THE RINGING WORLD

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GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.

St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
4th March, 1912

MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON,

Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and gives general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor

MODERN WORK.

KEEPING THE FLAG FLYING.

The growing list of ringers who have fallen in their country's service, brings home to the Exercise the large number of vacant places in the belfries which will not be filled "when the boys come home." Ringers answered the call to the colours in no uncertain way, and the sacrifices they have made, while causing the deepest regret among their colleagues, will in the future be looked upon with pride. The memory of those who have given their lives on the field of honour will ever remain as a noble example. Every sphere of life is touched by the loss of gallant soldiers—the flower of our manhood, and the ringing fraternity has had to bear its share no less than the rest. Some day, perhaps, the various societies throughout the country will consider how best they may preserve the names of those of their members who have made the supreme sacrifice, for the bond of brotherhood between ringers is so strong that the erection of a tangible memorial to those who have given their lives seems the least that can be done. The Kent Association has already got a committee considering a scheme, and other organisations might well think the matter over.

In the meantime we must prepare for the time when those who have gone out from the belfries to fight under the banner of freedom and justice will return again. Their absence, as has so often been pointed out, has left the towers at home with sadly thinned ranks, but in every place there ought to be no stone left unturned to keep the flag flying, and at least to have sufficient ringers to "carry on" till peace enables those who are spared on the battle-fields to come home again. With the war dragging out a weary length, now into the fourth year, there is a tendency in some places to allow things to drift, and to let the bells hang silent until more happy days. The long struggle, the intense stress of the times, and the overburdening sense of the tragedy of the war, are quite sufficient in themselves to induce many to put aside every other consideration, and yet it should be realised that even in regard to ringing there are duties to be performed. In every direction men are called upon to multiply their activities, and for the sake of the art we cherish, no less than for the duty which we owe to the Church, there should be no slackness. In many places splendid examples are to be found of unsparing efforts to maintain ringing companies, often by instructing youths or ladies, and it is a pity that there should be so many other instances in which, because "it is war time," the spirit of enthusiasm for ringing has flagged, and there is danger of the art in those particular spots dropping into permanent decay. The Associations might well spend a little effort in trying to scotch the backward drift wherever it appears, and by a little encouragement and help rouse the sluggards to action.

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SEND FOR CATALOGUE

OPINION OF OUR MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,
CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

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

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EIGHT BELL PEAL.

BARWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 1st, 1917, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

ARTHUR R. ALDHAM	...*Treble*	*ABRAHAM WILKEISON	... 5
HUGH J. BALCOMBE	 2	FRED H. DEXTER	 6
THOMAS W. CHAPMAN	... 3	WILLIAM COX	 7
HARRY ARGYLE	 4	CHARLES H. BRIGGS	...*Tenor*

Conducted by H. F. DEXTER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled in memory of Corpl. T. W. Belton, one of the local band, who was killed in France during the week.

* First peal of Stedman. This peal was an arrangement of Brook's Variation. Messrs. Wilkeison and Cox were elected members of the Association.

FALLEN ON THE FIELD.

The Leicestershire tower of Barwell has lost one of its members, by the death of Corpl. T. W. Belton, Shropshire Light Infantry, who fell in action in France about a fortnight ago. On Saturday a peal of Stedman Triples (recorded in our columns) was rung to his memory, and last Sunday his colleagues rang a half-muffled quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples for evening service: W. Powers 1, W. White 2, N. L. Walker 3, W. A. Needham 4, C. H. Briggs 5, A. R. Aldham 6, H. Briggs (conductor) 7, J. Needham 8.

It was reported at the Yorktown District meeting of the Winchester Guild, on Saturday, that the former district secretary, Mr. George Edser, had been seen to fall wounded in France. The news had come from a comrade, but no official information had, up to that time, been received from the army authorities. All ringers, and especially his many friends in the Winchester Guild and in London, will hope that his injuries may be only of a slight nature.

A DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

At Boreham, Essex, on Monday, August 20th, to celebrate the birthday of Messrs. A. Edwards and W. Lincoln, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), composed by Ackland J. Perkins: A. Edwards 1, H. W. Kirton (A.O.C.) 2, Lance-Corpl. H. Roe 3, P. Timson 4, W. Lincoln 5, J. Roote 6, Ben Thorpe 7, Joseph Sykes (conductor) 8. Other touches were also rung, and a very pleasant hour was spent with the handbells afterwards.

5008 DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

By H. PRICE, FISHERTON, NOTTS.

23456	1	4	5	6	35264	1	4	5	6
32654		—		—	34256		—	—	
56234	—			—	52436	—			—
62534				—	24536				—
26435		—		—	35426	—			—
64235				—	54326				—
42635				—	42356	—			
36245	—			—	25346	—			
62345				—	43526	—			—
23645				—	32546	—			
46325	—			—	45236	—			—
63423				—	53246	—			
24365	—			—	32456	—			S
43265				—	Repeat the last twelve courses, calling a bob at 6 instead of bobs at 4, 5.				
34562		—		—					
45362				—					
54263		—		—					
42563				—					
25463				—					
52364		—		—					
23564				—					
35264				—					

STAINES.—At St. Peter's Church, on July 15th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: A. G. Butler 1, T. S. Smith 2, H. C. Parker 3, W. H. Fussell 4, G. T. Leader 5, W. Henley (conductor) 6, E. T. Hooper 7, —— 8.

BLACKPOOL.—At St. John's Parish Church, on July 15th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). It was also rung as a birthday compliment to Pte. J. H. Cropley, R.A.M.C., Windsor: E. Howarth 1, J. Eckley 2, F. Greenwood 3, J. Smith 4, W. Wild 5, Pte. Sanders 6, T. Crookall (conductor) 7, Pte. J. H. Cropley 8. The local ringers wish to thank all soldier ringers who have so kindly assisted them during the last two years. Any others billeted in or around Blackpool will be most welcome at the tower.

BOBS AND "STEDS."

To the Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the peals of Wanstead and Deddington Stedman Major, which you were good enough to publish in the "Ringing World" for December 8th, 1916, and April 13th of the present year, it has occurred to me that some further notes on the distinction between bobs and "steds" may be interesting to your readers, and if you think the following worth publishing I shall be glad if you can find space for them.

Hunting is the only progressive movement possible in ringing, and to reverse the direction in which a bell is hunting it must lie a whole pull. When a bell runs through, which is the natural thing for bells to do, a whole pull in front or behind sends it back again, and when there are four or more bells it is possible, subject to rules which have given rise to interminable disputes, for a whole pull to be removed from either end to some intermediate place. Whenever a whole pull is thus removed a bob is made, and the bell caused to lie still is sent back before its time.

Now, in those forms of Stedman in which bells hunt in sets of three, the bells must run through, and bobs are impossible. But something else is possible which in other methods is impossible. Whole pulls may be removed from back to front and vice versa. Whenever a whole pull is thus removed, the order in which the bells follow one another about in hunting is reversed, and for want of a better word, "sted" is somewhat inappropriately used to denote the reversal. The word, however, is easily articulated, and it meets the case at least as well as "bob" meets its case; for the most noticeable thing by a long way about reversing the hunting order is the effect it has of causing the bells to hunt quick instead of slow, or slow instead of quick, as the case may be. If one order were not as direct as the other, "sted" might be used with perfect propriety to signify direct instead of retrograde and vice versa. In the matter of direction, one direction is "up" just as much as the other, but up and down have acquired distinctive meanings, and if direct and retrograde could be made to do for order what up and down do for direction, they would be useful additions to the terminology of ringing. Of course, there are only two possible directions and only two possible orders. It is unnecessary to say that "steds" recurring regularly, like bobs, do not require calling, and that, unlike bobs, "steds" do not cause dodging. But it is not so well known; indeed, I believe that it was entirely unknown until Walthamstow Stedman was published, except, perhaps, to Shipway, who knew a great deal more than he was willing to communicate, that "steds" can reverse the hunting order of all numbers of bells, both odd and even, from three upwards, whereas bobs can only operate on odd numbers, viz., the bob bell and the pair or pairs of bells in front or behind, according to the end from which the bob is made. This does not profess to be a treatise on the subject, and "bobs" and "steds," though essentially different, both resemble and differ from one another in their effects and consequences in ways not herein mentioned, each having its own proper uses and its own limitations. A few examples, however, will be given.

The plain courses of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles are produced by bobs and "steds" respectively, Shipway's Principle is produced partly by bobs and partly by "steds," and in Walthamstow Stedman the true way is shown of producing a plain course of Stedman with an even number of hunting bells in one set. The plain courses of Wanstead and Deddington Stedman are produced by "steds," but, unlike any other known form of Stedman, peals are also produced by "steds"; and when "steds" are used for other than constructional, i.e., method-building purposes, they necessarily require calling, hence the need for a new vocal call. The plain course of Erin is produced simply by hunting and dodging bells changing places on the completion of the hunting cycle—an integral part of every form of Stedman—without either bobs or "steds." In other words, Erin is the ordinary Cambridge Stedman without "steds," or, in other words still, and to go down to the root of the thing, it is Original on three bells with two or more pairs of dodging bells. Similarly, Leytonstone Stedman is Original on five bells.—Yours truly,

GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

HERTS ASSOCIATION AT ALDENHAM.

A meeting of the Western District of the Hertford County Association was held at Aldenham Church, on Saturday last, members attending from St. Albans, Aldenham, Watford, Willesden, Luton, Kingston-on-Thames, and Bushey. Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Double Norwich Major were rung during the afternoon and evening. Twenty-one members sat down to tea, at which Mr. G. W. Cartmel, hon. general secretary of the Association, presided, supported by Mr. Kilby, of Willesden, and Mr. King, of Luton.

At the business meeting, King's Langley was selected for the next meeting, early in October.—Four new ringing members were elected, viz., two from Aldenham, and two from Watford.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of Aldenham for the use of the bells, and to the Aldenham ringers for their kindness in having everything ready, and in meeting the visitors.—A vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. Cartmel for presiding.

Handbells were then brought into use, and a touch of Stedman Triples was rung, bringing an excellent meeting to a close.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

LADIES FILLING GAPS IN YORKTOWN DISTRICT.

On Saturday last, the quarterly meeting of the Yorktown branch of the Guild was held at the pretty old-world village of Yateley (Hants), where there is an historic church, containing a ring of eight bells. A railway station being conspicuous by its absence, the majority of the members arrived on the "iron horse," the exception being the Bagshot contingent, who travelled in royal state by motor, picking up on the way the one hero from Hersham, who was footing it from the "nearest" railway station. The bells were kept going until 5 p.m., when service was held, the new Vicar (the Rev. A. J. Howell) giving an interesting address on ringing and ringers, in the course of which he asked all to remember the ringers who had paid the supreme sacrifice, and those who were still on active service, and, in thinking of them, to realise our duty at home.

An excellent tea was provided at the Dog and Partridge Hotel by the kind hospitality of Miss B. Stilwell (daughter of the President of the Guild), who is a capable and enthusiastic ringer. The Rev. A. J. Howell presided at the business meeting which followed, and was supported by Miss Stilwell, Mr. G. Williams (general secretary of the Guild), Mr. T. W. Fairey, Lance-Corpl. G. Miles (branch secretary), and F. J. Shepherd (branch secretary pro tem.). The last named expressed his appreciation of the support given to the meeting by the members, and of the kind hospitality of Miss Stilwell. He especially welcomed Lance-Corpl. Miles and Mr. G. Williams among them. Ringing in the district had, he stated, been kept going with difficulty, owing to the shortage of ringers and long hours which those remaining behind had to work, but Sunday ringing had, on the whole, been well maintained, except at Oatlands, where only four men remained out of the original band recently taught. However, good progress was being made at that tower with a new band of lady ringers, who had all joined the Guild, whilst at Yorktown, Hersham, etc., ladies were also filling up the gaps with success. He urged all towers to maintain their ringing strength by teaching ladies or young lads under military age, otherwise ringing would get a serious set back, and those ringers who came back after the war would look in vain for an answer to their question as to what had been done to keep the ringing flag flying in their absence. He emphasised the importance of these meetings in bringing ringers together, and of keeping the Guild in touch with the Church and clergy.

The Rev. A. J. Howell was elected an honorary member of the Guild, and in expressing his appreciation of having been voted to the chair, stated how pleased he was to hear the bells, and to make his acquaintance with the Guild.

Feeling reference was made to a report that Mr. G. B. Edser (formerly branch secretary) had been seen to fall wounded in France by a comrade, and that no official information had been received as to his safety up to the present. Hope was expressed that better news would shortly be forthcoming.

Mr. G. Williams moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for the service, to Miss Stilwell for providing the tea, and to the organist for his services. He also asked Miss Stilwell to convey the best wishes of the meeting to her esteemed father (President of the Guild), who was unable to be present owing to ill-health.

This proposition was seconded by Mr. Fairey, and carried unanimously, and the members then returned to the tower.

The bands represented at the meeting were Bagshot, Hawley, Yorktown, Yateley, Southampton and Hersham, and ringing continued until 8 p.m., at which hour the return trip of the motorists had been timed to commence. The car, however, arrived over half an hour late, and the Hersham representative had the experience of a moonlight motor ride at a speed which, while exciting, fortunately enabled him to catch his last train home from Frimley station.

HOME FROM THE FRONT.

A very welcome surprise was sprung upon the Newport ringers by Mr. Claud Davies, of Caerleon, near Newport, who was on leave from the front. A special afternoon practice was arranged last Saturday, when members of both All Saints' and St. Woolos' Churches met at the latter belfry. Accompanying Mr. Claud Davies was his father Mr. Evan Davies, a pioneer of the Llandaff Association, and to whom the neighbourhood of Newport is indebted for introducing change ringing some 30 years ago. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was started for, by: J. W. Jones 1, E. Davies 2, H. Morgan 3, C. Davies 4, J. Butler 5, N. Phillips 6, F. Atwell 7, F. Stansbury 8. The attempt unfortunately failed, a shift occurring just at the end. The two trebles were then raised, and after a course of Grandsire Caters, the bells were lowered. Mr. Davies left for the front again on Monday last with the best wishes of all.

After 17 months in the trenches, Pte. H. S. Stowe has visited his home at Staveley, and a quarter-peal of Bob Major was arranged for him at the Parish Church on August 11th. This was rung by: Pte. Stowe 1, L. G. Palmer 2, F. E. Parsons 3, H. Mottershall 4, W. Daffin 5, W. T. Palmer 6, S. Smedley, senr., 7, J. R. Brook (conductor) 8. Touches were also arranged for Sunday morning service, Pte. Stowe and A. Craven conducting, and a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung for evening service, conducted by J. R. Brook.

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Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

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

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT VISIT CLIFTON.

On Saturday last members and friends of the Midland Counties Association from the Nottingham District paid a return visit to Clifton, a pretty little hamlet, situated some four miles south-west of Nottingham, but the weather was not all that could be desired from a pedestrian's point of view. Clifton is not well known by the ringing fraternity, but to the inhabitants of Nottingham it is a very popular resort, being strictly rural and quiet. The "hot waters" are partaken of with some relish, and a compulsory ration is not called into account should anyone be blest with a summer thirst. But summer weather was at a discount on Saturday, and dark canopies of cloud, with unwelcome gales and heavy rain, did not tend to make the day a pleasant one. If it were in our province to appoint a controller we might hope for a little more economy in that department, as it is, there is glut and extravagance in the extreme. We endeavoured, however, to keep cheery hearts, and make the best of it in the circumstances.

Clifton is not served with conveyances, and in these days of economies, controls and officials, the wit of the company suggested the carrying of our own provisions, externally, of course. We had motors, but no petrol. He suggested paraffin, but too late to be brought into action. "Had I known," said one who, by the way, lives in the country, "I would have brought a supply if I had to go without light for two nights," but as he had not presumed in the beginning that paraffin was a good substitute, we had no alternative but to walk. Some of us hied to a large building adorned with the legend, "Barrows to let." The owner readily acquiesced in our desire to hire, and by putting down a healthy deposit we were enabled to load up. The crux was still to come, however, when we discussed "who is going to push it?" especially when someone required an occasional lift on the way. But eventually we set out with our load of provender, in appearance suggestive of a window cleaner's outfit, and, like the window cleaner, we possessed lofty ideals.

Except for an occasional bumping of our load over pot holes, and the unavoidable mixing of the jam with the tea, we arrived without any serious mishap.

The Vicar (the Rev. Chetwynd), who is engaged on important munition work, was unable to welcome us in person, but he left his regrets and good wishes to the party. The sentiments were appreciated, and we wended our way to the domain of Clifton Hall, and, within the precincts, the church was the key to the programme for the afternoon. By this time the party had been augmented by the arrival of those fine veterans, both abounding in enthusiasm, the Rev. C. J. Sturton and Mr. W. E. White. A personal triumph was scored by Mr. Joseph Woolley, who "footed" it both ways. He was far from well, and the task of battling with the elements was no sinecure. Another pleasing feature was the appearance of the lady ringers, whose enthusiasm was undaunted, and their charms increased by the fact that, although hearing of some of the male sex who had gone part way, but preferred to return rather than face the "music" of the weather, they pluckily went through to the end of the proceedings.

Much can be said on the subject of six-bell ringing and its methods. It is more to be honoured than deprecated. How many in eight-bell ringing can lay claim to more than an average of three or four methods? On six bells the methods practised are infinitely greater in number, and certainly not less appreciated than those usually associated with octaves. In the writer's opinion, the more intricate methods on six bells are without question stepping-stones to higher methods on eight, but this chance of progression is not brought into use as much as it might be. The opportunities are vast, and some fine talent in six-bell ringing can be pointed to.

I am pleased to place on record, together with the thanks of the visitors to the Vicar for kindly placing the bells at their disposal, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, by: Frank Spencer 1, Joseph Woolley 2, William E. White 3, Rev. C. J. Sturton 4, Thomas Squires 5, Walter C. Hunt (conductor) 6; also 360 Bob Minor: W. E. White 1, Rev. C. J. Sturton 2, J. Woolley 3, T. Squires 4, F. Spencer 5, W. C. Hunt 6; and 120 Grandsire Doubles, with Miss Woolley on the treble. Other items in which the local ringers took part brought the day to a fitting finish: the moon at its best aiding us to our respective destinations.

H.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.

A very successful meeting was held at headquarters on Saturday last, when between 20 and 30 ringers were present from nine towers, viz., Bolsterstone, Chesterfield, Dore, Ecclesfield, Norton, Rotherham, Ranmoor, Sheffield Cathedral, and Worksop. Ringing commenced shortly after 4 p.m., and continued until past seven o'clock, six methods receiving a good share of attention, viz., Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, College Single, Superlative, and Double Norwich Major.

The Vicar (the Rev. J. R. Lee Nicholls), who was present in the tower all the afternoon, and took part in the ringing, presided over the very brief business proceedings, and gave the members a hearty welcome to Ranmoor. He said that what progress he had made was owing to his stepping in and helping to fill a gap in his company, who were sorely hit by loss of numbers owing to sterner business in France and elsewhere.

THE BELLS AND RINGERS OF ROSS.

HEREFORDSHIRE BELFRY 40 YEARS AGO.

Occasionally there creeps into books, such as biographies or novels, a description of a visit to a belfry or some reference to bells. "Recently," writes Mr. G. S. Taylor (hon. secretary of the St. Ignatius' Guild, Sunderland), in reading the Life of Frank Buckland, written by G. C. Bompas, I came across a very interesting account of the visit of that great naturalist to Ross church belfry, and thinking it would be of interest to other readers of your valuable paper, I enclose a copy herewith. The book was published in 1903, but, so far as I am aware, the account has not been reproduced in any ringing paper. The mistake of Grandsire "Triplets" is very funny, and also the "stumping of the lawyers." I presume the muffled ringing only at Christmas should really be the New Year's Eve ringing.

The extract is as follows:—

A long inquiry of nine days, in December, 1874, into the bye-laws for the Wye fishery, was diversified by an examination of the peal of bells in the beautiful Church of Ross.

One evening during the progress of the inquiry, when inspecting the shops, a magnificent peal of bells began to ring. Having but once before seen a Church belfry, when they were ringing a peal, I determined, if possible, to get up into the belfry. With some difficulty, having no light, we found the little door at the base of the tower, and, after shouting awhile, a man came down with a candle in an ancient horn lantern. I then went up and up and up some very narrow and much worn stairs, till I arrived at the belfry. Imagine a largish room, quite square, four bits of candle, burning a dim light from the ends of a very primitive chandelier made up of laths, a creaky floor, a roof of antiquated timbers, an old man and a charity boy on a form in the middle, the solemn tick, tick, tick of the church clock, and eight men, each standing by a rope, and you will have some idea of the scene which presented itself to my view. The chief of the ringers gave me a very kind welcome; and after giving some mysterious orders to the ringers, who went each to his rope, at a given signal off went the merry bells, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, again and again for about five times. The leader then cried loudly "Bob," and the bells instantly altered to (as I understood afterwards), 2, 1, 3, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8; and then to 3, 2, 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and so on, for a considerable time, interspersed with the orders loudly given every now and then "Single," "Bob," till at last the poor bells seemed suddenly to recover their senses, and away they went loudly, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and then "Halt."

This peal ringing was evidently hard work, but the music was beautiful. It was a peal of "Grandsire Triplets," whatever that may mean. Grandsire, I believe, is the name of a man who was a great authority on bell ringing.

An inscription on the wall was pointed out to me with evident pride, which reads as follows: "February 11th, 1851, was rung in this tower a true and complete peal of Grandsire Triplets, containing 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. and 2 mins., being the first true peal ever rung in this country." Then came the names of the ringers.

I was then permitted to ring a bell, and was surprised to find the tremendous velocity and power with which the rope, at a certain stage of the pull, rushes upwards. This is very dangerous to novices, who might get entangled in the rope and smashed by it against the roof above. It requires great knack to pull the rope at a certain instant so as to make the bell speak. How the men manage, under these circumstances to ring a peal, especially with changes, I cannot understand. I was told that the bells were then "raised," that is, they were standing with their mouths uppermost, and, as time was getting on, the ringers must "fall" them, i.e., bring them very gradually back to their original position, with the mouths downwards. This "falling the bells" took some time, during which many musical combinations took place, most enchanting to the ear; they ended, as usual, with a half-faint 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

I spread the news of my discovery of the bell ringers at Ross Church among those present at the inquiry, and the ringers promised to ring us another peal the following evening. We had to wait until the evening church service was over, when a goodly company of strangers visited the belfry. The ringers then took extra pains with their complicated change ringing, which is far beyond my comprehension, and even, I have reason to know, past the understanding of the learned lawyers assembled. They cross-examined the ringers again and again, but could make nothing of it. I never saw lawyers so completely stumped before, and this by eight honest hard-working men, a mason a wheelwright, a tailor, a tallow-chandler, a shoemaker, a ploughman, etc. "Trahit sua quemque voluptas" was here well exemplified. The lawyers know their business, the ringers knew theirs. When the men had rung a beautiful peal, they offered to muffle the bells in our honour. The bells are generally only muffled at Christmas. Muffling the bells, I was told, means tying a bit of leather on to the clappers, so that the sound is subdued. While two men went up to muffle the bells, the ringers sat down in a row on a form, each with a handbell in his hand. By interchanging these bells they rang a very pretty peal and then standing up, played several good tunes on these handbells.

The bells now muffled, the men rang another peal, the effect of which was exceedingly beautiful. I then with my colleague, Mr. Walpole, went right up into the steeple, and stood upon the beam, close over the eight great bells, as they were giving out their iron voices. The noise here was tremendous. By signs alone could we speak, but it was a grand sight to see the bells swinging in great circles, with tremendous power and swiftness, and then to see them instantly stopped in their wild career, and made to speak by the comparatively feeble hand of the man at the rope below. The sight of these eight bells all swinging, apparently madly and without order, and yet giving out a most musical peal, which (when the bells are not muffled) can be heard eight miles off, was grand in the extreme. After looking well at the bells, I sent down word to ask the ringers to "fall" them; and it was very interesting to see how neatly and gently the bells began to lessen their speed, then seem to despair of their work, then labour heavily at it, then begin to slumber, and at last fall into the deep heavy sleep which they have enjoyed more or less for 180 years. Only fancy 180 Christmas Days? Taking a generation at 30 years, these bells must have rung their Christmas peal to no less than six generations of the inhabitants of Ross since the reign of William III., A.D. 1695, when the "Man of Ross," John Kyrle, gave the big bell. It is said that the Man of Ross was present at the casting of the tenor or great bell, and that he took with him an old silver tankard, which, after drinking claret and sherry, he threw in and had cast with the bell.

By a curious coincidence this bell unexpectedly fell off the wheel soon after John Kyrle's funeral.

Frank Buckland was son of the Very Rev. Wm. Buckland, D.D., Dean of Westminster. He was born in 1826, died in 1880, and from 1867 to 1880 was H.M. Inspector of Fisheries.

ACTIVITY AT ACTON.

On a recent Wednesday, at St. Mary's Church, Acton (London), where practices have been most regularly carried on during the war and where ringers are heartily welcomed to try their skill at conducting, it being recognised that a start must be made somewhere, a most enjoyable practice was obtained. Several ladies from different parts were introduced to each other, and rang Grandsire Triples and Doubles together. Miss Davis rang several courses of Bob Major and Stedman Triples, her brother (Mr. A. W. Davis) joining in the touches with her. Kent Treble Major was also practised, and conducting was shared by Messrs. G. Gutteridge, J. W. Fruin, A. W. Davis, Robert Holloway, W. Lawrence, C. Hunt, A. Hubbard. There were present: Miss C. M. Orlebar (King's Cliffe), Miss N. G. Williams (Hillingdon), Miss D. G. Feltham (Hillingdon), Miss Fuller (Fulmer), Miss Stella Davis (Bucklebury, Reading), Messrs. Gutteridge (Fulmer), H. Pates (Streatham), H. W. Smith (Streatham), J. Lee (Streatham), J. Milner (South Harrow), Arthur Hubbard (Fulham), A. Harding, W. Lawrence, C. Edwards (Ealing), H. Stevens, C. Hunt (Hammersmith), and the local ringers. The tower is most accessible, bus 49 or 49a Streatham and Crystal Palace (Thornton Heath on Sundays) pass the church door. The third Sunday afternoon ringing from 2.15 to 3.30 still continues to flourish, and affords ringers an excellent opportunity of combining a ride and a ring after dinner, and staying for evening ringing or going on to an adjoining tower, while every Wednesday there is practice from 7 to 9 p.m.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

A meeting of the Royal Cumberlands was held at Heston, on Saturday week, when about 14 members were present, and touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Double Norwich, and Superlative Surprise Major were rung. Tea was provided at the Rose and Crown, and at the business meeting which followed one new member was elected (Mr. W. Henley, of Farnham Royal).

Mr. J. Hunt proposed, and Mr. B. Foskett seconded, that a letter of congratulation be sent to the Ancient Society of College Youths on their members ringing Carter's odd-bob peal of Stedman Triples on handbells, non-conducted, and this was cordially agreed to.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and a return was then made to the tower, where the bells were kept going till 8 p.m. The meeting proved a very enjoyable one.

A KENTISH AUGMENTATION.

The bells at Brabourne, Kent, are to be augmented from five to six. The present treble is to be recast and a new bell added, the work having been entrusted to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Foundry, who, by the way, have just cast a peal of eight (tenor 12 cwt.), to be hung for chiming only at Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow. These bells are being erected to the memory of Glasgow and Kelvinside Academicals who have fallen in the war.

AN INQUIRY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should be glad if you, or any of your readers, could give me the information as to how many bells there are, and the weights of the tenors, in the following towers in Berkshire: Faringdon, Stanford-in-the-Vale, and Uffington. Thanking you in anticipation, yours sincerely,

Lewisham. E. J. PANNETT.

NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the first Sunday in the month at 6 p.m.; and at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on September 20th, and for general business on the 11th and 25th, at 8 p.m. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham S.W.4.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late St. James' Society). Established 1824.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of St. Ann, Swain's Lane, Highgate, on Saturday, September 8th. Ringing from 4 to 8.30 p.m. Business meeting to follow. All ringers heartily invited.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wentworth (near Rotherham), on Saturday, Sept. 8th. Bells (6) available 3.30 p.m. till dusk. Nearest station, Elsecar and Hoyland (M.R.), for Barnsley district visitors, and Wentworth and Hoyland Common for Sheffield district visitors; also Thorpe bus from Rotherham (1½ miles).—Leonard Brightman, District Secretary *pro tem.*, 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD. — North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Edgware on Saturday, September 15th. Ringing will commence at 3.30 p.m. Tea at 5.30, 6d. to members who advise me by September 10th. Short service at 6.30, followed by the business meeting. All ringers welcome. I should be glad to receive outstanding subscriptions for 1917.—W. H. Oram, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 25, Crown Street, Harrow.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Blackburn on Saturday, Sept. 15th, 1917, instead of Sept. 29th. Particulars by circular.—W. H. Shuker, J. H. Banks, Hon. Secs.

ROMNEY MARSH GUILD.—The next meeting will be held at Rolvenden on Sept. 15th. Bells (8) available from 3 o'clock until sunset. All ringers welcome.—H. Balcomb, Hon. Sec., The Priory, Appledore.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Rochester on Saturday, Sept. 15th. Cathedral bells available from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tea at Tea Table Café, High St., after ringing ceases; 6d. per member will be charged. All those wishing to take tea kindly let me know not later than Wednesday, September 12th.—Edward A. G. Allen, 77, Bill Street Road, Frindsbury.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION. — The next quarterly meeting will be held at East Markham (Tuxford, G.N.R. Station) on Saturday, Sept. 15th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk. Tea at 6 p.m., provided for those—members at 9d. per head, non-members 1/6 per head—who notify T. Stacey, East Markham, Newark, not later than Tuesday, Sept. 11th.—H. Haigh, S. C. Walker, Joint Secretaries.

HILLINGDO . — Practice at St. John's Church, Hillingdon, has unavoidably had to be postponed until Saturday, September 15th, at 6 p.m., when the help of any ringing friends will be most welcome.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION. — Thrapston District.—The next meeting will be held at Tichmarsh on Saturday, Sept. 15th. Bells (8) available at 3 o'clock. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—F. Stubbs, Dist. Sec., Bridge Street, Raunds.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Otley on Saturday, Sept. 22nd. Bells (8) available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk. Business meeting in the Church Institute at 6.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Dist. Sec.

"BELL NEWS" WANTED.—Wanted to complete series for the Hattersley Library, Vols. 16 to 25 inclusive, bound or unbound. Price and particulars to Sam Thomas, 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

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MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LATE MR. SAMUEL SPITTLE.

Subscriptions to the above should be forwarded at once to the Ringing Master, Mr. Harry Mason, Stourdell, Old Hill, or to the Hon. Sec., Herbert Sheppard, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ABERAVON.—Llandaff Diocesan Association.—At St. Mary's Church on July 15th, for evening service, on the occasion of a visit by Bishop Crossley, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: E. Stitch 1, A. Perry 2, W. Nurton 3, F. B. Stedman 4, A. C. Field, of Newcastle, 5, H. Perry 6, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 7, J. Wethersby 8. This composition consists of one part of a peal in four equal parts, containing 186 bobs and 14 singles, composed by the conductor.

ACTON.—On Sunday, July 15th, for the evening service, 480 Grandsire Doubles, each six-score called differently: A. Smith 1, Miss C. M. Orlebar (King's Cliffe) 2, Miss Edith Jones 3, J. Fruin 4, W. Lawrence 5, C. Brown 6. C. Brown is quite a youthful ringer, who, with practice, will make good progress. — On Wednesday, July 18th, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. W. Davis 1, C. Edwards 2, A. Hubbard 3, Miss Edith Jones 4, J. H. Fruin 5, H. W. Lidbetter (Isleworth) 6, W. Lawrence (conductor) 7, C. Brown 8. First 500 by the youthful tenor man.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—At St. Mary's Church, for morning service, on Sunday, July 15th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: A. J. Plowman, E. J. Pannett (Lewisham), A. Arnold, A. Bundle, J. Trappitt, A. J. Trappitt (conductor), C. Gordon, A. S. Godin.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.—On Sunday, July 15th, on the occasion of Children's Day, the special preacher being the Ven. Archdeacon Conybeare, 308 Grandsire Triples: Miss Eva Wornham 1, F. Jacobs 2, D. Farthing 3, W. Nuttall 4, G. Hollis 5, G. Thompson 6, W. J. Thyng 7, A. Knights 8. Also 294 in the same method: Archdeacon Conybeare 1, F. Jacobs 2, D. Farthing 3, W. Nuttall 4, G. Hollis 5, G. Thompson 6, W. J. Thyng 7, A. Knights 8. Conducted by W. J. Thyng. Credit is due to Miss E. Wornham, the only lady ringer in the Chesterfield band, who is most enthusiastic and making splendid progress in the art.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS. — Lancashire Association. — At the Parish Church, on July 17th, 720 Bob Minor: J. Huddleston 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss Suart 4, T. Suart 5, J. Burrows (conductor) 6. —On July 22nd for evening service, 672 Bob Major: Miss Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. Suart 5, T. H. Jackson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.

GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, July 22nd, for evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: C. Harding 1, T. King (Southwold) 2, H. Hammonds 3, D. Hayward (conductor) 4, J. E. Randell (St. Albans) 5, R. Tooley 6, F. Pestell 7, H. Wright 8.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

LUTON, BEDS.—On July 20th, on the occasion of the marriage of Major Harold Augustus Wernher, second son of the late Sir Julius Wernher, Bart., and of Lady Wernher, of Luton Hoo, and Countess Anastasia (Zia) de Torby, elder daughter of the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch of Russia, and of the Countess de Torby, which took place at the Chapel Royal, St. James' Palace, their Majesties the King and Queen being present, the ringers of the Parish Church, Luton, rang 1386 Grandsire Triples in 50 mins.: J. Shaw 1, A. J. Smith 2, W. Hill 3, B. Jarman 4, B. Wilson 5, T. Kendall 6, A. King 7, H. Shaw 8. —On Sunday evening following, as a welcome to the happy pair, who paid a private visit to the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: J. Shaw 1, A. J. Smith 2, B. Wilson 3, A. King 4, L. A. Goodenough 5, E. J. Turl, of Gospel Oak, 6, J. Rookwood 7, H. Shaw 8. Both touches were conducted by Alfred King.

PORTSEA.—At the Parish Church, on July 22nd, for divine service at which the Bishop of St. Albans officiated, 504 Grandsire Triples: S. Day, S.B.R., St. Thomas', Bristol, 1, M. Ellesmore 2, S. Thomas 3, J. Symonds 4, W. Cox (Yarnton), Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 5, J. Harris 6, E. J. Harding (conductor) 7, J. Green 8. 168 Stedman Triples: J. Symonds 1, M. Ellesmore 2, J. Harris 3, E. Reynolds 4, H. J. Chaffey (Farnham), R.N.A.S., 5, W. Cox (Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry), 6, E. J. Harding (conductor) 7, A. Hardy 8.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKS.—On Sunday, July 22nd, at the Parish Church, on the occasion of the visit of the late Vicar, the Rev. W. P. Wright, 720 Bob Minor, and 720 Kent Treble Bob, by: M. T. Tune, A. Hudson, A. Hatfield, G. C. Terry, T. B. Barker, and the Rev. W. P. Wright, conducted respectively by M. T. Tune, and Rev. W. P. Wright, who gratefully acknowledges the kindness of his former fellow ringers.

SLOUGH.—At St. Mary's Church, on July 22nd, for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples, by: A. Harding (Reading) 1, R. Flaxman 2, T. S. Smith 3, G. T. Leader (first in method) 4, W. H. Fussell 5, E. T. Hooper 6, W. Henley (conductor) 7, A. Perryman 8.—On July 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins.: Miss W. M. Cooper 1, A. Harding 2, G. T. Leader 3, G. H. Gutteridge (conductor) 4, W Henley 5, J. W. Wilkins 6, E. T. Hooper 7, W. Lawrence (St. Stephen's, Ealing) 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Cooper, on her coming of age, seven lady ringers also being present, the Misses Gudgin, Fuller, F. A. Cooper, Mackrill, G. Bateman, M. Bateman, and Field. Touches of Kent Treble Bob Major, Grandsire, Stedman and Oxford Bob Triples followed, in which the following shared: Messrs. A. Leader, G. Bedford, T. Smith, W. H. Fussell, R. Flaxman, and J. Bruce-Williamson. Four lady visitors have now scored a quarter-peal on these bells.

ISLEWORTH.—Middlesex County Association.—On Wednesday, July 25th, for the induction of the Rev. H. M. Repton, D.D., as Vicar of All Saints', by the Lord Bishop of Willesden, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): G. Ranson 1, H. E. Wills (Croydon) 2, T. Beadle 3, E. L. Cole 4, C. Bird 5, H. C. Chandler 6, S. Carter (conductor) 7, A. Sheard 8.

FULMER.—On Sunday morning, July 29th, 360 Grandsire Doubles: Miss F. A. Cooper 1, Miss W. M. Cooper 2, Miss E. Fuller 3, Miss G. E. Bateman 4, G. Gutteridge (conductor) 5, E. Harding 6.

FULHAM, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, July 29th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal (1320 changes): A. Cutmore 1, A. J. Perkins (conductor) 2, W. H. Hollier 3, A. W. Davis 4, H. Miles 5, E. F. Cole 6, H. Langdon 7, A. Darlington 8, J. W. Driver 9, W. E. Garrard 10. Rung in and out of the tittums, the figures being arranged by A. J. Perkins, of Beddington.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on July 29th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: J. Huddleston 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, Miss E. M. Suart 4, T. Suart 5, T. R. Jackson (conductor) 6, J. Burrows (cover) 8. For evening service, 672 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. Suart 5, T. R. Jackson 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8.—On August 12th, for morning service, 720 Bob Major: Miss E. M. Suart 1, Miss Lindsay 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, T. Watson 5, T. R. Jackson 6, T. Suart 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. This is the first 720 of Major for the three ladies, and the first with a bob bell for T. R Jackson. For evening service, 400 Bob Major, standing as before.

CHIGWELL.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, July 29th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob: W. Riches 1, H. A. Marboys 2, H. Torble 3, A. Prior 4, A. J. Neale 5, J. Moule (conductor) 8. Also 240 Kent Treble Bob, with G. F. Margetson on the 2nd. Two 120's of Grandsire Doubles, with A. Noble (Chigwell) 4th. It is over two years since these bells were rung.

TIPTON, STAFFS.—On Sunday, July 29th, after evening service, in 42 mins., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: J. Jaggar 1, Geo. Hughes 2, T. W. Cattell 3, W. Fisher 4, R. Hall 5, A. Rowley (conductor) 6, B. Gough 7, T. Hughes 8. Composed by Mr. J. Carter. Rung, with the bells half-muffled, on the occasion of a memorial service for those fallen in the war.

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