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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1927.

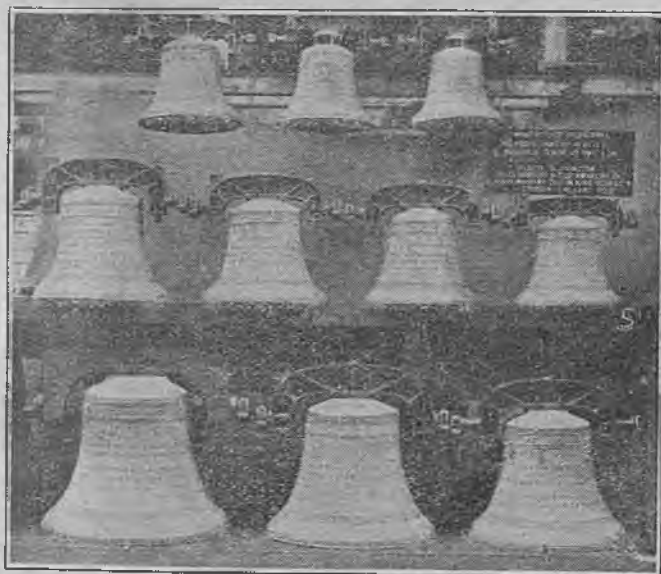
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'LOAVES AND FISHES.'

The facts put forward in the letter, printed elsewhere, from three members of the Society of Cambridge Youths, reveal a deplorable state of affairs at the famous Church of Great St. Mary, and illustrate once again the disastrous effects upon ringing which may result from having 'paid' ringers. For the sake of securing a larger share in a few paltry pounds a year a majority of the Cambridge Youths, we are informed, refuse to elect to their ranks a sufficient number of ringers to bring the band up to strength. This is no new attitude on the part of a paid company. It has happened times out of number, but it does serve to remind us that ringing can be made to suffer from the selfishness of a few. Great St. Mary's, with its peal of twelve bells, ought to be the hub of ringing in that part of the country, the centre round which the Ely Diocesan Association should revolve. The Cambridge Youths played a not unimportant part in the history of the art, and in the distant past were responsible for some memorable performances. To think that ringing at such a tower should stand the risk of being wrecked for such a reason as that given by our correspondents is enough to make Fabian Stedman turn in his grave.

The question of 'loaves and fishes' has been a stumbling block to progress in many belfries for many years. We have nothing to say against those who receive monetary consideration for out-of-pocket expenses in connection with ringing for service or for special occasions, but it is an undisputed fact that, speaking generally, less progress is made in those towers where the ringers are paid than in the belfries where the ringers' services are given voluntarily. The reason is not far to seek. The pound or two per man, which is usually the annual remuneration, is sufficient to stiffen opposition to the introduction of young blood, and the old hands set their faces against new-comers for fear of having to share 'the spoils of office.' The ideal will only be reached when all bands of service ringers are purely voluntary, but where payment is made it should be clearly on the understanding that the company should be maintained at sufficient strength to ring all the bells. It ought also to be a sine qua non of holding office that the members should be change ringers, or willing to learn change ringing, but unhappily church authorities often care very little about these things. They do not mind whether six or eight bells are rung where there are ten or twelve; or whether it is half pull ringing or call changes, so long as the bells are rung when required. It is up to the authorities, however, to see that they get their money's worth, and there can be no question that they ought to insist upon a full complement of ringers. We hope in the case

(Continued on page 50.)

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of Cambridge, which is now left with insufficient men to ring even eight bells, that something will be done to remedy the existing state of affairs. The authorities have a right to insist that the obstructionists should either get on or get out.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

SHEFFIELD.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Thursday, January 20, 1927, in Four Hours.

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES;

Tenor 40 cwt.

GEORGE LEWIS Treble	* JOHN H. BROTHWELL 7
COLIN HARRISON 2	* WILLIAM J. THYNG 8
TOM O'HARA 3	SIDNEY F. PALMER 9
* RALPH S. LONG 4	HAYDN THORPE 10
ARTHUR CRAVEN 5	A. PERCIVAL KNIGHTS 11
ARTHUR KNIGHTS 6	JOHN THORPE Tenor

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE LEWIS.

* First peal of Maximus. First peal of Little Bob Maximus by the rest of the band, and first by the association.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 12, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt.

JOSEPH BENNETT Treble	* WILLIAM GREEN 5
H. STANLEY ROBINSON 2	GEORGE ROBINSON 6
* WALTER MORRELL 3	HENRY LINDSAY 7
SIDNEY SADLER 4	PERCY J. JOHNSON Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. This peal was rung as a wedding compliment to Miss O. L. Lumley, one of the local company, and Mr. J. Cotterell, the respected treasurer of the association, whose wedding took place at St. Michael's Church, on January 8th, the band wishing them both much happiness.

DERBY.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 14, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt, 1 qr. 4 lb.

JOSEPH LORD Treble	WILLIAM POYSER 5
JOHN W. GLEW 2	CYRIL J. PORTER 6
JACK BAILEY 3	WILLIAM LANCASTER 7
CYRIL J. JENNINGS 4	JAMES STEPHENS Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by JOHN W. GLEW.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late C. J. Shakleton, for many years a side-man of this church, also to the late Sir Arthur Seale Haslam, who had the 5th bell recast when this peal was made into the octave in 1902.

BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

* FRANK CORKE Treble	GEORGE MARTIN 5
* WILLIAM WELLING 2	* WILLIAM L. CUTTERIDGE 6
* MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS 3	* WILLIAM HENLEY 7
* HARRY WINGROVE 4	CECIL C. MAYNE Tenor

Composed by HENRY DAINS. Conducted by CECIL C. MAYNE.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. First peal in the method by the branch.

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Mary-within-the-Walls,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

WALTER THOMAS... ..Treble	SAMUEL JONES, JUN. 5
ROBERT SPERRIN... .. 2	GEORGE R. JONES 6
ALBERT J. HUGHES 3	WILLIAM T. PEGLER 7
JOHN HAYES... .. 4	JAMES H. RIDING... ..Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE.

Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

A birthday compliment to Sam Jones, jun. Arranged for W. T. Pegler, who hails from Bangor.

CRANBROOK, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At the Church of St. Dunstan,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb.

WILLIAM WENBANTreble	STAFFORD H. GREEN 5
HERBERT MARKWELL 2	HARRY PARKES 6
REGINALD E. LAMBERT 3	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN. 7
ROBERT T. LAMBERT 4	FREDERICK WHITETenor

Composed by ROBT. T. LAMBERT.

Conducted by S. H. GREEN.

WILLENHALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN PERRY... ..Treble	SIDNEY ELTON 5
HARRY A. FARLOW 2	WILLIAM T. POWELL 6
ISAAC EVANS... .. 3	CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 7
EDWARD F. MITCHELL 4	ARTHUR E. REED... ..Tenor

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER WALLATER.

BANSTEAD, SURREY.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21½ cwt.

FREDERICK G. WOODISS ...Treble	ALFRED B. PECK 5
HARRY R. PASMORE 2	WILLIAM H. PASMORE 6
EDWIN F. PIKE 3	ARCHIBALD F. HARRIS... .. 7
LOUIS ATTWATER... .. 4	HERBERT LANGDONTenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Composed by H. R. PASMORE.

PENWORTHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ...Treble	HARRY FRANCE 5
*EDWARD LAWSON 2	ALFRED BLOGG 6
†JOHN T. BIMSON 3	E. ROGER MARTIN 7
JOHN RICHARD TAYLOR 4	EDWARD ARMSTRONGTenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS (291). Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS

* First peal. † First peal of Oxford. First peal of Oxford on the bells.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb.

JOHN COOKTreble	C. ERNEST SMITH 5
ALFRED H. PULLING 2	JOHN A. COLE 6
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON 3	WALTER CHARMAN 7
WILLIAM HOOKER 4	WILLIAM STANFORDTenor

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

QUEENSBURY, BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

CECIL DRAKETreble	WILLIAM BARTON 5
HAROLD PEARCE 2	VERNEY BAIRSTOW 6
THOMAS SENIOR 3	JOHN AMBLER 7
EDGAR WHITELEY 4	WILLIAM AMBLERTenor

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS.

Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

Ringers of 5th and 7th hail from Pudsey, 6th from Denholme, the rest are members of the local company.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. John-of-Hackney,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lb.

HENRY C. ALFORDTreble	JAMES BULLOCK 5
FREDERICK G. SYMONDS 2	ARTHUR COLES 6
CHALLIS F. WINNEY... .. 3	JOSEPH S. HAWKINS 7
WILLIAM J. KEMP 4	JOHN LLOYDTenor

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

First peal on the bells for over 26 years. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mrs. J. Bullock.

STANDISH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(WIGAN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Wilfrid,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

ERNEST BIRCHELLTreble	JOSEPH GRAY 5
*RICHARD DERBYSHIRE 2	JAMES WM. GROUNDS... .. 6
ALFRED MORGAN 3	WILLIAM AUSTIN... .. 7
*ERNEST G. WILLIAM 4	JOHN BOOTH... ..Tenor

Conducted by JAMES W. GROUNDS.

* First peal in the method. Rung by the local band in honour of the 21st birthday of the daughter of the tenor ringer.

KENDAL, WESTMORLAND.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

WILLIAM PITCHALLTreble	JAMES THOMPSON 5
EDWIN JENNINGS 2	THOMAS B. NEWTON 6
MISS E. M. STUART 3	THOMAS F. HEWERTSON ... 7
*THOMAS J. CLEMENTS 4	WILLIAM ROBINSONTenor

Conducted by EDWIN JENNINGS.

* First peal of Triples. First peal of Triples as conductor. The ringer of the treble is from Barrow, 2nd, 4th and 5th from Kendal, 3rd from Dalton, 6th, 7th and tenor from Ambleside.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Mary and Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

JOHN T. BROWN... ..Treble	ARTHUR I. HOLMES 5
JOHN W. LAKE 2	*WILLIAM E. CLARKE 6
JAMES OSBORN 3	†JOHN PHILLIPS 7
*FRANK DEWEY 4	ARTHUR H. PALMERTenor

Composed by C. H. MARTIN.

Conducted by ARTHUR H. PALMER.

* First peal of Major. † First peal of Major away from treble. The band wish to thank the Vicar for the use of bells, and Mr. J. T. Brown for having everything ready.

ABBOTS LEIGH, NEAR BRISTOL.—On January 18th, 1927, 720 of Cambridge Minor: G. Bennet 1, S. Bennet (first 720 of Cambridge) 2, W. Frampton 3, J. Ackerman 4, L. Moore (conductor) 5, E. Frampton 6.

WRITTLE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM ... 1 Treble	DR. SPENCER PHILLIPS ... 5
THOMAS LINCOLN ... 2	*GEORGE GREEN ... 6
HARRY HEAD ... 3	WILLIAM LINCOLN ... 7
WILLIAM KEEBLE ... 4	ARTHUR HEAD ... Tenor

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE

* First peal in the method. The conductor's 400th peal on tower bells; rung with 404 ringers.

MARSHFIELD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

ARTHUR PRINCE ... 1 Treble	THOMAS JAMES ... 5
JESSE H. BEAZER ... 2	CHARLES W. BELL ... 6
CHARLES H. JENNINGS ... 3	JOHN G. JEFFRIES ... 7
PERCY C. WILLIAMS ... 4	EDGAR C. LEWIS ... Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR PRINCE.

Rung on the second anniversary of the first peal on the bells, which was rung by the local band.

GRAYFORD, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt. in F.

EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. ... 1 Treble	MISS EDITH K. PARKER ... 5
HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 2	HENRY T. WILSON ... 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... 3	FREDERICK J. COLLUM ... 7
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ... 4	GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN

Rung as a welcome home to Mr. Edwin Barnett, sen., after his recent operation, the band wishing him a speedy and successful recovery.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 17, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

WASHBROOK'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'.

Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 13 lb. in B.

ERNEST MORRIS ... 1 Treble	FREDERICK A. SALTER ... 5
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD ... 2	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 6
JAMES GEORGE ... 3	JAMES S. HUTCHBY ... 7
HARRY MORGAN ... 4	*LIONEL UNDERWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by WALTER P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal and first attempt, and elected a member before starting. The above peal was specially arranged for Mr. James George, of Birmingham.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 19, 1927, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 25½ cwt.

JACK M. CRIPPS ... 1 Treble	JOHN CAPP ... 5
FRANK BENNETT ... 2	JOHN DEARLOVE ... 6
FREDERICK W. CRIPPS ... 3	KEITH HART ... 7
ARTHUR T. VERRELLS ... 4	ALFRED J. TURNER ... Tenor

Conducted by KEITH HART.

CHELMSFORD.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*FREDERICK J. TOLWORTHY Treble	CYRIL GENTRY ... 5
*RICHARD C. CLARK ... 2	LESLIE J. CLARK ... 6
ERIC ELLIOTT ... 3	JOHN WOOD ... 7
ARTHUR SALTmarsh ... 4	*GEORGE COOPER ... Tenor

Conducted by L. J. CLARK.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung on the front eight of the peal of twelve. All the ringers are members of the St. Mary's Guild, Chelmsford.

TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 19, 1927, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDITHA,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 22½ cwt.

CHARLES CHAPMAN ... 1 Treble	CHARLES DRAPER ... 5
JOHN H. SWINFELD ... 2	*RICHARD C. BELTON ... 6
JAMES PAGET ... 3	JAMES PRATT ... 7
E. HARRY STONELEY ... 4	JAMES GEORGE ... Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by E. HARRY STONELEY

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Charles Chapman and James Pratt were made members previous to starting for the peal.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET.

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 20½ cwt. in E.

ALFRED KEEBLE ... 1 Treble	JAMES M. BAILEY ... 5
*REGINALD C. KERSEY ... 2	ERNEST S. BAILEY ... 6
*HARRY C. BALLS ... 3	CHARLES F. BAILEY ... 7
*PERCY E. LAMBERT ... 4	JAMES G. RUMSEY ... Tenor

Composed by H. HUBBARD. Conducted by CHAS. F. BAILEY.

* First peal.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb.

*FRED BLACKLIDGE ... 1 Treble	ALFRED BLOGG ... 5
JOSEPH RICHARDSON ... 2	JOHN H. GARTSIDE ... 6
*HERBERT LUCAS ... 3	BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS ... 7
HARRY FRANCE ... 4	GEORGE HEWITT ... Tenor

Conducted by B. A. KNIGHTS.

* First peal of Stedman.

GODSTONE, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt. 4 lb. in G.

*C. ERNEST SMITH ... 1 Treble	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... 5
GEORGE ELLIS ... 2	WILLIAM T. BEESON ... 6
JOHN A. COLE ... 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
WILLIAM J. ROBINSON ... 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF.

Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

* First peal of Major.

G. & F. COPE & CO., NOTTINGHAM,
TOWER CLOCK MANUFACTURERS.
ESTIMATES SUBMITTED FOR NEW CLOCKS, CHIME ADDITIONS, REPAIRS,
OR REPAINTING OF DIALS.

SWANSCOMBE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 21, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PITSTOW'S VARIATION.

Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

EDWARD J. BEER... ..	Treble	FREDERICK M. MITCHELL... ..	5
JOHN BURLS... ..	2	WILLIAM S. LANE... ..	6
RICHARD SMITH... ..	3	GEORGE MORRAD... ..	7
JOHN H. CHEESMAN... ..	4	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... ..	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to Mr. William Henry Harper, who died on the 17th inst., churchwarden and leader of the ringers at this church; for over 40 years a member of the above association and ringer at this tower, who was interred in the afternoon on this date.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

*ALBERT HUGHES, JUN... ..	Treble	JOHN HAYES... ..	5
ROBERT SPERRING... ..	2	JAMES SWINDLEY... ..	6
HARRY F. HOLDING... ..	3	ALBERT J. HUGHES... ..	7
†HAROLD EDWARDS... ..	4	GEORGE R. JONES... ..	Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

* First peal, and proposed a member of the Chester Guild. † First peal in the method.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

JOHNSON'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*RICHARD C. INGRAM... ..	Treble	*FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH... ..	5
WILLIAM H. BALL... ..	2	MORRIS J. MORRIS... ..	6
GEORGE F. SWANN... ..	3	HERBERT C. SPENCER... ..	7
SAMUEL GROVE... ..	4	ALFRED HACKETT... ..	Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.

* First Surprise peal.

ORMESBY.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5030 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 18 cwt.

*JOHN REED... ..	Treble	ROBERT LAUGHTON... ..	5
SIDNEY BREEZE... ..	2	ERNEST BURNETT... ..	6
GEORGE KEMBLE... ..	3	THOMAS METCALFE... ..	7
FREDERICK ROBSON... ..	4	*ARTHUR SPURDIE... ..	Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST BURNETT.

* First peal in any method and first attempt for a peal, and are ringers at the above church.

HARRIETSHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DEXTER'S VARIATION OF WASHBROOK'S. Tenor 13½ cwt. in G.

JOHN H. CHEESMAN... ..	Treble	REGINALD T. LAMBERT... ..	5
FREDERICK M. MITCHELL... ..	2	JOHN WHEADON... ..	6
JOHN BURLS... ..	3	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... ..	7
EDWARD J. BEER... ..	4	EDWARD HADLOW... ..	Tenor

Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

First peal in the method on the bells since rehanging. Birthday peal for the conductor, also arranged to allow Mr. E. Hadlow (aged 68) to ring his first peal on these bells, this being his birthplace and home for many years.

ECOLESTON, CHESHIRE.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, with tenor covering, in 27 mins.: H. W. Wilde 1, A. E. Richards 2, S. Jones, jun., 3, G. Jones 4, J. W. Clarke 5, J. Morgan 6, W. Thomas 7.

TURVEY, BEDS.

THE BEDS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5066 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

*CHARLES STAPLETON... ..	Treble	WILLIAM STOCK... ..	5
HENRY STAPLETON... ..	2	HERBERT J. HARLOW... ..	6
JOSEPH CHURCH... ..	3	HENRY W. GAYTON... ..	7
†WALLACE CHURCH... ..	4	HERBERT L. HARLOW... ..	Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by HENRY W. GAYTON

* First peal. † First peal of Major. Three fathers and three sons rang in this peal.

DRIGHLINGTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

JOSEPH BROADLEY... ..	Treble	ERNEST H. SIMPSON... ..	5
WILLIAM BARTON... ..	2	*FRED HODGSON... ..	6
CHARLES E. LAWSON... ..	3	JOHN AMBLER... ..	7
PERCY J. JOHNSON... ..	4	†WILLIAM AMBLER... ..	Tenor

Composed by J. H. BLAKISTON. Conducted by WILLIAM BARTON.

* First in the method on tower bells. † First peal in the method.

GALLEYWOOD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in G.

THOMAS LINCOLN... ..	Treble	JOHN WOOD... ..	5
EDWARD P. BUCKINGHAM... ..	2	WILLIAM KEEBLE... ..	6
WILLIAM J. NEVARD... ..	3	GEORGE GREEN... ..	7
*HERBERT DEVENISH... ..	4	ARTHUR HEAD... ..	Tenor

Composed by JOHN JAGGAR. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

* First peal in the method.

SIX BELL PEALS.

EASTNOR, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

On Sunday, January 9, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

RICHARD THOMAS... ..	Treble	CHRIS BOWERS... ..	4
WILLIAM RANFORD... ..	2	DAVID HORNE... ..	5
JEFFREY LEWIS... ..	3	GEORGE JORDON... ..	Tenor

Conducted by D. HORNE.

This is the first peal on the bells since they were rehung on ball bearings in a new steel frame. The bells go very well.

SPROUTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Friday, January 14, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

SIDNEY C. MOSS... ..	Treble	HARRY J. MEE... ..	4
GEORGE W. MEE... ..	2	EDGAR RIVERS... ..	5
FRANK ROLFE... ..	3	CHARLES F. MEE... ..	Tenor

Composed by the REV. E. BANKES JAMES. Conducted by E. RIVERS

First peal in the method by all the band, and first in either Suffolk or Norfolk. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

FRINDSBURY, KENT.—At the Parish Church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 44 mins.: G. Gilbert 1, W. S. Beaumont 2, J. L. Harris 3, S. T. Jarrett 4, W. Spice 5, W. J. Walker 6, E. A. G. Allin (conductor) 7, A. R. Ockwell 8. Rung after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major.

HOUGH-ON-THE-HILL, LINCOLNSHIRE. THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Three Hours and Three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of St. Clement's, Double Court, Single Court, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent.

*JOHN BAMPION Treble	JOHN H. HAYNES 4
HENRY SQUIRES... .. 2	†ARTHUR W. WARD 5
ARTHUR PALMER 3	ARTHUR MACKEARS Tenor

Conducted by A. MACKEARS.

* First peal. † First peal in seven methods.

WEST HALLAM, DERBYSHIRE. THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED, A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Grandsire and five of Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

HENRY CAVIGAN Treble	CHARLES DRAPER 4
GEORGE FREEBRY 2	JACK BAILEY... .. 5
PERCY H. TATE 3	*ALFRED MOULD Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE FREEBRY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Irene Freebrey, daughter of the conductor.

CADOXTON, NEATH. THE SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 15, 1927, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 different callings. Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr.

*GWYN EVANS Treble	HARRY BOYCE 4
†HAROLD MATTHEWS 2	GWYN I. LEWIS 5
JOHN E. BLOXHAM 3	*PERCY LAKE Tenor

Conducted by G. I. LEWIS.

* First peal. † First peal with bob bell.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE. THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, January 16, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Two Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Plain Bob, one of Woodbine, and two each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 6 lb

GEORGE K. CRAWLEY ... Treble	ARTHUR W. HALL 4
FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY ... 2	GEORGE W. BIDDULPH ... 5
ALBERT CRAWLEY 3	HARRY PARKER Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

A. Crawley's 100th peal.

BURTON-ON-STRATHER, Lincs. THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Three Hours.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

*BERNARD GILLATT ... Treble	BRIAN BRAY... .. 4
*JAMES C. COLES 2	GEORGE HOBBS 5
CHARLES H. BIRD 3	JACK BRAY Tenor

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal in three methods.

GREAT HAMPTON, WORCESTERSHIRE. THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Three Hours.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES; With ten callings.

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... Treble	FREDERICK J. JOHNSON ... 4
MISS ROSALIE JOHNSON ... 2	RALPH HARRIS 5
MISS ALICE V. LAMPITT ... 3	JAMES HEMMING Tenor

Conducted by F. J. JOHNSON.

Rung as a twenty-first birthday compliment to Miss R. Johnson, also as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. Hemming.

SIBSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE. THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. (EASTERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, January 18, 1927, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's, each called differently. Tenor 16 cwt.

ARTHUR YOUNG... .. Treble	JACK KEMP 4
FRANK DEWEY 2	*HAROLD HARPER 5
*ALFRED DAVY 3	WILLIAM E. CLARKE... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM E. CLARKE.

* First peal. First peal as conductor.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS. THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 22, 1927, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF WELLS SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's. Tenor 7 cwt. in A flat.

CHARLES JENNINGS ... Treble	FRANK E. HAYNES 4
MISS KITTY WILLERS... .. 2	EDWARD H. FINCH 5
ALBERT E. AUSTIN 3	ROBERT HOWARD... .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT HOWARD.

PERFORMANCES IN 1926.

ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, LEYTONSTONE.

Sixty-eight 720's were rung by members of the above association and visitors during the year 1926, in the following methods: Plain Bob, 2; Kent Treble Bob, 1; Chelsea Delight, 1; Surprise Methods, 7 Cambridge, 6 London, 6 Beverley, 4 Norwich, 3 each Wells, Southwell, York, Ipswich, 2 each Canterbury, Surfact, Carlisle, 1 each Berwick, Chester, Bourne, Durham, Lincoln, Munden, Ringers' and Newcastle; Spliced Surprise Methods, 1 in six methods, 1 in four methods, 6 in three methods, 8 in two methods.

The following were the ringers and conductors: W. Miller 65 (36), E. D. Smith 59 (11), W. Theobald 59, A. Prior 43 (5), G. L. Joyce 36 (6), J. Moule 34 (2), G. Dawson 31 (1), E. J. Butler 30, P. H. Avey 25, R. Molton 14, G. Hayden 4, R. Maynard 2, W. Fye 2, H. Dew, A. Reeve, J. Vaughn, E. W. Firbank, F. E. Haynes, S. Carter 1 each. Seven were rung non-conducted.

STAPLEFORD, CAMBS.

During 1926 ninety-two 720's were rung at Stapleford, Cambs, in the following 22 methods: London Surprise 22, York 19, Cambridge 10, Beverley 8, Wells 6, Canterbury 5, Durham 5, Carlisle 1, Chester 1, Munden 1, Alnwick 1, Annable's London 1, Norwich 1, Monpeth 1, Norfolk 1, Immanuel 1, Newcastle 1, Sandiacre 1, Surfleet 1, Bourne 1, Oxford Bob 3, Kent Treble Bob 1. Twenty ringers took part: A. E. Austin 91 (conducted 6), E. H. Finch 85 (2), W. A. Tack 62 (1), R. Howard 79 (59), Miss K. Willers 75 (1), F. E. Haynes 66 (1), G. Jennings 39, W. H. J. Hooton 11 (11), Miss C. Fields 4, C. W. Woolley 4, H. J. Hazell 2, T. R. Dennis 2, J. Hamper 2, G. Dean 2, W. Hoppitt 2, H. Harvey 2 (2), E. G. Hibbins 1, C. W. Cook 1, F. Warrington 1, H. Barrett 1.

Great credit is due to Messrs. W. A. Tack and R. Howard for the enthusiasm which they have displayed in cycling from Barley to Stapleford, a distance of 12 miles, week after week, in all weathers, since the summer of 1925. Miss Willers and Mr. F. E. Haynes live at Trumpington, 2½ miles from Stapleford Church.

BUCKNALL, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

The number of complete 720's rung during the year 1926 at St. Mary's Church was 131 in 40 methods, comprising 25 Surprise, eight 4th's Place Delight, 5 Treble Bob and 2 Single Hunt methods. The ringers taking part were: W. Wheeldon (leader), Chas. Preston, Miss Alice Preston, Chas. Bowen, W. Fradley, H. Billings and Reg. Preston. Miss Preston rang in 116 720's, and conducted 35, including a full Surprise peal.

It is interesting to note that during the last three years 353 720's have been rung at this church.

LAMBERHURST, KENT.

The annual meeting of the Lamberhurst ringers was held on January 22nd, when the Vicar, Rev. E. S. Jose, invited the churchwardens and ringers to tea. Afterwards the report of the year's work was read, which showed the bells had been rung for matins and evensong each Sunday during the year, also for the 7 a.m. service on Easter Day and Christmas Day, with an average attendance of nine ringers for each service. During the year 113 720's were rung, 18 ringers taking part in them. They included 72 in 13 Surprise methods, 8 in 2 Treble Bob methods, and 33 in 8 Plain methods.

The Vicar thanked the captain for his report, and said how pleased he was that they had had such a successful and happy year.

Mr. Marshall thanked the Vicar for his kindness in inviting the ringers to tea, and the Rev. E. S. Jose, in reply, said he hoped that this was only the first of many such meetings they would have.

FIRE IN A BELFRY.**SEXTON'S PLUCKY FIGHT WITH FLAMES.**

All Saints' Church, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, where Lady Godiva is said to have been a worshipper, narrowly escaped destruction by fire on the evening of Saturday, January 15th.

Captain Lawton noticed the smoke coming from the tower, and the sexton, Mr. Kent (who is well known to ringing visitors to Alrewas), ascended the spiral staircase and attacked the flames with buckets of water.

Parishioners who rushed up formed a chain to pass up more buckets, and Mr. Kent stuck to his task until he became unconscious from the smoke. The firemen from Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent put out the flames after great difficulties. The cause of the outbreak is unknown. The bellringers' room and woodwork in the vestry were badly damaged.

Oak beams supporting the bells were replaced by an iron framework five years ago, otherwise the church would probably have been gutted.

The church was founded in 820. Dean Inge's boyhood days were spent there, his father being the vicar.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Romney Marsh and District Guild was held at Appledore on Saturday, January 15th. The towers represented were: Ashford, Merham, Stone, Rye, Lydd, Tenterden, Fairfield, Frittenden, Hothfield and the local band.

After ringing during the afternoon, a short service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. A. O. Scutt), and tea was provided by the Guild at the Swan Hotel, upwards of 50 members and friends sitting down. The business meeting was presided over by the Vicar, supported by the Master and hon. sec.

The balance sheet was adopted, and the secretary presented a very satisfactory report. Twelve meetings had been held, and eleven peals rung during the year.

The retiring officers were then re-elected, viz., Rev. A. O. Scutt, president; C. W. Everett, Master; C. W. Franklin, hon. secretary and treasurer.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Charing.

Afterwards, a most enjoyable musical evening was spent. The Stone Glee Singers gave some capital glees, whilst several members rendered good songs. The programme was in the capable hands of the Misses K. and M. Anderson, ably assisted by Mrs. Catt and the hon. secretary. At the close, members linked up and sang 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'God save the King.'

BEST BELLS IN HISTORY.**BRISTOL'S SPLENDID SPECIMEN.**

The article in the 'Times' to which we referred last week has been followed by a letter on 'Modern Bells,' signed by H. E. Nolloth, and written from Oxford. He says:

'The interesting article on bells in your issue of the 15th inst. will be welcomed by all true campanologists, because it directs attention to a subject about which there is a curious lack of interest and elementary knowledge, not only in people generally, but in those whose musical taste or intimate association with these instruments would lead us to expect better things. One reason of this is perhaps that ordinary bells are often afflicting to people gifted with a sensitive musical ear, by which the discords are heard more clearly than the harmonies.'

'But, some 30 years ago, the late Canon Simpson studied the methods by which Hemony, "the Stradivarius of bell-founders," and Van den Gheyn, succeeded in founding bells in which not only the three octaves, but the "third" and "fifth" were very fairly in tune with each other. Since that time, by the help of modern science and machinery, these methods have been applied with an exactness unattainable by the old Belgian founders, so that Mr. W. W. Stammer (the first to be appointed a Professor of Campanology) declares that better bells are being made now than ever before. About 18 months ago the Dean of Westminster (then Dean of York) and I went to Loughborough in order to hear the /ten-ton bell given by members of the Wills family to Bristol University rung in the foundry. I thought it the finest bell I had ever heard, either in England or on the Continent, and Professor Stammer is of the same mind. The somewhat larger great bell of York Minster is now being recast, and will be the deepest in tone of English bells. It is astonishing that the thousands of musical people in London have been so patient during the years that the raucous "Big Ben," with a crack through which a man can pass his arm, has continued to proclaim the hours from the Westminster Clock Tower. What must visitors from Malines and Bruges think of us? The cost of recasting and transforming it into a finer bell than any on the Continent would be a comparatively trivial item in the present expenditure upon the structure of the Houses of Parliament.'

LONDON.—On Sunday, December 26th, for evening service at St. Mary's, Lambeth, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: C. F. Ellis (first quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, and is from Winnipeg Canada) 1, W. Hardy 2, F. W. Chorley 3, W. E. Batten (R.F.C. H.M.S. 'Furious') 4, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 5, B. E. Clarke 6, J. R. Gammou 7, C. Maul 8.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A peal of 'Real Double Eight Lu, with two bobs in a lead, as many 7th's as 2nd's, with bobs behind and before alternately,' was rung at Richmond, Surrey, on January 28th, 1816.

It is interesting to note that this was rung almost on the anniversary of the first peal of 'Real Double Bob,' which was composed and conducted by George Gross, and rung at St. Mary's, Whitechapel, on Sunday, January 29th, 1769.

Mention of St. Mary's, Whitechapel, reminds us that at this church the doyen of the College Youths, Mr. Ted Wallage, is the steeple-keeper, and he is there to chime the bells for the early service every Sunday morning.

There has just passed away at Walthamstow, Mr. William Haley, son of a famous father, Henry Haley. Mr. William Haley was a bell tuner, and after leaving Messrs. Warner and Son started in business for himself as a manufacturer of handbells.

His father, Henry Haley, one of the greatest composers and conductors of his day, died at Bethnal Green 41 years ago to-morrow. He was 86 years of age. His death occurred exactly a year after that of that other famous London ringer, John Cox.

Benjamin Annable, whose name has to be mentioned among those of the greatest in the Exercise, died on February 1st, 1756, and was buried at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

On February 2nd, 1891, Harrison's 10,176 Treble Bob was rung at Warnham, Sussex, where, some day perhaps, the record peal of London will be rung. If there is such a thing as 'luck' and its opposite, it is evidently to be found at Warnham. Despite the large number of peals in Surprise methods, which Mr. A. H. Pulling conducts, he cannot succeed in calling one at Warnham.

Most of us have little personal ambitions in our ringing. Mr. James George is now setting about fulfilling a desire to fill up the gaps in the calendar. He is not far off the accomplishment of a peal on every day in the year, and we fancy the determination to reach the end of the task is responsible for some of these visits to Loughborough Foundry Campanile, which are becoming noticeable. We wonder how many men have rung a peal on the 365 days of the year?

LONG PEAL ATTEMPT.

THE SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE RECORD.

On Saturday, January 29th, eight members of the Lancashire Association intend to attempt the 11,232 of Superlative Surprise Major at the Parish Church, Bolton, starting time 10 a.m.

On the last occasion that this peal was attempted it came to an untimely end through a lady in the church unwittingly extinguishing the light in the belfry, through turning the wrong switch, after the bells had been going for five hours.

INSURANCE OF VOLUNTARY RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. J. T. Dyke brings forward a matter of the utmost importance to voluntary ringers—insurance against accident. The paid ringers are covered by the Employers' Liability Act, whether the Church Council insure themselves against it or not; but not so the voluntary ringer. It is possible, however, for the Church Council to take up an insurance to meet the case, as our Council has for some years past. The premiums are not high, and I would strongly advise all bands of voluntary ringers to communicate with the Manager, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, Limited, 11, Norfolk Street, Strand, London, W.C.2, for full particulars, and then place the whole matter before their Parochial Church Council. The above office deals with all church insurance matters, and if any Council is not acquainted with it, ringers will be able to place some very interesting facts before them.—Yours truly,

F. WATKINSON.

Handsworth, Sheffield.

THE BELLS OF ICKLETON, CAMBS. RESTORATION TO INCLUDE TWO TREBLES.

The little village of Ickleton, Cambs, where a broken tenor bell recently precipitated a restoration scheme for the whole of the ring, is setting to work to make a thorough job of the undertaking, thanks to the interest awakened by the enthusiastic leader of the local company, Mr. P. Webb, who, in the face of many obstacles, has now induced the Parochial Church Council, not only to rehang the bells in a new frame, but to provide pits for two trebles to complete the octave. This more comprehensive scheme makes it necessary to spend money on the repair of the tower, which work will cost from £50 to £80. The tower is to be cleared at once to enable the structural renovation to take place, and it is hoped that funds will soon be available to enable the order for the trebles to be given.

This means, of course, that a considerably larger sum than the original estimate of £400 will be needed, something like £700 being now the figure. The help of any of our readers who can contribute will be welcomed, for the ring of eight will not only be of advantage to Ickleton, but to the whole county, which is not rich in octaves. Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. Percy Webb, Ickleton, Cambs.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**CERTIFICATE DESIGN SELECTED.**

The annual meeting was held at Shrewsbury on Saturday last, when despite the bad weather there was a very good attendance, a large number of members being present from all parts of the county, and also three visitors from Cheshire. Ringing commenced at St. Mary's soon after 3 p.m., and the bells were rung in Grandsire Triples and Caters and Stedman Caters for an hour.

The business meeting was held in St. Chad's vestry, Major E. R. Trevor-Corbett presiding.

The Secretary read the report, and presented the balance sheet, which showed a credit balance of well over £40, after all accounts had been settled. Since the inauguration last July, four peals have been rung, viz., Grandsire Doubles at Burwarton, Stedman Triples at Whitechurch, and Stedman Caters and Treble Bob Royal at Coalbrookdale.

A happy feature was the joining of three complete bands of ringers, viz., Wellington, Bishop's Castle, and St. Mary's, Bridgnorth, also four new members from Malinslee, and a few others.

Mr. E. V. Rodenhurst reported that the association peal book was entered up to date, and presented designs for the new certificates, which are to have on them sketches of seven of the principal change-ringing towers. After due consideration it was decided to have one twelve, one ten, three eight, and two six-bell towers, viz., St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, Coalbrookdale, Ludlow, Shifnal, Market Drayton, Moreton Corbet, and St. Mary's, Bridgnorth.

The Rev. H. S. T. Richardson was elected to represent the association on the Central Council.

It was decided to hold the quarterly meetings at Wellington, Wern, and Bridgnorth. The bells at Wellington are in a bad state, and it was thought, by holding a meeting there, it might start the ball rolling towards getting them rehung. It was also suggested that meetings for combined practice be held at some of the six-bell towers during the summer months.

The service was held in St. Aidan's Chapel, when the Rev. C. E. Jarman gave an appropriate address. Tea was afterwards partaken of in St. Chad's Institute, catered for by Mr. John Wall, who has been a ringer for many years. Tea over, the members visited St. Chad's, where the fine ring were kept going till nine o'clock in the following methods: Grandsire Triples, Stedman Caters, Bob Royal, Treble Bob Royal, and Grandsire Cinques.

DEATH OF A KENT RINGER.**PASSING OF A RESPECTED LEADER.**

It is with deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mr. William Henry Harper, of Swanscombe, Kent, after only a few days' illness. The deceased gentleman was ringing for morning and afternoon service on Sunday, January 9th, and his death took place on the 17th inst., at the age of 63.

It is safe to say that no ringer was held in greater respect than the late Mr. Harper. He had been a member of the Kent County Association for over 40 years, and in all his ringing career he had been attached to Swanscombe tower, where for many years he was the leader. How many had been taught the art at his hands, it would be difficult to say. He was ever ready with good advice to young ringers, always encouraging, and, although a fine conductor, would always give way to the younger members, for he took great interest in helping them on, both as ringers and conductors, and no one is more able to testify to this than the writer. Mr. Harper took part in many 'first' performances for the Kent Association, and as far back as 1889 was in the band that rang the first peal of Kent Treble Bob for the county. He was also a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

By Mr. Harper's death, Swanscombe has lost a valued friend, as, in addition to his ringing, he was churchwarden at the Parish Church, and had been a chorister for a great number of years.

At the express wish of Mrs. Harper, the funeral was of a quiet and simple character, and the respect with which the deceased gentleman was held was evinced when he was laid to rest in the quiet cemetery adjoining the church, a large number attending both at the church and graveside. Kent ringers were represented by Messrs. John H. Cheesman (one of the Central Council representatives), F. M. Mitchell (Rochester District secretary), W. L. Lane, R. Smith, and F. J. Ring (Swanscombe), W. Ware, G. Lingham and F. Draper (Northfleet). Mr. George Hayes, Mr. Harper's oldest and dearest friend among ringers, was able, in spite of his affliction, to attend and pay his last respects. Among the beautiful floral tributes, bells were sent from Swanscombe tower and Gravesend and old ringing friends, and wreaths from Northfleet and the Kent County Association, Rochester district.

In the evening, old and new friends assembled and rang a fine peal of Stedman Triples with the clappers half-muffled, which is recorded elsewhere. Prior to ringing, the Rector of Swanscombe, the Rev. Campbell Ward, visited the belfry and said a few prayers for their departed brother, and wished the ringers success.

Thus has passed from this world one who will be greatly missed. He has rung his last peal, for the Great Conductor of all things has thought fit to say, 'William Henry Harper—that's all. Stand!'

THE CAMBRIDGE YOUTHS.**A DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—Difficulty has been experienced lately at Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, the headquarters of the society, in finding eight or more ringers to ring on the various occasions required by the corporation and University authorities, owing to deaths, removals and business.

The company at present musters nine ringing members, and in order to abolish the unsatisfactory system of obtaining unpaid casual assistance from members of the University Guild, and others, five qualified ringers from Cambridge and district were proposed as new members.

Voting took place at a monthly meeting held on Monday, January 17th, when all the names proposed were rejected by four votes to three, the voting being as follows: Messrs. A. T. Chenery, T. R. Dennis, E. G. Hibbins for, and Messrs. J. Taylor, P. Taylor, H. J. Hazell, and W. Easden against. Messrs. York Green and W. Welch were absentees through illness.

The sole reason advanced for this ill-tuned decision was 'money,' and that any increase of membership would prejudice the amount to be divided, and render any loss of time unremunerative.

The annual income derived from all sources averages roughly about 30 guineas, including hon. members' subscriptions, one guinea (when any are proposed and elected), and the whole of the money thus obtained is divided among the members according to attendances. The society's officials consist of a permanent secretary and a steward by monthly rotation, and the society has full use of the bells, ringing whenever it so pleases, and is entirely independent of the church authorities.

Ringings for Sunday evening services (mornings not permissible owing to King's Chapel) has never been performed by full members of the society, and it is only due to the generous support of the University Guild and local enthusiasts that any ringing in Cambridge on Sundays has been possible, and the remark by one that 'the bells have never been rung for service and never would be' is quite understandable.

During the past 20 years beginners have never been encouraged, although excellent opportunities exist for teaching the young on the Seage's apparatus. In one case a lad was told to go to the six-bell towers and get his experience before he came to them.

Gifts and donations to the upkeep of the bells, so far as is known, have been one guinea to the rehanging in 1911, and two guineas to the recasting of the cracked 7th in 1924, given in two instalments by an irregular amendment, an instance of unexampled meanness.

Constant upbraiding of the members on the unsatisfactory state of affairs fails to produce any effort on their part to reform, and it is in sheer disgust at the latest folly on the part of the majority that we have to make public this deplorable state of affairs. We leave the Exercise to judge whether reform is long overdue, and wonder if there is another tower in the land where such conditions exist. We therefore decline to have anything further to do with the society until such time as there is a manifest desire to remedy these evils and make the society fit for progressive ringers to belong to.—Yours, etc.,

T. R. DENNIS.

E. G. HIBBINS.

A. T. CHENERY.

[The Church of St. Mary-the-Great has a handy ring of twelve bells, with a tenor of about 28 cwt., and the Cambridge Youths date back to the beginnings of change ringing.]

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL.**AN INVITATION.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It may be of some interest to those members of the M.C.A. who reside in the new diocese of Leicester to know that the service of hallowing the Cathedral will take place on Monday, February 21st, and that on Monday, February 28th, the service in connection with the enthronement of the Bishop will be held. These will be great events in the history of the new diocese, and in connection with them the sub-dean has asked me to have peals rung of a 'substantial' sort at the conclusion of each of the two services, say 4 p.m.

The Cathedral company think with me that it would be nice if any ringer resident in the diocese who can ring Stedman Caters or Cambridge Surprise Royal, and would care for a rope in either of the attempts which will be made, should have an opportunity to stand in one of the attempts, but will would-be Stedman Cater and Cambridge Royalists please refrain. The hands will be made up by the Cathedral and local companies.

The following may be the mere imagination, but should the attempts prove successful it is possible that a permanent record will be placed in the belfry to commemorate the performances and the occasion for which they were rung, along with a peal already rung by the Cathedral company commemorating the creation of the new diocese, thus forming a unique trio. Anyone so desirous of standing in one of the attempts please communicate with me, but it can be understood that under the circumstances we shall be unable to include any 'passenger'.

—Yours truly

F. H. DEXTER.

50, Stuart Street, Leicester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT'S PROPOSED VOTE FOR BOW BELLS.

In wintry weather, the annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at Southgate on Saturday last, and it was not surprising that only 36 members put in an appearance. The first eight to arrive, however, started well by ringing a course of London Surprise Major, which was soon followed by touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Caters, etc., besides rounds for the beginners. Divine service was held at 5 p.m., when an address, given by the Rev. G. W. Stainsby, was much appreciated.

After an excellent tea, served in the schoolroom, had been disposed of, the usual business meeting took place, Mr. W. Pickworth presiding.

The balance sheet, showing a credit balance of £4 9s. 11d. on the year's working, was adopted, the actual funds of the district standing at £22 10s. 7d., plus £73 13s. 8d. invested.

Thirty-six new members were elected, including the bands at Pinner and Harrow Weald. In the former case, the bells have recently been rung, and the association is now providing instruction, whilst at Harrow Weald an entirely new band has been formed under the able guidance of Mr. G. R. Goodship, already with good results.

With one exception, the whole of the retiring officers and members of the Central Committee were re-elected.

A sum of £5 was voted towards the restoration of Bow bells, should such restoration take place. It was deemed advisable to deal with this matter provisionally, as a year would otherwise elapse before the matter could be again considered.

The condolences of the meeting were given to the president (Mr. E. A. Milne, J.P.), who was himself unable to attend, at the serious illness of his wife, the members wishing her a speedy recovery.—The good wishes of the meeting were also accorded to Mr. E. H. Tubb, of Emdley, who is recovering from a long illness.

Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the Vicar (Rev. C. F. Pople) for the use of the bells; to the Rev. G. W. Stainsby for his address at the service; and to the several ladies who had prepared an excellent tea.

Afterwards the belfry was again visited, and several methods, including Bristol Surprise Major and Cambridge Surprise Royal, were rung.

TRANSPPOSITIONS AND VARIATIONS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Now that Mr. Dexter abandons his claim to the peal known as 'Dexter's Variation of Thurstans', I will tell him why, in my opinion, it is not a variation, either of Thurstans' or of Washbrook's first arrangement of the same peal. The essential feature of Thurstans' peal is the extras and omits, and all variations must contain this essential feature; the variations were pointed out a fortnight ago and need not be repeated. Washbrook's peal does not contain this essential feature, therefore it is not a variation of Thurstans'. The peal Mr. Dexter claimed is merely a transposition of the original, i.e., the 7th making 5th's three times in succession instead of 6th's, consequently the block must consist of four courses, as it can only follow a 5-6 in the third course of a part, and must be succeeded by a 5-6 to bring the 6th home.

The term 'variation' is often used where 'transposition' is the correct one, the most notorious instance being, I should say, 'Groves' Variation of Parker's Twelve-Part.' It is not a variation at all, it is merely a transposition; but in this particular peal the transposition improves on the original.

When Reeves introduced an extra bob in each part of Holt's Ten-Part he created a 'Variation.' He not only added a bob, but he made the part-ends come up in the plain course order, so that it would run round true from any part-end.

When Johnson introduced a bob 'before' in Middleton's peal of Cambridge he created a Variation, and a very useful one, too.

A variation applied to composition is very different to the same term applied to ringing. You can get a variation in the latter without altering the composition a scrap. All the course ends of Thurstans', Lates', and Brooks' are alike, but start the calling a course or two courses later and see what you will get. It will not be a variation of composition, though.

In view of Mr. Dexter's last letter, I trust Mr. Morris will not carry out the adjustment he suggests. It would not be true, and it would not be fair. I shall suggest at the proper time that the peals be known as (1) Washbrook-Thurstans', (2) Washbrook-Lates', (3) Washbrook-Brooks', with the word transposition (in brackets) added, if the peal has been rung in a transposed form.

This is not a parochial matter: it is one that will affect, eventually, all the Exercise, not to say anything about the second edition of 'Stedman,' in which it is bound to find a place.

I beg to thank Mr. Keeble for his words of appreciation. Coming from such an able ringer and conductor they are doubly welcome.—Yours,

W. A. CAVE.

P.S.—Mr. Pulling must take more water with it, for I cannot find on page 795 of December 17th what he has evidently found there.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

RECORD MEETING OF NORTHERN BRANCH.

The quarterly meeting of the Northern Branch of the above association was held at Old Hill on Saturday, January 15th, when nearly every tower in the branch was represented. Good use was made of the bells by the members during the afternoon, and a service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. Chapman), who, after extending a hearty welcome to the association to Old Hill Church, gave a very appropriate address.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Parsons, a sumptuous tea awaited the ringers and their wives and friends in the Trinity Schools after the service, and the host and hostess gave their guests a real Black Country welcome.

Tea was followed by the business meeting, at which the Vicar presided.—The Vicar and his two churchwardens (Mr. A. H. Bassano and Mr. H. Bennett) were elected hon. members. The Kinver company were elected members of the association, and several other new members were also added to the roll, including Mr. J. Goodman and Mr. H. Sheppard, of the Dudley Guild.

Two of the oldest performing members of the association (Mr. T. Albutt and Mr. J. Eades) were elected hon. members of the association, this being a request from Bromsgrove Church company as a mark of respect to two of their oldest colleagues.

Mr. T. J. Salter (Kidderminster) was elected as Central Council representative of the branch for the association, his name to be ratified at the annual meeting.

It was unanimously decided to accept the Vicar of Bromsgrove's kind invitation to visit his church for the next meeting, to be held on the third Saturday in June.

The Secretary (Mr. A. J. Skelding) moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for his address, for the service, for the use of the bells, and for presiding at the meeting; to the churchwardens, and organist, and to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Parsons for the magnificent way they had entertained so large a party.—This was seconded by Mr. W. E. Moore (King's Norton), and supported by Mr. H. Mason and Mr. G. N. Cockin.—The vote was carried in a very appreciative and enthusiastic manner.

Mr. Parsons, in reply, thanked the members very sincerely on behalf of Mrs. Parsons and himself for the very kind vote of thanks, and expressed a wish that in future all members would notify the secretary of their intention to be present at the meetings, so that those who may be catering would experience no anxiety at the last moment as to whether they had made adequate provision. He also tendered sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the congregation for helping at the tea tables.—The Vicar also replied, and said it gave him great pleasure to have the association at Old Hill. He remarked that he had learnt a good deal by being in a new world, the ringing world.—A fine touch of Stedman Caters on the handbells in the room greatly pleased the interested visitors. The tower was again visited, and ringing in various methods was indulged in. This closed the largest and most enthusiastic meeting ever held by the branch.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LOUGHBOROUGH DISTRICT.

An enjoyable afternoon and evening were spent at Whitwick by the Loughborough district on Saturday week. Although members turned up rather poorly, the bells were well utilised.

It was decided at the business meeting that the Central Council representatives should be re-elected.

The new vice-president was Mr. Pryce Taylor, and local district secretary Mr. J. Saddington, whilst Messrs. W. Thorley and David Collins were elected to serve on the committee.

The next meeting was fixed at Sutton Bonington on Saturday, February 19th. One new ringing member was elected, viz., Mr. J. W. Rawson, of Whitwick, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Canon T. W. Walters for his presence and kind use of the bells.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report for 1926 is about to be printed, and to save any errors will any members who have changes of address, correction or additions to note, please advise me not later than February 5th?

Will members of the Nottingham district please forward subscriptions direct to me for the time being?

ERNEST MORRIS,

General Hon. Secretary.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

WEDDING BELLS.

At St. Michael's Parish Church, Bishop's Stortford, on Saturday, January 22nd, on the occasion of the wedding of one of the ringers, Mr. Fred Springham, son of the energetic sexton and steeplekeeper, Mr. P. Springham, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: V. Matthews (first-quarter peal) 1, D. Hadyn 2, C. Beeston (first-quarter-peal as conductor) 3, J. Jarvis 4, H. Wacey 5, W. T. Prior 6, H. Dew 7, W. Bush 8.

DEDICATION OF BELLS AT HARTBURY.

END OF A SEVEN YEARS' SILENCE.

The dedication of the bells at Hartbury, Gloucestershire, took place on Saturday, January 1st, when about 50 members of the Gloucester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association attended.

The bells, which have been restored and supplemented by the addition of a treble, were dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester (Dr. A. C. Headlam). They had previously been silent for 7 or 8 years owing to the frame being in bad condition and unsafe. A new framework has been provided. The work was placed in the hands of, and satisfactorily carried out by, Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon. The new treble bell weighs 5½ cwt., and bears the following inscription: 'Give thanks to God. 1926. C.H. and W.B., Churchwardens.' The peal now consists of six bells. The second is a Rudhall bell cast in 1712. The others were cast as follows: 3rd bell, 1626; 4th, pre-Reformation, probably 1450; fifth, 1626; tenor, 1628. The total cost of the restoration and the new treble, £456 10s., has been raised by subscriptions and garden fetes held at Hartbury House, the residence of Mr. Gwynne Holford.

The dedication service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Robert Perry) and the lesson read by the Rev. F. R. C. Paton (Vicar of Barnwood and chairman of the Gloucester Branch). Following the singing of the hymn ('Thy Hand, O God, has guided'), the Bishop, preceded by the Vicar and churchwardens, went to the tower, where the Bishop dedicated the bells and recited special prayers. A short touch was then rung by the following members: B. Etheridge, W. H. Harris, G. L. Brunson, J. Austin, E. Davis, and J. Williams. At the conclusion of the Bishop's address another short touch was rung by the same ringers, and, later, the bells were thrown open to the rest of the company.

Afterwards, the whole of the ringers were invited to the residence of Mrs. Gwynne Holford, where an excellent tea had been provided. After tea, the Vicar said he should like to take the opportunity of thanking all the ringers for coming and assisting them that day, also of thanking Mr. S. Roper for the trouble he had taken, on behalf of Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, to make their peal of bells a success.—Mr. Roper thanked the Vicar for his kind remarks, and asked the Vicar to accept as a small present an inkpot made of bell metal.—The Vicar, in accepting it, expressed his delight at the gift.

Mr. J. Williams proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. and Miss Gwynne Holford for their kindness in providing tea for all the ringers. Mr. J. Austin, in seconding the vote of thanks, said the go of the bells was everything that could be desired, and if at any time the Vicar required assistance the members would only be too glad to come and help him.—Mrs. Gwynne Holford thanked the members for their kind vote of thanks, and said how lovely the bells sounded that afternoon, after being silent so long. It was a pleasure to have the members there that day.—The health of 'Mrs. and Miss Gwynne Holford' having been drunk, the members returned to the tower, and the bells were kept going in standard methods until 8 p.m.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Hunts district was held at Long Stanton on January 15th. The weather was fine, and there was a large attendance of ringers, the towers represented including Cambridge, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Gt. Staughton, Somersham, Godmanchester, Oakington, Trumpington, Chatteris, and Ashbourne (Derbyshire). Various touches were rung on the bells during the afternoon and evening, the methods including Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Grandsire and Stedman.

A service was held, at which a very pithy short address was given by the Rev. R. F. R. Routh, Rector of Castle Camps. Tea was partaken of in the school, when about 35 were present, including the general secretary, the Rev. R. Copenan.

At the business meeting which followed, the chair was taken by the Vicar of Long Stanton, and four new members were elected, viz., Messrs. S. G. Peck and L. Currington, of Eynesbury, and Misses Doris Clarke and Ruby Davis, of St. Neots.—It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Great Staughton some time in May, with the permission of the incumbent.—Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Routh for his address, and Mrs. Woolley and the ladies who served the tea.

WARWICKSHIRE PEAL OF SIX RESTORED.

LITTLE VILLAGE RAISES BIG SUM.

The bells of St. Nicolas' Church, Willoughby, have, after a silence of about seven years, been restored by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, who have strengthened the existing frame, quarter turned the bells, and fitted them with ball bearings, new head stocks and wheels. In the opinion of the local ringers the 'go' of them is excellent.

Willoughby is only a small village of 300 persons, and since the scheme was started four years ago for the restoration of the tower and bells a sum of £500 has been raised. Mr. Johnson, one of the churchwardens, giving a donation of £50. The front five of these bells were cast in 1713 by Joseph Smith, of Edgbaston. The tenor, which was cast in 1781 by William Chapman, of Whitechapel, weighs 14½ cwt.

The bells were rung for the first time on December 23rd by the local ringers and friends from the neighbouring village of Braunston, when several 120's of Grandsire were rung.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHELTENHAM BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cheltenham branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association took place at Charlton Kings on Saturday, January 15th, and was attended by about 40 members. The bells, a ring of eight, were raised in peal about 5.30, and soon were going into Doubles and Minor for the benefit of the six-bell tower members. Service, held in this fine old church, was very musical, the Vicar (Rev. Edgar Neale) conducting, assisted by the Rev. Gardener (curate), the Vicar himself playing the organ and giving a fine address on bells, ancient and modern.

Afterwards, a move was made to the Church Room, where the ladies had a bounteous tea ready, and this was much appreciated.—At the meeting which followed, the Vicar presided, supported by Captain Trye, R.N., Mr. W. Yeend, sen., Mr. W. Dyer, the hon. secretary (W. Yeend, jun.), and representatives from Prestbury, Winchcombe, Dumbleton, Leigh, Tredington, Swindon, Leckhampton, Badgeworth, Cheltenham (St. Mary's and St. Mark's), and the local tower. The branch chairman (Rev. A. D. Pennington) wrote regretting that he was prevented from attending the meeting.

The Dumbleton Band were congratulated on having rung their first peal of Minor.

The following officers were re-elected, with the best thanks of the members for past services: Chairman, Rev. A. D. Pennington (Alderton); branch representative, W. Townsend (Leckhampton); hon. secretary, W. Yeend, jun. (Swindon).

It was decided to hold two full meetings and two ringing meetings during the coming year. Winchcombe (ringing meeting) and Alderton (full meeting) were decided upon for the respective spring and summer meetings.

One hon. and one performing member were elected, and Mr. Alf. Pulley (Dumbleton) was elected assistant secretary to work the Winchcombe Deanery.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar and all who had helped to make the meeting such a success.—The Vicar, replying, said he should always consider it an honour to have the members at his church, and hoped they would come again.

The tower was again visited and much useful practice obtained.

LADIES' GUILD.

A quarterly meeting of the Southern District was held at Farnham on Saturday, January 22nd, when in spite of inclement weather ringers attended from Aldershot, Ash, Guildford and Cranleigh. Ringing commenced about 3.30, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman were rung. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. Snelling, of Wrecclesham, who also presided at the tea.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector and to Mr. Clapshaw for his kind help.—Mr. Clapshaw responded with a delightful speech, in which he extended a warm welcome to all.

At the business meeting it was decided to hold the next meeting at Staines on the third Saturday in May.—The tower was revisited and further methods rung until 8.30.

MORE QUICK WORK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I read in your columns last week about the quick work at Kington Magna, when repairs to the clapper of one of their bells were completed in 36 hours. In justice to the bell founders, I should like to let you know what Messrs. Mears and Stainbank did for us. We had the sixth clapper of Newbury bells fall out and break in half. I sent it off to London per passenger train on Tuesday, December 28th, at 11 a.m., asking them to let me have it back for New Year's Eve.

The clapper was returned with new stem welded and fittings complete, and reached Newbury on Thursday afternoon, December 30th, thus taking only 48 hours. Great credit is due to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, considering it was holiday week. We were then able to have the full peal to ring in the New Year.—Yours truly,

H. W. CURTIS,
Captain of Newbury Tower.

THE HEIGHT OF BOW STEEPLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The article in the 'Times' from which you quote in this week's 'Ringing World' gives the height of the above tower as 235ft. I have before me Sir Banister Fletcher's 'History of Architecture,' open at page 732, where drawings and detailed measurements are given of the steeples of Bow Church and St. Bride's, Fleet Street. According to this authority the height of Bow steeple is 216ft. 1in., and that of St. Bride's 11ft. higher, viz., 226ft. 1in. These measurements are in each case exclusive of the weather vane, for which about 5 or 6ft. extra must be allowed, but even so the spire of Bow Church would only come to 222ft.—Yours,

H. B. WOOLLEY.

Long Stanton Vicarage, Cambridge,
January 21st, 1927.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

BELFERY CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF
LAST CENTURY.

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The picture that Mr. Lukis draws of the state of ringers and ringing in the middle of last century is black indeed. Coming from one whose sympathies were all in favour of bells and ringing, it must be taken as a pretty accurate one. But it must be remembered that he was writing primarily about Wiltshire, a part of the country where change ringing never flourished to a great extent, and where the circumstances (described in these notes a short time ago) which caused a decline in ringing in country districts were in full force. If we are to judge fairly the condition of the Exercise at this time we must look elsewhere; to the Eastern Counties, to London, Birmingham, and the North.

That there was great need for reform everywhere is certain. But it is not quite fair to put all the blame on the ringers, as Mr. Lukis seems to do. If towers and belfries were 'left to the sole occupation of unclean birds, and profane and irreverent ringers,' it was the clergy who really were responsible. The truth was that the conditions were the result of more than a century of neglect, and it has taken more than half that time to put matters something like right.

How scandalous the neglect was, is shown by the state of the towers and bells at that time, and on this point I will quote Mr. Lukis in full:—

'It is a matter for our grave consideration how it comes to pass that so many of our village churches should have their towers in so dilapidated a condition. I have seen several in the course of my Wiltshire rambles which are in so dangerous a state that the bells are forbidden to be rung. There can be no doubt that this arises from two causes. In the first place bells for which the towers were originally constructed were not subject to the same revolutions and tossings as now. They were swung to and fro, it is true, but very gently compared with the wild somersaults of change ringing, an art of comparatively recent date. Consequently, in constructing the towers, the architects of those days had not to take into their consideration the great vibration of the walls produced by the violent movement of the bells. In 1810 the spire of St. Nicholas's Church, Liverpool, fell as the people were assembling for service and killed twenty-three persons. This catastrophe was partly caused by the vibration of the bells. Anyone who has stood in the belfry of the lofty and beautiful tower of Magdalen College, Oxford, when a peal is ringing on its ten sweet toned bells knows the way in which a tower is made to sway. To a person of weak nerves it is perfectly alarming, and it is easy to understand how this kind of vibration must loosen the masonry and eventually endanger the building.

The following is an extract from the ancient churchwardens' account of St. Thomas', Salisbury: "At a vestry held 6 April 1640 Item by reason of the danger wch the tower is in by ringing of the bells, since they were hung high and in other respects it is agreed that the bells shall bee hung lower at the pitch they formerly were hung att, and the churchwardens are desired to do itt accordingly."

ALSAGER.—On Saturday, Jan. 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins.: H. G. Smith 1, F. H. Crawley 2, J. Parker (first quarter inside) 3, J. Hurd 4, J. Brassington 5, A. Allman 6, A. Crawley (conductor) 7, C. Peake (first quarter peal) 8.

NOTICES.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Chesterfield District.—A ringing meeting will be held at Dore, near Sheffield, on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 7.30. Tea at Hurst's Café 5 p.m., at reasonable cost to those who inform Mr. J. E. L. Cockey Leam Wood, Rushley Road, Dore, not later than February 3rd. Frequent trains L.M.S. from Sheffield and Chesterfield. Buses direct to church from Ecclesfield. A good meeting is hoped for.—Arthur Knights, Local Hon. Sec., Chesterfield.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ledbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Bosbury on Saturday, February 5th. Bells available at 6 p.m.—R. Thomas, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting will be held at Stoke Golding on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells available from 4 p.m. Business meeting will follow. All ringers cordially invited.—Wm. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

NEWBURY, BERKS.—For evening service at St. Nicholas' Church, on Sunday, January 23rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 45 mins.: W. H. Adkins, jun. (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Poole 2, W. H. Adkins, sen., 3, C. Pearce 4, E. Smith 5, E. Crocker 6, H. W. Curtis (conductor) 7, E. Challis 8.

STONY STRATFORD.—On Sunday, January 23rd, 720 of Plain Bob Minor was rung at St. Giles' Church for evening service: E. Lines 1, T. C. Tompkins 2, W. Neale 3, W. Bonham 4, W. M. J. Pedley (conductor) 5, H. C. Edwards 6. First 720 as conductor, aged 19 years.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, January 23rd, at the Church of St. Leonard, for evensong, 1,260 Stedman Triples: Miss E. E. Harcastle 1, Miss B. M. Mills 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, E. E. Bish 4, C. W. Roberts 5, J. W. Chapman 6, J. L. Watkins (first quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor) 7, W. E. G. Howson 8.

DEATH OF A RYE RINGER.

On Tuesday, January 18th, the death took place of Mr. Lawrence T. H. Seers, of Rye, Sussex, at the age of 62 years, after an illness of only a few days' duration. Mr. Seers joined the Rye belfry in 1900, and was a regular Sunday service ringer for about twenty-five years, but was prevented from taking part in any peals through a 'bad leg' which made long standing too great a strain. It was only on this account that Mr. Seers gave up ringing two years ago, but he has remained keenly interested and was always willing to fill a gap in an emergency.

For fourteen years the deceased was a member of the Board of Guardians and the treasurer of a local branch of Foresters, and in both of these capacities his services will be missed and his death deeply regretted.

The funeral took place at the Rye Borough Cemetery on Friday last. The bells of the Parish Church were rung fully muffled while the cortege was passing through the town on its way to the cemetery, where the local hon. secretary represented the ringers at the graveside.

The sympathy of all local ringers will be extended to Mrs. Seers and her son in their sad and sudden loss.

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NOTICES.

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LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Sibsey on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (8) available from 2. Service 4.15. Tea 4.45. Business meeting, including election of officers, immediately after tea. All subscriptions for year 1926 should be paid before this meeting.—John Phillips, Hon. Sec., The School House, Butterwick, near Boston, Lincs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Lewisham District.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Dartford (not Crayford) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea, by kind invitation of the Vicar, and business meeting to follow. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Presteigne District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Eardisland on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells (6) available 4 to 9. Service at 5. Tea and business meeting to follow.—Jabez Preece, Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow, Near Pembridge.

NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (Established 1672).—William Doubleday Crofts Memorial Dinner.—The fifth memorial dinner to the above celebrated Nottingham ringer (1742 to 1809) will be held at the Welbeck Hotel, Milton Street, on Saturday, Jan. 29th, at 6 p.m. Tickets 4s. each, to be obtained from the hon. secretary up to Jan. 29th first post. Ringing at St. Mary's Tower (10 bells) from 2.30 to 5.45. All visitors will receive a very hearty welcome on this occasion.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec., 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Earl's Barton on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. As the report and balance sheet will then be presented, it is hoped as many as possible will attend.—F. Barber, Branch Sec., School House, Gordon Rd., Wellingborough.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Divine service at 4 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock, with business meeting to follow.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bolton Parish Church on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available after the long peal.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Sleaford District.—The annual meeting will be held at Sleaford on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service in the church, followed by tea and meeting.—Reginald Scott, Westlea House, Sleaford.

LADIES' GUILD.—Northern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Miles Platting, Manchester, on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Service at 4.30, preacher, Canon Elsee. Tea and business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Churn about six minutes' tram ride from centre of city.—Molly Davenport, Hon. Sec., Broomfield, Dore, near Sheffield.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Central Division.—A meeting will be held at Keymer (Hassocks Station) on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4. Tea 4.30 at 'The Greyhound,' 18. Half rail fare (maximum 1s.).—A. D. Stone, Hon. Div. Sec., 10, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Sittingbourne on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3. Association service at 5. Tea at Cremer's Restaurant after service. Subscriptions for 1927 are due, and can be paid at the meeting. All ringers invited.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at the Institute, Leatherhead, following tea at 6 o'clock on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m.—Chas. Dean, Hon. Sec., 59, Wellesley Road, Croydon.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at Hatfield on Saturday, Jan. 29th. Bells available at 3 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—Wm. Nash, Dis. Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not attended twenty times in the past year to vote on financial matters, should be paid before February 28th. Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Feb. 1st, St. Magnus' on the 3rd and 17th, *St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 8th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 10th (at 8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd; all at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—The annual meeting will be held at Biggleswade on Saturday, February 5th. Bells (8) available at 2.30. Tea at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. A good attendance is requested.—C. J. Ball, Dis. Sec., 2, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea in the Parish Room, North Street, after service, followed by business meeting. Members requiring tea must notify the district secretary not later than Tuesday, Feb. 1st. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at the meeting or sent to the district secretary.—W. Latter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 11, Dudley Road, Tunbridge Wells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Taunton Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be at St. Mary's, Taunton, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (1s. each) and meeting in the Church Room after. Wilton (6) available 2.30 to 4 p.m., and after the business meeting. Those who require tea please notify by Wednesday, Feb. 2nd.—P. Merson, Bishop's Hull.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Macclesfield Branch.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at the Parish Church, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6 o'clock.—J. Norbury, Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—A quarterly meeting of the Winchester District will be held at Alresford on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells at 2.30, also Old Alresford (6) and Bishop Sutton (5) i required. Will those requiring tea please inform me by Feb. 1st? — W. T. Tucker, Dis. Sec., 71, High Street, Eastleigh.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Westbury on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (8) ready at 3 p.m. Guild service 4.40. Tea 5. Short business meeting follows tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Branch Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Audley on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Service 5 p.m. and tea at 5.30 p.m. Will all who intend to be present please send word to Mr. P. Fryer, The Audley Café, Church Street, Audley, by Wednesday, Feb. 2nd?

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at East Haddon on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (5) at 2.30. Service 4.15. Tea 5 o'clock. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Feb. 2nd?—W. Bott, Hon. Sec., Guilborough.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Cranleigh on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. It is hoped as many as possible will attend.—E. Raddon, Hillcrest, Baillie Road, Guildford.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—The first meeting of the year will be held at West Retford on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. to 8.30. Will ringers please make own arrangements for tea. There are several good cafés in the town.—H. Haig and H. Revill, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Newport on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30, to be followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea kindly advise me.—C. Beeston, 5, King Street, Bishop's Stortford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The annual meeting will be held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 5th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5. Tea at 5.45 in the Church Hall. Those requiring tea, which will be supplied by the Vicar and churchwardens, must let me know by Feb. 1st.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., W.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A mid-week practice meeting will be held at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, on Thursday, Feb. 10th. Bells from 6.45 to 8.45 p.m. Members and friends welcomed.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—The next meeting will be held at Baldock on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at the White Lion at 5.30. All are welcome.—E. W. Day, Dis. Sec., 58, King's Road, Hitchin.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—U.W.H. Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Faringdon on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 3.30. All desiring tea must notify the secretary, G. A. Webley, Southampton Street, Faringdon, not later than Wednesday, Feb. 9th.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at Glodwick on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. Subscriptions now due. Reports to hand.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Ringing at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East from 2.30 to 4, and at St. Clement Danes' from 2.30. Service at the latter at 4.30, address by the Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, Rector and Honorary Chaplain. Tea in the Parish Room, tickets for which should be obtained in advance from the Masters or secretaries, followed by the business meeting. A good gathering is desired. Other meetings for February: St. Clement Danes', Sunday, the 6th, at 10 a.m., and Mondays, the 14th and the 28th, at 7.30; St. John's, Wilton Road, Monday, the 7th, at 8; and St. Mary's, Lambeth, Tuesday, the 22nd, at 8.—A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 19, Pepys Road, S.E.14.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Chorley, on Saturday, Feb. 12th. The bells (8, recently rehung and tuned) will be available from 3 p.m. Tea at 1s. 6d. a head to all who notify Mr. J. Smith, 85, Anderston Street, Chorley, not later than Wednesday, Feb. 9th. All ringers welcome.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells at liberty 4 o'clock. Meeting at 7. Reports to hand. All ringers welcome.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Ufford on Saturday, Feb. 12th. Bells available all day. Tea, 4.30, free to all sending me word before Feb. 9th. Meeting afterwards in St. Mary's Hall.—H. Drake, Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 39th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, Feb. 19th, at 6 o'clock prompt, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2s., to other members and friends, 6s. 6d. each. Every full member should be clear on the books not later than Saturday, Feb. 12th. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30. Bishop Ryder's (8) 3 to 4.30 p.m. An informal conference is being arranged (details later). Early application for tickets (with remittance) should be made to Albert Walker, 81, Baker Street, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

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DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, January 16th, for evensong at Holy Trinity Church, 720 York Surprise Minor: J. T. Titt 1, W. Oliver 2, R. Park (conductor) 3, G. W. Park 4, F. W. Lupson 5, W. H. Porter 6.—On Sunday, January 23rd, for evensong, 720 Surfleet Surprise Minor: W. N. Park 1, W. Oliver 2, R. Park (conductor) 3, W. H. Porter 4, F. W. Lupson 5, G. W. Park 6. This is the first 720 in this method by all the band and in Darlington.

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