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**SHOULD PUBLICITY CEASE?**

There are, no doubt, divergent views on the question, raised by our correspondent, 'Anti-Silent,' a fortnight ago and supported this week by another writer, as to whether ringers should keep silent over their 'silent' bells. These correspondents, to put it briefly, contend that it is likely to be a disservice to ringing to let the public know that practice is now carried out on 'dumb' bells, in case it adds to the armoury of those who, when the war is over, will want the ban on bells continued. We are among those who believe that tactful publicity is helpful to ringing, and, while there is no point in saying anything which may encourage the folk whose deep-rooted objection to bells leads them to declare bells at all times to be a nuisance, let us remember that these people are nearly always in a small minority in any area. Usually they are people who reside in close proximity to a church, and all they are concerned with is the noise, as they deem it to be, which emanates from the tower near which they live. Their objection is seldom against bells in general as they affect other people, but to the particular bells which annoy them.

These people make themselves appear to be an important section of the public, because they are actively vocal in their opposition; but the fact remains that, in the mass, the people of this country like to hear the bells and, if given the opportunity, would not allow them to be silenced in peace time. They love the bells, and one of the things which they have most regretted in the life of this England during the last twelve months has been the absence of church bells on Sunday. It is quite certain also that they are looking forward to hearing the bells once more when victory and peace are proclaimed. It seems unnecessary, therefore, in preparing to greet that day, that ringers should in any way hide the fact that they are now endeavouring to keep themselves in practice, even though they are driven to the shift of having to use for the time being bells which are clapperless. There is, we feel, no general risk that reasonable people will want to put an end to ringing just because, during the ban, ringers have found a means, unsatisfying though it be, of following the pursuit to which they are so much attached.

Nevertheless, there are certain towers about the country which are not all they should be in the modulation of sound. No one knows better than the ringers themselves how overpowering some peals of bells are when heard near the tower, and we have constantly advocated that in such instances every effort should be made to remove any possible cause of annoyance. Such towers exist still,

(Continued on page 374.)



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although the bells now are silent. There can, of course, be no opportunity at present of any constructional work which will remedy the trouble, but for the sake of ringing in these towers in the future the needs should not be lost sight of by those who will return to the belfry later on. To suggest, however, that if ringers make public the fact that they are at present using silent bells, they are providing the army of 'anti-noise' with material for a campaign later on, is to take a pessimistic view of the situation, which we think is hardly justified. There will always be, as there always have been, opponents of church bells who will not lose any opportunity of ventilating their objections, but they can always be met successfully, if those in authority will exercise firmness and tact and the ringers use discretion on the occasions when they ring and the amount of ringing which they do. At the same time it will be well to be wary later on of any attempt by the 'antis' to stifle ringing by an outcry far beyond their numerical strength and in which they may try to mislead any weak-kneed clergy or church councils by a volume of complaint out of all proportion to the real truth.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 28, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,  
At 9, PATRICK ROAD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;**  
Being 42 extents, 10 callings.

\*PHILIP REED ... .. 1-2 | RALPH NARBOROUGH ... .. 3-4  
BERNARD BROWN ... .. 5-6  
Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

\* First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Ernest Morris.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.  
On Friday, August 1, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

At 81, COUNTY ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**  
Tenor size 15 in C.

\*DENNIS W. S. SMOOT ... .. 1-2 | W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... .. 5-6  
JACK S. ROBERTS ... .. 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... .. 7-8  
Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

\* First peal, aged 14 (except for one handbell to a peal of Doubles).  
Rung in honour of the visit of Her Majesty Queen Mary to Swindon on this day.

PRESTON, LANCs.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,  
IN THE BELFRY OF THE PARISH CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**  
Tenor size 15 in C.

EDWARD COWPERTHWAITHE ... .. 1-2 | L/CPL. C. K. LEWIS, R.A.P.C. 5-6  
CYRIL CROSSHWAITHE ... .. 3-4 | \*PTE. J. H. CRAMPION, R.A.S.C. 7-8  
Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by C. K. LEWIS.

\* First peal 'in hand.'

IPSWICH.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, August 3, 1941, in Two Hours and Twenty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER CHURCH,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

\*GEORGE A. FLEMING ... .. 1-2 | CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... .. 5-6  
GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... .. 3-4 | WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... .. 7-8  
Composed by FRANK BENNETT. Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY

Witness—William P. Gartett.

\* First peal on handbells. First peal on handbells as conductor.



## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from page 365.)

### WILLIAM HENRY THOMPSON.

The solution of the Grandsire problem was an interesting event in the development of composition; but, in itself, of no very great importance. Ringers had already satisfied themselves that a peal with common bobs only was not possible, if only for the reason that no one, not even the cleverest, had been able to achieve it, just as now we are convinced that a similar peal of Stedman Triples is not possible, though we have no mathematical proof.

Thompson's real contribution to the science of change ringing was that he showed the supreme importance of Q Sets in composition. He did not discover them. They were known to John Reeves, to Shipway, and, we may assume, to John Holt. But, while those great composers knew of them, their methods of working did not enable them to grasp their full significance. Nor for that matter did Thompson's, beyond the purposes of the immediate problem he was engaged upon. But his use of them in Grandsire Triples showed other people how to use them in all methods, and that altered their outlook on the whole science.

Davies and Heywood and Bulwer, who took the theory of Q Sets from Thompson, did not go on and investigate their real nature and relationship to the fundamentals of change ringing. If they had it might have saved a lot of controversy and explained among other things what Bob Major leads ends really are.

W. H. Thompson's claim to fame in the story of the Exercise rests on his "Note on Grandsire Triples." If he had written no more than that, his place would still have been secure. But he went on further and applied himself to other problems. He was naturally attracted by those which followed on his first investigations, and they appealed to him more because they were such as would interest a mathematician than because they were of importance to the Exercise. So it was that his next book dealt with a subject which at no time had much interest for ringers and now has none at all.

Eighty years before his time Shipway, like other men, had tried to get a peal of Grandsire Triples by splicing the second half of Holt's Ten-part into the first by means of bobs. One plan he tried was to take one part of the second half and to join it straight on to one part of the first half. The plan was, of course, not a success, but he did discover that if a fifth's place bob (that is, a plain lead of Union) was added to each of these double parts, a true peal could be produced, consisting of triple changes throughout. It was an interesting discovery, but of no great practical importance for, though the peal was rung, the composition was looked on as something rather illegitimate, and it never came into general use.

The plan of it, however, appealed to Thompson, and he investigated it, not as Shipway had done by experimenting with Holt's peal, but on mathematical lines. He, however, reversed Shipway's problem, and instead of trying to compose peals of Grandsire by adding a minimum number of Union leads, he composed peals of Union by adding plain Grandsire leads. When he found that Davies' Report on Calls had recognised the plain

lead of Grandsire as a legitimate call for Union he published the result of his investigations in a pamphlet of fifty pages. It appeared in 1893.

As an example of how the problems of composition can be dealt with mathematically, the book has value, but the subject matter was unfortunate. Very few people wanted to ring Union Triples, and those that did would not use a peal with irregular calls however clever its composition. There were some men who valued Union as a method for composition, but they were very few, and the method which had recently been dragged from obscurity soon after lapsed into oblivion.

Like all his writings, Thompson's book is concise and clear, but the close reasoning and the enormous amount of detail make it very difficult to follow. To most readers the subject is not worth the effort.

The same may fairly be said of the very elaborate investigations he made into the composition of Grandsire Triples. William Snowdon included them in the second edition of 'Grandsire,' and they are there for anyone to study, but I very much doubt if they are ever read. It is rather unfortunate that Grandsire, which in practical ringing is almost the simplest and most elementary of methods, should be in composition one of the most difficult and complex. It means that a text book on the method to be complete must be written half for the beginner and half for the most advanced expert.

When Arthur Heywood made his Investigations into Stedman Triples he sought the help of Thompson, not so much for the general work as to solve certain definite and limited problems which he set out and sent him. One of them was the question, Is it possible to write down the 5,040 rows of Triples in sixty complete and independent natural courses? It was an extraordinarily difficult problem, for the factors are so very elusive. Thompson supplied a proof which purported to show that twenty is the greatest number of true natural courses in the method. It was an ingenious proof, but there was a flaw in it. Had he been conversant with composition in general and with Stedman Caters in particular, he would have seen that with fixed second's, sixth's and seventh's place bells twenty-four true courses are obviously possible, though the selection of those twenty-four would undoubtedly make further true courses impossible. It is rather strange that neither Heywood nor Bulwer, both of whom thoroughly understood Stedman Caters, missed the point and allowed the 'proof' to appear.

The matter was finally settled in the year 1908, when three men, Joseph J. Parker, Joseph W. Parker and John Carter, almost simultaneously produced forty true natural courses. Thompson then revised his proof and gave what he said was a really sound proof that forty is the limit. It is a very complicated proof and very difficult to follow, but no one has been able to find a flaw in it. Thompson's original problem, it should be remembered, was to settle whether the sixty are possible, not how many true ones there are. I was in error when I wrote in my book on Stedman that the problem is still unsolved.

It is, of course, no reproach to Thompson that his first proof had a flaw in it, but in one instance his isolation from the general life of the Exercise led him into an error in a matter on which he might have been supposed to be almost the supreme authority, and which a lesser man would probably have escaped, since the pitfall was fairly

(Continued on next page.)



## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(Continued from previous page.)

generally known. He published three peals of Grandsire Triples with common singles, and all were false at the handstrokes.

Apart from his use of Q Sets it is not unlikely that Thompson influenced the Exercise most through Joseph J. Parker, of Farnham Royal. I have very little direct evidence, but I think it probable that Parker's work was largely based on Thompson's methods. At any rate, I gathered the impression, from what he told me and showed me many years ago, that the two men worked on very similar lines, and on lines which at the time were quite unusual with ordinary composers.

That is a remarkable fact considering the differences between the two men. Thompson was a Cambridge mathematician; Parker, like John Holt, his great forerunner in Grandsire Triples, was a shoemaker. He had few advantages in education, but as a composer he has hardly any equals in the history of change ringing. In his work and in the occasional letters and articles he contributed to 'The Bell News' he showed a breadth of vision and a grasp of the essentials of composition far beyond the best of his contemporaries such as John Carter and Henry Dains. He had the true mathematician's gift of looking at a peal objectively. It was a problem to be solved, not something he could 'make,' and which would be his 'property.' He did not publish masses of figures, as did so many others at the time, merely to pile up the number of his peals; and when, as often happened, other people put their names to obvious adaptations of his work he took little or no pains to establish his rights. Few men would have liked to see another name persistently put to the simplest variation of his best-known work, and it is not fair to him now, when the original version of his twelve-part peal is termed 'Groves' Variation.' There is no analogy here with Reeves' Variation, for Reeves did add something (if not much) to Holt's composition.

Joseph J. Parker had few opportunities of distinguishing himself as a practical ringer. During most of his career his own tower had but six bells, but his is one of the greatest names in the Exercise, and it is pleasant to know that as long as the art lasts he will not be forgotten, for his twelve-part peal of Grandsire Triples is one of the two or three indispensable compositions. Middleton's Cambridge and Thurstans' Stedman Triples alone can rank with it.

W. H. Thompson attended only one meeting of the Central Council, the first at London after his election. He quite evidently looked on his membership as an honorary one conferred in recognition of what he had done for the science of ringing, and entailing no duties or obligations; and no doubt he was elected in that spirit. He was so little in touch with ringers and ringing that he could hardly have been of much service.

Much, but not quite the same thing, may be said of another early honorary member. Dr. J. J. Raven was well known to many ringers by name and personally to some, but his interest in bells was archæological, and he did not know very much about ringers or change ringing. At the time the Council was founded he was beginning to get advanced in years and, though he had for six years been the parson of a Suffolk village, and was the president of the Norwich Diocesan Association, the great part

of his active life had been spent as a schoolmaster. He was, in fact, essentially a scholar and an antiquarian.

John James Raven was born on June 25th, 1833, at Boston, the eldest son of J. H. Raven, Rector of Worlington, in Suffolk. He was educated at Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1857, M.A. in 1860, and D.D. in 1872. He was appointed headmaster of Bungay Grammar School in 1859, and from 1866 to 1885 he was headmaster of Yarmouth Grammar School. In the latter year he became Vicar of Fressingfield, which living he held with two other Suffolk benefices until his death in 1906. He had few opportunities of coming into contact with ringers until he had passed middle life, but his interest in bells began when he was a boy. He was, in fact, one of the earliest and one of the most distinguished of those antiquarians who did so much during the second half of the last century to survey the church bells of England, and who brought to the task so much patience, learning and industry.

These men did a lot of good for the Exercise, but almost entirely indirectly. They brought to the notice of churchpeople the value of the many bells which for so long had hung neglected and almost forgotten in the village steeples, and the interest they evoked helped very largely the reform movement among ringers.

This antiquarian interest, however, was quite independent of change ringing and outside the Exercise. It is rather remarkable how little these campanologists, as they called themselves, knew about ringing. Ellacombe did get as far as Grandsire Doubles, and A. H. Cocks rang, I believe, one or two peals of Grandsire Triples; but to W. C. Lukis ringers were a degraded and degenerate lot. Thomas North was an invalid who was not able to enter a tower, L'Estrange and Stahlschmidt never referred to ringing, and Mr. H. B. Walters was one of the principal officials of the British Museum and dealt with bells in the same way and with the same authority as he dealt with Greek and Roman antiquities. The result was that, though these men wrote of bells with knowledge and authority, the few references to change ringing in their books are inadequate and inaccurate.

Raven was no exception, though towards the end of his life he was president of the Norwich Diocesan Association. His first published work was in 1869 on 'The Bells of Cambridgeshire, a second edition of which appeared in 1881. His best work was on 'The Church Bells of Suffolk,' published in 1890. Probably he is chiefly known to ringers by his 'Bells of England' in the series called the Antiquary's Books, where he dealt with the whole subject of bells. It is rather unequal in quality and not altogether up to his best standard, for he had to include matters outside his particular province, and to borrow from his contemporaries. In so doing he was not always accurate or well advised. This was particularly so when he dealt with change ringing. The history he took from Ellacombe and the account of the art from the 'Tintinnaloga.' As an explanation of change ringing for the general public it is anything but adequate.

Dr. Raven, however, will always be remembered with gratitude by lovers of bells and bell lore. My personal recollection is of a kindly and courteous gentleman with extraordinarily brilliant and sparkling eyes. Though elected an honorary member at the first meeting, he never attended the Central Council.



**SINGLE OXFORD BOB MAJOR.**

WHERE WAS THE FIRST PEAL RUNG?

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In the schedule of first performances compiled by the late Rev. A. T. Beeston for the Central Council and reproduced by Mr. Morris in his 'History' it is stated that the first peal of Single Oxford Bob Major was rung at Warnham by the Sussex County Association on January 10th, 1899. No record of this peal appears in the contemporary 'Bell News' nor in the Analysis. We should be glad if anyone who has a copy of the Sussex Association report for that year or any particulars of the peal will send us details, as we are anxious to have a correct record of the first performances of the methods given in the Collection of Plain Major Methods. We have no definite account of any peal in the method before May 7th, 1909, when Fred Holden called a peal of it at Sittingbourne, and October 20th in the same year, when Mr. E. H. Lewis called a peal of it at Pulford.

E. C. S. TURNER,  
J. A. TROLLOPE,  
The Methods Committee.

**PREPARE FOR HOSTILE FORCES***To the Editor.*

Sir,—'Anti-Silent' is right—deadly right! We must build up machinery, and that quickly, wherewith to tap the silent, hostile forces now forming.

Our first task is to seek at once some learned exponent of Civil and Ecclesiastical Law to tell us exactly how we, as ringers, stand in relation to the public. Can a ringer for the State religion and being a servant of it commit a campaignological nuisance? Does such a privilege protect him when engaged in pleasure ringing? Is one bell the legal limit for divine service or may a full-blooded ring count as unit? A host of questions will need clearing up before we get anywhere, and the sooner we begin moving, as the other side is moving—and, creeping, the better.

The next step is to 'cease' all news of association activities in the public Press ('The Ringing World' excepted!). 'Anti-Silent' has already, and rightly, raised this point and, for those who possibly missed his letter, gave, in so many words, the probable reaction of the opposition to unthinking publicity: 'you have your belling in silence and are apparently satisfied—continue, my friends, and so please everybody.'

To it! with no half-armed guessing, but with fully equipped knowledge how to deal with Dora's slick and silent paratroops.

'WIND-UP.'

**STEDMAN ON EVEN NUMBERS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Referring to the recent Standard Methods article on 'Stedman and some others,' Shipway's treatment of Stedman missed the fact that Stedman is purely an odd-bell principle, and if we seek to apply it to an even number of bells, only an odd number can do Stedman work, the extra bell being compelled to act differently. In Shipway's Stedman Major he made each bell strike three blows in 4th place; in Double Stedman the 5th never got away from 4-5 and returned to 5th at the end of each division.

The fact that the alternate quick and slow work breaks up the natural coursing order and is redeemed on an odd number of bells by the covering tenor is quite true.

Another method which might find a place for investigation or discussion in your very interesting articles is Extended-Stedman Major (published some time ago in 'The Ringing World'), which pivots round the treble, which is a plain hunt from lead to 6th place and is actually the quick-bell in each division, the other seven doing Stedman slow-work.

FREDEBICK E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

**"SCROOF."***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. A. Young's explanation is ingenious, but I am afraid it will not do. The objection is that the paid ringing in olden times was never done by regularly appointed bands, and so the members were never 'enrolled' and never on the 'escroie.' The steeple-keeper or the parish clerk was responsible to the parochial authorities for the ringing and he employed whom he would or whom he could get. Older London ringers still remember what some of those men were like fifty or sixty years ago. It would not be insulting them to call them a 'scruffy' lot.

J. A. T.

THE TERM 'BOB'.—Some writers affirm that the term bob was adopted because it could be easily articulated. There are no doubt other monosyllables equally easy, though perhaps not so applicable to the purpose, particularly if we may be allowed to imagine any analogy to exist between the construction of a peal and that of an edifice, the term will imply something of much greater importance. In the latter the bob is used as an instrument of adjustment or leveller; and in the former its judicious application has the effect of levelling and adjusting as to make each bell strike an exact number of times in each place, a condition that must of necessity be complied with in obtaining the extent of the changes in any method.—Henry Hubbard, 1864.

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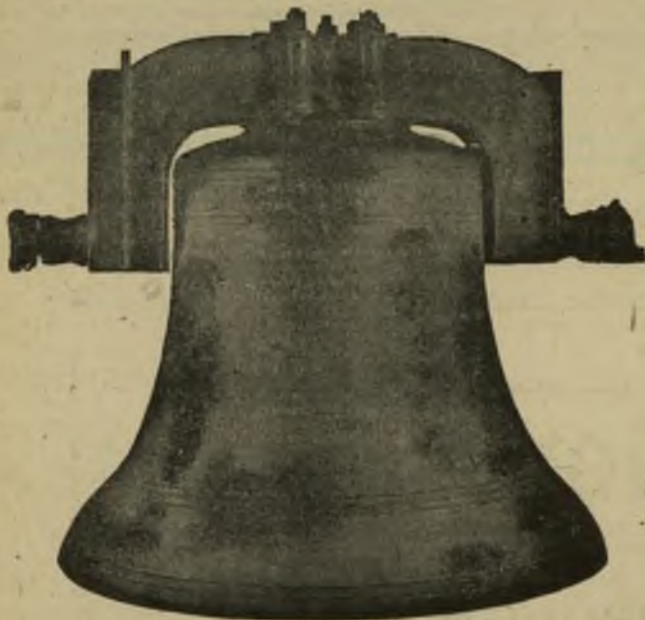


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## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Although the veteran ringer of Ipswich, Mr. Robert H. Brundle, had a severe illness during last winter, his many friends throughout the country will be pleased to learn that he has made a good recovery and often takes a two miles walk.

He will be 90 years of age on September 18th, and in conversation with Mr. Charles Mee, who is nearing four score years, suggested that they should stand in a peal of Stedman Cinques together when peace is celebrated.

Mr. George Williams, Master of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, must be almost if not quite the oldest member of the Royal Cumberland Youths. He is 85 years of age and joined the society on August Bank Holiday, 1885. The occasion was a peal at Arundel, Sussex, in which, among others, Henry Dains and Hewitt rang.

It carries us a long way back, for Hewitt was a contemporary with Shipway and rang with him. Mr. Williams is the only one left of the band who rang at Arundel on that day 56 years ago.

Harold Reed, of the North Stoneham band, has passed his examinations and qualified as a sergeant-pilot in the Royal Air Force. Like other towers, North Stoneham has lost all its 'top-line' youngsters, who have gone on active service, but Mr. Williams is keeping a number of boys interested in ringing by handbell practices and practice on the tower bells with clapper stays. For 60 years George has never ceased to teach—either elementary or advanced 'classes'.

The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, hon. secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association, will be away from home from August 6th to August 30th, and letters will not be forwarded.

We are asked to say that Rupert would like to comply with the suggestion of his old friend, Mr. A. H. Pulling, but just at the moment he is too busy growing food in the day time and watching for 'Jerry' aeroplanes at night to write about his early trips round the Lincoln Fens, which, he says, if described by a capable pen, might make very good reading.

The ring of twelve bells cast by Samuel Knight for St. Saviour's, Southwark, was opened by the College Youths on August 3rd, 1735.

On August 4th, 1819, the twelve bells at Quex Park, Thanet, were opened by bands from the Societies of College Youths and Cumberland Youths. Next day the latter rang 5,213 Grandsire Cinques, conducted by the younger George Gross. Shipway rang the third. The other society did not attempt a peal, but contented themselves with one or two long touches.

A new record for Maximus was set up on August 5th, 1929, when 15,312 changes of Cambridge Surprise were rung at Ashton-under-Lyne. William Pye rang the tenor and conducted. His brother Bob rang the third and Mr. Tom Coles the fourth.

Five thousand and ninety-nine changes of Grandsire Royal were rung at Painswick on August 6th, 1815. This was not the first in the method, though it has sometimes been called so.

Fifty years ago to-day six peals were rung. Four were Grandsire Triples, one Oxford Bob Triples, one Stedman Caters, and one Minor. On the August Bank Holiday in 1891 only four peals were rung. Four of them were Grandsire Triples and one Kent Treble Bob Major.

## DOUBLE NORWICH MAXIMUS.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—A few weeks ago in 'The Ringing World' I noticed an account of a peal of Double Norwich Maximus rung in the city of Norwich about 100 years ago, and I wondered why so few peals of Double Norwich Maximus are rung.

If the music in Maximus is equal or superior to the Major it must be a treat to listen to it, for I consider the music in the Major superior to any other Major method.

I soon found a difficulty in extending the method to Royal, but using three blocks, that is places in 4-3, 6-5 and 8-7, it extends beautifully to Maximus. The places or blocks may be separated as No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4. The lead ends are all the same, but the leads and places in 12th's are different. None of the variations give full work in front or full work behind. No. 1 has the 6th making full work in front when the treble is in 12th place, and when the treble is on the lead the 3rd makes a single dodge in the full work instead of a double dodge in 11-12. The rules of the method are much the same as in the Major.

In extending the method to Royal we find that using three blocks produces rounds in three leads, but adding an extra 7th place at the start will produce a plain course, but the lead ends are not Double Norwich. By using two blocks we get more success: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 contain two blocks each, with the 7th making 9th place, with the treble in 10th place, and Nos. 4, 5 and 6 have Bob Royal treble leads, with the 10th making 2nd place. Either one or the other produces the correct lead end and plain course. Personally, I prefer the Bob Royal lead end, which allows the 6th to make full work in front.

E. WEATHERBY.

4511, South Raymond Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

## BACKWARD HUNTING.

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I am afraid that I did not make my meaning clear in my last letter. In hunting all the leads are at hand and back stroke; in hunting backwards they are all at back and hand.

E. BANKES JAMES.



## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

### DISCOVERY OF AN INTERESTING LETTER.

#### Preparations for the Feast of 1784.

At the Whitechapel Foundry last week, during repairs made necessary by enemy action, Mr. A. A. Hughes discovered among the rafters of the roof some objects which had probably lain hidden there for a century or more.

One was a hand-made glass wine bottle, empty, of course, and another was an autograph letter which throws some light on the story of the College Youths of bygone days. It was written on October 11th, 1784, by John Lyford, a prominent member of the society, to William Mears, who was the Master for that year, and it relates to the coming annual feast. This is what it says:—

No. 463, Strand, London. 11th October, 1784.

Sir,—I was inform'd by Mr. Monk that when I could procure a proper List of the Stewards Names & transmitt them to you you would cause a Circular Letter to be wrote to each of those Gentlemen appointing a Meeting at the Pauls head Tavern. hereunder you have a List which I have no doubt are responsible for the undertaking. Viz.

Messrs. Mears Wm.	Master
Green John	Islington
Hindmarsh	Spitl. Fields
Davis	Whitechape!
Blamey	Horslydown
Newberry	Battersea
Pollard	Do.

The Tickets are Ordered and will be Speedily produced at our Club. every assistance will be given in our power to support you on that Day & I hope no Exertion on your part will be wanting. I call'd at your house on Thursday last but had not the pleasure of meeting you. I likewise call'd upon Mr. Hindmarsh and was told yt. he would not be in Town Till Sunday. it would be well if you were to attend on that Gentleman. I also call'd on Mr. Green of Islington whose Complimts. attend you &c & that he accepts the Office of Steward and will attend you when called upon. I have nothing more to Add than Compliments from Brother Wm. and self & remain &c  
John Lyford.

Although I have not particulariz'd the Xtian Names of the Gentlemen yet Letters directed Mr. — will find their way they being well known Characters.

To understand this letter we must remember that the annual feast was almost the most important event in the life of the old societies. With the College Youths it was an elaborate and costly affair. The price of the tickets was fifteen shillings, fully the equivalent of double that amount to-day. The society was a small one, and the company at the dinner, which usually numbered between one and two hundred, had to be drawn from the outside mostly from without the Exercise. There was always a certain amount of financial risk, and to meet it stewards were appointed whose chief and perhaps only duty was to guarantee the payment of any loss that might be incurred. The following rule, which had been passed eight years before by the ancient Society of College Youths, explains how matters stood:—

That a general Meeting of this Society be held at least Five Weeks before the Feast to take into Consideration and examine the Abilities of the Master and Stewards, whether they be able and willing to bear the Expense attending such Feast: and on the failure of any One or more of the Stewards to provide accordingly and so judiciously to conduct Matters that no Debts may be contracted to fall on the Society.

This was not the rule of the Society of College Youths we are talking about, but it was the general custom. There were, it will be remembered, two Societies of College Youths at this time, the result of a split due to the quarrels which occurred at the time of the death of Annable. Some of the members formed themselves into a company for peal and practice ringing. They had, it would seem, no intention of founding a new society, and though they became quite separated from the ancient Society of College Youths it was long before they adopted

the regular forms of a society. They never had any formal rules, and probably their officers, all except the beadle, were appointed principally for the dinner. In the belfry the company carried on much as a modern band would do.

Evidently it was so in 1784, when they were at the very height of their prosperity. Earlier in the year they had beaten the Cumberlands in the contest at the opening of Horsleydown bells, and had set up a new twelve-bell record by ringing 7,008 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark, though their rivals, by the famous 12,000 of Royal, had taken the ten-bell record from them.

In these performances the Master had taken no part. William Mears was not a ringer, or at any rate not a ringer of the same class as the College Youths. After two years' partnership with William Chapman he had just come into sole ownership of the Whitechapel Foundry, and had started the dynasty of bell founders which lasted for nearly a century.

Possibly his new responsibilities did not give him much opportunity for other activities, and if he had been a regular attendant at the society's meetings and practices there would hardly have been any need for such a letter as the above. But he was just the sort of man to preside at the feast.

John Lyford, the writer of the letter, was for many years a prominent member of the society. Mr. Hughes' suggestion is that he may have been the equivalent of the present-day secretary. It is possible, but hardly likely. There was then no secretary, and the executive officer was the beadle. John Povey held that office for many years. When he was appointed we do not for the minute know, but he was calling all the important peals rung at the time. The beadle's office was not exactly a paid one, but he received fees. To some extent he was the servant of the company, and the members most endowed with worldly goods do not seem to have sought the office.

John Lyford and his brother William were well-to-do tradesmen. William was the elder, and it was from his house in the Strand that the letter was written. The family apparently came from Mortlake, where the name of Henry Lyford (possibly the other's father) appears on a peal board, and where there are several family tombstones in the churchyard. John Lyford lived either then or rather later at Whitechapel. He had begun his peal ringing with the College Youths in 1777, when he rang Fulham tenor to two peals of Grandsire Caters, one a seven-thousand. For some years his peals were all on the tenor, and some of his performances were notable ones. He was the first man to ring Cornhill tenor to a peal with only one to assist him, and he was on the box at York Minster when the College Youths rang the first peal on those heavy bells. William Doubleday Crofts and John Nixon strapped for him. He rang the ninth at Bow when the first peal was rung there by ten men only. As a ringer he was never the equal of his brother, who took part in all the great performances by the society during many years.

The Mr. Monk mentioned was Joseph Monk, who was the doyen of the society and had a long and distinguished ringing career behind him. He, too, had been a famous heavy bell ringer in his time. He edited the last edition of the J.D. and C.M. 'Campanalogia' which appeared in 1766.

(Continued on next page.)



## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

Probably what had happened was this. At the society's meeting, or club as they called it, three or four of the leading men talked about the coming feast and discussed ways and means. Monk was present, and William Lyford and Povey and probably Winstanley Richardson and Joseph Holdsworth. They decided who would be the most likely men to undertake the office of steward, and then got John Lyford, the junior of the party to write to William Mears, the Master, asking him to issue the formal invitations.

The men invited were necessarily all men of some position. None of them figures as a peal ringer. Possibly they were not ringers at all but men who, as churchwardens or prominent parishioners, had some interest in bells and had come into contact with the society. John Blamey (or Blame as the name is spelt) was one of the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' He was then living at Bell Yard, Temple Bar. If they had been regular members of the society, John Lyford would have known their Christian names.

## THE SOCIETY'S HEADQUARTERS.

### THE KING'S HEAD, WINCHESTER STREET.

The efforts of those College Youths who are within reach of the City of London to keep alive the traditions, by meeting regularly, led our representative in the issue of May 2nd to refer to some of the houses at which in the past the Ancient Society has made its headquarters.

It was recalled that the Coffee Pot was not the only tavern associated with the College Youths' long history which has disappeared. There was The Goose and Gridiron. That fell to the house breakers 40 years ago and so escaped the fate of The Coffee Pot which it would have shared. There was The Barn, which stood where Trafalgar Square now is. There was the Barley Mow by St. Bride's. There is a tavern now on its site, but the name is changed, and it is but a small portion of an immense office building. The Old Bell, where Annable, and Cundell, and Hardham sometimes had a drink, is still there, how much rebuilt and changed we do not know. And what of the Whittington and Cat, as famous a tavern as any in the story of the Exercise, with so many memories of the London Youths and the College Youths, of handbell peals, and Matt. Wood, and Haley, and Cox, and Cooter? That, too, is gone.

After this paragraph had appeared in 'The Ringing World,' Mr. Richard Woodley wrote to the society that the meeting house most frequented in the years from 1890 to 1899 was one in the Borough Market, under the shade of St. Saviour's. But what the sign of the house was he could not remember, and he suggested that Frank Dawe or Bob Newton could supply the information.

A few days ago we visited Mr. Dawe to see what he could tell us about it. We found him clear in his memory, although frail in body. He is in his eightieth year and has been in a physically enfeebled condition for some time, but he still follows with keen interest the activities of the Ancient Society, of which he was Master for five years, between 1888 and 1893.

The name of the house which Mr. Woodley could not remember was, Mr. Dawe said, the King's Head, Winchester Street, and he has good reason to know, for it was there, when Sam Reeves, of Birmingham, was Master, that he was elected a member of the society in 1879 and where he later passed through the various offices to the chair.

The room in which the society used to meet was specially reserved for them, and some of their framed possessions adorned the walls. Many a happy evening the members spent there, until about 1893 they moved to the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard. When this house was pulled down to make way for a big commercial building the society transferred for a short time to Paternoster Square, but after only a few weeks moved to The Coffee Pot.

Mr. Dawe said he did not remember Tom Powell keeping the King's Head, as Mr. Woodley mentioned. The people who managed the house were named Roots. Powell, who originally came from Birmingham, and was a good ringer, kept the Three Tuns at Waltham Abbey.

## A LINK WITH THE PAST.

At the meeting of the College Youths held on Saturday, August 2nd, the Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, was supported by the secretary and treasurer and by Messrs. E. A. Young, G. N. Price, E. Murrell, R. Stannard, J. A. G. Prior, H. G. Miles, H. Hoskins, W. Madgwick, Wilfred Williams (Cheltenham), James H. Shepherd (Swindon), Charles H. Kippen (Beddington) and Henry W. Kirton (Chelmsford).

(Continued in next column.)

## DEATH OF MR. A. PANTHER.

### THE FUNERAL.

As we recorded in our last issue, the death occurred at his home, 29, Avenue Road, Wath-on-Dearne, on Monday, July 21st, of Mr. Arthur Panther, after a long and painful illness. He had undergone an operation about 18 months before, from which he seemed to rally and attended one or two meetings, but later he relapsed and passed peacefully away at the age of 64 years.

Mr. Panther was a member of the Yorkshire Association, which he joined in 1901, and served on the committee of the Southern District of the association for a number of years up to the time of his death.

He had taken a very active part in the work of the Barnsley and District Society and was one of the first members, joining the society when it was founded in 1909. He was elected hon. treasurer in 1920, an office he held until 1930, when he was elected hon. secretary. This position he held until 1937, when he resigned on account of his failing health. He was presented with a clock by the members for his long and valuable services.

Mr. Panther was always of the same genial nature and did much to encourage beginners. He will be sadly missed in the society.

He had rung about 140 peals, of which he had conducted 26. Among these performances were many peals of Minor, including one in 35 methods spliced, and one non-conducted in seven methods. In Minor peal ringing he was always a 'solid rock.'

Mr. Panther was a native of Wath, the tower with which he was connected during the whole of his ringing career. He was secretary of the local company for many years.

The funeral took place on Thursday, July 24th, the service, which took place in the Parish Church, being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. V. Evans). The interment afterwards took place in Wath Cemetery. In addition to the widow and other family mourners, there were among those present Mr. S. F. Palmer, hon. treasurer of the Yorkshire Association, officially representing this association; Mr. E. Brookes (president), Mr. H. Chant (treasurer), Mr. D. Smith (hon. secretary), Barnsley and District Society; Mr. S. Wogdoock, Mr. C. Bell, Mr. T. Hilton (Darfield), Mr. H. S. B. Chamberlain (Doncaster), Mr. S. Briggs (Eastwood), Mr. A. Nash (Rotherham), Mr. A. Champion (Penistone), Mr. W. Moxon (Sandal, vice-president of the Barnsley Society), Messrs. A. Gill, G. Lord, W. Green and L. Steele (Wath). The following ringers acted as bearers: Messrs. E. Brookes, H. Chant, W. Green, L. Steele, T. Hilton, W. Moxon, J. Champion and D. Smith.

After the service at the graveside a well-struck course of Bob Major was rung by S. Briggs 1-2, H. Chant 3-4, A. Nash 5-6, A. Gill 7-8. All the ringers of the Barnsley and District Society are members of the Yorkshire Association, so that both societies were well represented. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath from the members of the Barnsley and District Society.

## THE BELLS OF PENZANCE.

### MEMORIES OF FORTY YEARS AGO.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—H. D.'s early memories of a village curfew published recently brought to my mind a similar one nearly forty years ago.

I was on my way to Bristol from London by steamer and we had called at Penzance. During the evening I strolled towards St. Michael's Mount, and when opposite I heard across the water from the Mount six bells being chimed in rounds and call changes, with occasional attempts at Grandsire Doubles which never survived more than the first lead.

I cannot remember either seeing anything about these bells or hearing of them from anyone, but there is evidently a peal of six in the castle. Perhaps some of our Cornish friends could tell us about them.

10, King's Close, Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

## THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous column.)

A welcome visitor was Able Seaman Jack Millhouse, of Lincoln, who was on his way to rejoin his ship the same night. Greetings were received from Messrs. S. H. Hoare, P. A. Corby and E. Barnett.

Mr. A. A. Hughes said that when stripping the walls of an attic damaged during a recent air raid an old letter was discovered addressed to William Mears, bellfounder, of Whitechapel. The letter is an important discovery, as it reveals the name of one of the Masters between 1755 and 1822—the period for which there is no record of those who occupied the chair. Commenting on this interesting discovery, Mr. Young said he himself had observed Thomas Lowe's name on the dinner ticket for that year included in the Osborn MSS. in the British Museum. Thus with the name of William Mears as Master in 1784 and William Irons in 1788 they were gradually filling the gap.

The sympathy of the meeting was expressed with Mr. F. E. Dawe in his present indisposition, and Mr. Young said he would be calling on Mr. Dawe and would acquaint him of this.

The Master announced that the next meeting would be held on August 16th at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel.

After refreshments handbell ringing brought the meeting to a close.



## RINGING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

## VISITORS' EXPERIENCES AT WOODSTOCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'It's an ill wind that blows no fortune,' says the old proverb, and this was amply proved by the vicissitudes of the war enabling two members of the N.U.T.S. to ring at St. Mary's, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa.

Myself, Signalman A. Patrick Cannon, Royal Corps of Signals, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, and Mechanist Cecil F. Guy, Royal Navy, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, were in the same convoy together, which called at Cape Town for a few days. I had known of the peal at Woodstock for a good many years, but it was not until I was well on my journey that I learnt with great pleasure that this was a suburb of Cape Town. I was imagining it somewhere near Johannesburg. Naturally I was determined to spare no pains to get a ring fixed up.

There are only two peals of bells in the whole of South Africa, St. Mary's, Woodstock, and St. Mary's, Greyville, Durban, and both towers contain eight bells. On the former the only peal rung in the continent was scored on December 15th, 1904. This was Grandsire Triples—Taylor's six-part—conducted by F. P. Powell. Mr. E. F. Behan, now, I believe, in Australia, who composed a peal of Grandsire, rang the 4th. A 720 of Bob Minor was also rung in 1904, conducted by J. F. Priest, and since then two quarter-peals of Grandsire Doubles have been rung.

Obviously on this occasion speed in making the necessary arrangements was the important factor and so on the first evening ashore—a Wednesday—I made straight for the church. A Confirmation service was in progress, conducted by the Suffragan Bishop of Cape Town, and at the conclusion of this I was introduced to the Vicar, the Rev. E. W. Wray. He readily gave his consent to any ringing, though he stressed the difficulty of getting a band together. However, Mr. J. Riley, one of the ringers, was in the Vicarage at the time and kindly took me to the house of the local captain, Mr. J. Wood, who in turn immediately informed two more, with the result that a meeting was fixed for the next evening, Thursday.

Next day I found Cecil Guy, and after the naturally enthusiastic greetings one would expect from two ringing friends, meeting 6,000 odd miles from home, I told him of the glad news of a ring. Actually he was on duty, but got special permission to come ashore, and so at 7 p.m. we got the key early and made our way into the belfry.

The ringing chamber, reached by a short staircase from the base of the tower which forms a porch, is fairly small. It is lit by four small windows, with broken glass, and by electricity. The back six bells, except the 7th, which have not been rung since New Year's Eve, were 'up,' the 2nd having no rope, and the treble rope being in such a condition that ringing it 'up' would have been impossible. The 7th rope was hanging with its sally touching the ceiling, and on investigation it was found that it had broken and was tied to the wheel. A splice being impossible, it was accordingly knotted together, and much to our surprise held together for the evening. Both of us were very dirty after this inspection and were glad of a wash at the Vicarage before the three local ringers arrived at 8 p.m.

While waiting the arrival of Mr. J. Wood, the local captain, who was delayed through business, we rang Grandsire Doubles on the back five, leaving out the 7th to save the rope. The weight of the tenor is only 10 cwt., but neither of us wanted to 'turn it in' for longer than one 120! And it was the only bell hung on ball bearings!

When Mr. Wood came we rang several more 120's, but the 7th was nearly unringable, a state of affairs probably made worse by the knot in the rope, which had to pass through the pulley block. The last touch was 240 Grandsire Doubles, rung by J. L. V. Riley 1, V. Meyer 2, A. Collins 3, J. S. Wood 4, Signalman A. P. Cannon (conductor) 5, Mechanist C. F. Guy 6. And this was about the extent that could be managed owing to the bad 'go' of the 7th and tenor.

Well, you can imagine our delight at being able to ring Grandsire Doubles at one of the two towers in South Africa, where ringing is possible. Indeed, as neither of us had touched a bell for 10 months, it was an added pleasure to be able to travel 5,000 miles to 'beat the ban.' It was Cecil Guy's 125th tower and my 954th. Afterwards the Rev. E. W. Wray, whose home was in Clevedon, Somerset, kindly gave us tea and biscuits in the Vicarage, and we enjoyed a chat on varying topics until 11 p.m.

I should be very interested to know of any other ringers who have rung in South Africa within, say, the last 25 years or even more, and what they rang. While in St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town, I met Mr. Carter, brother of Mr. Philip Carter, who used to be a steward in the London County Association. He had learnt to ring at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, under the instructorship of Mr. A. D. Barker. I also learnt that Mr. F. G. May, the well-known Bristol conductor, was living somewhere in the city, but no one knew his address and he had not been seen for over a year. I am now hoping to ring at Vancouver, British Columbia and some towers in Australia and New Zealand, so that I can complete four continents!

In the meantime while stationed here in India (in boiling weather!) I shall continue to read 'The Ringing World' with great interest and long for the day when peace reigns once more and we can all return to our favourite hobby. My very best wishes to all my friends everywhere and happy remembrances of the pleasant times I have spent in the belfry all over the old country. I hope we shall all meet again soon, and may we all be spared to do so. A. PATRICK CANNON.

## CONTRARY MOTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—First of all let me assure Mr. Trollope that it is far from my wish to be rude to anyone, and least of all to him. When a joke is not understood, it may appear that the words are rude. Perhaps Mr. Trollope thought that I meant that he did not know what he was talking about. But I did not mean this. I said that no one knows what backward hunting means. Now three people have written letters on this subject, and though what they said has not been lengthy, they have written enough to show that they do not understand the words in the same sense as he does. And as there is no one to say which of these four kinds of interpretation is right, your readers can see for themselves that there is no one to know what the words do mean.

Nor do Mr. Trollope's quotations help him. They are much more on my side than on his. I agree with them all as far as the terms used before 1931. His authorities mostly use the term 'retrograde,' which is quite unobjectionable, and if he will agree to use it, we shall all understand what he means (now so difficult), and this controversy will end.

The only old authority he quotes, which, it seems, uses the term 'backward,' is Henry Hubbard; and while most of us would have used some other word, we do see what he means. He uses 'backward' to explain roughly 'retrograde motion'; whereas Mr. Trollope uses other words to try—not very successfully—to explain 'backward hunting.' If Mr. Trollope does not see that Henry Hubbard is right and that he is wrong, I can only say that he does not understand; but I must assure him that I am not doing so in any rude sense.

Evidently Mr. Trollope thinks that his account of the Liverpool debate is not so funny as mine. Well, it were a pity to un deceive him, so we will let it pass. But in one thing he is quite right. His friends did waste their time trying to explain to me the differing interpretations they each put on these words. Instead they ought to have explained it to one another! As the Prime Minister said to his Cabinet, it is better to hang together than to hang separately: so now those who use this ridiculous expression are hanging separately!

If we look at the next page to this letter (page 321), we can read a long defence of the use of the word 'hunt.' Clearly the writer does not see that 'hunt' is one of the most expressive and useful terms we have in ringing. It is like 'coursing' in this. But it has a slightly ridiculous flavour, which 'coursing' (a term in more general use) has not. When we use 'hunt' in the usual way, or if we add 'up' or 'down' to it, this flavour is not noticed. But add 'forward' to it, and you at once become the funny man. While if you want to become screamingly funny, you have only to talk of 'hunting backwards.' Anyone who questions this has only to try it on the next non-ringer he meets.

Mr. Bankes James writes to say that if you ring the eight changes on four bells, starting with the last row, and ending with the first, not one but all the bells will be hunting backwards. Now when we were at Cambridge he taught me that backwards was 4321. Therefore, anything that has that term in it would naturally depend on that row, e.g. it might begin and end with it, instead of with rounds. Even if we do not agree that this is the only sense of the words, we must admit that it might be so used, and therefore it is misleading to use it in any other sense.

I am not denying that backwards may be used conversationally in what I have shown to be the wrong sense. Thus there is a saying about not knowing if one stands on one's head or one's heels. You tell a beginner not to stand too much on his heels. One inclined to acrobatics might retort that he would ring on his head. 'Anyone seeing him try to do so might say, "He is trying to ring backwards." We might laugh and see what he meant. But if he had to write it down, I expect he would attempt to be more correct, and perhaps write, "He is ringing in the inverted position."

Seriously, if we start at the end, and end at the beginning, whether we take (as I did) the quick and slow sixes of Stedman or the eight on four bells (as Mr. James does), in either case the order of the rows is 'inverted.' Everybody understands that word, and it cannot mean anything else, so why not stick to it, instead of puzzling people by using such a dubious word as backwards?

One must remember that there are two ways in which these inverted changes may be rung. We do not see any difference as long as the changes are confined to the hunting course, and they are written down: but in the tower, or when a piece of inverted changes are inserted in a method, the lead may be either right or wrong. The meaningless term backwards cannot naturally distinguish between these. But if 'hunting wrong' is used to mean hunting so that when the bell reaches the front it will lead wrong, we know at once what is meant, and there is nothing which may have two or more meanings like 'backwards.'

The extract from Mr. Woolley's letter helps to explain matters. The words 'and forward and backward ringing,' may be referring to what is the result of 'snaps, leads right and wrong,' which he has already mentioned. If so, he is wrong in giving them as something in addition. When I first read the letter I took these words to mean 'and other retrograde motions.' But he may have meant something quite different. Why use such doubtful expressions when one can easily say what one does mean?

(Continued on page 383.)



**THE STANDARD METHODS****NEW CUMBERLAND MAJOR.**

In April, 1886, Henry Earle Bulwer published in 'The Bell News' a new method which is interesting, not only for its own great merits, but because it was the first of the modern Surprise Major methods, the early forerunner of the goodly array of the last forty years.

Bulwer had been given (so he tells us) a verbal description of Hugh Wright's Albion, and on returning home sat down to reconstruct what he had been told. He did not succeed, but he did discover a method which seemed to him to have exceptional merits. Here it is.

## New Cumberland Major. A Variation.

12345678	12345678
21435687	21346587
12346578	12435678
21436587	21436587

24163857	24163578
42618375	42615387
24168357	24165378
42613875	42613587

24631857	46231857
42368175	64328175
24361857	46321857
42638175	64238175

46283715	46283715
64287351	64823751
46823715	46287315
64827351	64827351

68472531	68472531
86475213	86742513
68742531	68475231
86745213	86745213

87654123	68754123
78561432	86571432
87564123	68574123
78651432	86751432

87615423	87615342
78164532	78163524
87614523	87613542
78165432	78165324

71856342	71856342
17586324	17853624
71853642	71586342
17583624	17583624

15738264	15738264
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When we examine New Cumberland we find it has many good qualities. Its form is a simple one. The method is a perfectly double one. Kent Places are made in 5-6 in the first section, and in 3-4 in the fourth section. Oxford places are made in 5-6 in the second section and in 3-4 in the third section. Thirds and fifths are made at the second cross-section.

The work is easy and the bells move freely. Musically the method ranks very high. The natural coursing order is maintained throughout with just enough alteration to give sufficient variety of rhythm. The bells always come

to the front and behind in their natural coursing order, and the dodging is single and three-pull. The method has a clear proof scale, and so has sixty full natural courses available for composition. It is difficult to point to a Surprise Major method which is its equal in these respects. Cornwall perhaps is on the whole its superior, for the Kent places in 5-6, though not very objectionable, do rather take from the merits of New Cumberland.

It is significant that Bulwer, writing in 1886, put among the method's good qualities that it has the 'accustomed' (i.e., Bob Major) lead-ends.

Bulwer used a fourth's place bob which introduced an entirely new style of composition with a capacity for expansion that even now has largely been left unexplored.

At the bob there is only three-pull dodging and not the excessive five-pull dodging which occurs in so many eighth's place Surprise methods.

A sixth's place bob could be used, but that would mean four consecutive blows in sixth's and some rather awkward work.

In New Cumberland no internal places are made at the first and third cross sections, and so it does not technically rank as Surprise. The neglect of the method is largely due to this, and here is another condemnation of the Surprise definition. The first peal was rung on May 31st, 1886, by the famous Burton-on-Trent company, with William Wakley as conductor. Three of the band are still alive—Mr. John Jagger, the composer, Mr. Joseph Griffin, and Mr. John Austin. Other peals were rung at Brighton, Crawley, the London district, and elsewhere; and then the method fell quite undeservedly into disuse.

Constructionally New Cumberland is a very interesting method. We have seen that in many Major methods (Double Norwich and Bristol, for instance) the lead-end is produced by shunts made by the bell coursing in front of the treble, making places round it, and so changing positions with it in coursing order. A more complex form of this shunt occurs in New Cumberland, where the bell coursing in front of the treble makes sixths and thirds (the Duffield work, as it has been called), and follows it up behind. We get a similar shunt in Brighton and Ashstead, which are more or less variations of New Cumberland.

This shunt could be made in the first and second sections instead of in the second and third. It would give us:—

12345678
21436587
12435678
21346587

23145678
32416587
32145678
23416587

24361857
----------

Not so good, but still useful to form methods.

Several fairly close variations of New Cumberland are possible, and we have given one as an illustration. At first sight it seems almost as good as the original, but a closer inspection will show how superior the latter is. In New Cumberland the Oxford and Kent places are made by bells widely separated in coursing order. In the varia-

(Continued on next page.)



**NOTICES.**

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at Stanmore on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. By kind invitation of the Rector, the gardens will be open as usual.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Northern Branch.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Willingham-by-Stow on Saturday, August 9th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. Usual war-time ringing arrangements.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

**BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, August 9th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by usual business meeting and handbell practice.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at Loughton on Saturday, August 9th. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells available during afternoon and evening. All ringers heartily welcome.—J. H. Crampion, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 16th, at the Bell Foundry, 32-34, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate, Surrey.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern Division.—A joint meeting with the East Grinstead and Hawkurst and District Guilds will be held at Wadhurst on Saturday, August 16th. Six silent bells and handbells available from 3 p.m. Tea for those who notify Mr. C. A. Bassett, 3, Pendrill Place, Wadhurst, by August 13th. All ringers and friends welcome.—John Downing, Acting Hon. Sec., 2, Hughenden Road, Hastings.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Lewisham District.—A meeting will be held at Bexley on Saturday, August 16th. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at reasonable prices for members notifying me not later than Tuesday, August 12th. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.—A. G. Hill, Hon. Dis. Sec., temporary address, 53, Hengist Road, Erith, Kent.

**DEVON GUILD.**—Exeter Branch.—A meeting will be held at Tedburn St. Mary Rectory on August 16th, at 3 p.m. Service in the church 4.30. Tea 5.15 only to those who notify me by August 9th. Bus leaves Exeter 2.45, returning 7.23. Handbells available.—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Daventry Branch.—A meeting will be held at Weedon (6 silent) on Saturday, August 16th. Tea for those who notify me, and don't forget your sugar. Frequent bus service from Northampton and Daventry.—W. C. Moore, 5, Williams Terrace, Daventry, Northants.

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Fleet on Saturday, August 16th. Service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30. Bring your own food and sugar; tea and milk will be provided. Handbells, bowls, etc., on Rectory lawn after meeting. Will those intending to come please let me know by Tuesday, August 12th?—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church Tower on Saturday, Aug. 16th. Handbells will be available at 3 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Nicholas' Church, Worcester, on August 23rd. Service at 3.30 p.m., followed by light refreshments (tea and biscuits) and business meeting in Trinity Hall. Numbers not later than Tuesday, August 19th.—E. F. Cubberley, Hon. Sec., Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE.' Part IV. Reprinted from the Journal of the Berks Archaeological Society. To be obtained from the author, Mr. Frederick Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire. Price one shilling.

**CONTRARY MOTION.**—Continued from page 381.

In the quotation from Mr. Law James, the word 'hunting' must have slipped in through some error. For by the universal use of the word by ringers in the twentieth century (whatever it was in the seventeenth), hunting must be either up or down. One blow is not enough to show what it is. It may be, as Mr. Powell well says, 'one step,' but unless there is a second step hunting has not begun!

Ufford Rectory.

H. DRAKE.

**NEW CUMBERLAND MAJOR.**—Continued from previous page. tion the Oxford places are made by coursing bells (5-3 and 3-2), which gives the false course end B24365; and the Kent places are made by bells next but one to each other in coursing order, which gives the two false course ends A32546 and D46253. The only advantages are the parallel dodging in 5-6 and the possibility of using a sixth's place bob.

New Cumberland is a method well worthy of being practised and of taking a place as a standard method. But there is some difficulty about the name. Surprise we may not call it. Pleasure, we think we will not call it. Perhaps the best thing is to call it simply New Cumberland Major, as we have done, unless we add Treble Bob.

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