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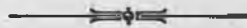
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1935.

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## THE COUNSEL OF REASON.

Our readers will peruse with interest a statement, quoted elsewhere, with regard to church bells made by the general secretary of the Anti-Noise League. Church bells have occupied a good deal of attention in the public press recently, through the activities of those who object to bells, and the League has been urged to include church bells in the list of things which some of its members, as well as a small section of the public, would like to see suppressed. The ranks of the League, however, are divided on the subject, as was revealed in the report of their recent meeting. In an interview, which was given to 'The Daily Telegraph' representative, the secretary of the League pointed out a way of removing the annoyance which those living near a church might experience from the bells. The method advocated is one which is well known to all ringers interested in the subject and is the most efficacious of all—that of lowering the bells in the tower and letting the sound out through the roof, as has been done at Lincoln and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, this way of dealing with the trouble is not always possible—architectural as well as financial difficulties being among the obstacles. There is, however, an effective alternative which is simple and inexpensive, namely, the blocking up of the louvres and other openings in the tower with sound resisting material, and providing an outlet for the sound through the roof. This is a definitely proved method and one which, if the more elaborate changes are impossible, should be employed at all towers where the public have reasonable grounds for complaint. One thing which ringers must not lose sight of is that the public look upon ringing from a totally different angle to the ringers themselves. They do not always understand why bells are being rung for long periods at a time, and where this happens, and, as must be admitted in some cases, the bells are unduly noisy round about the church, they have a genuine grievance. Let us not be blind to this fact.

In populous areas we are already suffering from the restrictions imposed by incumbents, in what they claim to be the interests of the public. If ringers could induce church authorities in these cases to do something to moderate the sound which comes from the belfries, these towers might yet be saved to ringing. Indeed, in thickly populated areas the day may come when the church authorities will have to take such steps, or silence their bells. It is better, as we pointed out only recently, that action should come voluntarily from the church itself, than be thrust upon it from outside. In the meantime, what may be taken, we think, as the official attitude of

(Continued on page 534.)

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Mufflers, Ringing Mats, Matting, Flag Lines, etc., etc.

the Anti-Noise League towards church bells is one to which ringers can take no exception. There are ways and means of removing annoyance to the public without sacrificing the bells, and in their own interests, as well as those of the church, ringers themselves should be advocates of meeting the reasonable objections of the public by the methods which are now available. It is better to realize the position and take action first, thus removing any cause for complaint, than to wait until something happens which forces the issue. In the meantime it is gratifying to know that the Anti-Noise League is prepared to suggest remedies. A reasonable approach to the subject from both sides is much the best way of dealing with the matter, which is coming more and more under public notice.

### EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HACKINGTON, CANTERBURY, KENT.  
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 2, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**  
PITSTOW'S TRANPOSITION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt.

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| LESLIE A. PORRITT ... .. 1  | REGINALD A. BALDOCK ... .. 5  |
| JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... .. 2   | FREDERICK G. BRETT ... .. 6   |
| WILLIAM E. PITTMAN ... .. 3 | HARRY PARKES ... .. 7         |
| H. RICHARD FRENCH ... .. 4  | HORACE WHITEHEAD ... .. Tenor |

E 51882 Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

ASH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 5, 1935, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;**

Tenor 22½ cwt. in E.

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CHARLES H. SONE ... .. 1  | JAMES G. POWELL ... .. 5       |
| PERCY PAGE ... .. 2       | THOMAS E. SONE ... .. 6        |
| HARRY BAKER ... .. 3      | GEORGE KENWARD ... .. 7        |
| WILLIAM GORRINGE ... .. 4 | A. PATRICK CANNON ... .. Tenor |

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by THOMAS E. SONE.

The composition, No. 227, is rung for the first time.

BLAGDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 6, 1935, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

Tenor 19 cwt, 2 qr. 18 lb.

|                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| BRIAN J. E. WHITE ... .. 1 | CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... .. 5 |
| NORAH G. WILLIAMS ... .. 2 | RICHARD F. ROE ... .. 6         |
| EDITH K. FLETCHER ... .. 3 | STEPHEN H. WOOD ... .. 7        |
| ALBERT A. HUGHES ... .. 4  | GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... .. Tenor |

Arranged and Conducted by STEPHEN H. WOOD.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 7, 1935, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**

Tenor 13½ cwt.

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| GEORGE OLLIVER ... .. 1   | Cecil NICE ... .. 5          |
| KEITH HART ... .. 2       | KENNETH SNELLING ... .. 6    |
| CHARLES W. CLARK ... .. 3 | NELSON ELLIOTT ... .. 7      |
| ALBERT DISERRENS ... .. 4 | OLIVER SIPPETTS ... .. Tenor |

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

## BELL ROPES

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**DAVID MAXON, ROPE WORKS, GRANTHAM**

CLEVEDON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 8, 1935, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6184 CHANGES;  
Tenor 14 cwt.

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY <i>Treble</i> | *RICHARD F. ROE ... .. 5          |
| NORAH G. WILLIAMS ... .. 2           | JOHN H. B. HESSE ... .. 6         |
| BRIAN J. E. WHITE ... .. 3           | GEORGE W. FLETCHER ... .. 7       |
| EDITH K. FLETCHER ... .. 4           | JOSEPH T. DYKE... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Compsed by J. B. WOOLLEY. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.  
\* First peal in the method.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.  
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Sunday, August 11, 1935, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;  
Tenor 16 cwt.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| WILLIAM J. BUTTON ... .. <i>Treble</i> | GEORGE WHITING ... .. 5                 |
| GEORGE PRYKE ... .. 2                  | JAMES BENNETT ... .. 6                  |
| LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... .. 3            | T. WILLIAM LAST ... .. 7                |
| GEORGE BENNETT ... .. 4                | JAMES BENNETT, JUN. ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by L. C. WIGHTMAN.  
L. C. Wightman has now called a peal from each bell in this tower.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, August 14, 1935, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,  
At Christ Church,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;  
Tenor 17½ cwt.

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... .. <i>Treble</i> | EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 5          |
| JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... .. 2              | JAMES BENNETT ... .. 6             |
| EDWIN BARNETT ... .. 3                 | PERCY J. SPICE ... .. 7            |
| ALFRED G. HILL... .. 4                 | ALFRED J. HOUSE... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 421). Conducted by J. BENNETT.  
This composition is now rung for the first time.

NORBURY (HAZEL GROVE), CHESHIRE.  
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF CARISBROOKE DELIGHT MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;  
Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb.

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| KENNETH LEWIS ... .. <i>Treble</i> | JAMES A. MILNER ... .. 5      |
| JAMES FERNLEY ... .. 2             | WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 6      |
| WILFRED STEVENSON... .. 3          | WILLIAM FERNLEY ... .. 7      |
| LIONEL CLOUGH ... .. 4             | JOHN WORTH... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by G. BAKER. Conducted by JOHN WORTH.  
The 100th peal to be rung at this church. This method is now rung for the first time.

BISHOP'S CANNINGS, WILTS.  
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;  
MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 16½ cwt.

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| RICHARD T. HIBBERT ... .. <i>Treble</i> | ERNEST J. TAYLOR ... .. 5          |
| *PATRICIA HOLLOWAY... .. 2              | REGINALD W. REX ... .. 6           |
| NORAH G. WILLIAMS... .. 3               | RONALD G. BECK ... .. 7            |
| CHARLES J. GARDINER ... .. 4            | JOSEPH T. DYKE ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by J. T. DYKE.

\* First peal in the method.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Three Hours,  
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;  
Tenor 15 cwt.

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| HERBERT E. AUDSLEY... .. <i>Treble</i> | ALFRED G. HILL ... .. 5          |
| JOHN H. CHEESMAN ... .. 2              | JAMES E. BAILEY... .. 6          |
| EDWIN A. BARNETT ... .. 3              | FREDERICK J. CULLUM ... .. 7     |
| JOHN WHEADON ... .. 4                  | HARRY HOVERD ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by FRED J. CULLUM.

WEST MEON, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,  
At the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;  
Tenor 12½ cwt.

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| MISS JOAN PEARCE ... .. <i>Treble</i> | TOWER R. TAYLOR ... .. 5                |
| WILLIAM LINTER, JUN. ... .. 2         | FREDERICK S. BAYLEY ... .. 6            |
| CHARLES E. BASSETT ... .. 3           | FREDERICK W. ROGERS ... .. 7            |
| A. F. MARTIN STEWART ... .. 4         | ALFRED T. GREENWOOD ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by G. H. CROSS. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,  
At the Church of SS. Peter and Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;  
Tenor 24 cwt.

|                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ARTHUR SYMONDS ... .. <i>Treble</i> | MADRICE T. SYMONDS... .. 5            |
| FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... .. 2       | HAROLD E. SYMONDS ... .. 6            |
| ALBERT E. SYMONDS ... .. 3          | DENNIS A. S. SYMONDS ... .. 7         |
| STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... .. 4         | GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by GEORGE E. SYMONDS  
Arthur Symonds is father of F. G. and Stedman H., and grand-  
father of M. T. and D. A. S., who are sons of Stedman. Harold E.  
is son of the conductor. Albert E. hails from Hitchin, although a  
native of Suffolk. It was the 300th peal by the conductor.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, August 11, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 20 120's, five 240's of Pitman's and six of Morris'. Tenor 12½ cwt.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| CLIFFORD J. WATKINS ... .. <i>Treble</i> | JAMES P. HYETT ... .. 4                  |
| *THOMAS BEAVER ... .. 2                  | ALBERT E. JONES... .. 5                  |
| WILLIAM BEAVER ... .. 3                  | FREDERICK J. WATKINS ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

\* First peal 'inside.' 25th peal of Doubles in the tower.

LAMBERHURST, KENT.

On Wednesday, August 14, 1935, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

|  |   |
|--|---|
| ERNEST E. WOODAGE ... .. <i>Treble</i> | JAMES BASSETT ... .. 4                  |
| HERBERT MARKWELL ... .. 2              | ALBERT RELFE ... .. 5                   |
| WALTER MARSHALL ... .. 3               | JAMES WAGHORN, JUN. ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by ALBERT RELFE.

This peal was rung to welcome home Mr. and Mrs. Morland from  
their honeymoon.

OAKLEY, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,  
At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being six six-scores of St. Simon's and 12 six-scores each of Grandsire,  
Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| HERBERT L. HARLOW... .. <i>Treble</i> | FRANK C. TYSOE ... .. 3  |
| DONALD COCKINGS ... .. 2              | HENRY W. GAYTON ... .. 4 |
| HENRY STAPLETON ... .. <i>Tenor</i>   |                          |

Conducted by HENRY W. GAYTON.

ASH PRIORS, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(TAUNTON DEANERY BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 17, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,  
At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 10½ cwt. (approx.).

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| *CLIFFORD THOMAS ... .. <i>Treble</i> | ALFRED J. WYATT ... .. 4             |
| EDWIN BRANCHFLOWER ... .. 2           | S. PERCY MERSON ... .. 5             |
| Stoker F. BRANCHFLOWER 3              | WILLIAM H. LLOYD ... .. <i>Tenor</i> |

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

\* First peal and birthday peal. Arranged for Frank Branchflower,  
who is home on leave prior to proceeding on foreign service.

**HANDBELL PEAL.**

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.  
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, August 16, 1935, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes.

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 13 in E.

\*VERNON TAYLOR... .. 1-2 | †JOHN J. L. GILBERT ... .. 5-6  
ROBERT RICHARDSON... .. 3-4 | \*HARVEY E. BURRELL ... .. 7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by ROBERT RICHARDSON.

\* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand' with an 'inside' pair.

**NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK TOUR.**

This tour, which concluded on Saturday last, resulted in 12 peals being scored out of 14 attempts. They consisted of two peals of Double Norwich at Wymondham and Clare, two peals of Cambridge Surprise Major at Swaffham and Debenham, three of Superlative at Diss, Leiston and Wilby, Norfolk Surprise at North Lopham, Yorkshire Surprise at Lavenham, London Surprise at Mildenhall, Cambridge Surprise Royal at Great Yarmouth, and Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich.

A peal of Cambridge was lost at Redenhall and a peal of Yorkshire at Fulham Market.

**HERTFORD AND MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATIONS.**

ENJOYABLE JOINT MEETING AT NORTHAW.

The borderline tower of Northaw was chosen for this year's joint meeting between Hertford and Middlesex Associations, which was held on Saturday last, and, although holidays caused the absence of many prominent members of both societies, the attendance of some 30 or more ringers was very satisfactory. For the first time it was possible to avoid the long walk from the nearest railway station, if one happened to catch one of the few buses now running to Northaw, but apart from this, only motorists and cyclists found it easy to reach the tower. The ringing, under the guidance of Mr. A. W. Coles, suited all present, and included some spliced Plain, Reverse and Double Bob Minor, which might be recommended to any ringers who have not yet made an effort to get away from 'one method at a time' ringing.

In the absence of the Vicar, the service was taken by Mr. E. A. Gardner, a Cuffley lay reader, who, in the slight reference he made to bells, made it apparent that he knew something about ringers and ringing, and who gave his congregation some excellent lessons from ringing to take away with them. Altogether the service was one of the nicest and brightest attended by the writer for some time at a ringers' meeting.

After a very refreshing tea, Mr. G. W. Fletcher (vice-president, Middlesex Association) proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. L. Sparkes for the use of the bells; to Mr. Gardner for his address at the service; to Mr. R. Stiles and the local ringers; to Mr. Hambling, the organist; as well as to the organ blower; and to the ladies who had prepared tea. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gardner replied, and it transpired that many years ago he was a ringer at Elstree, and that he knew quite a lot about bells. He also knew how to tell a good story!

Mr. C. T. Coles said that he had to apologise for the absence of Mr. W. Nash (district secretary, Herts Association), who had started his holidays that day! and for Mr. Walter Ayre (president, Herts Association), who was holiday making in Lincolnshire. At least, said Mr. Coles, he presumed that Mr. Ayre was in Lincolnshire, but he might not yet have reached his destination. He seemed to be in some doubt as to where he was going and how to get there, but they would all hope that Mr. Ayre would have a nice holiday, wherever he was.

Some handbell ringing afterwards entertained the company until the noise of the church bells put an end to this form of amusement, and most of the party returned to the tower for a last pull before their long trek, or bus ride if lucky, back to the nearest railway station. Altogether this was a pleasant and enjoyable meeting, without a lot of business and speech-making to waste good ringing time.

**FOR BEGINNERS.**

A CHANGE OF METHOD.

Having shown the elementary six-bell ringers, and by 'elementary' we mean those who are sticking at their first method, how to get on to something different, let us turn to the aid, if we may, of many companies at six-bell towers, as well as those who have only five bells, who have never given a thought to ringing anything but Grandsire Doubles. If their field is more limited than that of the six-bell method men, there is still scope for them to get away from the monotony of ringing only one method.

There is a company we know, and they are probably only one of many, who for more than 30 years, although they have six bells, have never rung anything but Grandsire Doubles. They are hopeless, not because they have stuck to the one method for so many years, but because they avoid every effort to get them to move from it.

That sort of company are, frankly, not worth wasting time on, but there must be many hands up and down the country who with a little help would be glad to scramble out of their rut and 'do something different.'

We suggested to the Bob Minor ringers that one of the best ways to leave their very-much-beaten track was to ring what was virtually the same method in a different way. Let us do the same with regard to Grandsire Doubles.

This method, as you know, consists of plain hunting, until the treble has led, when one bell, coming from the front, makes 3rd's place and goes back to lead, causing the two bells behind to dodge. Reverse Grandsire is a similar method of plain hunting, the difference being that the 3rd's place is made, after the treble has laid its whole pull behind, by a bell coming down from the back and then hunting up again, causing the two bells on the front to dodge. Although one is simply the reverse of the other, it makes it appear at first a totally different method to ring.

In the plain course of Grandsire the second is 'in the hunt,' and the little table by which you memorise the other work is: Pass treble in 3-4 (as you hunt up), dodge in 4-5 down; pass treble in 2-3, dodge in 4-5 up; pass treble in 1-2, make 3rd's and lead again.

For Reverse Grandsire you can make a similar table. The second is 'in the hunt,' but the table which you need to learn runs thus: Pass treble in 3-2 (as you hunt down), dodge in 1-2 up—that is, after leading your whole pull; pass treble in 4-3, dodge in 1-2 down—that is before leading; pass treble in 5-4 (that is when the treble has turned you from behind), make 3rd's place and hunt back again.

In the same way that the normal 3rd's place is made after the treble has laid behind, so the bob is also made when the treble is behind. The bob should be called when the treble strikes its blow in 3rd's on the way up (instead of on the way down in the ordinary method). The bell that passed the treble in 4-3 then makes 3rd's and hunts up, turning the treble from behind. This bell is now 'in the hunt.'

The two bells on the front have a double dodge in 1-2, the bell that is coming out of the hunt dodging up, and the bell that passed the treble in 3-2 dodging down (that is before leading, instead of having a single dodge after leading).

To ring 120 the conductor should call exactly as for Grandsire, except that, as mentioned above, the bob should be called when the treble is on its way up, instead of when on its way down.

Here are the figures of the first lead. Notice how the bells start off. No 3rd's place to start with, but even bells straight down, odd bells straight up. Get yourself out a diagram, by writing out a full course and drawing a continuous line through a same figure (representing one of the working bells) from top to bottom. Learn the tables and the effect of the bob work, and you will be able to do something which will give you a new interest in your ringing.

| 12345 | Bob   | Single |
|-------|-------|--------|
| 21435 |       |        |
| 24153 | 24153 | 24153  |
| 42513 | 42513 | 42513  |
| 45231 | 24531 | 24531  |
| 54321 | 42351 | 42531  |
| 45312 | 24315 | 24513  |
| 54132 | 42135 | 42153  |
| 51423 |       |        |
| 15243 |       |        |
| 12534 |       |        |

TO ARCHITECTS AND CHURCH AUTHORITIES

**CHURCH BELL CONSULTANTS.**

ESTABLISHED 1763

**JOHN WARNER & SONS**

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CANADA HOUSE,

NORFOLK STREET, LONDON, W.C.2

**'A WORLD OF ITS OWN.'****WELL-KNOWN WRITER'S VIEW OF BELLRINGING.**

Church bellringing has this week received an interesting commendation from the pen of a well-known writer in the widely-read columns of the 'Radio Times.' Mr. Filsen Young, who regularly contributes an article under the heading, 'The World we Listen in,' has the following to say about bellringing and 'The Ringing World.' Those of our readers who did not see it in the 'Radio Times' will, we feel sure, peruse it with interest and appreciation:—

There is a subject in many ways closely allied with broadcasting, the subject of bellringing. It is one of the very oldest forms of broadcasting. The broadcasting of bell music is merely the rediffusion of something that is already, on its own account, making a wide and indiscriminating appeal. One point of contact between the two does not appeal to me personally—I mean using records of peals of bells as an interval signal. That seems to me to be treating these noble sounds with less than due respect. Bells should be listened to for their own sake; not merely as a means of filling up a gap between programme items. But that is a mere personal opinion. The broadcasting of Big Ben was one of the first national events in the history of the B.B.C., and it remains a symbol of the link between London and the whole of the English-speaking world; for I believe that there is no part of the British Empire in which its voice has not been heard.

**'THE RINGING WORLD'**

There was a letter in 'The Times' a few weeks ago asking for information about famous peals of bells on the Continent; but as a matter of fact English people have no need to go abroad to hear the best bellringing. England has long been famous not only as the home of the finest peals of bells; it also is the acknowledged home of the highest skill in change ringing. But though it is a part of the everyday life of everyone in the land, how little most of us know of the craft of the belfry! It is a world of its own, speaks a language of its own, and has a newspaper of its own with the delightful title of 'The Ringing World,' a copy of which was sent to me the other day. In the pages devoted to the account of the peals rung throughout England to celebrate the Royal Jubilee one can read a great deal of information that is nevertheless intelligible only to those initiated in the art of ringing. In conveyes little to me to know, for example, that on a certain day at St. Giles', Cripplegate, there was rung 'a peal of Stedman's Cinques, 5,055 changes,' in three hours and thirty-nine minutes; and that throughout the country such nobly-named sequences as Grandsire Triples, Oxford Treble Bob Majors, Surprise Minors, Double Norwich Court Bob Majors, Grandsire Doubles averaging 5,000 changes each, and occupying three to four hours, were being rung. Of the various peals engaged in these musical salutes, the tenor bells are of various weights up to a ton and a half. And in one country church, where a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung, a little footnote declares that it was 'rung half-muffled as a last token of respect to George Page Moore, for many years captain of the Hethersett company of ringers, who was interred that day.'

**GRANDSIRE DOUBLES.**

And I read that in the village of Wonesh in Surrey the peal of Grandsire Doubles rung on May 6th was 'believed to be the first peal ever rung by a local band at this tower; the first peal for all except the conductor; and his first peal as conductor.' What an excitement there must have been in that belfry! Although it is only a six-bell peal, the turn of each ringer comes all the oftener for that; and once you are off on that three-hour journey of sound, there is no stopping or faltering; and if you get out of turn and time, it may take you a long time and much confusion and anxiety among the other ringers, and much calling on the part of the conductor, to get back into your place in the melody.

**BELFRY TALK**

Ringers are a very close corporation and, as I said, they have a lore and a language of their own. If you open the publication referred to above at random you come across sentences like this:—

In the previous notes on conducting Bob Minor we have referred only to two calling positions—Wrong and Right (or Home). There are three others: one known as 'In' which causes the observation bell to miss the dodge, which it would otherwise have made in 3.4 down, and run in to lead after the treble.

That is what I call good writing, and consists of some lovely expressions, although it might as well have been written in Chinese so far as it conveys anything to me. But I like the sound and the sight of it, and I should love to hear a talk broadcast in that language and on this delightful subject. I can never keep away from the belfry of a church where there is ringing going on, if (as it seldom is) it is accessible to a stranger.

I love the bowing figures, the rhythmic movements, the curt commands, the majestic rise and fall of the tossing ropes, and the great bourdon of glorious humming music that fills the tower.

**THE BELLS OF ST. PAUL'S.**

There are people who think that bells sound at their best on some country hillside, where the wind causes their cadence to swell and fade; but the finest effect of bells that I know is in the heart of London.

(Continued in next column.)

**BELLS AND THE PUBLIC****VIEWS OF SECRETARY OF ANTI-NOISE LEAGUE.**

The 'noise nuisance' in various forms has recently been prominently before the public in the correspondence columns of the 'Daily Telegraph.' The subject has ranged from pneumatic drills to church bells. To a representative of the 'Daily Telegraph' Mr. Richard F. Millard, general secretary of the Anti-Noise League, of which Lord Horder is chairman, had the following to say with regard to church bells:—

'As for church bells, much can be done by the proper construction or reconstruction of bellfries. They can be designed or altered to reduce the loudness of the bells in the immediate neighbourhood. Sound waves are projected up instead of down, and the loud "clang" can be diminished. At the same time, the quality of the bell music is improved and the distance increased over which the bells can faintly be heard.'

In the reconstructed Lincoln Cathedral the bell frame was lowered in the tower. Previously it had been impossible to remain at the foot of the tower when the bells were rung without being deafened, but after reconstruction a match dropped on the flagstones could be heard above the bells.

Twenty-one local authorities have followed the lead given by Edinburgh in 1930, and have secured important new powers to mitigate noise nuisances.

'People are more aware of noise in summer than in winter,' added Mr. Millard, 'and are apt to think there is more. Open windows, and the fact that sound travels further in hot weather, accounts for this.'

**ELLACOMBE CHIMING APPARATUS,****AN INQUIRY.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In this parish we have quite a good ring of six-bells, dating from 1662 to 1893. Unfortunately, these bells are very seldom rung, but we have an Ellacombe apparatus, and the bells are chimed by means of this for from 10 to 20 minutes every day of the week by one who, I believe, knows nothing about church bells. This, of course, is very annoying to the inhabitants of the parish, but, apart from this, can you or your readers please tell me whether this constant jarring of the stationary bells does them, or is likely to do them, harm?

For obvious reasons I cannot give my name and address for publication, but I enclose my card.

'CAMPANOLOGIST.'

**BOLTON RINGER'S DEATH.**

Mr. J. E. Markland, who, for the past 40 years, has been a ringer at All Souls' Church, Bolton, Lancs, passed away on August 5th.

The funeral took place on August 8th, when the bells were rung fully muffled to the 'whole pull and stand.' Handbells were rung over the grave by P. Crook, sen., 1-2, H. Johnson 3-4, R. Holden 5-6, Jack Kay 7-8.

On Sunday, August 11th, with the bells half-muffled, deceased's colleagues rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in his memory before the evening service: C. Pike 1, J. W. Kay 2, J. Helme 3, R. Holden 4, C. Brownlow 5, H. Johnson 6, Jack Kay (conductor) 7, N. Critchley 8.

**SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.**

**POOLE, DORSET.**—On August 11th, at St. James' Church, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: F. W. Townsend 1, I. Davis 2, R. Hurst (first quarter-peal) 3, W. Houlton 4, J. Arbury 5, W. Young (first quarter-peal) 6, H. C. Baverstock (conductor) 7, P. Davis 8.

**MARGATE.**—On Sunday, August 4th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: R. Dadds 1, F. Gadsden 2, E. Allen (St. Lawrence Jewry) 3, J. Steddy (Edenbridge) 4, T. Sone (Paddock Wood) (conductor) 5, E. Burgess 6, J. Waghorn 7, R. Whybrow 8.

**STOWTING, KENT.**—On Sunday afternoon, July 14th, 720 Bob Minor: S. Finn 1, A. Webb 2, L. Finn 3, W. Cheesman 4, G. Webb 5, A. P. Cannon (conductor) 6 (tenor 6 cwt.). The lightest six in the county. Mr. A. Tanton, of Lyminge, aged 78, also rang 120 Grandsire Doubles. Kindly arranged by Mr. A. Philipott for the conductor, from Deal.

**NEWMARKET.**—At All Saints' Church on Sunday, July 14th, 720 Minor with tenor covering: R. Sharpe (conductor) 1, R. Heath 2, S. Howlett 4, S. Ward 5, W. Upton (Newport, Isle of Wight) 6, A. Beale 7, J. Beale 8. Also on July 21st, 720 Bob Minor: R. Sharpe 1, S. Howlett 2, R. Heath (conductor) 4, W. Upton 5, F. Turner 6, A. Beale 7, J. Beale 8.

(Continued from previous column.)

don on a Sunday afternoon, when the great peal in St. Paul's Cathedral is rung before evensong.

To stand in one of the small streets in St. Paul's Churchyard off Ludgate Hill, when there is no sound of traffic and in the empty streets no footfalls echo, and to hear the tremendous and melodious clangour that fills these aisles of humdrum commerce is, I think, to hear bell music at its best.

## PEALS IN SPLICED METHODS.

THEIR SUPPOSED 'DEFECTS.'

AN OPEN LETTER.

To the Members of the Central Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with a certain amount of hesitation that I venture to address you at this time of the year. Most of you will, I trust, be enjoying your annual holidays, and therefore may not desire to be worried with such matters as occupy our time at Council meetings. On the other hand, it may be that those of you who have a little leisure may care to think over one or two matters which, in the rush of a Council meeting, you have not sufficient time fully to ponder upon.

It may be true that some of you are terribly bored with any matter that requires a little thinking about, as was suggested to you at Shrewsbury; and to some of you anything you do not understand may sound a lot of twaddle. Some of you may even sit like owls whilst others endeavour to impress you with their ideas on this or that matter, but there are still, I think, a large majority of you who really take seriously any and every matter brought before you, as good councillors should. To those of you who were interested in the discussion at the Shrewsbury meeting on the series of resolutions which endeavoured to place some limitation on peals which could be called 'spliced,' I take the liberty of addressing this letter.

There are at least two reasons why the matter may be considered just now, notwithstanding your holidays. First, the discussion at Shrewsbury ought still to be fresh in your minds; and second, as this is the time of the year when few peals are rung, such a letter as this may fill a corner in 'The Ringing World' which, at any other time, would be required for something that would interest everybody, if such a subject exists.

If you will turn to 'The Ringing World' of May 10th you will find, on page 296, a letter from Mr. John Worth, an able conductor of Spliced Minor and Major peals. In this letter he makes some criticisms of the Rev. H. Law James' peal in four Surprise Major methods. He says: 'The tenor and seventh only ring two out of seven leads of London and Bristol, and one lead each of Superlative and Cambridge. So there are, at any rate, two bells which never ring a full course in any of the methods. To my mind, this robs Spliced Surprise Major of its value.'

Well, we have been into all that. Many cases have already been quoted to show that a similar thing happens in peals in one method only, so that Spliced Surprise Major does not stand alone. At the recent meeting of the Council the point was used against spliced peals on eight bells, and from that, and the quotation above, it might be inferred that this so-called defect is common only to Major. But is it? Let us examine the figures of the 42 Minor methods peal, published on March 22nd. This peal, which was rung at Disley on February 9th, was conducted by Mr. John Worth himself. Each 720 in this peal contains one method of which there are three leads only, with the fifth and the sixth doing the same work in each lead. Obviously none of the bells can do all the work of the methods concerned, and the fifth and sixth each ring the work of one lead only. Exactly the same 'defect' as in the Major! In each 720 there are also two other methods, of which less than five leads are rung, so that none of the bells do the full work of these methods either.

The 32 Surprise Minor methods peal, which was rung at Lamberhurst on March 2nd, the composition of which was published on August 2nd, has similar 'defects.' Six of the seven 720's in this peal contain at least one method, the full work of which is not rung by any of the bells, and in three of the 720's the fifth and sixth each ring the work of one lead only of one of the methods. The fact that the so-called defect exists in some methods only has no bearing on the principle involved. The 'defect,' if any, is there; it is purely a matter of degree.

The real point is, of course, that in all these multi-method peals the necessity of truth makes it impossible for composers to use whole courses, especially in Major, and the greater the number of methods put in a composition the more limitations the composer has in what he is able to include. There are, in truth, no defects in these peals at all. If it is an impossibility to ring multi-method peals in certain Minor or Major methods without being limited to certain leads for certain methods, that is no reason why ringers should be debarred from placing such peals in the highest possible class. Look at the two peals of Minor already mentioned! Are they not sufficient to tax the abilities of the most expert ringers? Why should it be considered wrong to make an endeavour to place such peals as these in a different class to peals where the 720's are in two methods only, with but one change of method in the 720?

Another composition well worthy of your attention is that in six Surprise Major methods published in 'The Ringing World' of August 9th last. This peal has 45 courses, each consisting of three, four or five leads, 163 leads in all. There are 140 changes of method, and thus there are only 22 occasions in the peal when two leads of a method are rung consecutively. Is not this peal in an entirely different category to a peal in (say) two methods with just one change of method throughout? Is not this peal in an entirely different class to a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major in which Oxford places are

used in lieu of bobs? We go to the trouble of classifying our methods. We argue about what should be called a Surprise method, and what should be called a Treble Bob method. We place these in different classes, and yet there is very little difference from a ringing point of view, between certain Surprise and certain Treble Bob methods.

Why not, then, classify peals in more than one method? Perhaps the name suggested for the easier peals does not commend itself. 'Combined' certainly does not sound as nice as 'Spliced,' but surely the name is not an insurmountable difficulty? If you can make up your minds that it is desirable to make a distinction, then we have only to decide where the line shall be drawn, and the distinctive name to be given to those peals excluded from the 'Spliced' class.

I did not wish to go into the amendment(?) again, but from a letter appearing in 'The Ringing World' a week or two ago it would seem that the mover has perhaps realised the difference between '224 changes' and a 'full course,' which he certainly did not when he framed his amendment. Apparently, too, from the letter it would appear that there are other matters he is still undecided about, but I will let them pass, for the present, at any rate. That the 'amendment' has no bearing on the subject, and, in fact, only confuses the issue, is shown by the following. The Rev. H. Law James' peal in four Surprise methods contains, in the extent as rung at Warnham, 5,408 changes in 50 courses. Thirty-one of these courses consist of three leads each, and 19 of four leads each. Each of the 50 courses contains one lead M to W, which may be rung either as Cambridge or as Superlative. Let us assume that 25 leads of each method are rung. Thus the 25 leads rung as Cambridge are all M to W, and it is obvious that, as the seventh and tenor are fixed bells throughout, these bells will do no more work of the method in 25 leads than in only one lead. Thus the amendment, whichever way it is worded, entirely fails in its object (which we were told was to cause all the bells to do all the work). And the latest suggestion of its mover makes matters definitely worse, because it means, 'You must not ring one lead (32 changes) only, but you may ring seven leads (224 changes), or more, even though for some bells the work is the same in each lead.'

We must therefore come back to this very definite standpoint, that the whole work of a method is contained in a lead. If we go away from that, we shall have to admit that the treble to (say) Bob Major never rings the method, or, indeed, any method, because it does not do the work of the method. We should have to admit that the treble to a Surprise method rings neither Surprise nor Treble Bob because it does no place making. The fact is that all the bells, including the treble with its plain or dodging hunt, are necessary to the method, and when one lead of the method has been completed then the whole work of the method has been rung.

When we look at the compositions of Minor in 32 Surprise methods and of Major in six Surprise methods which have recently been published, let us try to realise what ringing such peals means to those concerned. Let us give these peals their just due by placing them in a class of their own and not confusing them with a peal which contains only two or three methods with just one or two changes of method throughout.

I hope you all enjoy your holidays none the less for having had this letter inflicted upon you.—Yours fraternally, C. T. COLES.

### FIFTEEN HAPPY HOURS IN ESSEX.

LAVENHAM RINGERS' OUTING.

The Lavenham ringers held their 13th annual outing on Saturday, July 27th, when they spent an enjoyable day in Essex. The following churches were visited by the party: Witham, Maldon (2), Great Baddow, Widford, Writtle and Chelmsford Cathedral. The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Little Bob, Double Norwich, Kent, Oxford, Cambridge, and Superlative. Lunch was partaken of at the Jolly Sailor, Maldon, where handbell ringing was afterwards indulged in.

Home was reached at 11 p.m., after 15 happy hours. The company wish to thank the incumbents of the churches visited, the tower-keepers, 'friend Ernie' for meeting them, and all others who helped to make the outing successful.

### BOURNEMOUTH RINGERS VISIT SOMERSET.

On Saturday, July 27th, ringers and friends of St. John's, Bournemouth, visited Somerset for their annual outing. En route they stopped at Ditchet, where they rang Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich. After partaking of lunch at Bath, Twerton-on-Avon was the next tower visited. Here the visitors were met by Mr. T. King, of Twerton, and Mr. W. A. Cave, of Bristol. Much amusement while ringing here was caused by the tenor man missing his rope and then trying to 'hug it.' Tea at Westbury was followed by Grandsire and Stedman Caters on handbells by Miss M. White 1-2, F. Townsend 3-4, W. A. Cave 5-6, A. C. Rose 7-8, H. R. Mitchell 9-10. On the tower bells touches of Stedman Triples and Double Norwich were brought round to fine striking. The 'Brown Ales' of Shaftesbury were sampled with satisfaction, and home was reached ('by the majority') at midnight. The band wish to thank all incumbents and towerkeepers for the cordial welcomes and permission to ring.

**A FIVE-BELL TOUR.**

**HINCKLEY DISTRICT RINGERS AT LITTLE VISITED TOWERS.**

Members of the Hinckley District of the Midland Counties Association made a tour of several towers on the outskirts of the district not usually visited for meetings.

Arrangements were made for the bus to pick up in the many places from which members attended, viz., Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton, Earl Shilton, Stoney Stanton, Croft, Sapcote, Burbage, Barwell, and Higham-on-the-Hill. They first went to Market Bosworth with its odd-sounding five bells, but only half an hour could be spared (some said 'Long enough') before going on to Congerstone (once the church of the Lord Howes of Gopsall). Owing, however, to a death near the church, it was decided not to ring here, but after looking round the building the party 'set sail' for Sheehey Magna to try the only six on the afternoon's programme. The ringing here reached up to Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise. The Rector (Rev. G. Mathews) paid a welcome visit to the tower whilst ringing was in progress.

At Witherley tea was waiting (and soon vanishing), and with about 30 ringers round the teapot there looked likely to be a shortage. Afterwards the ringers felt like trying the five bells in this tower, but with the long draught some had difficulties in handling the ropes. Rev. J. A. Wood invited the party to a very brief service, after which some of the keenest started walking to Mancetter for a 'go' on this fine though heavy peal of five. The rest stayed for a while at Witherley before following. The half-hour allotted to this church did not satisfy, for some still wanted to ring the church bells whilst others were found in a nearby inn ringing the bell for . . . (but, no tales), and all were at last loaded up for the last tower on the list (Fenny Drayton). Here the bells seemed to object to change ringing, for the whole frame 'went for a walk' round the tower, so that 'Enough' was soon called, and the party loaded up again. A brief halt was made at Higham, where the first of the party were set down. Although the members were only ringing on five bells most of the afternoon (and poor ones some of them were), they felt that some good was being done.

Rev. S. E. Pocock, of Peckleton, made the journey with the party, and other welcome friends were Mr. J. H. Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, Mr. R. H. Dove, of Headingley, Mr. Bowley, Kirby Muxloe, Mr. C. H. Webb, who cycled from Rugby, and cycled round the towers (what an example to some of the younger generation!—50 miles or more to ring on five bells), also a friend from Tamworth, who cycled (more grit).

Thanks are due to the various clergy for allowing the use of the bells and to the local captains who arranged for the ringing.

A. E. R

**CARISBROOKE DELIGHT MAJOR.**

**FIRST PEAL IN A METHOD COMPOSED IN NEW ZEALAND.**

The first peal of Carisbrooke Major was rung on Saturday at Norbury, Cheshire. The method is by Mr. J. S. Wilde, of Dunedin, New Zealand, who was formerly a very active ringer in Cheshire. The composition is by Mr. G. Baker, of Brighton.

**THE METHOD.**

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
|          | 7,296.      |
| 12345678 | B. H. 23456 |
| 21346587 | — 35264     |
| 12436857 | — 56342     |
| 21463875 | — 64523     |
| 24168357 | — 64235     |
| 42613875 | — 43652     |
| 24163857 | — 35426     |
| 42618375 | — 52364     |
| 46281735 | — 52643     |
| 64827153 | — 24536     |
| 46821735 | — 43265     |
| 64287153 | — 36452     |
| 46827513 | — 36524     |
| 64872531 | — 36245     |
| 68475213 | — 64352     |
| 86745231 | — 45623     |
| 68472531 | — 52436     |
| 86742513 | — 23564     |
| 87645231 | — 23645     |
| 78654213 | — 34256     |
| 87564123 |             |
| 78651432 |             |
| 87654123 |             |
| 78561432 |             |
| 75816342 |             |
| 57183624 |             |
| 75813642 |             |
| 57186324 |             |
| 51783642 |             |
| 15738624 |             |
| 51378264 |             |
| 15372846 |             |
| 15738264 |             |

Reduced to 5,248 by calling bob H in 9th course of first part and in 16th course of second part.

Bob 13578264

First rung as a 5,248 at St. Thomas', Norbury, on August 17th, conducted by John Worth.

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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

The copies of 'A Great Adventure' are going like the proverbial 'hot cakes.' Don't miss yours, gentle reader, by delaying too long. 'It's a wonderful two shillingsworth.' That's what many have written to tell us after having seen it. The edition is limited; when it is gone there will be no further supply.

Those ringers who have ordered copies and have not yet applied for them with remittance, should do so without delay.

Ladies will be welcome at the reunion of the Australian tourists in London on September 14th. Dinner at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, Strand, in the evening, will be followed by an exhibition of Mr. Rupert Richardson's cinema picture of the tour. Dinner tickets are 4s. each. Those who propose joining the party should communicate with Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, 'The Ringing World' Office, Woking, as soon as possible, and in no case later than September 7th, in order that, if there are sufficient numbers, ringing at one of the London towers may be arranged in the afternoon.

A letter from Mr. G. L. Joyce is held over until next week.

The late Mrs. Marion Nolloth, widow of Canon Nolloth (for 41 years Vicar of Beverley, to whose efforts the present bells at the Minster were due, and who had a large share in the restoration of the bells, including Great Peter, at York), left an estate valued at £87,132. She bequeathed £300 for the upkeep of the Beverley Minster bells.

Another bell bequest was recently made in the will of Mr. John Henry Rimmer, of Bickerton, Cheshire, who left £100 for the provision of 'a good and sufficient bell or bells' for the Parish Church at Bickerton.

'Ringing the World Through London' is the title of an article in a recent issue of the 'Daily Mail,' dealing with the linking up of every country in both hemispheres through the International Wireless Exchange in London.

But the telephone people are not the first to do this. Ringing the world through London has already been done by Mr. W. H. Fussell, who took 'The Ringing World' (No. 1,225, Vol. 39) through London and round the globe on the Australian and New Zealand tour. This paper is one of his most treasured souvenirs of the trip.

The peal of Stedman Cinques at Norwich on August 5th was not Mr. W. J. B. Brown's first in the method. It may be well to point out, not by way of excuse, but as a warning to others, that the error was due to an overwritten figure in the footnote of the report sent to us, which left the Editor and the printers guessing—and this time they guessed wrong. Care should be taken, particularly in peal reports, to make every detail clear. We get many a headache trying to decipher the spelling of names.

The Hillingdon St. Andrew's ringers and friends spent a pleasant time on Saturday afternoon 'among the bells' in Surrey. It was gratifying to the younger members to hear the 'Big Boy' of the party meet his match during the journey homeward; in fact, one could almost imagine that 'Old Kate' herself had boarded the coach. Oh, Charlie!

The latter part of the last paragraph, sent to us for insertion, is a mystery to us, but perhaps the Hillingdon ringers know all about it.

The ring of six of Northchurch Parish Church, near Berkhamsted, Herts, are shortly to be removed to Loughborough, where they are to be tuned and refitted, after which the peal will be hung in a new framework and, it is hoped, augmented to eight by the addition of two trebles.

It is rumoured that the composition of the peal rung at Blagdon, Somerset, was not as published, but was Mussolini's variation of Hitler's two-part.

We learn the tower of St. Philip's Church, Sydney, Australia, which was out of repair when the English tourists were there, has now been restored and a team of beginners has been started to learn change ringing.

It was at this church that the first peal in Australia was rung in 1889. The story of this historic performance is told in 'A Great Adventure,' the book of the Australian ringing tour, published by 'The Ringing World,' price 2s.

The report of an interesting peal rung at Stowmarket appears in another column. It was a peal of Double Norwich rung by a band of all the same surname—a well-known name, too, in Suffolk ringing circles: Symonds. The 'plot' to ring this peal was hatched between Albert E. Symonds and Stedman H. Symonds. The footnote to the peal will tell our readers of the various relationships of the ringers.

It was the 300th peal by Mr. G. E. Symonds, of which he has called 201, in addition to a silent peal of Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original) rung at St. John's, Waterloo Road, in 1898.

## DEATH OF A SUSSEX RINGER.

### FORTY-FIVE YEARS' STEADFAST SERVICE.

While ringing at his Parish Church, Lindfield, Sussex, with visitors from Hawkhurst, Mr. Herbert Tomsett collapsed in the belfry and died almost immediately.

Mr. Tomsett, who was 65 years of age, was one of three brothers who learned to ring at Lindfield, and for 45 years he had given steadfast service to the Church.

His brother ringers acted as bearers at the funeral.



**CONDUCTORS.**

BY J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

## II.

The conductor's real and essential duties are simple, though not easy. His job is to call the bobs, and to see that the bells are throughout in their proper places, and that nothing happens to invalidate the claim to have rung a true and complete peal. When he has done this and done it well, he has done all that his band has a right to expect of him.

But the aims and intentions of most conductors, and especially of the young and ambitious, go much further than that. They like to think of themselves as (at least for the time being) the leaders of the belfry. They claim sometimes the right to say what bells shall be rung by different men, or, in the old phrase, to set each man to his rope. They consider they have the right to issue orders and give instructions as to the striking and the ringing. And especially they are anxious to distinguish themselves in the putting right of trips and mistakes.

Now all these are important things and usually someone must do them. But they do not belong necessarily and of right to the conductor's office. It is well, as a rule, to have a leader, but it is better that he should be the recognised captain of the band; or, if the band be one brought together for a special purpose, such as peal ringing, that he should be one who by reason of his position, seniority, or the fact that he was the person who had made the arrangements, the ringers naturally trust and respect. Often enough the conductor is such a man and then he has a double authority, but, where the conductor is a younger man, often he had better leave these things to another.

As a rule the placing of the men at the ropes is best left to the ringers themselves; they can usually sort themselves out comfortably enough. But sometimes it is well to have things arranged. It may be that Mr. A. has an itch to ring a tenor, when the rest of the band mistrust his ability, or dislike his manner of tenor ringing. That difficulty is best got over by the leader previously asking another man to ring it and by avoiding any appeal to the authority of the conductor. Sometimes it is well that the whole band should be arranged beforehand. In my own tower at Christ Church, Ealing, the bells are extraordinarily odd struck; some are very quick and others very slow. We find by experience that if we want good ringing it is well to place the band according to each man's temperament and ability. It requires a little judgment and tact, but is justified by results. It would never do for the conductor to order each man to his rope like a sergeant-major detailing a party to fatigues.

Sometimes it is necessary to criticise a man's striking; in fact it should be done more often than it is. Far too many ringers are content with a low standard in the matter, and even the best do not always realise that, however good striking is, it can always be bettered. There is an artistic quality about really first class striking which is quite distinct from mere regularity, and no mechanical means can give the effect that a skilled band can, but, alas, too seldom does. Faulty striking varies enormously in degree, from that of the man who is content if his rope falls somewhere after the one he is following, no matter whether he is making a clash or a gap, to that of the man whose slightly close blow over the tenor at backstroke ruins the striking for a really sensitive ear.

When a man's striking is faulty he should be told, but he should be told so that he realises what he must do to improve it. Mere shouting and grumbling do no good; rather they do harm. It is better for a person of authority, whether the conductor or another, to tell the offender plainly to (say) ring his bell wider at backstroke, than for the conductor to be continually at him with orders to 'strike his bell.' There are some men whose faulty hearing or lack of sense of rhythm prevents them from ever being really first class strikers. When such a one is in the band and is doing his best, if he cannot understand why he must pull wider or closer, it is best to leave him alone and make the best of a bad job. Grumbling will only worsen matters. But much good, I think, can often be done by a few quiet words outside the tower.

But it is in the putting right of trips that many men most try to shine and about that matter much can be said. There seem to me to be two general rules to be observed. First that it is the duty of every one in the band alike, whether he is conductor or not, to correct trips according to his opportunity and ability. And second that talking, other than the calling of the bobs, is, in peal ringing, an evil against which everyone should set his face firmly.

My first proposition will not, I know, receive general assent. There are conductors, and really good conductors, who hold that when a man is calling he and he alone should put mistakes right. When 'Father' Robinson was calling his peal of Stedman Triples and one member of the band ventured to correct another he was speedily rebuked—'Leave the conducting to me, gentlemen! Leave the conducting to me!' Perhaps Robinson was justified, for he knew that peal as few ringers can ever know a peal. But, when a trip has been made, what matters is that it should be put right at once and that is the equal concern of every one alike.

Now there are two men, usually, who on the face of things have the best chance of correcting a trip. The one and often the best is the man with whom the erring brother is working. He knows quicker than anyone else that a dodge has been missed, or a place omitted, and he can often with a gesture bring the wanderer back to the right path. If he can do it, he is the man who should do it and all the others should leave the matter alone. The conductor, because he has knowledge of the composition which the others have not and because he is supposed to be more on the alert, should closely watch the situation, but he should not speak, even if he knows what to say, if the matter is already well in hand.

No doubt it would require a good deal of self restraint and a very great deal of skill; but it is the thing to be done. For though a man must be quick to be able to tell a man at once what to do, he must be far quicker still not only to be able to do that, but also to know that he must keep his mouth shut. If neither of these two men avail to put the mistake right then any other member of the band may take a hand. But they and everyone should remember that their first duty is to keep their own bells steady and in their proper places. If they do that the peccant member can usually soon be put right. It is because in their anxiety to put others right men break the time that so often a trip develops into a muddle and a muddle into a lost peal. And men should remember that for five or six people to shout at one does little good and only increases confusion. It may be true, as a

general thing, that in the multitude of counsel there is wisdom. Emphatically it is not true in peal ringing.

It is sometimes argued how far a man is bound to do what the conductor tells him. Like most questions, this does not admit of any one general answer. Some people say, 'Whatever you are told to do, that you must do without question. The responsibility is his, not yours.' To that I cannot agree. Generally, it is well to give way if only because there is always the possibility, perhaps the probability, that you may be wrong. Younger or less experienced ringers should usually give way when told by older and more experienced, if only as a matter of courtesy.

Always in Sunday service touches, where it is more important that bad striking should be avoided than that the changes should be true, it is better to give way, even when you are perfectly certain you are right. But in peal ringing the case is somewhat different. There, a true peal is everything, and if you are really *sure* you are right (and the proviso is all important) you may stick to your opinion and chance the consequences. Nor has the conductor any real grievance against you. Which reminds me of an incident which happened some time in the early years of the present century.

In those days 'Father' Robinson was going about the country trying to make up his thousand peals of Stedman Triples. He usually called one composition, ringing the seventh, and, as I said above, he knew that peal as few ringers can ever know a peal. One day he attempted it on the back eight at St. Mary's, Beverley, which are a heavy ring, and the seventh was rather a tax on the old man's strength. Bertram Prewett was one of the band. Who the others were I forget. Well, they rang some way and then someone made a trip, which proceeded to develop into a muddle. The style of conducting which Mr. Robinson used did not always allow him to put a trip right at once. He knew exactly what all the bells were doing at very frequent intervals and often he had to wait till he came to one of these places before he could straighten out the bells. It might be two or three sixes, which is, of course, time enough for the bells to get into a thorough mess, as these did.

However, having reached his point, he proceeded to tell everyone his work and Prewett among the rest. Prewett was in 6-7 and was thoroughly convinced that in 6-7 he ought to be. Robinson ordered him into the Slow and Prewett refused to go. Robinson repeated his order and Prewett his refusal and so they fired out. Robinson was furious and went to his lodging in high dudgeon and straight to bed. Canon Nolloth, the genial host, expostulated with Prewett and told him that as the younger man he should have given way and done as he was told, but the other remained impenitent, and justified his conduct on the grounds that he knew that, if he had given way, though they had finished the peal, it would have been false.

Was he right? I think he was; especially in view of the explanation he gave me. He said that Mr. Robinson, in the excitement of the muddle, had mistaken his own position and when he came to lead right, for his last whole turn, thought he was a quick bell and was trying to force up a later part of the course than that which the bells had actually reached. But we must not forget that Prewett's experience as a ringer, and even as a Sted-

man ringer, was little, if at all, inferior to that of the Rev. F. E. Robinson.

The obstinate ass who thinks he alone is right and everybody else wrong and will not be put in his place—he is in another case. This incident illustrates one of the dangers which beset the endeavours of some skilful conductors who fetch the bells out of an apparently hopeless muddle where everyone has been lost. They do bring up a correct change and usually at the right time. But it is at least possible that the bells may have been wrong before that and equally possible that part of the course may have been cut out. 'Give one good fire and do what Washbrook tells you,' may be good advice if you want to score peals. Whether they are fit to be called true peals is another matter. I am not quite sure whether the possession of this gift of being able to put the bells right when they are hopelessly muddled is altogether an un-mixed blessing. It used to be said of the Ipswich band in the time of Motts and Catchpole that the undoubtedly high standard of their peal ringing was due entirely to the fact that they had no one who could put the bells right in a serious muddle. They had to ring their peals well or not at all.

#### JAMES WASHBROOK'S SKILL.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I have always been a keen reader of Mr. Trollope's writings, which are usually very entertaining or enlightening, and I personally have benefited from his literary efforts.

On this occasion, however, I am afraid he has taken the ground from under my feet.

His comparison between Edward Francis and J. W. Washbrook may be very interesting to those who knew both personally or to those who knew neither, but to one like myself who knew Washbrook in my learning days I was rather shocked to find that he had what is sometimes termed a 'past.'

I take it that the Ross peal which Mr. E. Barnett heard and proved to be separate parts of 'Holt's Original' and 'Penning's one part' was thrashed out in Washbrook's lifetime.

Even so, having seen Washbrook ring two tower bells to Stedman Triples, and turn the Manchester Town Hall tenor in to Cambridge Royal with a very moderate band a few days before his death, I think he will remain on the pedestal which we in Manchester have placed him.

I am looking forward to more from Mr. Trollope.

Manchester.

R. LONGDON.

#### IN THE VALE OF WHITE HORSE.

A BERKSHIRE TOUR.

The annual outing of the St. Mary's bellringers, Rodbourne Cheney, took place on August 10th, when, accompanied by a few experienced colleagues from Swindon, another 'busmen's holiday' was spent under the capable management of 'Captain' Jack Roberts. A start was made at 12.30 p.m., al fresco lunch being enjoyed en route. The first halt was at West Hendred, where touches of Minor and Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung. A move was then made to Harwell, where the recently rehung peal of eight was soon going, touches of Grandsire, Stedman and Bob Minor being rung, with great temptations to linger on for more. Ringing at East Hagbourne was followed by a visit to Drayton, where a light peal of eight was more to the liking of the party, and various methods were rung. After an inspection of a screen erected to the memory of the late Rev. F. E. Robinson, the journey was continued to Abingdon, where an excellent tea was partaken of before going to St. Helen's Church to try the peal of ten. An opportunity was afforded the party to view the beautiful paintings in the chancel, ably described by the verger. Unfortunately the company had already got behind schedule time, but the 'sights' of Abingdon attracted some of the members, and both difficulty and anxiety was experienced by 'Captain' Roberts in getting his band together to move on to Hinton Waldrist, where a light peal of six were at their disposal. These bells were very much to the liking of the younger members, and the 'Long and Short of it' were soon pulling merrily in Grandsire Doubles. Despite the curtailing of the time allotted to this tower, the fine peal of eight at Buckland had, regretfully, to be cut out, and at Faringdon, owing to the late hour, only a short touch of Grandsire was possible before lowering the bells, which was one of the best 'let-downs' during the day. The band tender their thanks to the various incumbents, towerkeepers and others who helped to make the outing so enjoyable.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. MANCHESTER BRANCH AT MOSSLEY.

On Saturday a meeting of the Manchester Branch of the Lancashire Association was held at Mossley, 'up-the-hill.' Members and friends attended from Fricland, Newhey, Prestwich, West Didsbury, Ashton and Miles Platting, and there was a full muster of the local company.

A short service (conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. B. Clarke) was followed by the dedication of a peal board recording a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rung by the local company in June last, the first purely local peal in this tower for about 25 years.

In his address, which centred round the peal board and its significance, the Vicar, whilst praising the attempts of ringers to secure peals and to learn as much as possible about the art they practised, sounded a warning note respecting peal ringing becoming first and foremost in the thoughts of ringers. He appreciated any effort to further the art, because he realised that such efforts ensured better service ringing. Also, he allowed for the ringers to get so much personal pleasure out of the bells in the way of peals, meetings, etc.; but he urged that the bells were placed in the church for the service of the church, and service ringing should therefore be put first at all times, and only the best the ringers were capable of giving should be offered.

After the service the Vicar and congregation adjourned to the tower, when the peal board was unveiled and dedicated.

Tea was afterwards served in the schoolroom, where the hungry hill-climbers kept the ladies busy in supplying their needs.

The business meeting was presided over by the branch president, Mr. C. Gudgeon, who congratulated the local company upon their achievement, and welcomed, amongst others, Mr. Jack Harrison, of Ashton, a familiar figure and ringer of these parts, who is now well past his eightieth year.

The following places were chosen for next meetings, viz.: Birch-in-Rusholme for September, Worsley for October, and Stretford for November. Two new members were elected, viz., George Brooks and Frank Reynolds, both of Prestwich.

The leaders of towers were asked to ascertain if any peal boards or records of peals rung prior to 1826 existed in their churches in order to further the Central Council's proposal to compile a register of such peals.

Votes of thanks were accorded the Vicar, the organist and choir-master, and the ladies and local ringers for a pleasant day.

Towards the close of the day the inevitable 'something' had to happen. One member became so fatigued with his hill-climbing and ringing activities that he fell asleep on the tramcar on his way home and overslept his destination.

The meeting over and ringing done,

All went straight to their homes, except one.

He had a long tram ride, a King's-way to traverse,

And instead of being 'quick' he was 'slow' or 'even worse.

On waking up suddenly he looked out to find

He had left his own home stage nearly two miles behind.

## SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

### NEW BRANCH CHAIRMAN WELCOMES NORTH DORSET MEMBERS.

At the last quarterly meeting of the North Dorset Branch Canon Hellins, the newly-elected chairman, expressed a wish to mark the jubilee year by entertaining the members and their wives at Marnhall Rectory. This kind intention was carried into effect on Saturday, August 3rd, when some 70 guests enjoyed the hospitality of Canon and Mrs. Hellins in their beautiful garden. Tea was provided at tables on the lawn, and an ingenious variety of games and competitions was arranged for the diversion of the visitors. Prizes were graciously presented by Mrs. Hellins to winners in the competitions.

After tea, Canon Hellins addressed a few words of cordial welcome to his guests, whose gratitude to their host and hostess was voiced by the Rev. F. L. Edwards and shown by vigorous applause.

Touches were rung at intervals on the rich-toned bells of St. Gregory's Church. The weather was perfect, and the company present dispersed to their homes deeply indebted to Canon and Mrs. Hellins for a most delightful time.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

**WARKTON, KETTERING.**—On Monday, July 22nd, a quarter-peal of Doubles (1,260 changes), being 240 each of St. Simon's, Chase, Canterbury and Plain Bob, and 300 of Grandsire: D. Bussey (first quarter-peal) 1, H. E. Eastbrook 2, Miss D. J. Moir 3, R. W. Lawrence 4, B. P. Morris (conductor) 5. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss D. J. Moir.

**MARPLE, CHESHIRE.**—At All Saints' Church, 720 Doubles, consisting of two six-scores of Grandsire and four six-scores of Plain Bob, each called differently: Miss M. Crossley (first 720) 1, Sam Graham (first 720) 2, Fred Marsden 3, Kenneth Lewis 4, Arthur Whiting (conductor) 5. All belong to the local band except third ringer, who is from Glossop.

## A WEEK IN THE WEST.

### A SIDELIGHT ON THE BRISTOL TOUR.

Those who took part last week in the tours organised by the Bristol United Guilds had a marvellously good time in the West of England. For the following sidelight upon the proceedings we are not responsible, and it is printed with the apologies of the writer to all concerned. It is astonishing what an inspiration a holiday gives some people.

Last week, writes our correspondent, a party of FOULK, in the GUISE of bellringers, met at Bristol to take part in another of those delightful tours organised by the Bristol ringers. They travelled many miles during the course of the week; sometimes the day was not long enough, so they journeyed on into the KNIGHT.

The driver would STOKE(S) up his coach each morning, and, the KING having taken his seat—for the tour was patronised by royalty—they would BID DULPH, and any others who had assembled to witness their departure, farewell, and follow the ARROW—SMITH made—which led out of the city.

They used to DART about the 'Dusty' RHODES in all directions, and yet, though this sounds rather contradictory, they always followed the WEST. The CLARK of the weather did his part right nobly.

They travelled past WOOD, LEY and moorland scenery, and the POPPY bloomed luxuriantly all the week.

The cows (W)IN FIELDS looked up in blank amazement as the coach whizzed past, but though they travelled so fast, no DENT was made in any other coach or car.

An elegant orchestra and choir broadcast frequent performances from the back of the coach, but the conductor, who must surely have graduated with many distinctions, rarely put his HUDS ON. The baby of the party needed careful watching, for he often fell out of HIS COTT when the coach came to a sudden stop.

If anyone wanted to know anything, he would ask the man from Ripon, for if there was anything interesting to record, he always PETT ITT down in his notebook.

Many people suffered from CORNEY feet after visiting two factories in one day!

They found it rather chilly in Cheddar Gorge, but when they got to the bot(H)OM, SONshine appeared again.

Towards the end of the week, one lady had gone so far as to seek a separation from her husband, so they had to COOP 'ER up. Naturally, this SHUK 'ER up somewhat, so they were able to F(L)ETCH 'ER out again, and domestic peace reigned once more.

They enjoyed the tour so much that they are going, (R)IFF IT(H)S convenient, on the next one.

Now HARR IS the end, and all those who don't like this, can BURN ETT with pleasure.

## AN ENJOYABLE EXCURSION.

### ESSEX RINGERS' TOUR.

Loughton and Woodford ringers, with friends making up a party of 34, including Messrs. W. H. Theobald and J. Moule, of the Leytonstone band, had an enjoyable excursion through some of the picturesque parts of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Withyham was the first objective, reached after a two hours' run via Sevenoaks and Westerham. The Church of St. Michael and All Angels, nestling near the stately home of Earl de la Warr, can rightly claim to have a most tuneful peal of eight, tenor 18 cwt. A warm welcome was given by the Rev. Layng and Mr. Collins. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were well struck, and the learners felt quite at home whilst ringing their call changes. After dinner, served at the White Hart Hotel, Cuckfield, Mr. Hounsell of the local band, joined in the touches of Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Major that were rung on a well-going musical eight, tenor 15 cwt., which are in keeping with the interesting church of Holy Trinity.

Redhill was reached after passing through some interesting well-wooded country.

At the conclusion of tea at the Plough, Mr. W. Rule, on behalf of the non-ringers, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. J. Rann (Loughton) and to Mr. C. Morss (Woodford), the organisers of the successful outing, with feeling references to his old friends who had passed away since the last outing. Mr. J. Chalk voiced the thanks of the ringers. He referred to the absence through sickness of Mr. G. Carter, one of their stalwarts.

Mr. J. Rann and Mr. C. Morss suitably replied, the latter urging the Loughton non-ringers to take up the art, and so maintain the band at full strength.

Messrs. Willett and Claydon conducted the party to the tower of St. John-the-Evangelist, where touches of Stedman, Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major were rung and enjoyed. This completed the ringing programme, and by 10.30 Woodford was reached after having spent a happy day, blessed with sunshine, attractive landscapes and good fellowship.

Sincere thanks are extended to the incumbents for the use of the bells and to those who assisted in the towers visited.

## RINGING'S WORST POET. THE VERSE OF MR. JOHN BINQUES.

By Our Own Representative.

The coming of John Binques into the 'constellation' of ringing poets, led the Editor of 'The Ringing World' to send me in search of this writer, hitherto unknown to the Exercise, to ascertain something more about his work. With an address in my pocket—copied from the somewhat stained MS. of the verses on 'Modern Rumbling Ringers'—which led me to a country village, 'far from the madding crowd,' I eventually ran him to earth late one evening at the sign of the 'Red Cauliflower,' where, following what I afterwards gathered to be his daily custom, he was seeking relaxation in the fascinating game of darts.

When, at length, Mr. Binques was at liberty, and I had revealed the object of my interview, we settled ourselves in a corner of the bar parlour, and over a tankard of the best—in fact, it was over two or three tankards in Mr. Binques' case—I endeavoured to find out something of this unexpected claimant to the title of 'Ringing's Worst Poet.'

'Of course,' said Mr. Binques, from behind his spectacles and in front of his long hair, which give him the characteristic appearance associated with his profession, 'of course, I don't always try to write bad verse. It just comes. I can't help it; nor can any poet who faces his work squarely. You probably know what goes into editorial waste-paper baskets from some of these so-called poetical geniuses. But I only mention that just to show that we cannot always produce the best.'

'You are a bellringer yourself, Mr. Binques?' I asked.

'Oh, yes,' he said. 'I know a little about it. How else, do you think, I could write those knowledgeable verses on the subject? When I want inspiration for my poems about bells, I go to the belfry, and I may tell you,' he whispered confidentially, 'I have many real gems which have never yet seen the light in cold print.'

And with this he began foraging in his pockets, as I have seen some well-known composers do when you begin to talk to them about peals.

While he was thus rummaging through a collection of odds and ends of paper, 'Mr. Binques,' I said, 'you are, I imagine, among the minor poets.'

'Yes, I suppose you would say I am,' he replied, 'but I am very near the fringe. I mean,' he added hastily, 'the fringe of the greater lights. And that,' he proceeded, 'gives me an idea. I have never yet written a poem on Minor. I must write one.'

He had stopped for a moment in his search through his little pile of oddsments. After another deep pull at his tankard, 'How would it go?' said he. 'Yes, like this,' and he began to scribble on the back of an old envelope:—

There's nothing so sweet as Bob Minor  
On a good old heavy six,  
When the bells go along, with a smooth ding dong,  
And . . .

'and, and—' there's nothing to play you tricks.' What about that? I think I could work up a good string of verses to that meter.'

Then he resumed his chase through his papers. By this time I had asked the landlord to refill his tankard. Stopping short after having unfolded at least a dozen of these worn-looking slips and glancing at their contents, 'Ah, here's what I was looking for!' he exclaimed. 'What do you think of this:—

The sound of the bells comes rippling; comes rippling on the breeze;  
It finds an echo in the dell, it hovers in the trees.  
And while I sit and ruminate, it mingles  
With the humming of the bees.

'Now that,' said Mr. Binques, 'is real poetry. That's the first stanza; there are ten more like it. And what about this?' as his fingers gently opened out another frail-looking fragment. 'You'll like this,' and he began to read:—

Seated one day by the fireside, I was weary and ill at ease.  
My thoughts wandered rather wildly, like the breezes in the trees,  
Till my hand 'lighted a moment on the lid of something hot,  
And my recollection turned again  
To those nights at the Coffee Pot.

I sat once more in the Smoke Room, with the candles all aglow,  
And saw through the haze the faces of the men of long ago.  
There was Wood and Horrex and Pettit and others of the phantom  
host,

That had peopled the towers  
And had passed their hours  
In the places that they loved most.

They've gone from the scene of their labours, those men who were  
mea indeed,  
They were men of sterling merit; we could do with more of their  
breed.

I thought of their great-hearted doings, and wondered if ever again  
We should meet their like in the belfries of the churches built by  
Wren.

Having read me a lot of his other poems, some good and some not  
so good, Mr. Binques reminded me, as the landlord brought him  
another tankard and loudly called, 'Time, please, gentlemen,' that he  
had his lighter moments. After a first half-turn with the tankard,  
Mr. Binques hastily extracted another morceau from his collection,  
and read:—

A ringer's life is the life for me,  
Ding-dong, ding-dong, merry and free.  
Come old, come young, we are men of might,  
We could ring all day, we could ring all night.  
We cheer the world and make it bright  
With the sound of the bells,  
Tra-la; tra-la; tra-la!

And then the landlord of the Red Cauliflower came to turn us out,  
and, the last half-turn having been performed by Mr. Binques'  
tankard, we left, but the poet stopped under the lamp outside the  
door, and after another hasty look through the handful of papers  
which he was still clutching, he thrust one into my hands: 'Here,' he  
said, 'perhaps you would like to publish this'—and with a curt  
'Good-night' he disappeared. When I had opportunity to read his  
parting gift, this is what I found:—

Who is it from the old church tower  
Sends forth the chimes at evening hour  
To keep the milk from turning sour?

The Bellringer!

Who is it in the steeple high  
Some strange new method oft will try,  
Until the nearby stream runs dry?

The Bellringer!

Who is it tries, on summer's night,  
To cheer us up with music bright—  
But makes us shut our windows tight?

The Bellringer!

Who finds an outlet for his skill  
By ringing peals and peals, until  
The people cry out, 'Peace! be still!'

The Bellringer!

Who sounds the bells while we're abed  
On Sunday morn, with tired head,  
Until we wish that he were dead?

The Bellringer!

Who gives a welcome to the brave,  
Who often makes the public rave,  
And tells us lastly to the grave?

The Bellringer!

After that, I am not quite sure about Mr. Binques. He may be  
a poet, and love darts like he loves a full tankard, but, over bell-  
ringing I can't quite make up my mind whether he is a humorist or  
a cynic.

LAUGHTON STILL HOLDS RECORD.  
To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—My congratulations to Mr. Binques. William Laugh-  
ton's record is not yet broken.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

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### NOTICES.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637). — Meeting for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Aug. 29th, at 7.30 p.m.—Wm. T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District. — Meeting at Ewhurst on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5.30. Please make an effort to attend this meeting, as it is hoped to revive interest at Ewhurst.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Burton District.—The next meeting will be held at Measham on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. All ringers welcome. — Joseph Wm. Cotton, Coronation Street, Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch. —The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's Church, Ramsbottom, on Saturday, August 24th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Meeting in the tower at 6.30. All ringers cordially invited to attend.—J. Porter, Hon. Branch Sec., 11, Chesham Bank, Bury.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD AND DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY. — A joint meeting of the above societies will be held at Haxey on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Tea at the Duke William Hotel, price 1s. 3d. —H. Morgan and E. Cooper, Dis. Secs.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—A meeting will be held at Biddenham on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells (6) ready from 3 p.m. Tea at 5. You will be very welcome.—Frank C. Tysoe, Dis. Sec., 10, Grange Road, Bromham, Bedford.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Andover District.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Andover, Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells from 2.30. Service in Parish Church 4.30. Tea 5. Business meeting follows. Please notify Mr. O. Smart, 31, Marlborough Street, for tea.—Rev. F. S. H. Marle, Hon. Sec., Deane Rectory, Basingstoke.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Farnham Royal (8 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 24th, at 3.30 p.m. Guild service 5 p.m.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Pulborough on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells available afternoon and evening. Service 4.15. Tea at Chequers Tea Rooms 4.45.—A. W. Groves, Amherst, Dominion Road, Worthing.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Loughborough District.—The next meeting will be held at The Oaks-in-Charnwood Church on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells available 3.30 p.m.—D. S. Collins, Hon. Dis. Sec., Collinwood, Knightthorpe Road, Loughborough.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch. — The next meeting will be held at Newchurch, Culcheth, on Saturday, Aug. 24th. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—Peter Crook, Hon. Sec., 203, Devonshire Road, Bolton.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—A joint practice of the Dorchester and Wimborne branches will be held at Kingston on Thursday, Aug. 29th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30. Kindly notify for tea by Tuesday, 27th inst. — C. H. Jennings, Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Alton and Petersfield District.—A by-practice meeting will be held at Bramshott on Thursday, Aug. 29th. Bells (6) available from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.—C. E. Bassetti, Hon. Dis. Sec., 32, Charles Street, Petersfield.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD.**—Aylesbeare Deanery Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Withycombe Raleigh on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Bells available at 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. Littleham and Lymstone towers also available. Those requiring tea please notify me not later than Aug. 26th.—R. Brook, Hon. Sec., 3, Greatwood Terrace, Topsham.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Lincoln District.—Next meeting at Fulbeck (6 bells) Saturday, Aug. 31st. Tea will be provided for all who notify Harold Marcon, Hon. Dis. Sec., Ivanhoe, 17, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—A general meeting will be held at Grundisburgh on Saturday, August 31st. Bells (8) available from 2.30. Tea at Dog Inn at 4.30, 1/- each. Meeting follows.—H. Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Leatherhead District.—A meeting will be held at Cobham on Saturday, August 31st. Service 4.30, followed by a tea in the Church Room. All welcome. Please send numbers for tea to Mr. W. James, 18, Freeland Road, Cobham, by the 28th.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Shipley on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 7 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Armley, Leeds 12.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Bristol Rural Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Abson on Saturday evening, Aug. 31st. No tea or service. Bells (6) available at 5 p.m. All welcome. Bus No. 19a, Staple Hill to Pucklechurch, at 35 minutes past each hour.—Frank Skidmore, 80, Carlyle Road, Greenbank, Bristol 5.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Broughton Astley, Saturday, Aug. 31st, from 3 p.m. Service 4.45, followed by tea and meeting. Owing to catering difficulties, will all those who expect to attend please make an effort to notify either me or Mr. H. Bird, Broughton Astley, Leicester, by Wednesday previous? Cosby bells available in the evening.—A. E. Rowley, Hon. Sec.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Grappenhall Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Run-corn on Saturday, Aug. 31st, at 3 p.m. Kindly advise me not later than the 28th if requiring tea.—John E. Ashcroft, Hon. Sec., P.O., Grappenhall.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Bradfield Deanery Branch.—Summer meeting will be held at Aldermaston (8 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. and tea 4.45 p.m. Please notify T. W. Palmer, 128, Halls Road, Tilehurst, Berks, number for tea by Aug. 29th.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Stoke Goldington (5 bells) on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Service at 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting to follow. All ringers welcome. Please notify in good time those requiring tea.—Walter Sear, Hon. Sec., 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

**HASTINGS AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A meeting will be held at Battle on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Tower open at 3 o'clock. All ringers are welcome.—C. A. Levett, Hon. Sec., 238, Priory Road, Hastings.

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Winchester District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Twyford on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Service in the Parish Church at 4, followed by tea in the Parish Hall at 4.30. Bells available at 2 p.m. Please let us know if you are coming.—G. and Miss Noice, 6, Cathedral View, Highcliffe, Winchester.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Ashford District.—Short notice.—The annual district meeting will be held at Ashford on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Bells ready 3.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m. Business meeting after tea, during which two important matters will be discussed. Tea free to those who notify me by Thursday, Aug. 29th.—F. Conley, Hon. Sec., 11, Park Road, Ashford.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Archdeaconry of Ely and Hunts Branches.—A joint meeting will be held at Gamblingay on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Bells available 3 p.m. Tea at 5 o'clock.—Miss K. Willers and H. J. Parker, Dis. Secs.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Branch.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth (12 bells), on Saturday, Aug. 31st. Bells available from 3 p.m. All ringers are welcome.—J. G. W. Harwood, Branch Sec., 4, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Limsfield Chart on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 5 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. All ringers heartily welcome. Please send me numbers for tea not later than Tuesday, Sept. 3rd.—W. Claydon, Hon. Dis. Sec., 8, Chartfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Padiham on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Everybody welcome.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Eastern Division.—A meeting will be held at Burnham-on-Crouch on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells available 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea and business meeting to follow. Names for tea by Wednesday, Sept. 4th, to Mr. H. S. Barker, Tregona, Hillside, Burnham-on-Crouch. Ashdown's coach has been booked to take ringers to this meeting, and will leave Market Road, Chelmsford, at 2 p.m., picking up en route; fare 2s.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec.

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**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Ellesmere, Sept. 7th. Bells (8) available 2.30 p.m. All requiring tea to notify me not later than Sept. 1st.—R. R. Pole, Hon. Sec., 88, North St., Castle Fields, Shrewsbury.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held jointly with the Sheffield and District Society at Wortley on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells (8) available 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Please notify Mr. W. Wooler, Sheffield Road, Wortley, by Sept 4th for same.—F. Clark and M. E. Wilson, Hon. Secs.

**GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.**—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Kenton on Sept. 7th. Service 4.30. Tea at 5, 1s. each. Bands and visitors attending please notify me by Aug. 31st.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

**DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at West Hartlepool on Saturday, Sept. 7th. St. Oswald's bells (10) available from 2.30 p.m. A special request is made to ringers who require tea to let me know as early as possible. This is important. All ringers are welcome and a good time assured.—F. Robson, Hon. Dis. Sec., 13, Grainger Street, West Hartlepool.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hoghton on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells ready 2.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) arranged for those who notify Mrs. Jas. Harrison, Park Cafe, not later than Sept. 3rd.—J. Charnock, Branch Sec.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—By the kind invitation of the Halesowen Society the next meeting of this Guild will be held at Halesowen, Worcester, on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, which will be conducted by the Rector (Rev. H. C. A. Colvile, M.A., R.D.). Tea will be provided for those who notify me by Tuesday, Sept. 3rd. Will members please book date and turn up in large numbers so that we may have a record meeting here?—Herbert Sheppard, 49, Hellier Street, Dudley.

**GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD and SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—A joint meeting of the above societies will be held at St. Mary's, East Molesey, on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Bells (8) available from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., tea following. All ringers welcome. Nearest station Hampton Court. Bus 214 from Kingston via Hampton Court, passes church. A p.c. for tea will facilitate arrangements to Mr. F. E. Hawthorne, 4, Temperance Cott., Queen's Road, Thames Ditton, by Wednesday, Sept. 4th.—D. Cooper and F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Dis. Secs.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at Henfield on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Tower open 2.30. Service 4. Tea (by kind invitation) 4.30. Names for tea by previous Wednesday, please.—S. E. Armstrong, Hon. Div. Sec., 1b, Chester Terrace, Brighton 6.

**PENARTH, GLAM.**—The bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Llandaff on Wednesday, Sept. 11th, at 6 p.m. A new ring of eight by John Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

**ABBOT LANGLEY, HERTS (6 bells).** Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Bells open from 3.30. Tea will be arranged at 5.30. It is hoped that a good number will come to this very charming country church.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey. City 4270.

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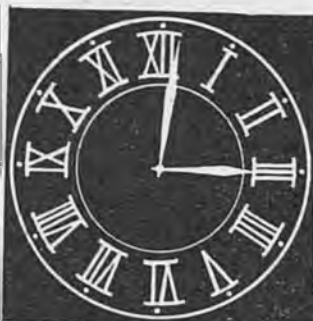
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