at 5.30. Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend.—A. E. Woodhouse, Hon. Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Bridgwater on Saturday, January 8th, 1916. Service at St. Mary's Church 4 p.m. Tea at Holy Trinity Parish Hall 5 p.m., meeting to follow. Bells available from 2 p.m.—A. E. Moulton, Hon. Secretary.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Annual meeting will be held in the Guild Room at the Tamworth Arms Hotel, Moor Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, January 11th, 1916, at 7.30 p.m. All subscriptions are due, and should be paid at this meeting. The balance sheet will be presented.—A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stoke-in-Coventry on January 15th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Short service at 4.30. Tea can be provided if members let me know by January 12th. Business meeting after tea.—H. Kettle, Honorary Secretary, Rectory Cottage, Allesley, Coventry.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Oldswinford, Stourbridge, on Saturday, January 16th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in the church at 4.45. Tea kindly provided in the Schools at 5.30. Business meeting to follow. It is very important that all members intending to be present should let me know on or before Wednesday, January 12th.—E. J. Dowler, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Secretary.

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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MARRIAGE.

HARDY—WILLSON. — On December 27th, 1915, at the Church of S. John the Divine, Leicester, by the Rev. R. S. C. H. Wood, M.A., Vicar, Thomas Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hardy, to Lilian Ada, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Willson, of Leicester. Both bride and bridegroom are well known change ringers.

TO PARENTS.

Rev. F. L. Edwards, Kington Magna, Gillingham, Dorset (Salisbury Guild), can for a limited time take gentlemen's sons, age 12 to 15, as pupils on exceptionally favourable terms. *Spanish* may be taught. Also farming.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

FAREWELL MEETING.

The ringers at Royston and Melbourn, Herts, having enlisted under Lord Derby's Recruiting Scheme, and some of them being included in the first groups to be called up, a farewell gathering has been arranged to take place at Royston, to-morrow (Saturday, January 1st). There will be ringing from 2.15 to 5.30, and all friends will be welcome. The bells are to be muffled out of respect to those who have fallen in the war.

SOLDIER RINGERS' TRIBUTE TO DEAD COMRADE.

At the Parish Church, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, on December 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes) was rung by the following soldiers of the 83rd Provisional Battalion, as a token of respect to the late Pte Evelyn Ambrose, of the 12th Royal Fusiliers, who was buried with full military honours at the cemetery at Burnham: Lance-Corpl. Coombe (4th Royal Berks) 1, Pte T. Gregory (4th Royal Berks) 2, Pte E. H. Jefferies (5th Gloucester Regiment) 3, Pte A. H. Halford (5th Gloucester Regiment) 4, Pte W. Grace (conductor), 4th Royal Berks Regiment, 5, Sergt. W. Harris (5th Gloucester Regiment) 6. By kind permission of the colonel, the above band also ring for Sunday Church parades, and for Matins and evensong.

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