

No. 1,753. Yol. XXXIX

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th, 1944.

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

PEAL RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

When, now more than five years ago, war broke out, the immediate result was to put a stop to all peal ringing. Up to the end of August, 1939, peals were being rung almost daily throughout the country, but during September, save for one of Grandsire Doubles on the last day of the month, there was silence. A few were rung before the end of the year, mostly in six bell towers in rather remote villages, but the names of the men and the churches which for so long had figured prominently in the peal reports were missing. There was a general feeling of uncertainty among ringers as to the right thing to do, and a rather vague feeling that peals, and indeed ringing generally, were somewhat out of place in the circumstances of the time.

When the new year came in and it seemed as if the war had settled down to a stalemate in which each side was waiting for the other to begin, but was not prepared itself to undertake the risks of an offensive, the number of peals began to increase, and by the early spring had reached what was for war time, a quite respectable weekly total. Then came the rude awakening. Norway and Denmark were conquered. Holland and Belgium were overrun. France was invaded, and our cwn expeditionary force flung back on the coast and saved as it were by a miracle at Dunkirk. It did not need the official ban on ringing, which soon after was imposed, to stop peal ringing again. For two years there was silence and the only tower bell peal rung during that time was in Ireland.

Once more we recovered our freedom. Once more ringers were allowed to try for peals and with perhaps more encouragement from church authorities and the general public than ever. Five years of war had added enormously to the difficulties. Bands were broken up and dispersed. Many belfries could not be blacked out. Travelling facilities were scanty or non-existent. Air raids and flying bombs made long ringing inadvisable. But, in spite of all, the number of peals rung during this year is a considerable one, and seems likely to increase as the end of the war draws nearer and some at least of the difficulties lessen.

Nevertheless, the doubts and uncertainties which beset the Exercise when the war began are still present with many ringers. Ought we to indulge in peal ringing so long as this dreadful conflict lasts? they ask, and many of them feel that the right answer must be No. Even (Continued on page 442.) among those who have nothing to say against peal ringing generally in these days are many who feel that they

themselves would rather not take part.

We can respect the feelings of these men and we can appreciate the reasons for their opinions, but we are bound to take a wider vision and to ask the question: Is ringing in general and peal ringing in particular a good thing at present for the Exercise and the country at large, or is it a bad thing? When we put the question like that, there can be but one answer. The sound of the church bells has a message for everyone, and though it may not reach the majority of men and women, it does reach some, and more perhaps than we ringers imagine. Even though it is true, as a correspondent this week points out, that the sound of victory bells must fall on the ears of many whose hearts are saddened and whose lives are darkened by the price that has to be paid, yet the voices of the bells are more likely to bring consolation than regret, and to be a clessing and not a mockery. England would be the poorer and the sadder without

But, no doubt, it will be said that it is not ringing generally, but peal ringing which is objected to. The answer is that for the general public there is no difference between peal ringing and any other ringing, except that it is rather longer and usually very much better. Peal ringing only concerns ringers and the question is: does it now do the Exercise good or harm? We have no hesitation in saying it does good. Of course there is need for restraint and consideration for other people, as there always is, but we feel sure that those ringers who, consistent with their other duties, are able to ring peals, are not only doing themselves good, but are doing good to others as well.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, October 14, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,
At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two extents. Tenor 9 cwt.

*ERNEST WILEINSON Treble | CHARLES W. BLAKEY ... 4
†LEONARD WALSH 2
RICHARD BLAKEY 3
Conducted by Roger Leigh. Temps

Conducted by Roger Leigh.

* First peal. † First peal on tower bells.

GREAT STAUGHTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES

Seven extents.

JOHN PERKINS Treble | FRANK W. LACK 4

REV. B. F. SHEPPARD... ... 2

HERBERT FIBLDS... ... 3 | FRANK WARRINGTON ... Tenor

Conducted by F. WARRINGTON.

BRADSHAW, HALIFAX.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF BOB DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt.

WILLIAM AMBLER Treble | CLIFFORD ELLISON 3
PAUL BIRKETT 2 | ALBERT PICKLES 4
SAM LONGEOTTOM Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM AMBLER.
First peal on the bells, and first peal of Doubles by all the band.

TEN BELL PEAL.

ABINGDON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

n Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5187 CHANGES;

Tenor 204 cwt.

*Betty Spice	Treble	RONALD H. DOVE	6		
ARTHUR V. DAVIS	2	GEOFFREY J. LEWIS	7		
WALTER F. JUDGE		GEORGE HOLIFIELD			
EDGAR HUMFREY					
WILLIAM C. PORTER	5	RICHARD WHITE	Tenor		
Composed by J. H. R. FREEBORN. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE					
* First peal of Stedma			bell has now		
completed the circle of the tower.					

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BOWDEN, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1944, in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PAR	Tenor 14½ cwt.				
*LAWRENCE WARD	Treble	ALAN J. BROWN	***		5
THOMAS TAYLOR	2	JOHN WORTH			6
†ALAN A. POTTS	3	CBCIL AUSTIN	***		7
DAVID VINCENT	4	GORDON HENSHAW	***	7	enor

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.

* First peal. † First peal in the method.

ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, October 19, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE PART (7th obs	servation) Tenor 34 cwt,
MRS DORICE E. KELLY Treble	
T. COLIN RYDER 2	
J. EDWARD CAWSER 3	Norman Chaddock 7
ARTHUR FIRTH 4	PERCY MANGHAM Tenor

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

OXFORD.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 20, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBB,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

I CHO!	43 CWL.
*WILLIAM H. B. WILKINS Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 5
MARGARET D. TELFORD 2	ARTHUR V. DAVIS 6
Edwin A. Barnett 3	RONALD H. DOVE 7
BETTY SPICE 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor
Composed by J. W. PARKER.	Conducted by E. A. BARNETT.

* 250th peal. † First peal in the method.

WORCESTER.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, Uctober 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

	PARKER'S TWELVE	-PAR	r (7th the	observation). Tenor 15	cwt.
	ERNEST WILSON		Treble	†GEORGE E. LARGE	5
	JAMES WOODYATT			ERNEST E. CUBBERLEY	
	ALLEN MORGAN			REGINALD WOODYATT	
*	FRED N. FLUCK	***	4	CHRIS. F. BLISSETT	Temos

Conducted by REGINALD WOODYATT.

* First peal of Grandsire Triples 'inside.' + 100th peal for the association. First peal in the method as conductor.

SHIRLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Bob Minor: S. G. Chaplin 1, R. J. B. Hadden 2, P.C. L. Tuffrey 3, A. Morris 4, E. T. Lloyd 5, V. A. Hemming (conductor) 6. First quarterpeal as conductor.

October 27th, 1944. FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE. THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD. On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL, A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; Tenor 14 cwt. *STANLEY E. COOK Treble | JOHN H. HUNT STANLEY E. COOK ... 2 Tom Page ... 2 Frederick A. Bugnett ... 3 Harold Nobes ... 7 Frederick W. Burnett ... 7 Frederick W. Burnett ... 7 Frederick W. Burnett ... 7 Composed by Sir A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by F. W. BURNETT * First peal. AUGHTON, LANCASHIRE. THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. On Saturday, October 21, 1944. in Three Hours and Three Minutes, AT CHRIST CHURCH, A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES; Tenor 14% cwt. THOMAS HAMMOND Treble *THOMAS HESKETH 5 *IOHN LUNHAM 2 THOMAS ROTHWBLL 6 *JOHN LUNHAM 2 *THOMAS HORRIDGE 3 *ARTHUR MAWDESLEY ... *JOHN ROTHWELL 4 JOSEPH RIDYARD Tenor Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOSEPH RIDYARD, * First peal in the method. First peal in the method as conductor. HOLLESLEY, SUFFOLK. THE SUFFOLK GUILD. On Saturday, October 21, 1944, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANCES; Tenor 17 cwt. in F. WILLOUGHBY E, MAULDEN Treble | MRS. C. W. PIPE *James W. Jennings ... 2 *CHARLES CLARKE WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 7 CBCIL W. PIPE Tenor FRANK L. FISHBR 3 George A. Fleming ... 4 Composed by N. J. Pitstow. Conducted by Mrs. C. W. Pipe. * First peal in the method. THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. On Saturday, October 21, 1444, in I hree Hours and Two Minutes, AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES; Tenor 19 cwt. 3 qr. 7 lb.

... ... Treble | JOHN PINFOLD JOHN N. LINDON .. REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 6 RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2 FRANK E. HAVNES HENRY H. FEARN 3 GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor GEORGE F. SWANN ... 4

Conducted by GRORGE E. FEARN.

First Surprise peal in Lichfield.

NORWICH.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. On Saturday October 21. 1944, in Three Hours and I wo Minutes. AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt, in G sharp. HENRY TOOKE Treble | CHARLES F. GOODMAN ERNEST G. SHORTING ... 2 GEORGE BAILEY 6 *Michael J. Foster 3
Nolan Golden 4 ARTHUR G. BASON ... 7 GEORGE SAYER Tenor Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

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

On Thurs., Oct. 12, 1944, in Two Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES; ILKESTON VARIATION.

Mrs. J. Thomas 1-2 | Albert J. Wallman ... 5-6 John Thomas 3-4 | Charles W. Roberts ... 7-8 Composed by A. J. PITMAN. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS. First peal in this variation in hand by all.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, October 17, 1944, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes, AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by John Thomas,

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

On Wednesday, October 18, 1944, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes, AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5065 CHANGES;

WILLIAM L. B. LEESE... ... 1-2 Mrs. J. Thomas 5-6 John Thomas 3-4 Charles W. Roberts ... 7-8 JOHN THOMAS ERIC A. DENCH ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE, THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, October 20, 1944, in I wo Hours and Thirty-One Minutes.

AT 79, WILLOWS LANE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES; *STEWART SMITH... ... I-2 | †CHARLES W. BLAKEY ... 5-6 †RICHARD BLAKEY ... 3-4 | CHARLES SHARPLES ... 7-8

Conducted by C. SHARPLES. Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD.

* First peal. † First peal on handbells.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT AYLESFORD.

The annual meeting of the Maidstone District of the Kent County Association was held at Aylesford on October 14th. Service was con-ducted by the Vicar and 25 members sat down to tea at the Chequers Inn.

Inn.
At the business meeting Mr. C. H. Sone was re-elected honorary district secretary, and Mr. T. Leeson district representative. Dr. Hatchard was elected district representative in place of Mr. W. Grice. It was proposed that district practices should be arranged for the young ringers, and as a central tower was necessary, this led to a lengthy discussion on the condition of the bells of All Sainte', Maidstone. It was suggested that they should be recast into a ring worthy of the fine church and the county town. Eventually it was decided to hold the first practice at Linton on November 11th.

FALSE PEAL.

To the Editor.

-I am sorry to have to inform you that the composition of 5,065 Stedman Caters published under my name in the Midland Counties Association Report (peal No. 3,025) is false, one six occurring twice. I offer my humble apologies to all concerned.

F. W. PERRENS.

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'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The official Journal of the Central Council or Church Bell Ringers.

President of the Council: EDWIN H. LEWIS, M.A. Hon. Secretary of the Council: GEORGE W. FLETCHER. The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Treasurer of 'The Ringing World': A. A. HUGHES, J.P., 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to:-

The Editor,

'The Ringing World,'

c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd., Guildford, Surrey.

'The Ringing World' is sent direct by post from the office for 4s. 3d. per quarter payable in advance, but for the time being, owing to paper shortage, new orders cannot be accepted. We shall be obliged if subscribers will send their payments to Mr. G. W. Fletcher, The White House, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Cheques and remittances should be made payable to 'The Ringing World.'

We have received a report of a peal of Grandsire Doubles rung at Ripple without the date.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE TENOR,

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence regarding the note and weight of the tenor bell at Magdalen College, Oxford, personally, I doubt very much if this bell weighs more than 19 cwt., personally, I doubt very much if this bell at Magdalen College, Oxford, personally, I doubt very much if this bell weighs more than 19 cwt., and quite possibly she weighs less, for her diameter is 47½ inches, and she may prove similar to the tenor at Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, which is the same note and diameter. Kirtlington tenor was popularly supposed to weigh 20 cwt., this fact being recorded on a framed certificate in the tower, prepared by one of the leading bellfounders, but when recently rehung she was found to weigh only 16 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lb. after the removal of her canons.

There are numerous bells sounding the strike note E natural weighing less than 20 cwt. To quote a few local examples: The tenor at Appleton. Berkshire, is 44 inches diameter and weighs 14 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. The tenor at Cookham, in the same county, is 45½ inches diameter and weighs 14 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb., while other Berkshire tenors sounding the strike note E natural are: Faringdon, 17 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb., 46½ inches, and Harwell, 16 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lb., 47 inches.

Is there any record of Magdalen tenor having been weighed? Perhaps Mr. Richard White could tell us if he weighed her when he rehung the Magdalen College bells. The ring is an exceptionally fine one, and Major J. H. R. Freeborn may be interested to learn that of the two unnamed bells he mentioned, the seventh of the ring was cast by William Dawe, circa 1410, and the other, the ninth of the ring, is by Ellis Knight I., of Reading, 1641.

Perwen Launton Oxfordshire

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Oxfordshire.

THE SIXTY COURSES OF STEDMAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The following very simple proof of the non-existence of sixty true courses of Stedman Triples may interest your readers. It was given by W. H. Thompson, and appeared in 'The Bell News,' June 19th, 1909.

From the 360 possible in-course (or even) courses of Stedman Triples we desire to know whether it is possible to select 60 which are mutually true. We divide the 360 into 40 groups of nine courses each

in the following way:—
To construct the group of nine containing 231456, say, we permute
To construct the group of nine containing 231456, say, we permute To construct the group of nine containing 231456, say, we permute evelically the first, second and fourth figures in rotation; and also the remaining third, fifth and sixth figures. Thus the group containing 231456 will be 231456, 341256, 421356; 235461, 345261 495201 235415, 346215, 426315. We have thus got these nine courses by rotating the two sets 234 and 156 independently. Now, any two of these nine courses are mutually false—verify this by experiment. We have, therefore, 40 groups of nine courses each, and at the most only one true course can be culled from each of the 40 groups. Thus the maximum possible number of true courses is 40. Examples of such sets of 40 true courses are given in 'The Bell News' of June 6th, 1908. BRIAN D. PRICE.

Emmanuel College, Cambridge,

PEAL RINGING IN WAR-TIME.

Dear Sir,—I find difficulty in understanding Mr. D. G. Clift's reasoning when he states that the absence of any preparations for victory ringing would have a detrimental effect on peace-time ringing; I also fail to see how a revival of peal ringing can help matters. On the contrary, I believe that it would do great harm to the cause of ringing. When this war started, sir, I quite definitely formed my own opinion that peal ringing was out of place in these times, and not even the admittedly bettering of our national position has seemed to me an excuse for a change of outlook. I feel rather that it is because of our victories that peal ringing for the time being should not be indulged in—here is the reason. All our great military victories have been, and are being, bought at great cost of lives; that means that family circles all over the country are suffering great sorrow and loss. Therefore, as my peal ringing cannot be carried out without other disinterested persons being forced to listen, I would rather give it up until happier times are here. This, sir, is entirely my own reasoning and I assure Mr. Clift that I speak only for myself, as one of the 'no peal ringing' school of opimon.

Finally, to suggest an answer to Mr. Clift's query of what indication there will be of the cessation of hostilities—why worry about it anyway? There were those who said that the ban would be the finish of ringing. November 15th, 1942, successfully exploded that theory, and I would in all sincerity suggest to Mr. Clift that he looks upon El Alamein Day as 'the shape of things to come.'

From my own point of view, the one peal that will be worth starting for will be to celebrate the peace—it may probably go the same way as a few more I started for. There will be plenty of time to start for another.

Llanelly.

Llanelly.

THE LENGTH OF PEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Is it not a step in the wrong direction to suggest lowering the length of a peal? Surely our friend realises we ringers are still absolutely free even in these days to please ourselves. If one thinks it is too long, or the tower objects, he can still ring a quarter, half or three-quarter peal. There is no need to alter the length or the meaning of that hundreds of years word 'peal.'

A five thousand is a real test, both mentally and physically. A ringer will ring a quarter-peal fairly easily, but a full peal will test him; he may think he knows a method, but a peal will teach him more than ever he knew before. It is for us to teach ringers to listen to the music and beat of the bells and then a peal is never too long. It is well known that we English are funny. A church somelong. It is well known that we English are funny. A church sometimes will allow a meeting with the usual three or four hours' ringing and we all know what that is like, but will bar a good three hours' peal ringing. Why?

A. H. PULLING.
Guildford.

Dear Sir,—With regard to the length of peals, I think most ringers will agree with me that the standard length for peals should not be less than 5,000 changes. If 5,000 is too much for Mr. Chaddock or any other ringer, there is every opportunity to ring a touch of shorter length.

JAMFS GEORGE.

Chadwell Heath, Essex.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

At the invitation of the B.B.C., the ringers of Worcester Cathedral recently made a broadcast to Worcester (Massachusetts) in the 'Bridge-Building Series,' which is designed to foster Anglo-American

friendship.

The programme commenced with a sound recording of the bells being rung up in peal, and this was followed by the script, which was interrupted in the middle for a course of Grandsire Triples on the mode of a touch of Grandsire Caters. handbells. A recording was then made of a touch of Grandsire Caters on the tower bells.

on the tower bells.

Among those taking part was Mr. James Hill, the oldest member of the Cathedral band, who has been ringing for 48 years.

The script was written by Mrs. Miranda Dulley, of the B.B.C. and the warden of the Guild (Minor Canon A. C. F. Davies). The ringers were H. Bentley 1, J. Hill 2, G. Lewis 3, D. Morris 4, G. Hinton 5, H. Humphries 6. W. Lewis 7, J. J. Jeffries (Master and conductor) 8, G. Ambler 9, F. Fluck 10. On the handbells: D. Morris, J. J. Jeffries, G. Lewis and G. Ambler.

DEVON GUILD

MEETING AT PAIGNTON.

A meeting of the Mid-Devon Branch of the Devonshire Guild, held at Paignton on September 30th, was attended by ringers from Basingstoke. Exeter, Honiton Clyst, Okehampton, Dawlish, Paignton, Dartmouth, Collaton, Buckfastleigh and Plymouth.

The tea was at the Church Institute, and the business meeting which followed was presided over by the chairman of the branch, the Rev. W. R. D. Mills. It was decided to hold the annual meeting at Newton Abbot with the ringing at Wolborough.

Touches of Grandsire and Stadman Triples and Pale Main.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were

rung on the bells.

HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE.

(Continued from page 437.)

We must admit that the sombre picture drawn by Ellacombe and others of the ringing Exercise a century ago was in the main a correct one. They were competent and truthful witnesses of what they had seen and known, and if they judged the matter from a different standpoint to that of the ringers, their testimony does not lack ample corroboration. Edward John Osborn, who for many years was the secretary of the Society of Cumberland Youths and afterwards a member of the Society of College Youths, wrote as his considered opinion that four-fifths of the ringers were of the very lowest class of men; and those of us whose memories and experience go back more than a half-century remember quite enough to make the black picture credible.

How did such a state of things come about? Surely, we may think, the fault lay not so much with the ringers as with the Church authorities who tolerated and permitted it. Theirs was the real responsibility. It is easy to understand the difficulty any particular parson in the middle of the nineteenth century would have had in making reforms, but reforms would not have been necessary if the earlier clergy as a whole had done their duty. And if we admit that the control of the bells was mainly in the hands of the lay authorities of the church, the fact still remains that the parson was usually the most influential man in the parish and could not divest himself of responsibility for the conduct of everyone connected with his church.

All that is true, yet the real truth is that the cause of the trouble lay not so much in any depravity of the ringers or neglect of duty by the Church authorities, as in the conditions which had grown up through the centuries as the result of the general life and opinions of the people, social and religious, acting on the ringing Exercise and its relations to the Church. If we would know why in the middle of the nineteenth century the status of ringers had fallen so very low, we must study the history not only of the Exercise through four centuries, but also the general history of the Church and people of England through the same time. Obviously it is too vast a subject to be dealt with here, yet some of the salient features may be pointed out.

In the first place, Ellacombe and the others were quite wrong when they imagined that the men who first rang church bells in the way we should recognise as ringing looked on the bells as sacred things not to be handed by profane or even lay hands; or that they did the ringing in any different or more religious spirit than has been usual with ringers through the ages. The fifteenth century, in which with some confidence we may place the beginnings of our present-day ringing, was not a religious age, nor were the young athletic Englishmen who did the ringing any more religious than their successors were in the nineteenth century. The Church was powerful, and her service and ritual counted for much in the life of the ordinary people, but the parish church was something more than a place of worship and devotion. It was the centre of the social and civic life of the community, and the spirit which built the splendid Perpendicular churches of the time and hung the bells in the stately steeples was at least as much civic pride as religious devotion. Religion there was, as there always has been even in what

seem the darkest and deadest periods of the Church's history, but religion is not the only influence which controls and influences even the best men's actions and opinions.

If Ellacombe could have visited a belfry in the fifteenth century he would have been very considerably surprised and disappointed with what he saw. Instead of clerks in minor orders, clad in ther proper vestments, ringing the bells from the ground floor in the sight of a devout congregation, he would have found a band of much the same sort of men as the ringers in his own parish, ringing in much the same sort of way, except that the work was more laborious. He would have found that they had plenty of beer to drink in the intervals between their peals,' sent to them by the parish or some benefactor, and brought by boys or women employed for the purpose, and it is likely he would not have approved of the conversation he heard, if he could understand it. If the ringing was for a dirige 'at the cost of the church,' when he went downstairs he would have found the clerks, not at the bell ropes, but among the congregation serving out the drink which was usual after the service. And if he had expressed any surprise that such things should be, he would probably have been asked what was wrong with them?

The fifteenth century was an age when men accepted things as they were without enquiring why they were. Secular things, and social things, and things of religion, and things which were done just because they were traditional and, so far as men knew, had always been done, were mixed up indiscriminately in the life of the people. The laity, or rather that part of the laity which ruled the community, controlled the church and the bells. The clergy were held in no great esteem.

Ringing was as much for secular purposes as for religious purposes, and it was left to the parish clerk to find the ringers. Ringing was a laborious task, and we can easily understand what sort of men were employed. Shakespeare has shown us one of them, Peter Bullcalf, who complained that he caught 'a whoreson cold' ringing for King Henry the Fourth's Coronation, and though no doubt he was drawn from one of the ringers the poet came across in his early days among the Warwickshire villages, he will serve well enough as an example of the men who formed the first ringing Exercise.

Ringers, then, were drawn from the labouring classes in town and village, and from those same classes they were mainly drawn during the succeeding centuries. Their character and conduct were those of the classes to which they belonged, for they were farm labourers or artisans first and only ringers in a casual and secondary sense. But the general character of the Exercise was influenced and altered by the comparatively small number of men from other classes of society who became ringers, and the public opinion of the ringers varied according to the changing standards of the men who judged them.

One important point must be noted. From the very first the ringers never were directly under the control of the clergy or even of the lay church authorities. The parish clerk was held responsible for finding men to ring the bells, and the payments for the ringing was made through him. This was the direct cause of that independent spirit and lack of discipline of which Ellacombe complained.

(To be continued.)

SERVICE TOUCHES.

THURSTANS' QUARTER-PEAL.

Thomas Thurstans' well-known peal of Stedman Triples is made up of four quarter-peals, which are joined together by calling certain bobs, omitting others, and two singles. If these 'extres,' 'omits' and singles are left out, the peal will fall into four equal quarters, and, since one of them begins with the plain course, it can be (and often is) used as a service touch.

1,260. 231456 S H L Q 246351 x 432561 x x 342516 Four times repeated.

The quarter-peal consists of five equal parts all alike and the calling is as follows, the Seventh being the observation:—
First course: In Slow, first Whole Turn, Last Whole Turn, Out

Second course: In Slow, First Whole Turn, First and Last Half Turns, In and Out Quick.

Third course: First and Last Half Turns.

The part ends are cyclical. They are 342516, 453126, 514236, 125346. and 231456. These are the rows at the end of the Sixes, but the real part ends and the real course ends are not at the end of the quick Six. but in the middle when the quick bell is leading its whole pull; and if we write out those rows we shall get the following: 234516, 345126, 451236, 512346, and 123456. These show the cyclical nature of the group, and these are the changes the conductor should look for the group, and these are the changes the conductor should look for. In every part there is one bell which is in sixth place at two course

ends, and in the fifths place at the part end. This is the part bell. The bells take up this work in the order 12345.

All the bobs except two affect either the sixth (the half hunt) or the part bell. The sixth makes the second bob in the first course, dodges in 6-7 up at the four bob set (S.H.) in the second course, and makes the second bob in the third course. The part bell dodges in

makes the second bob in the third course. The part hell dodges in 6-7 up at the first two bobs in the first course, makes the second of the four bob set, and dodges in 6-7 up at the last two bobs of the second course, and in 6-7 up at the two bobs in the third course. The two bobs in which neither the half hunt nor the part bell is concerned are the second pair (L) in the first course. At those bobs the two dodging bells are the next two to the part bell in cyclical order. When the treble is the part bell they are 2 and 3. When the second is the part bell they are 3 and 4 and so on—and they come away from the back in reverse order, the third before the second the fourth before the third and so on.

come away from the back in reverse order, the third before the second, the fourth before the third, and so on.

This quarter-peal is not only in itself a very handy service touch, but it gives the conductor who observes these points an excellent opportunity of thoroughly learning the peal as a whole: for the same things apply to the other three quarter-peals, only they must be adjusted to the different part ends.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT MACCLESFIELD.

A joint meeting of the Stockport and Macclesfield Branches of the Chester Diocesan Guild, held at Macclesfield on October 21st, was attended by 80 ringers from Hyde, Ashton, Stockport, Cheadle (Cheshire), Cheadle (Staffs), Disley, Stoke, Newcastle, Longton, Leek, Bowden, Grappenlail, Sutton, Alsager and the local companies of St. Michael's and Christ Church.

During the afternoon ringing was at Christ Church, where the service was held. Tea was at Christ Church schools, after which a course of Grandsire Caters was rung by Messrs. D. Vincent, A. Barnes, J. Worth, P. Laflin and A. Thompson. The twelve-bell tower of St. Michael's was open in the evening. The methods rung during the afternoon and evening included Grandsire and Stedman from Triples to Cincus. Beb Major and Maying. Trobb Beb Major and Maying. to Cinques, Bob Major and Maximus, Treble Bob Major and Maximus, and Double Norwich and Cambridge Surprise Major.

JOINT MEETING AT LEYTONSTONE. .

A joint meeting of the Essex and Middlesex County Associations held at St. John's, Leytonstone, on October 21st, was attended by about 40 ringers. Service was conducted by the Vicar and tea was provided by local ladies. The Vicar welcomed the associations, and Messrs. Coles and Chalk replied. It was said that the principle of arranging joint meetings was much appreciated, and the next fixture would be greatly valued. The ringing included rounds, Bob Major, Treble Bob Major and the Surprise Major methods.

THE LIBERATION OF ATHENS

On Thursday, October 19th, a service of thanksgiving for the liberation of Athens was held at St. Paul's Oathedral, in which bishops and clergy of the Church of England and the Greek Orthodox Church took part. Four courses of Stedman Cinques were rung on the bells by the Cathedral band: E. G. Fenn treble, J. F. Smallwood 2, H. Hoskins 3, W. H. Pasmore 4, R. G. Green 5, H. Langdon (conductor) 6, H. Belcher 7, H. Miles 8, R. F. Deal 9, J. Bullock 10, A. B. Peck 11, J. Rumley and T. Langdon tenor.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

GREAT BADDOW.—On September 17th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: George Green (conductor) 1, H. Allen 2, H. Devonish 3, C. J. Runter 4, Dr. Spence Phillips 5, H. Bradley 6, R. C. Thrift 7, H. Shadrack 8.

ST. ALBANS.-On Sunday, Ootober 1st, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grand-ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, October 1st, at St. Peter's, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Miss R. Sergeant 1, S. Jones 2, R. Dobson 3, †T. J. Southam 4, W. J. Southam 5, A. Dale 6, R. W. Darvill (conductor) 7, B. C. Johnson 8. Also 1,287 Stedman Caters: R. W. Darvill 1, A. V. Good 2, C. F. Sayer 3, †W. Hughes 4, W. Arnold 5, G. Blake and F. Spicer 6, H. E. C. Goodenough (conductor) 7, †W. A. Beddard 8, †R. Ewer 9, W. Ayre 10. *First quarter-peal. †First inside in method. CHILCOMPTON, SOMERSET. — On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: George Sugg (first quarter-peal away from the covering bell) 1, Ronald G. Beck 2, David Targett 3, Frederick Targett 4. David MacKay (conductor) 5.

covering bell) 1, Ronald G. Beck 2, David Targett 3, Frederick Targett 4, David MacKay (conductor) 5.

CHISLEDON, WILTS.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: W. A. Farmer 1, C. E. Williams 2, S. C. Archer 3, T. A. Palmer (conductor) 4, B. Thompson 5, A. H. Attwell 6.

APPLETON.—On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: A. G. Holifield (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Calcutt 2, F. Messenger 3, A. H. White 4, A. K. Cornish 5, G. Holifield (conductor) 6, R. White 7, F. White 8

A. G. Holifield (first quarter-peal) 1, C. Calcutt 2, F. Messenger 3, A. H. White 4, A. K. Cornish 5, G. Holifield (conductor) 6, R. White 7, F. White 8.

MANGOTSFIELD. — On Sunday, October 1st, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: *Mrs. Wise 1, Miss N. Gardener 2, C. Harding 3, E. Palmer 4, *W. Richings 5, D. Gardener 6, J. Jefferies (conductor) 7, J. Jefferies, jun, 8. *First quarter-peal.

OXHEY, HERIS.—On October 2nd, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles on handbells: L. Tarr (first quarter-peal on handbeils) 1-2, H. Hodgetts 3-4, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 5-6.—On October 10th, 720 Bob Minor: H. Hodgetts 1, Miss T. Waldron 2, E. Rosson 3, L. Tarr 4, J. Rosson (first 720 Bob Minor as conductor) 5, F. W. Brinklow 6.—On October 17th. 720 Double Court Bob Minor: *Miss T. Waldron 1, H. Hodgetts 2, *Rev. P. T. Hearn 3, *L. Tarr 4, *J. Rosson 5, F. W. Brinklow (conductor) 6. *First 720 Double Court.

LINCOLN.—On October 5th at St. Giles', 1,260 Stedman Triples: *Kenneth Chandler 1. George Flinthem 2, *Jack Hodson 3, Kenneth Mayer, 4, *Sidney Chambers 5, Jack Walden 6, John A. Freeman (conductor) 7, *Jack Chambers 8. *First quarter-peal of Stedman. UPLYMF, DEVON.—On Saturday, October 7th, 720 Bob Minor: *Neil Adams 1, *Miss Joan Burlinson 2, J. E. Philbrick 3, Mrs. C. W. Powell 4, Rev. C. C. Cox (conductor) 5, Preb. E. V. Cox 6. * First 720, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sundey, October 8th, at St. Miohael's Church, 630 Oxford Bob Triples: T. Ward 1, R. Wood 2, F. G. Springham 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, E. Garbett 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, W. Bird 8, PORTSMOUTH.—On Sunday, October 8th, at the Cathedral, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. D. Harris 1, T. Page 2, J. H. Hunt 3, T. R. Thorp 4, P. Page 5, H. Nobes 6, W. Tate 7, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 8, E. Alreford.

(conductor) 8.

FAIRFORD, GLOS.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss F. M. Hope 1, B. Guy 2, W. Godwin 3, A. Law 4, H. Acock 5, E. Cooper 6, J. Hope (conductor) 7, A. King 8.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.—On Sunday, October 8th, 1,260 Bob Minor: G. M. Eastman 1, Miss Betty Spice 2, W. A. Wood 3, T. Jull 4, G. Kenward 5, A. S. Boar (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for Mr. F. I. Debbie.

Minor: G. M. Eastman 1, Miss Betty Spice 2, W. A. Wood 3, T. Jull 4, G. Kenward 5, A. S. Boar (conductor) 6. Rung half-muffled for Mr. E. J. Dobbie.

STONEY STANTON.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1.260 Grandsire Triples: W. Briggs 1, T. Cooper 2, E. Chamberlain 3, W. A. Wood 4, Len Hewitt 5, G. Newton (conductor) 6, Len Towers 7, J. Middleton 8. THATCHAM, BERKS.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1.260 Grandsire Triples: T. J. Fisher 1, S. Hector 2, Mrs. C. Pearce 3, C. Pearce 4, T. E. Loxton 5, R. W. Rex 6, H. W. Curtis (conductor) 7, A. Smith 8. DARLINGTON.—On Sunday, October 15th, at Holy Trinity, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. T. Titt 1, W. Oliver 2, R. T. Simpson 3, A. G. Bason 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6: and 720 York Surprise Minor: W. Oliver 1, J. T. Titt 2, R. Busby 3, G. W. Park 4, W. N. Park 5, R. Park (conductor) 6. BOURNE, LINCS.—On Sunday, October 15th, 720 Bob Minor: *H. Daff 1, J. W. Lake (conductor) 2, F. W. French 3, Rev. D. N. Tindall 4, *Peter Romaine 5, S. Smith 6. * First 720.

FINCHLEY, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, October 15th, 1.260 Bob Minor: F. Cherrett 1, A. Warren 2, B. Tubb 3, P. Blake 4, E. Prachett 5, F. Barker (conductor) 6.

IDLE.—On Sunday, October 15th, 720 Bob Minor: Miss E. Briggs 1, F. Kilshaw 2, H. Davison 3, F. Wilkinson (first 720) 4, F. Davison 5, T. Hill (conductor) 6.

Hill (conductor) 6.

EAST ILSLEY. BERKS.—On Sunday. October 15th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: C. J. Hibbert (conductor) 1, W. Hibbert 2, R. W. Warwick 3. Mrs. A. Williams 4, E. T. Smeller 5, M. Rosier 6, A. T. Jones 7,

F. Carter 8.

RRISTOL. — On Wednesday, October 18th, at St. John's, 1,260
Grandsire Doubles: *J. Stallard 1. Miss A. M. Bennett 2. *A. V.
Bennett 3. Mrs. D. M. Bennett 4, S. Woodburn (conductor) 5, W. R.
Rawlings 6. *First quarter-peal.

PELSALL, STAFFS.—On October 18th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles:
W. C. Stackhouse 1, H. Claridge 2, J. Gregory (conductor) 3, J. S.
Eastwood 4, G. Cooner 5, F. Rowley 6.

EDENHAM, LINCS.—On Thursday, October 19th, 720 Bob Minor:
C. Whyles (first 720) 1, D. Stainsby 2, A. J. Holmes (conductor) 3,
Miss E. Stainsby 4, Miss M. Gann 5, R. Stainsby 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR ONE INSERTION of a notice of a meeting is 2s. Other insertions are at the rate of 1s. each. Altered notices count as new notices.

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NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice meeting at Crawley, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m.-O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Eastern Branch.-Meeting at Freiston (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea to follow. — W. E. Clarke, Hon. Sec., 99, Norfolk Street, Boston.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—Meeting at Burnham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.-A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough, Bucks.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. —Cary Branch.—Meeting at Henstridge (6 bells), Saturday, Oct. 28th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea to follow. Templecombe bells also. — H. C. Lintern, Alhampton, Ditcheat.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD. - Grimsby and Gainsborough Districts.-Meeting at Scunthorpe, Saturday, Oct. 28th. Bells (8) 2.15. Service 4.15. Tea, 5 p.m., in the Old Library.—H. I. Mingay and L. Lunn, Hon. Secs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. - Rochester District.-Meeting at Rainham, Saturday, Oct. 28th, 2.45 p.m. Service 4 p.m.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS .-Meeting Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m., Whitechapel Bell Foundry, E.1. Ringing St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30. 307th anniversary luncheon, November 11th, Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, E.C., 1.30 p.m. Tickets 6s. 6d. each. Accommodation limited to 110.-A B. Peck.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.— Meeting at Sawley on Saturday, Nov. 4th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea in School 5 p.m. (1s. 3d. per head), followed by business meeting. for tea must reach Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Eaton, Notts, by Monday, Oct. 30th. - T. Groombridge, jun., Dis. Sec.
KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District.

-Meeting at Willesborough, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. Ruck, 3, Hunter Road, Willesborough, Ashford, by Nov. 1st.—P. Page, Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Scottow (6 bells), Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.30. Buses leave Norwich Bus Station 2 p.m., leave Scottow 5.3 and 7.28. Names for tea to Rev. A. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. -Frome Branch.-Meeting at Doulting, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to E. H. Nash, Hon. Sec., The Talbot, Mells.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. -Meeting at Longton (not Hanley) on Saturday, Nov. 4th. Annual committee meeting at 4 p.m. Restaurant nearby for tea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Fylde Branch.— Meeting at Holy Trinity, Blackpool, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 3 p.m. Cups of tea provided; bring food.—J. H. Foster, Hon. Sec.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.— Meet-

ing at Dronfield, Saturday, Nov. 4th. Bells (6) 2.30. Names for tea to Mr. T. Barker, 20, Upper School Lane, Dronfield, near Sheffield, by Nov. 3rd.-G. G. Graham, Hon. Sec., 5, Pipworth Lane, Eckington.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. -Meeting at St. Michael's, Blackburn, Saturday, Nov. 4th, 2.30 p.m. Business 6 p.m.—Charles W. Blakey,

Branch Sec.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Basingstoke District.—Meeting at Deane and Church Oakley, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service in Deane Church 4 p.m. Tea and business 5 p.m. at the Deane Gate. Names to Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Deane Rectory, by Nov. 7th .- J. G. Stilwell, Hon. Sec.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION. — Hchester Deanery Branch.-Meeting at Langport, Saturday, Nov. 11th. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Notify

early for tea.—F. Farrant, Martock, Somerset.

PRACTICE NIGHT at All Saints', Kingston-on-Thames, is changed from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.—F. E. Hawthorne.

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KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CANTERBURY.

About forty ringers from fifteen towers were present on October 21st at a meeting of the Canterbury District of the Kent County Association, held at St. Stephen's Church. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. R. Brown, and three new members were elected.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT BOURNE.

About fifty ringers were present at a meeting of the Southern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild held at Bourne on October 14th, the following towers being represented: Surfleet, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Deeping St. Nicholas, Deeping St. James, Market Deeping, West Deeping, Peterborough, Stamford (All Saints'), Langtoft, Thurlby, Edenham, Folkingham, Billingborough and Morton.

At the service in church the Rev. D. N. Tindall, curate, gave the address. At the business meeting six members were elected, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Edenham in January.

The methods rung ranged from Bob Minor to London Surprise and included York, Norfolk, Ipswich, Cambridge, Primrose, Norfolk and Ipswich (spliced), Cambridge and Primrose (spliced), Double and Single Court, Kent, Oxford and St. Clement's.

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