



No. 312. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, 1917.

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

Price 2d.

# 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.**

## THE JOHNSON DINNER.

The Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner at Birmingham this year lacked none of its accustomed success through the fact that for the third consecutive year it was a war-time function, and that on this occasion a curtailment of menu—imposed by the Food Controller—was added to previous restrictions in other directions. Indeed the popularity of the event is so well established that it is quite evident that something more than wars and earthquakes are needed to interrupt the annual sequence of gatherings. The attendance this year was very few below that of last year, and the proceedings went off with all the enthusiasm that has marked the occasion in former times.

The first object of the gathering is, of course, to honour the memory of one of the greatest geniuses and the noblest characters that ever ornamented the Exercise. The number of those who enjoyed the acquaintance of Henry Johnson is growing smaller, but the passage of years does not diminish the love and respect they have for the memory of that man of simple, honest life, of gentle nature and of marvellous gifts. We have to remember that what he accomplished for ringing was very largely, if not entirely, the product of his own resourcefulness and unaided work. He had not, as men have in these times, a foundation to build upon that was laid by the labour of others; but with all the strides which have been made since his time, a great deal that he did still stands out pre-eminently. He was one of the greatest men of the Exercise—there is no need to attempt to "place" him more accurately than that—and in keeping green his memory the St. Martin's Guild, not only pays a tribute that is due to a great man, but deserves the thanks of the present generation for giving us an annual reminder of what we owe to the life's work of Henry Johnson. But beyond this, the Birmingham gathering serves another purpose. It draws together, in a way that few other functions do, men who have few other opportunities of meeting from year to year; and if the present restrictions upon travelling had some effect this year upon the number who assembled from a distance, when we return to normal times, we may look for as great a "gathering of the Clans" at Birmingham as ever took place in the past. The St. Martin's Guild, like the College Youths and the Cumberlands—but very few other societies—is an organisation with long history behind it, and its members are scattered wherever ringing is known. But however far a member may be removed from the centre of its activities—St. Martin's Church in the Bull Ring—there is an unbreakable tie which binds them to the Guild, while those who have been privileged to join the happy throng at the annual dinner, cannot fail, as every year the event comes round, to conjure up memories of one of the most delightful of all ringing gatherings.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford

Dear Sir,

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 as 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**

## BELLS

**FOR CHURCHES,  
SINGLY,  
OR IN PEALS.**

**CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.**

PEALS AUGMENTED,  
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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Best Workmanship and  
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BEST BELL ROPES.

REPAIRS AND REHANGING  
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect  
and report on Bells and Towers

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## EIGHT BELL PEAL.

CRAYFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, March 3, 1917, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;**

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN WHEADON ... .. Treble	WILLIAM HEWETT ... .. 5
ISAAC EMERY ... .. 2	JOHN H. CHERSMAN ... .. 6
EDWIN BARNETT, Junr. ... 3	EDWIN BARNETT, Senr. ... 7
FREDERICK W. RICHARDSON 4	WILLIAM J. JEFFERIES ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT, Senr.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Ptes. H. Eames and W. Audsley, killed in action in France, both of whom were members of the Crayford band of ringers. This was E. Barnett, Senr.'s, 500th peal, and the 100th he has rung on Crayford bells.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Wednesday, February 22, 1917, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,  
At 32, EDGELEY ROAD, CLAPHAM, S.W.,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;**

CARTER'S ODD BOB ONE-PART.

HARRY R. PASMORE ... 1—2	HERBERT LANGDON ... 5—6
CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... 3—4	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL ... 7—8

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

Umpire: EDWIN HORREX,

Edwin Horrex was heartily congratulated by the band on reaching the age of 79 on this day.

## RINGING AFTER DUSK.

NO RELAXATION IN ESSEX.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with pleasure the successful result of the efforts of the Vicar of Whitechurch in his application for the relaxation of the order forbidding the ringing of church bells after dusk in the area of the Southern Command. I should be glad if you would kindly publish in "The Ringing World," for the benefit of members of our Association, the reply I received on February 8th from the competent Military Authority for Essex. It is important that this should be known, because very recently, through some misunderstanding, the bells in one church in the Diocese were rung for evensong, and the incumbent very narrowly escaped a prosecution.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. HOWARD,

Master, The Essex Association.

[Copy.]

To Chas. H. Howard, Esq., J.P., Chairman Braintree Urban District Council.

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I have to inform you that, according to the latest information available at this office, there has been no amendment of No. 12B of the Defence of the Realm Regulations governing the hours during which Church bells, etc., may not be rung in the county of Essex (outside the Metropolitan Police District).

(Signed) F. C. WINTER, Captain.

Staff-Captain, No. 9 District.

Warley, February 8th, 1917.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, of the Southern Command, has issued the following letter to the Bishops in the area of his control, and a copy has been sent to all the Chief Constables:—

"With reference to Regulation 12B, Defence of the Realm Regulations, I am directed to inform you that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, has decided, in response to the numerous applications which he has received, to permit the ringing of Church Bells up till 9 p.m., at all places situated in this command. Would you kindly have this information passed on to all whom it may concern in your Diocese? The police have been notified."

Owing to the relaxation of the regulations, the practice meeting of the Winchester Guild, at Cranleigh, on Saturday, March 10th, will begin at 5.30 instead of 3 p.m. The practice arranged for Clendon on the 24th will not be held.

## WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

At the recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Winchester Guild, it was unanimously agreed that the annual festival for this year should be suspended, owing to the war. Last year it was a very small meeting, and this year the prospects are far less, owing to bands being so depleted.

The committee hopes that those who are left to "carry on" will do their utmost to make the quarterly meetings and combined practices as popular as possible.

**5184 STEDMAN CATERS.**

By GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

4	5	6	16	123456789
—	—	—	—	325416878
—	—	—	—	261435
—	—	—	—	651324
—	—	—	—	654123
—	—	—	—	532164
—	—	—	—	234165

Repeat three times, substituting a single for the bob at 5 in the last part, and repeat the whole.

Additional bobs at 1 in courses 1, 47 and 48.

To the best of my knowledge and belief this is the only four-part peal of Stedman Caters with six working bells known to the Exercise. But I am not so sure of this as I should like to be, and if anyone has another peal I shall feel obliged if he will kindly send me the figures under cover to the Editor.

I may mention for the information of those that have not looked into the matter, that in composing from four-part tables, only 60 of the 360 course ends can be used in any one composition, though different sets of 60 may be used in different compositions, either with the same or with different part ends. In composing from five-part tables 120 course ends are available on the same terms. In regard to the only natural course end in each course that requires special consideration, viz., the one of the solid block from sixes 6 to 14, the whole of the 360 course ends are available in all cases alike, but for everyone used two are thereby made false. Of course, everything requires tabulating, and to originate a set of tables for one peal is like, to use an engineering illustration, jamming up an automatic to make a screw. It may be added that four-part tables do not admit of grouping by any one bell, and they are, therefore, somewhat inconvenient to use.

If preferred, a homing course may be fitted in lieu of the last two bobs at 1, and perhaps someone will be able to thereby shorten the peal. It is largely a matter of taste. Calling bells round, for that is what it is, can only be done awkwardly, and I trust that I shall be permitted to say without giving offence to anyone, that I greatly dislike to see highly scientific compositions disfigured by unsightly excrescences. For these excrescences the arbitrary rules of the Central Council are in no small degree responsible, or, as I stand corrected by the Editor, the unthinking conservatism of ringers. Not, however, that I regard the three bobs at 1 with unmixed approval. That solution of the problem has the merit of keeping all the courses the natural length; but the penultimate course is not to my liking, and if I may venture to make another suggestion, the best solution of all would be to commence the ringing with rounds and move the bells into the desired positions, so to speak, by hand, i.e., by call changes. This could be done in four whole pulls, in the extreme case of the 6th being required to be moved into 2nd's place, and the same after the conclusion of the peal. The peal would then be perfectly clean.

In nearly all touches and peals of Stedman the composition is shown as going off from the row 23145. Now, although there is nothing worth naming to be gained by this, there is nothing in the least objectionable in it, provided that the last six is rung out to make 23145, the final row, for the hunting cycle is not broken in the ringing that counts; and the first two rows may be regarded as produced by call changes precisely as I am advocating for Caters and Cinques; or, as the Rev. C. D. P. Davies very reasonably supposes, by Grandsire. Whichever way regarded, the first two rows are clearly not Stedman, because Stedman no more admits of the hunting cycle being broken than does Plain Bob, and if, after starting from 23145, the changes are made to cease when rounds come up, a peal of Stedman is not rung.

**MEMS. ABOUT OUR MILITARY MEMBERS.**

A post card sent from Malta to Mr. A. E. Parsons, Master of the Worcestershire Association, indicates that Mr. R. Matthews has left England for active service overseas. He sends kind regards to all old pals.

Sergt. E. Attwater, of Cuckfield, Sussex, who joined the 9th Royal Sussex Regiment early in the war, and has seen considerable service in France, has been gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps, and is now at Grantham. Before going to France he specialised on machine gunnery.

Corpl. Alan Macdonald is now camped with his company well up in the desert, on the edge of the Suez Canal, which, he says, acts as a connecting link with the homeland for them. He adds, "It is a treat to get the 'Ringing World' in such a place, and helps one to wait patiently for the time when we shall get on the old rope's end again. Kind regards to all old friends."

Mr. Fred J. Hardy, late hon. secretary of the London County Association, has been wounded in fighting beyond Salonica, and is now in hospital at Malta. He joined up at the commencement of the war, and was drafted to the 7th Wiltshire Regiment. After twelve months' training he went to France, and shortly afterwards was ordered on to Salonica.

**RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING.**

On Friday last, March 2nd, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brownlee West, of "Avalon," Bath Road, Devizes, who were married at St. Mary's Church, on March 2nd, 1867, celebrated their golden wedding; and at a reception, held at their house, a goodly number of friends and neighbours, foremost among whom was the Rev. Canon Gardiner, B.D., E.D., Vicar of St. James', Southbroom, and the Rev. Fredk. Phipps, B.A., Vicar of St. Peter's, Devizes, assembled to offer their hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. West, who have been so well known in Devizes and neighbourhood for a great many years past.

For the last seven years Mr. West has been honorary secretary for the Devizes branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, to which he has rendered yeoman service, and for a still longer period tower master at St. James' Church, at which tower the ringers (assisted by their brethren from St. John's) rang merry peals for over an hour during the evening, Mr. West's son-in-law (Mr. T. Weeks) and grandson (Master A. T. Weeks), a lad of 12 years, taking part in the ringing.

It is the usual thing, twice every Sunday, for the grandfather, son-in-law and grandson to stand in with three others in ringing for morning and evening services at St. James', Southbroom.

**THE SONG OF THE BELLS.**

By ALICE L. PRITCHETT, KING'S NORTON.

In an old grey tower, set with gargoyles grim,  
With a fine tall spire above cloister dim,  
Hang eight good bells, in an octave true,  
Full many a peal they thread their way through:  
"And I go behind," says the tenor.

They ring for joy, and they toll for grief;  
For the opening bud, and the falling leaf.  
They ring for youth, and they toll for age,  
From the start of the book to the closing page:  
"The round of life," says the tenor!

They hail the morn of the Holy Birth,  
Good Will to men and peace on earth:  
They welcome the young to Christies fold,  
And the infant cries at the touch of cold:  
"He'll weep more yet," says the tenor!

They usher the Joyous Easter morn:  
The Lord is risen, no longer mourn!  
They ring when pious hands are laid  
On the meek bowed head of youth and maid:  
"God keep them true," says the tenor!

They ring for the golden harvest store,  
When the good earth yields up her fruit once more.  
They peal for bride and groom as they kneel,  
And vow to be steadfast through weal or woe:  
"Amen to that," says the tenor!

They toll for the close of the passing year,  
And softly echo "the end is near";  
They've a dirge for the weary laid to rest  
When they come again to the kind earth's breast:  
"The dead sleep sound," says the tenor!

The octave rounded, they start once more,  
For a new year dawns, and life's at the door!  
"For us," cry fresh voices, "your sweet notes swell!"  
"For us," plead fresh dawns, "the old story tell!"  
"Year out, year in," says the tenor.

Thus ever changing, yet ever the same,  
The bells to the ages life's story proclaim;  
Mingling their voices in ordered refrain  
They weave the tale truly, and tell it again;  
"All as we were," says the tenor.

This striking poem was read by the Chairman at the Johnson Commemoration Dinner.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**

A quarterly meeting of the North Bucks branch was held at Hanslope on Saturday last, when about 24 members were present, representing Stony Stratford, Blechley, Olney, Emboston, Fenny Stratford, Old Wolverton, Bradwell, Stoke Golding, and Newport Pagnell, and Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, and Cambridge Surprise Minor were rung. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. — Harkness), when a very suitable address was given. — A vote of thanks was passed to him for the arrangements that had been made. Tea was provided at the "Watts' Arms," followed by the meeting, the chair being taken by the Rev. Mitcheson, of Newport Pagnell, in the absence of the chairman (the Rev. J. R. Vincent). Afterwards a very enjoyable evening was spent. Several courses of Grandsire Triples on the handbells were rung, the following taking part: H. Sear, W. Sear, H. Morris, E. C. Lambert and C. Valentine, thus bringing a very enjoyable meeting to a close.



# MEARS & STAINBANK,

Foundry  
Established  
A.D. 1570.

*Bellfounders & Bellhangers,*

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LONDON, E.



Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring  
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

## ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

*At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of these occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.*

## TAUNTON RINGER KILLED IN ACTION.

We regret to announce the death of Sergeant W. A. Fowler, aged 31 years, son of Mr. J. Fowler, verger of St. Mary's Church, and Mrs. Fowler, who was killed in action "somewhere in France" on Feb. 5th, leaving a wife and one child at present residing at Plymouth.



SERGEANT FOWLER.

Sergeant Fowler joined the Royal Marines on January 10th, 1905, and was sent to Deal for training. The same year he went to the Plymouth Division, boarding His Majesty's ship Niobe; also serving on the Queen, Indefatigable, Colossus, and Highflyer. On the last-named ship he served about two years in the East Indies. In 1915 he was sent to Egypt, and recalled from there to serve in the Naval Brigade in 1916.

Sergeant Fowler was a very keen campanologist during the period he was a member of St. Mary's Guild, which he joined in 1902, accomplishing his first peals of 5,040 changes the same year, being two peals of Grandsire Doubles at Norton Fitzwarren on November 12th and November 22nd respectively. In 1903 he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Mary's, Taunton, and in the same year he rang two peals of Doubles at Norton Fitzwarren.

In 1904 he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples as conductor at St. James's Church. He was highly respected in many towers of the Bath and Wells Diocese, and other parts of England.

As a last tribute, the ringers of St. Mary's rang, with the bells half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 1,260 changes, in 52 minutes, the following members taking part: S. Wyatt 1, A. Wyatt 2, H. Greed 3, J. Creed 4, E. Lloyd 5, F. Sadd 6, J. Burge (conductor) 7, R. Stanlake 8.

## MR. E. BARNETT, SENR.'S. 500 PEALS.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Minor (4 Methods) .....	2	1
Grandsire Triples .....	89	42
Sledman Triples .....	78	24
Eric Triples .....	1	1
Union Triples .....	14	7
Darlaston Bob Triples .....	3	1
Oxford Bob Triples .....	3	2
Plain Bob Triples .....	2	1
Court Bob Triples .....	1	1
Canterbury Pleasure Triples .....	1	1
Bob Major .....	20	11
Little Bob Major .....	1	1
Waterloo Reverse Bob Major .....	1	
Canterbury Pleasure Major (including a 10,080) .....	17	12
Kent Treble Bob Major .....	60	32
Oxford Treble Bob Major .....	2	1
Double Norwich Major (including a 13,440) .....	85	36
"Real" Double Norwich Major .....	3	1
Double Oxford Major .....	5	4
Superlative Surprise Major .....	23	
Cambridge Surprise Major .....	16	
New Cambridge Surprise Major .....	1	
Norfolk Surprise Major .....	2	
New Cumberland Surprise Major .....	1	
London Surprise Major .....	1	
Bristol Surprise Major .....	1	
Grandsire Caters .....	6	
Stedman Caters .....	17	1
Plain Bob Royal .....	1	1
Kent Treble Bob Royal .....	11	1
Oxford Treble Bob Royal .....	1	
Forward Royal .....	2	
Double Norwich Royal .....	1	
Duffield Royal .....	1	
Cambridge Surprise Royal .....	4	
Stedman Cinques .....	20	
Plain Bob Maximus .....	1	1
Kent Treble Maximus .....	2	
Total .....	500	183

Of the above number, 114 have been rung at St. John the Baptist's, Erith, and exactly 100 at St. Paulinus', Crayford.

## HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

### GREAT GATHERING AT BIRMINGHAM.

The 29th annual "Henry Johnson" Dinner—the third to be held during the great war, and we will hope the last to be so held—took place at Birmingham, on Saturday, February 24th.

This dinner, and the entertainment that follows, might well be called the annual festival of the St. Martin's Guild, for although it is held primarily for the purpose of keeping green the memory of one of the greatest masters of the Art, it is one of the most enjoyable functions that takes place in ringing circles, and is looked forward to by numerous ringers from distant parts, many of whom attend regularly year after year. On this occasion there were one or two present who have attended every one of these dinners since the one held in 1889 at the Colonnade Hotel, on which occasion the G.O.M. was present in person—for the first and last time.

The chair was taken by the Rector of Birmingham (Canon J. W. Willink), the idol of the Birmingham ringers, and a man who has captured the hearts of Midland Church people as no man has ever captured them before.

The belfry of the old church was thronged throughout the afternoon, and many visitors rang for the first time on twelve bells.

The Rector took the chair at six o'clock, and was supported by Mrs. Willink, Miss Willink, Alderman J. S. Pritchett (presiding Ringing Master), Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Mr. J. J. Kendall (churchwarden of St. Martin's), Mr. W. H. Godden (vice-president), Mr. A. E. Parsons (Master of the Worcestershire Association), Messrs. Harry Mason, Wm. Cheshire, H. E. Healey, Stanley S. Ready, B. Gough, J. W. Tilley, W. R. Heaton, T. Ediss, and the hon. secretary (Mr. A. Paddon-Smith). There were also present the following officers of the Guild: Mr. J. E. Groves (deputy Ringing Master), Messrs. John Carter, B. Faux, W. Kent, and J. H. Shepherd (vice-presidents), Messrs. C. Dickens and T. Russam (trustees), Messrs. G. F. Swann and J. L. Wells (auditors), and Mr. A. Walker (ex-deputy Master).

Apologies were read from the Rector of Sutton Coldfield, Canon Barnard, Dr. Malins, and Mr. J. S. Goldsmith. The secretary received a wire during the evening from Mr. Francis Ed. Dawe, wishing the assembled company a pleasant evening.

### THE EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT.

During the evening, interspersed with the speeches, a varied musical programme was carried through, to the great, and frequently hoisterously expressed, enjoyment of everyone present. First must be mentioned the one and only Harry Withers, who as usual was prime favourite, and who could without the slightest difficulty provide a whole evening's entertainment himself, and that, too, without boring his listeners. As the Rector said, "he and his dulcimer were as much a part of the dinner as the roast beef itself." His first item was a course of Cambridge Surprise Major—the first he has tapped in public, although he has previously tapped London and other "cramp" methods. Although it is rather a long course, interest was well maintained all through, as was shown by the spontaneous applause the moment he ran into rounds. His second item was a touch of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Albert Walker, a clever performance for both, and successfully brought round. Later he burst forth into tunes, and when the official programme was through, Harry "carried on" to a large group of listeners that gathered round him, and was open to play, and did play, anything and everything that anybody asked for. Mr. Frank Bank's party of instrumentalists was a great success, and the two items rendered were much appreciated. A most versatile man is "little Frank." A pearl-button manufacturer on his own account, some years ago, he is now something in the silversmith line. He is tower-keeper at St. Martin's—and never did bells go better—he has built gas, steam and oil engines for a hobby, owns the best gramophone the writer has ever heard, and can play nearly every kind of musical instrument that has ever been invented.

Miss Rose Kent sang "The Swallows" very sweetly, and Mr. Tom Russam's daughter, Mrs. Davies, was as delightful as ever at the piano. The company is indebted to Mr. Albert Walker for introducing the Misses Showell who rendered two excellent duets, "Mountain Lovers" and "At Break o' Day," and a very appropriate song called "The Bells of Twilight." A good course of Stedman Caters was rung in hand by Messrs. Walker, Kent, Miller, Russam and Neal.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening, and one which, as one of the branch secretaries of the Chester Diocesan Guild (Mr. C. H. Holding) remarked, is "not to be missed in future if it can be helped."

The Chairman submitted the toast of "His Majesty the King." He said they had met for the third time under the shadow of the great war. Please God, when next they met, the war would be over and done with, a grim and dark memory, and yet a time out of which England emerged, as from the furnace of suffering, purified and strengthened. They ran in triples—morning, noon and night; pounds, shillings and pence; the past, the present and the future, and so forth. In this the third year of the war they did not want to break that rule of triples. They hoped, and they longed, and they prayed, and, please God, they were working, every one of them, to the one great end, that

by that time next year, the war would be finished and over. But all through that time of stress and strain, there was one to whom all their thoughts turned, more than to any other in England—their King, who was setting them all a splendid example of devotion to duty. The Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, were also mentioned in connection with the toast, which was loyally honoured, and the National Anthem was sung.

### PATRIOTIC CLERGY.

Alderman Pritchett then proposed the toast of "Church and State." He said the quotation which the hon. secretary had appended to the toast, was a very appropriate one: "Look that you bind them fast." The Church in England had been bound fast to the State for something like seventeen hundred years—ever since the days of St. Augustine, and he hoped there might be many long centuries to go before it was loosed. There was before the war an agitation for the disestablishment of the Welsh Church, based on party politics. It was an agitation that never went to the heart of the British people, but for party reasons it was supported by many people. They hoped when the war was over that it would not raise its head again. It would be all the better for England if there were no party politics after the war, as at the present time, and if that were so the Church would stand on its merits, and it would have nothing to fear. The nation would appreciate the services rendered to it by the Church during the war, as well as to those who had been in sorrow and suffered loss during this terrible conflict. Chaplains of the Church of England had won the Victoria Cross. They had shown equal bravery with those who had been called upon to fight, and the nation would not forget those things. He did not propose to couple any names with the toast, for it occurred to him they might regard their Rector as representing the Church, and they as laymen as representing the State. He need not say what great affection they had for their chairman, and he hoped that affection would be the kind the nation would have for the Church at large after the war (applause).

The Chairman remarked that Alderman Pritchett had said he was not coupling any names with the toast, and no response was, therefore, to be made, but perhaps they would like to be told of one fact, and that was that he (the Rector) had been entrusted by the Bishop, with the task of collating the return of the clergy who had responded to the national appeal of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. He had not received them all yet, but up to the present he had about 170 names of the clergy who had responded, and there were more to come. Moreover, there were no less than 46 of the clergy of Birmingham who had enrolled as special constables. He thought they would feel with him that was a very large response, made by men who had very large responsibilities at the present time. Some of their clergy had already gone as chaplains to the front, which, of course, greatly increased the task of those remaining behind, and there was ample proof that the clergy were fully alive to their sense of duty as patriotic Englishmen. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in the House of Lords, said that two thousand clergy had been sent out as chaplains, in addition to those serving before the war broke out. He mentioned this with a feeling of pardonable pride in the profession to which he belonged. They wanted to do their duty, both to the souls and bodies of their brethren, and they wanted to show everyone that they were true patriots, as well as true servants of God (applause).

Mr. Churchwarden Kendall said he thought they ought to know something besides what the Rector had told them. Canon Willink had himself become a special constable (loud cheers).

### HENRY JOHNSON.

Mr. W. H. Godden submitted the toast of "The memory of the late Henry Johnson." This, he said, was a subject which had been spoken on for more than 25 years, and as they could imagine, he could not tell them anything new about either the abilities or the good qualities and virtues of the late Henry Johnson. But he often thought, and especially when seeing such a gathering as that, how much good it would have done his heart, could he have been present at one of them, and more still had he known of the tremendous advance made in their science since his time. He (the speaker) recollected on one occasion, after reading Jasper Snoddon's works on Double Norwich and Treble Bob, that he asked Mr. Johnson if he thought it would be possible to invent a sliding rule, by the aid of which composers could be prevented from false peals. There were not many in that room who could recollect Henry Johnson, but if they could, perhaps they could imagine the smile that would pass over his face. Henry Johnson said nothing, but the look of benevolence he bestowed on him was something to wonder at. One evening afterwards he was with Mr. John Carter and Mr. Bradney, and Mr. Carter produced a book from his pocket containing a scale. It was for producing true peals, and by the aid of that book Mr. Bradney, who knew no more about Treble Bob composition than he (the speaker) did, was able there and then to produce a peal of 15,000 Treble Bob Major. He (Mr. Godden) also wondered what Mr. Johnson would have thought had he been privileged to see, with Sir Arthur Heywood, Mr. Carter's wonderful ringing machine (which was really in existence). On the occasion when the late President of the Central Council saw it, the first thing it started was a plain course of Stedman Cinques, rung with absolute truth, and the machine at the same time printed a record of the changes it rang. That showed them

how science had increased since Henry Johnson's time and his pioneer work. It was, he thought, true that very few pioneers—the men who did the spade work—ever lived to see the fruit of their labours. In conclusion, Mr. Godden said he felt more confident than ever that the St. Martin's Guild did well to hold these annual commemorations. It gave so many ringers the opportunity of meeting friends who they did not otherwise meet from year end to year end, and it was also a very good thing indeed that they were enabled to associate those gatherings with the memory of the late Henry Johnson, who was himself the soul of sociability.

The toast was drunk in silence.

Canon Willink having to leave early, Mr. A. E. Parsons proposed "The Health of the Chairman." He said he thought they were all very much like the young man who fell very deeply in love, when he looked into the lady's face once, and told her the more he looked at her, the more he loved her. He felt sure they at that annual gathering were getting almost to love Canon Willink. (A voice: "Quite.") They would find it very difficult indeed to invite a person to preside at that gathering who could command their respect and admiration as Canon Willink did. Any other man occupying the chair for four successive years would, to a certain extent, perhaps, create an atmosphere of monotony. The very reverse was the case when they had Canon Willink. He came there as one of themselves, and in coming he did not degrade the dignity of his high calling. He was ever ready to extend his broad-minded sympathies to their feelings, whatever they were. Mr. Parsons went on to relate an experience which he had at Great Yarmouth, where Canon Willink was rector before going to Birmingham. He (Mr. Parsons) had looked round the church, and went to sign the visitors' book. He asked the old beadle some very pertinent questions about Canon Willink, and he got very fine answers indeed, and the old gentleman, at the end, turned and said, with tears in his eyes, "Great Yarmouth's loss is Birmingham's gain" (cheers). All members of St. Martin's Guild knew the truth of the old man's statement, and he (the speaker) certainly felt that when the time came, as they all hoped it might, when the Rector would be created a bishop, Birmingham people and all members of St. Martin's Guild would be quite as ready to reiterate the statement which the old man made.

The toast was enthusiastically drunk with musical honours.

The Chairman, in responding, said he had been compared to a good many things in his life, but till that night had he ever been compared to a blushing damsel. Did he look like one? (laughter). He did not, he continued, need to be thanked. That was one of the most brotherly gatherings he knew of in the course of the twelve months, and he did appreciate being allowed the pleasure of bringing his wife and daughter also (cheers). He was delighted to think that, perhaps, that very fact of them having accompanied him on more than one occasion had been encouragement to other ladies to come too, and they welcomed that addition to their ranks. The present was the women's opportunity. The war had been bringing them into prominence very much of late, and the last 2½ years had done more for the women's cause than six years of militant suffrage (loud cheers). They welcomed the ladies in every department of life, and they should welcome them at the ringers' dinner very heartily (applause). He thanked the company very much indeed for the way they had honoured the toast. Those four successive chairmanships stood out in his memory as one of the greatest honours they could offer him (applause).

(To be continued.)

#### MILITARY HANDBELL RINGERS.

With so many ringers now in the army it is not surprising that not only have tower bell bands been got together, but handbell companies also. Here are some touches rung recently at Ripon, Yorkshire.—On February 8th, at the premises of Mr. F. Tingle, three 120's of Grandsire Doubles, Sergt. W. Ayre 1–2, Lance-Corpl. H. Washbrook (conductor) 3–4, Gr. R. Clifford 5–6. Also 168 Grandsire Triples: R. Clifford 1–2, H. Washbrook 3–4, W. Ayre (conductor) 5–8, F. Tingle 7–8.—On February 9th, three 120's Grandsire Doubles: W. Ayre (conductor) 1–2, H. Washbrook 3–4, M. Washbrook 5–6.—On Sunday, February 11th, at 8, Christian Terrace, a course of Grandsire Caters: M. Washbrook 1–2, R. Clifford 3–4, H. Washbrook 5–6, W. Ayre 7–8, F. Tingle 9–10. Also 168 Grandsire Triples by the last four, conducted by F. Tingle.—On Sunday, February 25th, at the same place, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins.: Lance-Corpl. M. Washbrook 1, F. Tingle 2, Sergt. W. Ayre (first quarter-peal on handbells) 3–4, Lance-Corpl. H. Washbrook 5–6, Gr. R. Clifford (composer and conductor) 7–8. Rung as a farewell to Gr. R. Clifford, who was leaving Ripon on the 26th, for another R.G.A. Depot "somewhere in England." In the afternoon, at the Cathedral, 504 Stedman Triples: F. Tingle 1, Gr. R. Clifford (Baeston, Notes) 2, E. Motcalfe (Ripon) 3, Gr. J. Harris (Leicester) 4, W. Thorpe (Ripon) 5, Lance-Corpl. H. Washbrook (Pendleton) 6, Gr. Gibson (R.G.A.), conductor, 7, Lce.-Corpl. M. Washbrook (Pendleton) 8.

BOREHAM, ESSEX.—On Christmas Day, for Matins, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major. L. Allison 1, A. Edwards 2, H. Edwards 3, A. Church 4, J. Roots 5, W. R. Thrift 6, W. F. Allen 7, H. W. Kirton (conductor) 8.

#### NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1537).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on March 8th and 22nd, for handbell practice, and on the 13th and 27th for general business.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nominations for the election of officers and one representative for the Central Council, to be elected at the annual meeting, should reach me by March 9th, in accordance with Rules 7 and 13.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, which will be conducted by the President, the Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland (Vicar); business meeting afterwards. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Chesterfield on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (10) available from 3 o'clock until dusk.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Whitefield on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3.30 till dusk, meeting to follow.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society.—Est. 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Ann's, Swains Lane, Highgate, N., on Saturday, March 10th. Tower open from 3.45 to 7.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow at the Bull and Last, Highgate Road. Ringers and friends are welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Hunslet, on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.; business meeting to follow in Parish Room adjoining Church.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Dist. Sec.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bushey Parish Church on Saturday, March 10th. Bells at 2–9 p.m. Tea free in the Institute at 5. Meeting to follow. P.C. will oblige us.—F. Edward, 24, Glencoe Road, Bushey; F. A. Smith, 67, Upper Paddock Road, Oxley, Watford, Branch Secs. *pro tem.*

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL GUILD.—Ringing for Evening Service will recommence on Sunday next, March 11th, at 5.30 p.m. Morning ringing, as usual, at 9.45 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.—C. L. Routledge, Ringing Master.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Bristol Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Luke's, Bristol, on Saturday, 17th March. Bells at 5 p.m. Meeting at 6 p.m. with ringing after.—Chas. J. Walton, Hon. Sec., 4, Jamaica Street, Bristol.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Spring meeting will be held at Sturry on Saturday, March 17th. Bells available for ringing. Service at



5 p.m. Tea and business meeting after at the Swan Inn. A member will be elected at this meeting to serve on a sub-committee to consider the question of a memorial to all those who have fallen in the war and who have served in H.M. forces. Tea, about 1/- each, for those who send their names to me by Monday, March 12th.—The Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Hon. Dist. Sec., Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford, Kent.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, March 17th. Bells available 3 to 8 p.m. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 p.m., 9d. each. Business meeting to follow.—E. J. Butter, Chadwell Heath.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Tyldesley Parish Church on Saturday, March 17th, 1917. Bells ready at 4.30.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 19, Parkfield Road, Bolton.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—Half-yearly meeting will be held at St. Margaret's Church, Rainham, on Saturday, March 24th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Half rail fares allowed. Please note subscriptions are now due.—E. A. G. Allen, Hon. Dist. Sec., 77, Bill Street Road, Frindsbury, Rochester.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 24th, at St. Thomas, Newhey. Bells ready at 2 o'clock until dusk. Meeting 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Sec., 95, Hunter Street, Middleton.

**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.

#### HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

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

#### DEATH OF A MIDDLETON RINGER.

The funeral of the late Mr. Thos. Oldham, of Rectory Street, Middleton, took place on Saturday afternoon at Middleton Cemetery.

The deceased had for 28 years been a ringer at the Parish Church, and as a mark of respect a deputation of ringers attended the funeral, and a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the grave by: D. Renshaw (Middleton) 1—2, I. Schofield (Glodwick) 3—4, S. Stott (Oldham) 5—6, E. B. Shaw (Glodwick) 7—8. Later in the day a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes) was rung in 1 hr. 45 mins. on the Parish Church bells, which were deeply muffled, the ringers standing as follows: I. Schofield 1, J. Arrowsmith, senr., 2, S. Stott 3, E. B. Shaw 4, S. Holt 5, T. Ogden 6, D. Renshaw 7, T. Wallens 8.

The late Mr. Oldham was one of the very few handbell ringers in Middleton, and in the tower was noted as a good striker and a safe ringer.

#### ROLL OF HONOUR.

From Erdington Parish Church, Birmingham:—  
Sergt. Thomas W. Dee, 16, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, on active service in France.  
Sapper George F. Garrison, Inland Water Transport Royal Engineers, on active service in Mesopotamia.  
Pte Fred S. Sanders, Coldstream Guards, Windsor.  
From St. Leonard's, Streatham:  
Pte I. J. Attwater, Baker's Section, A.S.C., at Bath.  
From St. Mary's, Harrow:  
Pte G. Dean, A.S.C., M.T.

**PAINSWICK.**—Ancient Society of Painswick Youths.—On Sunday Jan. 7th, 512 Bob Major: C. Owens 1, H. Brocklebank 2, H. Ludkin 3, S. Barnes 4, N. Birchall 5, J. Evans 6, H. Martin 7, J. Turner (conductor) 8.

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