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LAST SUNDAY.

It was a great duty and a great privilege which was laid on us ringers when last Sunday we were called upon to give expression to the feelings of the people of England over the good news which has come from Egypt. The magnitude of the victory, the great hopes it has aroused, and the stirring events which have followed in its wake, created in the public a deep sense of relief, joy, thankfulness, and resolution, and when the Prime Minister announced at the climax of his great speech on Armistice Day that the ban on ringing would be temporarily suspended the bells of our churches became the symbols and the expression of all that England felt, and all that England hoped for.

The way in which last Sunday's ringing captured the imagination of the people was wonderful. At a time when world-shaking events were taking place, and things were happening which will have an enormous effect on the destinies of mankind; at a time when every journal must have been hard put to it to find room for what it wished to publish, church bells gained and kept a foremost position in the news. Never before throughout the ages have bells been more eagerly listened for, or more thankfully heard, than on Sunday last.

Church bells had come into their own once more, and it was only possible because of their long history and the immemorial influence they have exercised over the people of this land. Nothing else could have had the same effect. Not the fluttering of flags, not the blare of trumpets. And those who remember what happened forty years ago, when the relief of the tiny garrison of Mafeking was announced, will be filled with a profound sense of gratitude at the contrast between the blatant vulgarity then and the ringing of Sunday last. Yet, widely different as were the issues involved, much of the root feeling was the same. The difference was in the form the news was celebrated and the greater sense of restraint, responsibility, and self control which England has learnt through years of peril and anxiety, as well as of success and victory.

But the voices of the bells were far more than an expression of joy at a great victory, or relief at the temporary passing of a great peril. They were an act of thanksgiving, an acknowledgment of the eternal truth that the Most High ruleth in the kingdoms of men, and in the long run appointeth over it whomsoever He will. And they were an expression of the deep resolve of this country that we will not slack our efforts, nor sheath the sword, until evil has been overcome, wrong righted.

(Continued on page 522.)

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and liberty been made secure. As the Archbishop of Canterbury said in his message to the people, the bells called to thanksgiving and to fresh resolves and renewed prayer for God's blessing on our country, our Allies, and the cause we serve.

It was our privilege as ringers to be the ministers of this great act of thankfulness and worship. It was an honour which, we do not doubt, ringers everywhere fully appreciated. The reports of what was done which so far have reached us are scanty, but from what we have heard, and from what has been within our own knowledge, it is certain that the Exercise rose to the occasion. The ringing, judged as ringing, was no doubt poor, but that could not be avoided and was no great matter.

The effect of the events of last Sunday on the Exercise and its fortunes will not be small. We have great reason for pride and thankfulness. Let it not be forgotten that Sunday's celebrations could not have been possible if it had not been for those men who loved the art of change ringing in the old days of peace and for those men who, through these last three sombre years, have been striving to keep things together and interest alive.

We can now look to the future with redoubled confidence. The bells of England have not lost their old hold on the affections and the sentiment of the people of England, and it does not look as if they ever will. It would be a bad day for this land if they did. Let us then go forward with our work. If we keep our hearts high and our faith undimmed we shall see change ringing again enjoying its old prosperity, and we shall have our reward not only in the enjoyment we get out of the art, but in the knowledge that at a great moment in the history of England we, and we alone, can adequately voice the deepest feelings of the people.

SPORT AND CHURCH WORK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On the question of 'sport and ringing as church work' several points occur to me.

As your correspondent, Mr. Bailey, says, many of the leading sports are commercialised and are run as a business with shares and profits. But this cannot be said with regard to church bell ringing, which I insist is primarily church work and that peal ringing is attempted on analysis to improve the quality of ringing.

It is often reiterated by leading ringers that it is better for a band to ring good 'rounds' or 'call-changes' than bad method ringing.

Since I first took hold of a rope I have never heard of bets being made concerning ringing or competitions held which could be construed as a 'match.' Each peal stands or falls on its own merits. Bands and ringers ring on their own individual efforts striving for perfection. Why? There are no onlookers and no applause from the crowd.

The only criticism is the ringers' own conscience as to his effort being good or bad. Again, why? Substitute another word for 'conscience' and you have the answer in most cases.

Surely it is to be a worthy effort in worship and church work. Glorifying God, calling the faithful and reminding the 'others.'

Referring to Mr. P. Amos' letter, in most churches the bells are rung over 100 times a year for services. I doubt the number of peals rung would run into 'two figures' over the same period in the average tower.

Comparisons being odious by repute, may I quote the case of the church organist giving recitals during the week and after service in church, to say nothing of his necessary practices?

No! The whole fact is that church bells can be heard outside and reach so many people's ears, and any suggestion of 'reduced' or 'silent' ringing would not be conducive to good striking. A ringer must hear his instrument and sometimes, unfortunately, the public too. So our responsibility is heavy.

Mr. Yorke says refer to the dictionary as to the meaning of the word 'sport.' Mine says, 'mirth, play; v.i., make mirth, to play.'

How this fits in with service ringing, especially when bells are rung muffled, I fail to see.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley, Kent.

HANDBELL PEALS.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, November 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.

AT 24, SUFFOLK ROAD.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5030 CHANGES;

Tenor size 16 in B.

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2	*WILFRED WILLIAMS 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4	*ISAAC J. ATTWATER 7-8
*DONALD G. CLIFT 9-10	

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by WILFRED WILLIAMS.

* First peal of Grandsire Caters in hand. First peal of Caters as conductor. 100th peal by D. G. Clift.

SHAFTON, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Sunday, November 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes.

AT 28, CHAPEL STREET.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14 in D.

DANIEL SMITH 1-2	PETER WOODWARD 5-6
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 3-4	RAYMOND FORD 7-8

Composed by S. H. WOOD. Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

A birthday peal for Mr. Daniel Smith; also for Mr. J. Thackray, of Armlay, Leeds.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes.

AT 57, THE HEADROW.

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

Mrs L. K. BOWLING 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 5-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY ... 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTS.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 11, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes.

AT 9, PATRICK ROAD.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 1,440 Stedman, 1,200 Plain Bob and 2,400 Grandsire.

BERNARD BROWN 1-2	RALPH NARBOROUGH 3-4
MISS EVA W. WEBB 5-6	

Conducted by RALPH NARBOROUGH.

Rung to commemorate Armistice Day.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 12, 1942, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by H. G. CASHMORE.

Witness—John E. Rootes.

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

SERGEANT JOSEPH BOOSMA.

Sergeant Joseph Boosma, of the Stepney band, who was reported missing some time ago, is now known to be safe and well, a prisoner in Italian hands.

LONDON BELLS—

What notes more lively can our senses know
Than the loud Changes which melodious flow
From Bride's, Saint Martin's, Michael's, Overy's, Bow,
And thence convey'd along the hordering streams,
Rejoice each village on the banks of Thames.

—Samuel Rogers.

RINGERS EPITAPHS.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—It is unfortunate, but I have not made a collection of ringers' epitaphs, but here are one or two that may interest your readers. To the memory of John Jessup, of Werlingworth, Suffolk, who died in 1825, aged 80, are these lines:—

'To ringing from his youth, he always took delight,
Now his bell has rung and his soul has took its flight.
We hope to join the choir of Heavenly singing,
That far exceeds the harmony of ringing.'

To another Suffolk worthy at Bildeston is this inscription: 'In memory of Thomas Zephoniah Poole, formerly a member of the Society of Ringers of this Parish, died July 14th, 1831, aged 39 years.

Off on these bells I have joined with mirth,
To celebrate the day of birth,
But now they have passed their sound from me
God called Me into Eternity.'

In the chancel at Wainfleet St. Mary, Lincs, is a slab inscribed: 'Under this stone there is a vault and therein lyes the Remains of Adlard Thorpe, Gent: a Sinner and a Ringer, who departed this life on the 24th of January, 1770, aged 58 years.'

At Scunthorpe, Lincs, the old sexton, Jack Blackburn, is thus commemorated:—

'Alas poor John
Is dead and gone,
Who often toll'd the bell:
And with a spade
Dug many a grave,
And said Amen, as well.'

On a gravestone in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Nuneaton, Warwickshire: 'To the memory of David Wheway, died 13 October, 1828.

Here lieth a ringer,
Beneath the cold clay,
Who rang many peals,
Both serious and gay,
Through Grandsires and Trebles
So well he could range,
Till death called the "bob"
And brought round the last change.'

At Woolwich: 'Henry Banister died 30 June, 1869, in his 88th year. He was a great lover of the science of change-ringing which he practised in the parish church of Woolwich during a period of 60 years.'

At Pott, near Hastings, a brass tablet immortalises the name of George Theobald, 'a lover of bells' who 'gave a bell freely to grace the steeple.'

On the gravestone of my friend, T. Henry Hardy, in Leicester Cemetery, is engraved a bell and a bar of music, but no inscription beyond his memorial. When we arranged for the first peal on the then (1922) new 12 bells of St. Margaret's, Leicester, the deceased was to have rung in it. He died suddenly and his place was taken by his father-in-law, the late William Willson. The peal was successful, 5,088 Kent Treble Bob Maxinus, which I called, and a few years ago we had a marble tablet erected recording this, and at its foot are the words, 'Rung muffled to the memory of T. Henry Hardy, Ringer and Chorister of this church.'

I have before me a photo of the tablet in Leeds (Kent) Churchyard to the veteran ringer James Barham. It is inscribed:—

'In memory of James Barham of this Parish who departed this life Jany. the 14th, 1818, aged 93 years, who from the year 1744 to the year 1794 Rung in Kent and elsewhere 112 Peals not less than 5,000 Changes in each Peal and call'd Bobs for moft of the Peals. And April the 7th & 8th, 1761, Affitted in Ringing 40,320 Bob Major on Leeds Bells in 27 Hours.'

Then follow the names of his wife and children.

ERNEST MORRIS.

Coventry Street, Leicester.

WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—More than any controversy on how much may bellringing be regarded as a 'sport,' the announcement in Parliament to-day that the bells would ring on the Sunday brings up the question what are bells primarily for?

If Hitler orders the bells of Germany to ring to celebrate the destruction of France, the expulsion and near annihilation of the British Army at Dunkirk, the devastation of Greece, or for any other of his many military victories, we feel that it is an abuse of the property of the Church—it is not what bells should be for. If the bloodshed had ceased, a joy to all mothers, German as well as English, there would be reason for the bells. Many ringers will, I expect, refuse to ring for the celebration of a military victory in the midst of this bitter conflict, especially when we were flatly denied permission to ring for Christmas.

HUGH BENSON, Vicar of Sneyd, Stoke-on-Trent.

FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 513.)

The rapid development of method ringing very quickly made the 'Tintinnalogia' out of date, and there was need for a new book. Stedman obviously was the person to write it, but this time, it seems probable, the College Youths undertook the financial responsibility and the publication.

In 1677 appeared the 'Campanalogia.' Like the older book, it was printed by W. Godbid, but it was 'for W.S. and are to be sold by Langley Curtis in Goat Court on Ludgate Hill.'

Neither Stedman's name nor initials appears on the title page, but the dedication 'to the Honoured and to his much esteemed Friends the members of the Society of Colledg Youths,' is by F.S., and so there is even less doubt about the authorship than in the case of the 'Tintinnalogia.' W.S. is William Smith, who joined the College Youths in 1659, and was steward in 1678. Stedman himself was steward in 1677, the year the book was published, and, as he was still living at Cambridge, it is likely that Smith carried on the duties for him except at the annual feast, and was appointed by the society to look after the publication of the book.

Who William Smith was cannot be said, for it is almost impossible to identify a man with so common a name. There was a William Smith who in 1661 petitioned for a pension of £50 a year as King's Messenger. He had, he said, been sworn under the King as prince, but now was left out of his place.

As a text book the 'Campanalogia' is an enormous advance on the 'Tintinnalogia' and covers a greatly extended range, but as Stedman necessarily was much influenced by the earlier work and modelled his own on it, a comparison between the two is inevitable. At once we are struck with a great difference both in the literary style, and in the way the subject matter is handled, a difference so great that it amounts to a proof (if further proof is needed) that the two books are by different authors.

At the time when Stedman was universally in the Exercise thought to have written the 'Tintinnalogia,' I could only account for this difference by supposing that he had developed his style and method by exposition to suit the expansion of his subject matter, and indeed some change was necessary. Ringing could no longer be explained as an abstract thing. That was possible, or at any rate it was possible to a writer like Duckworth, when he was treating of such comparatively simple things as Plain Changes and Grandsire; but the writer must deal with the more complex methods in the concrete if he was to be understood. There are signs that Duckworth realised this, and of London Pleasure on Five Bells he merely writes that 'it being a confused peal, I shall say no more of it, but expose it to the view,' that is give the figures.

Besides, ringers had already begun to adopt a number of conventions which simplified matters from a practical point of view and rendered lengthy verbal explanations unnecessary. In theory men would no doubt have agreed, as they have more or less all along agreed, that any bell can be the whole hunt, one equally with another.

In practice they found that the treble is the most suitable bell for the purpose, and so ceased to bother about any other variations. It was far easier for them to understand a peal or a method as one concrete set of changes which might be varied in different ways, rather than as a set of abstract rules which might have different expressions.

In the 'Campanalogia,' too, we have the convention by which a lead and a bob stand for all that there is in the method. By them the practical ringer may learn all he needs to learn; he need not know anything of 'the mystery and grounds of the peal.' To Duckworth it was so obvious that change ringing is an abstract science that he assumes it all through and almost induces his reader to assume it too. Stedman knew enough of the matter to understand that it was so, but to him it was a thing which needed explaining, and so he tried to explain it—not, it must be admitted very clearly or successfully. He points out in so many words that the **real** things in change ringing take place in the minds of the ringers. The figures you write down are not the **real** things of a method—they are but symbols which more or less adequately represent the method. The sound of the bell is not the **real** thing—it is but the result of the ringing. You talk of moving a bell, or hunting a bell; it is not the material bell you move, but a **real** though abstract bell which exists in your mind and nowhere else. 'Although the art of changes,' he writes, 'is in itself a real thing, yet the notions by which they are reduced to practice on bells are not so,' and again, 'the practick part of the art is performed by imaginary, not real notions.'

That this is essentially true is shown by the fact that the practical ringer habitually looks upon himself as the thing which is moving. 'I was in 3-4,' he says, or 'I followed the third down to lead,' not 'I was striking my bell in 3-4.'

In literary style the 'Campanalogia' reaches a high level, but it is not the style of the 'Tintinnalogia.' The remarkable thing about the latter book is the simplicity of the language. I open it at random. On the first page I turn to there are 296 words, and all except 38 are of one syllable. The 38 are almost entirely inflexious of one syllable words such as 'lying,' 'hunting,' 'mostly'; or such simple words as 'behind,' 'music,' 'consequently,' 'instance,' and the like. An examination of other pages gives a similar result.

Compared with modern prose, Duckworth's sentences are not particularly short, but they are short compared with the long, rolling, involved sentences which were common in the writing of his time; and compared with the sentences in the J.D. and C.M. book of 1702. It would, of course, be absurd to place Duckworth as a writer alongside Swift—the bulk and range of their work is so different—but at any rate they share this economy and simplicity in the choice of words. Nor should we imagine that it is easy to write like this; it is an instance of art which conceals art.

Fabian Stedman did not rise to those heights, but he was a good writer. In his dedication he uses an ornate style. He is addressing the College Youths.—Gentlemen. As your society even ab origine hath deservedly acquired an eminency in many respects above all others of this

(Continued on next page.)

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous page.)

kind, so more especially for the pregnancy of its members in the composing of peals; for when the art of cross-pricking lay enveloped in such obscurity that it was thought impossible that double changes on five bells could make to extend further than ten, and double changes on six further than sixty, then it was that a worthy and knowing member of your society, to dissipate those mists of ignorance and to usher in the bright morn of knowledge, prickt those most applauded peals of Grandsire and Grandsire Bob, which for their excellency have for many years together continued triumphant in practice amidst all others whatsoever, and which indeed have been a great light on the production of that great variety of new peals herein contained, the greatest part of which being also the offspring of your society. I therefore thought fit to usher them into the world under the wings of your protection. Gentlemen, as a member, I hold myself obliged to add my mite to your full fraught treasury of speculative and practical knowledge of this kind, though I confess your acquisition on this account will be very mean, since my want of ability sufficient to undertake a thing of this nature, and also want of opportunity by converse with others to supply my own defects, have rendered this book less acceptable than it might have been done by some more knowing head and acute pen. And although I am conscious that it meriteth not your acceptance, yet I assume the confidence to believe that you will favour it with a kind entertainment among you; and the rather that I know you are too judicious to sentence it without first

(Continued in next column.)

MANCROFT TENOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The following extract is from 'The Norfolk Chronicle' of December 13th, 1814, and bears out the old story of the bell being taken by the old ringers to the weigh-bridge on Hay Hill before being taken up the tower, and being found to be 42½ cwt.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham.

'The new tenor bell for St. Peter Mancroft was deposited in the tower preparatory to its being hung in place of the old one, which has been taken down and broken up. The new bell is inscribed, "To the King, Queen, and Royal Family, this harmonious peal of 12 bells is dedicated. Thomas Mears, London, fecit 1814." The weight of the new bell is 42 cwt. 2 qr., or about 28 lb. heavier than its predecessor.'

ERSATZ BELLS IN ITALY.

According to a report from Zurich, the Italian government is offering the churches of Italy gramophone records of chimes to be broadcast by means of loud speakers from the steeples in place of the bells which have been taken for scrap metal.

This has caused great dissatisfaction among the clergy and people, and the Archbishop of Milan has forbidden their use in his diocese.

FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous column.)

casting into the balance of your indifferent judgement some grains of allowance. The countenance you shew it will silence detractors, and be armour of proof against the fool's bolts which may happen to be soon shot at the author.

This is not in the style of modern prose, but it is good English and quite in place in an Epistle Dedicatory. In the body of his book Stedman could use a style which is straightforward, clear, and businesslike, and that he could modify his style to suit his purpose is proof of his skill as a writer.

(To be continued.)

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HANDBELLS, BELL ROPES,
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Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

A time like this last week is a time which strains the resources of a journal like 'The Ringing World' to the uttermost. There is so much that ought to be done, such scanty means of doing it, and so little time to do it in. Recent events have greatly increased these difficulties in the case of this paper, but we know that our readers and friends will make allowances for any shortcomings. We shall be glad to have particulars of ringing done last Sunday.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who was born 79 years ago yesterday.

A week or two ago a certain Capt. Keay wrote to 'The Daily Telegraph' suggesting that the 'idle and useless' church bells should be taken for scrap. We wonder if last Sunday he altered his views.

Mr. Pulling's band rang the first peal of Double Dublin Surprise Major at Hershaw on November 15th, 1930.

Jasper Snowdon died on November 16th, 1885, at the early age of 41.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of Imperial the Third Major at St. Giles' in that city on November 17th, 1760, and the first peal of London Surprise Major at St. Andrew's on the same date in 1835.

What was at the time the longest peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major was rung at Beeston, Notts, on November 18th, 1882. The Burton men formed the band and the number of changes was 7,200.

The Bushey band rang the first peals of Elstree Surprise Major on November 17th, 1934, Eryri Major on November 19th, 1935, and Eastbury Surprise Major on November 20th, 1937.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on tower bells was rung at Burton-on-Trent on November 20th, 1886. Mr. Joseph Griffin is the sole survivor of the band.

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

The glad news spread like lightning through London, and the pent-up hearts of the citizens poured themselves out in a torrent of exultation. Above the human cries the long silent church bells clashed again into life; first began St. Paul's, where happy chance had saved them from destruction; then one by one every peal which had been spared caught up the sound; and through the summer evening and summer night and all next day, the metal tongues from tower and steeple gave voice to England's gladness.—J. A. Froude.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS POOLE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised to find no comment in the correspondence columns of your current issue regarding the remarkable handbell performances of Miss Jill Poole. To say they are outstanding is to put it very mildly, for they rank as high as anything we have ever had in the way of double-handed ringing. I should like to offer my warmest congratulations to the young lady and to her parents.

CHARLES E. BORRETT.

Sheringham, Norfolk.

THE PATRON SAINT OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just been asked, 'Who is the patron saint of ringers?' and I had to confess that I did not know. Have we got one? My thoughts at once turned to St. Dunstan, but he only appears to be the patron saint of goldsmiths. No standard work on bells mentions the subject, as far as I can discover.

E. V. COX.

Tedburn St. Mary, Exeter.

MR. JAMES GEORGE APPROACHING 89th BIRTHDAY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—If I am spared until Friday, November 27th, I shall reach 89 years of age.

On November 28th, 1925, seventeen years ago, the day after I was 72, I rang the 53 cwt. Bow tenor, Cheapside, London, to a peal of Treble Bob Maximus in the Kent Variation in 4 hours and 7 minutes for Queen Alexandra's funeral.

On April 17th, 1911, over 31 years ago, I rang the 27 cwt. tenor to a peal at Ashton-under-Lyne, which was a record length of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, in 8 hours and 39 minutes, containing 12,240 changes.

These are only two instances where I have rung many of the heavy bells to peals in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, my total of peals now reaching 1,280. On October 21st, 1933, I was one of the band, including Mr. Robert H. Brundle, whose average age was 76½, who rang in the peal of Stedman Triples at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London.

I joined the Ancient Society of College Youths on October 12th, 1889, over 53 years ago.

My hearty congratulations for keeping 'The Ringing World' going with such nice paragraphs and leading articles.

JAMES GEORGE.

Summer Hill Homes, Summer Hill Terrace, Birmingham 1.

VICTORY BELLS.

LAST SUNDAY'S RINGING.

At the suggestion of the Prime Minister in agreement with the authorities of the Church, the bells all over England were rung last Sunday to celebrate the victory in Egypt, and through the medium of the B.B.C. some of the ringing was broadcast throughout the world.

All the B.B.C. programmes, Home, Empire, European and Transatlantic, carried the sound of the bells from Westminster Abbey, St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, Llandaff Cathedral, Armagh Cathedral, and the Parish Church of St. Mary, Prestwich, Manchester.

'Did you hear them in Occupied Europe? Did you hear them in Germany?' asked the announcers.

With the 9 a.m. news the 14 bells of Coventry's bomb-devastated cathedral, of which only the bell tower and the spire still stand, were broadcast.

The City of London has suffered far more loss of bells through enemy action than any town in the country, and some of the rings which are safe have been taken down from the steeples. St. Paul's Cathedral was the only peal left which could be rung, and here a band of College Youths, assisted by Mrs. R. F. Deal, rang Stedman Cinques to the delight of many hundred listeners. The ten at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, were chimed.

The Cumberlands rang at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the Abbey bells were rung by College Youths.

WESTMINSTER.—At St. Margaret's, the newly restored and rehung ten bells were raised at the stroke of 9 a.m. and were rung for half an hour to touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters. Those taking part were Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Messrs. Sanders, Nudds, Belcher, Hoskins, Pye, Digby, Corby, Fox, Bates from Acle, Norfolk, a member of the Forces from Basingstoke and Mr. Hewett (conductor).

THE PROVINCES.

We have received reports from the provinces of the ringing at the following places:

ST. PETER'S, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Among the ringers were Mrs. W. W. Wolstencroft (who in a few days will have reached three score years and ten), Mrs. A. A. Walls and Mrs. J. Clayton: all of whom took part in the Armistice ringing in 1918 by the only full band of lady ringers in the country. A gratifying response was made to the appeal by Mr. Wolstencroft to all old ringers to ring before and after morning service.

BIRMINGHAM.—Ringing started at 9 a.m. at the Cathedral with Stedman Caters, followed by Cinques at St. Martin's. The eight at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Chad's were rung from 10.30 to 11. Ten bells were rung at Aston and eight each at Erdington and Edgbaston. Generally in the district the ringers turned up well. There were crowds of people listening to St. Martin's bells in the Bull Ring.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The Vicar of St. Peter's, Bournemouth, and Rural Dean writes to us to express his gratitude for the way the ringers turned up to ring. 'It is particularly gratifying to know,' he says, 'that other towers in this district were well manned and that some of our ringers were able to help at St. John's, Surrey Road, and then return to St. Peter's to ring again for the great civic service held at 11.15.'

BOWDON, CHESHIRE.—Among those taking part in the ringing were three generations—Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. R. Elkins (son-in-law) and Miss Mary Elkins.

BRAINTREE.—At Braintree, Essex, nine ringers took part in 288 and 112 Kent Treble Bob Major and 672 Double Norwich.

BRISTOL.—The bells of St. Ambrose were fully manned and the ringing was excellent throughout. The band included five septuagenarians.

BROMLEY, KENT.—The Parish Church and its bells were among those destroyed in the air raids, but the band joined with that at St. Luke's, Bromley Common, some 15 in all, and rang Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. The ringing was much appreciated by the congregation.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—Ten girls between the ages of 11 and 14, all trained since the outbreak of war, rang the bells at Burnham. Seven had never heard their bell speak before.

CAMBRIDGE.—At the Roman Catholic Church, three short touches of Grandsire Triples. At St. Bene't's, 120's of Grandsire Doubles. At St. Mary-the-Great, 293 Grandsire Triples, two plain courses of Grandsire Caters and rounds on the twelve. Those taking part were W. Faux, R. Knights, F. Kempton, J. Ward, D. Clift, T. Chenery, F. Hurry, R. Lathbury, J. Quinney, T. Dennis, J. Cross, Mr. Cross, sen., E. G. Hibbins, D. Stewart, G. Ward and C. Smith.

COLCHESTER.—At St. Peter's, touches of Bob Major by A. Burch, G. Burch, G. Boyden, F. L. Bumpstead, W. Chalk, E. P. Duffield, A. Parker, H. T. Pve, G. Rashbrook, V. Kerridge and members of H.M. Forces. Miss White, A.T.S., of North Stonham, and Messrs. E. Gosling, Windsor; Jackson, Stalybridge; Young, Poole; and Beed, of Taunton, also took part.

DEPTFORD.—At St. John's, Grandsire was rung by W. J. Jeffries, P. Zalsberg, A. Bennington, G. H. Daynes, R. Fosdike, E. B. Crowder, C. D. Letser and F. W. Richardson.

DARLEY DALE, DERBYSHIRE.—Ringing began with a good raise in peal, rounds and call changes, followed by short touches of Grandsire Triples. After the service more Grandsire was rung, and finally there was a really good fall in peal. The ringing was uniformly good and was enjoyed by all the ringers and by the congregation.

EALING ringers rang the bells of St. Mary's, Acton, at 9 o'clock, and then went on to Christ Church, Ealing, and St. Mary's, Ealing. Grandsire Triples was rung at these three towers, the striking being reasonably good, except at Christ Church, where the bells are very false. At St. Lawrence's, Brentford, the band rang Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor. This, by arrangement with the Vicar, was during the service. All the bells went quite well.

FELKIRK, NEAR BARNESLEY, YORKS.—720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: P. Woodward treble, J. T. White 2, R. Hill 3, W. Tibble 4, H. Chant 5, D. Smith (conductor) tenor. Also 600 Plain Bob Minor: R. Ford treble, J. T. White 2, R. Hill 3, P. Woodward 4, H. Chant 5, D. Smith (conductor) tenor.

GLASGOW.—Although six of the members of the St. Mary's Cathedral Society are serving with H.M. Forces, the local band managed to ring the ten bells. A nice 575 of Grandsire Caters was brought round, followed by Stedman Caters until 11 o'clock. The ringers present were W. H. Pickett (capt.), R. O. Street, E. Stafford, E. Bumphrey, R. J. G. Townsend, F. Wilson, E. W. Yates, Sgt. J. Sargent, Sgt. T. Windram, Pte. J. Ewing, all of the local band. The visitors were Paymaster-Lieut. C. G. Lenn, R.N.V.R., Sgt. H. O. Hart, R.A.S.C., and Pte. H. F. Kitchin, R.A.M.C.

HUGHENDEN.—Eleven ringers took part in ringing rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Mr. J. W. Wilkins, who is just on 80 years of age, cycled over four miles each way. Mr. John Evans also came into the belfry, but unfortunately was unable to ring.

HARLOW COMMON, ESSEX.—720 Bob Minor by Fred Whittey treble, Ben Coppin 2, Lewis Cordell 3, Stanley Clark 4, Edward Rochester 5, Bert Laird 6, William Wheeler (conductor) 7, James Ahey 8. Rung with 6-8 covering.

IPSWICH.—At St. Mary-le-Tower a course of Kent Treble Bob Maximus: Phyllis Tillet 1, A. Waddington (Edington) 2, Charles J. Sedgley 3, Hobart E. Smith 4, Harry E. Roper 5, William P. Garrett 6, John F. Tillet 7, William Tillet 8, George A. Fleming 9, William J. G. Brown 10, George E. Symonds 11, Frederick J. Tillet 12. Afterwards Mr. Waddington rang 3-4 to a touch of Grandsire Cinques on handbells.

LAMBERHURST, KENT.—Two courses Cambridge Surprise, 120 Plain Bob, two 120's Grandsire Doubles: Mrs. Fenner, Miss Hovard, H. J. Hammond, G. Waghorn, E. Woodage, Sergt. R. Hosking, R.A. (Lundulph, Corwall), Corpl. W. Edgewcombe, R.A. (Rilton, Devon), and A. Marshall, J. Waghorn, sen., J. Waghorn, jun., and A. Relfe.

LEWISHAM.—Grandsire Doubles, with the 2nd left out and 6-8 covering, were rung at St. Mary's, Lewisham, both before and after the service of thanksgiving by a mixed band made up as follows: Messrs. H. Warnett, sen., C. H. Walker and J. Bennett, remnants of St. Mary's band; E. Mounter and P. J. Spice, from SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley (now demolished); G. R. Simmonds, Lee, and another from Huntingdon, temporarily of Forest Hill. As the bells were being lowered a good-humoured police-sergeant appeared in the belfry and announced the fact the ringing time had been 'stretched by half an hour.' The striking was tolerably good, and all went away contented hoping for another (please God, final) victory ring soon.

LINSLADE.—At St. Barnabas'. The ringers taking part were F. Dedman, W. Insley, Mrs. R. Jeffs, W. J. Jeffs, W. T. Jeffs, A. Kemsley, F. Randall, E. Thorp, F. Vickers, and A. Cheshire, an old member of the band, who rang the same bell that he rang for the first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells over 42 years ago.

LYME REGIS, DORSET.—The bells were rung on Sunday, November 15th, from 9 to 9.40 a.m., when some twelve ringers mustered, including the Mayor, Mr. W. J. Emmett, who belonged to the old band before the bells were augmented to eight and rehung in 1911, and had not touched a rope since. Some boys and one girl, who have been learning on clapperless bells since March last and practising handbells for twelve months, were also able to take a share—a thrilling experience for them. The change ringing band, being one short for Triples, some Minor and Doubles were rung with extra covering bells. The ringing, of course, showed evidence of lack of practice, but comments from the general public outside afterwards were kindly, and, perhaps, the joy of hearing of the bells sounding again overshadowed any impression of defect.

MITCHAM, SURREY.—At the Parish Church, 336 Grandsire Triples was rung: L. Nicolas 1, J. R. Davison 2, C. Potchery 3, H. Tourle 4, G. West 5, R. Hall 6, W. S. Smith (conductor) 7, W. Sparkes tenor.

NEWMARKET.—At St. Mary's, 720 Plain Bob Minor: Lieut. A. E. Dockerill (Harpenden) 1, R. Heath 2, S. Forwood 3, S. Howlett (R.A.F.) 4, A. E. Austin (conductor) 5, R. C. Sharpe tenor. S. Brown and W. Webb, from Exning, took part in other touches of Plain Bob.

NEWPORT, MON.—At 9 o'clock hymn tunes were chimed, and at 10 o'clock, the ringers having mustered in full force, the bells were raised and kept going until service time at 11 o'clock. The ringing consisted of Grandsire and Stedman interspersed with Queens and firing.

(Continued on next page.)

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

NORTON, STAFFS.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor, 240 Oxford Treble Bob and a plain course of Kent. The following took part: J. E. Wheelton, W. C. Lawrence, G. E. Lawrence, S. B. Bailey, W. Corfield, J. Walley, J. Ryles, J. W. Walker and C. S. Ryles. The inhabitants of the village were delighted to hear the bells ringing again.

NUNEATON.—Owing to enemy action there was no ringing in Nuneaton. At the Parish Church of St. Nicholas a temporary floor in the ringing chamber was hastily put in, but as there is a crack in the tower from top to bottom the architect would not allow ringing to take place, so the bells were chimed in 'rounds' and 'Queens' for half an hour prior to the civic service. Those taking part were Miss G. Buss, Mrs. H. Billington, G. J. Stoneley, W. Horton and S. Chapman (of Nuneaton), Corpl. C. E. Rayson, R.A.F., J. Draycott, H. Beamish, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish and Margaret Beamish (of Chilvers Coton). Three generations of the Beamish family were represented, grandfather, father and daughter, aged 7 years. The bells were also chimed at the conclusion of the service. At All Saints', Chilvers Coton, where the church was totally destroyed by enemy action, leaving the bells undamaged, it was not possible to ring, as all the ropes perished in the fire which swept up the tower. Frantic efforts to obtain ropes were unavailing, and finally rope suitable for the chiming apparatus was procured and installed. J. E. Moreton, J. Draycott and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beamish played hymn tunes and call changes here.

OXFORD.—An informal committee meeting of the Oxford Society was held on the day following the Prime Minister's announcement, and arrangements were made to ring as many of the city's bells as possible. Notices were inserted in the local papers and the Cathedral fixed as a rallying point. At 9 a.m. on Sunday a good muster assembled at Christ Church, about 35 being present by 10 o'clock. A course of Stedman Cinques revealed a certain amount of rustiness, but a further two courses showed a marked improvement.

During the ringing those present were divided into three bands, and at 10 o'clock these dispersed. Band A, under Mr. W. H. B. Wilkins, rang Grandsire Doubles and rounds at St. Aldate's from 10 to 10.30, then Grandsire and Stedman Triples at St. Ebbe's from 10.30 to 11. Band B (Mr. V. Bennett) went to Carfax for Grandsire Doubles from 10 to 10.30, and then rang Triples at St. Giles' for the 11 o'clock service, while Band C (Mr. R. A. Post) rang Grandsire Doubles and rounds on the heavy six at St. Mary-the-Virgin's for the University Sermon at 10.30, and then Grandsire and Stedman Triples at All Saints' before the civic service at 11 o'clock. Here also several members of the O.U.S.C.R. who have joined since the ban rang some remarkably good rounds, showing the value of the silent practices at New College. There was still a surplus of ringers, so yet a fourth band was sent along to ring rounds at St. Thomas' for matins.

Band B, together with half of A, now made their way to Magdalen College and kept the grand ring of ten going until time was up. Rounds and Stedman Caters were rung. Meanwhile Band C, with the other half of A, had adjourned to Merton, where in spite of the difficulty in ringing on a narrow gallery with an opening 26ft. square in the centre and a drop of 60ft. to the chapel floor below, the noble eight were set going to some quite tolerable rounds and Grandsire Triples. Two touches were enough, and the party finally went to New College, where well-struck touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters were brought round. The bells were lowered just in time for the clock to strike 12. Throughout the morning, early starts at the various towers were facilitated by people going ahead to raise the bells while the previous ones were being lowered.

OVER, CAMBS.—1,264 Bob Major: W. Bavin 1, B. Norman 2, D. Adams 3, F. Warrington (conductor) 4, A. W. T. Ginn 5, R. Thoday 6, A. J. Ginn 7, C. Robinson 8.

PORTSMOUTH.—The bells of the Cathedral and St. Mary's, Portsea, were rung by a joint company of both towers. A goodly company of ringers now in H.M. Forces and stationed in the district shared in the ringing and represented the following towers: Kettering, Hawhurst, Lyndhurst, Wellington (Salop), Wisbech, Friezland (Yorks), Hitchin, Stoke (Suffolk), Reigate and Lyme Regis. The ringing at the Cathedral included 504 Stedman Triples: J. D. Harris 1, F. A. Burnett 2, F. W. Rogers 3, W. Tate 4, T. R. Taylor 5, L. P. Cook 6, F. W. Burnett (conductor) 7, C. Shepherd 8.

PULBOROUGH.—Six members of the Royal Observer Corps, A. V. Corden (Head Observer), A. C. Greenfield, A. Holden, H. C. Greenfield, S. C. Greenfield and L. Stilwell, assisted by H. J. Doick and F. J. Killick, all members of Pulborough belfry, rang five 120's Grandsire Doubles with three conductors. The striking was excellent considering the long silence, and the ringers were congratulated by the Rector in his sermon.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire Trioles: T. Bolton, C. Cassell, G. Collis, W. T. Elson, A. Jones, J. Kent, W. Malins, A. N. Smith (Glasgow) and A. Williams. Some of the ringers had previously assisted at All Saints', Fulham.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's, courses of Grandsire Caters and Bob Royal were rung by A. Dale, R. Darvill, G. W. Debenham, R. Ewer. (Continued in next column.)

GENOA.

Genoa has lately been much in the news through the air raids of the Royal Air Force. The only time when the town was attacked in previous wars by British forces was in the early days of the last century, when it was occupied for some time. There was a very old tradition that when a place was captured by an army, all the church bells were the prerogative of the officer commanding the artillery, who could carry them away unless they were redeemed by a money payment. Something of the sort seems to have been done at Genoa, for one of the bells at Liversedge in Yorkshire has this inscription: 'These eight bells were cast in 1814 and 1815 with brass ordnance taken at Genoa.' It does not say they were cast from looted church bells, but it is pretty certain it was so; any broken bells would be called 'brass ordnance.' On Tower Wharf are two bronze cannon and on the carriage of each is an inscription: 'This gun was made at Woolwich from ordnance taken at Cherbourg, 1758.' There is evidence that six church bells at Cherbourg were looted and brought to the Tower, where they remained for some time.

At the end of the Napoleonic wars a Colonel Lemoine, who had been in command of the artillery in the attack on Genoa, was reminded of the custom which had existed for years in the artillery that the bells of a captured town became the property of the commanding officer of artillery on the spot. He went back to Genoa, and, making inquiries, found that there were upwards of ninety churches in the town each with an average of five bells, which, according to the price given by the man who had charge of most of them, were worth thirty thousand livres Genoese, or seven thousand pounds sterling. It was a fortune worth trying for, and so partly to uphold an established privilege, but mainly as he admitted on his own account, he thought he would try to secure it. He wrote to a man named R. H. Crewe, who evidently was a person well informed in such matters, for his advice. Crewe made extensive inquiries, and thought that on the whole the claim could not be sustained. So the matter dropped. Lemoine evidently hoped to get the money from the English Treasury as prize-money, for, of course, after peace was signed there would have been no chance of actually taking possession of the bells, even if his claim had been allowed. The correspondence on the matter is in the archives of the War Office.

VICTORY BELLS.

(Continued from previous column.)

Mrs. Fergusson, H. Gale, T. Hull, S. Jones, S. Sayers, T. Seymour, V. Sinclair, T. Southam, F. Southam, F. Spicer and Miss West, also Messrs. Hoare and Long, of Wotton, and Dobson, of Plymouth.

The Cathedral bells are dismantled and could not be rung, but handbells were rung before both morning and afternoon services. The sixes at St. Stephen's and St. Michael's were rung.

STOKE POGES.—Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung as well as some call-changes and firing. The following local ringers were present: Mrs. A. D. Barker, Miss M. Overshott and Messrs. L. Albrow, A. D. Barker, W. J. Bateman, W. L. Gutteridge, E. C. Hartley, H. S. Hawkins and W. Henley, also four visitors, J. M. Gayford (Little Waltham, Essex), F. G. Groombridge (Chislehurst, Kent), C. A. Levett (All Saints', Hastings, Sussex) and C. Woodlands (Bolney, Sussex).

STONY STRATFORD.—At St. Giles', at 9.30, several 336's of Grandsire Triples and shorter touches were rung. At 11.30, 224 Grandsire and other touches. Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire and Stedman were rung on the six at Cosgrave. The eight at Wicken and the five at Passenheim were also rung with the help of visitors.

STREATHAM.—At St. Leonard's Parish Church, 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Wright 1, C. A. Button 2, E. L. Miles 3, E. E. Bish 4, T. W. Welbourne 5, L. G. Franks 6, J. W. Chapman (conductor) 7, S. Gardner 8. Also touches of Stedman Triples with J. Euston taking part.

SWINDON.—An excellent band assembled at Christ Church at 10 a.m., and ringing continued until a little after service time. The bells were raised in peal with Mr. Alfred Lawrence, now in his 88th year, trebling-up, and this grand old man showed he is still a good ringer. Although a good band capable of ringing Royal was present, the ringing was confined to Grandsire Caters and resulted in some very good ringing. Nearly all the bells in the Swindon district were rung.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Kent Treble Bob Minor and Plain Bob Minor. Two veterans, Messrs. R. V. Maynard and J. H. Wilkins, aged 86 and 82 respectively, took part. As the 8th and 9th bells were obstructed by a heavy iron shutter, brought down by bomb blast, the ringing had to be confined to the front six bells.

WILLENHALL, STAFFS.—At St. Giles' call changes were rung and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples with 9.8.10 covering. The following ringers took part: A. E. Read, E. Hortin, I. Evans, J. T. Davis, W. T. Edge, A. Evans, J. Luck, Rev. A. F. Sargent, A. Davis, S. H. Coley, H. Ludford, R. Sidebotham and C. Wallater. The ringing appeared to be greatly appreciated by the inhabitants.

WRINGTON.—Sixteen ringers turned up and rang the ten bells, including a good touch of Grandsire Caters.

YATELEY, HANTS.—Several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, finishing up with a well-struck 504 by the following: F. Bunch 1, W. G. Bunch 2, A. T. Hearson 3, C. Bunch 4, G. Butler 5, A. Goodall 6, S. Riddell (conductor) 7, J. Palterman tenor.

THE PRESS AND THE BELLS.

WIDESPREAD INTEREST.

The way the general public and the national press received the news that the ban on ringing was to be lifted last Sunday was wonderful, heartening and almost unbelievable. At a time more crowded with world-shaking events than any period since the fall of France two and a half years ago, church bells were given a foremost place in the news, and everywhere people were looking forward to hearing once again the music of the parish steeples.

When the news of the great victory in Egypt came through, many men wished that the triumph could be celebrated in the time-honoured manner, and some ventured to put their wishes into words. Here is a typical letter which appeared in 'The Eastern Daily Press':—

Sir,—Surely the Government might relax for one day the ban on the ringing of church bells so that we may, in the manner of our fathers, show our gratitude to Almighty God for the great victory he has vouchsafed to us.—T. W. Purdy (Colonel). Aylsham, Nov. 5th.

Many others, while fully sympathising with what Col. Purdy had written, feared that any celebration might turn out to be premature. They remembered the brilliant victory at Cambrai during the last war and its lamentable sequel. Their views were ably expressed in an editorial in the same journal. It is worth reproducing:—

'Though there was a notable lightening of people's spirits yesterday when the news of the Eighth Army's success became generally known, we doubt whether more than a few will think with Col. Purdy that the time was ripe for a victory peal to be rung on church bells all over the country. People with long memories will recall with some bitterness the disappointments that so quickly followed similar exhibitions of exuberance on one or two occasions in the last war. And we think it would ill accord with the present mood of sober determination to indulge in any demonstration that might give an impression that even so brilliant a victory is regarded as anything but a first step along the long road to final triumph.'

DOUBT AND CAUTION.

'Had Col. Purdy suggested that it was time that the Government reconsidered its decision to silence the church bells for their normal use of calling people to worship, we should have been glad to have lent our cordial support. There is something lacking in an English Sunday while the bells are silent, something that we can ill spare at a time when we should be all the better for a challenging reminder of the deeper issues in this war against the forces of evil. It is surely an unseemly thing in a country which is still Christian at heart that the bells that were meant to call us to worship should be kept perpetually in reserve so that in emergency they can only sound a call to arms. Some day—and that we hope not too far distant—the bells of all churches in the country will ring out in a joyous peal for victory. Meanwhile, could we not be allowed to hear them serving their normal purpose of calling the faithful to worship and prayer?'

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH.

But the Prime Minister's great speech in the House of Commons altered everything. He explained in detail what had happened, and at the climax of his speech he used these words: Taken by itself the Battle of Egypt must be regarded as an historical victory. In order to celebrate it, directions are being given to ring the bells throughout the land next Sunday morning, and I should think many who will listen to their peals will have thankful hearts.

Then the country knew on the highest authority that the victory was not merely a brilliant success, but the smashing victory for which we had so long been waiting and longing. Small wonder that the country took the raising of the ban as the symbol of the greatness and completeness of the triumph, or that a great newspaper like the 'News Chronicle' should label its comments on Mr. Churchill's speech, 'The Bells will ring.'

During the following days the Press comments on the matter were many. Like the usual references in newspapers to bells and ringing, they were seldom well informed, but that signifies little. The great thing is the evidence of the strong hold church bells have on the affection and sentiment of the people of England. For us ringers it is a most encouraging sign.

B.B.C. BROADCASTS.

The B.B.C. broadcast an excellent account of what Sunday's ringing meant in the Continental service late on Thursday evening, and the subject of bells was introduced into the programme of Saturday evening and reproduced two or three times on Sunday. Mr. Cyril Johnston was the principal speaker in this short item, with Mr. J. A. Trollope as his backer-up.

'The Evening News' evidently took some trouble to get its facts right. Here is what it said on November 12th:—

Bells or no bells, the Ancient Society of College Youths, famous old fraternity of the bellringing craft in London, has been meeting every fortnight at Mears and Stainbank's in Whitechapel Road, to keep up their change ringing practice with handbells.

In the past fortnight, also, there has been practice ringing on the bells of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, with the clappers fixed and the bells thus silent.

It has not been decided at the moment. I understand, what change ringing there will be in the City, and immediately outside. St. Paul's

Cathedral has its retained band of ringers. Its bells were being examined to-day. St. Botolph's bells can be rung, but those of St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, are probably not in fit state for ringing.

Outside the City there are peals of bells at Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's, Westminster, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. These are believed to be in ringing condition.

The City, of course, has lost many historic peals through enemy action. The twelve-bell peals of St. Bride's, Fleet Street; St. Giles', Cripplegate; and St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; the ten-bell peal of St. Clement Danes; and half a dozen or more eight-bell peals have gone since the ringing ban was imposed in June, 1940.

One of the problems of arranging a change ringing programme is man-power. In the Ancient Society, which keeps up the old craft in and around the City, were many young enthusiasts who have gone into the Services now. Their places cannot be taken by unpractised helpers.

ST. PAUL'S BELLS.

On the following day 'The Evening Standard' proclaimed in a heavy headline that 'St. Paul's bells cannot be swung,' but it contradicted the assertion in the text:—

Mr. A. A. Hughes, who is both a member of the Society of College Youths and of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which has been making London's bells since the sixteenth century, is confident the bells of both St. Paul's and Westminster will ring out a full chime of peacetime strength.

He said: When we held the 305th anniversary luncheon of the society last week, 104 of our members were present, so that we can still ring quite a number of bells.

'This business of ringing the bells is not quite as simple as the Government's instruction makes it appear to be. Our telephone is going every ten minutes, and the calls are all coming from churches which want their bells put in order at short notice.'

'It just cannot be done—there you are, another message from the country has just been put in front of me. They want ten clappers installed to-morrow.'

Last Saturday both 'The Times' and 'The Daily Telegraph' printed a statement from Mr. E. H. Lewis, who wrote as the president of the Central Council. Mr. Lewis' letter, as it appeared in 'The Telegraph,' was as follows:—

MR. E. H. LEWIS' STATEMENT.

'May I, through you, ask the public to be indulgent in their criticisms of any ringing which may be on Sunday morning. Ringing is an art which requires much practice, and for nearly two and a half years there has been none except in a few towers upon silent bells. Many bands will be short-handed, as their members are in the Forces. Those who are left will do their best, but the quality of the ringing cannot be as good as we could wish.'

The Sunday morning papers followed the lead of the daily papers in giving prominence to the ringing. In a leaderette 'The Sunday Times' sounded a note of warning which perhaps was needed by some people.

'The church bells, which have been silent since May, 1940, will ring to-day to celebrate our victory in the Battle of Egypt. From time immemorial this has been the traditional expression of the people's joy. But there is always a danger in war-time that its meaning will be stretched too far. For that reason we doubt the wisdom of ringing the bells to-day; and our view is shared by many. There has been a brilliant triumph in Egypt and a far-reaching strategical stroke in French North Africa. But the main conflict is still ahead and this is a day of prayer as well as of thanksgiving.'

Mr. J. L. Garvin began his weekly article in 'The Sunday Express' on much the same note. 'We are pealing our bells this morning partly in rejoicing, but much more in thanksgiving. When the steeples are quiet again for some time, we must leave celebrations of yesterday behind us. We must look to the widening and rising tasks of a wholly new epoch of the war.'

THE LATE JOHN JAGGAR.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—John Jaggar and myself have been lifelong friends for over 60 years. When I took up ringing and had learnt to ring on the six bells at Winsill, Burton, he became my tutor and conducted my first peal at St. Paul's in December, 1885. In 1886 the first peal of New Cumberland Surprise was rung, composed by John Jaggar, conducted by W. Wakley, in which I took part.

He was never happy only when he had a few novices round him, and was continually arranging Saturday afternoon outings to various towers to get all the practice they could.

On Saturday, October 31st, I received a telegram from his son asking me to come, as he had passed on.

It was a blow to me. I always looked forward to meeting him at the Johnson dinner.

One by one they pass on. How soon my turn will come I don't know. I have lost a good friend in John Jaggar.

JOHN AUSTIN.

38, Lysons Avenue, Gloucester.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE QUESTION DISCUSSED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When, shortly after the death of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, you decided to end the Ringers' Conference, I expressed the hope that a discussion of some of the subjects on the agenda might be carried on, and in this connection I was hopeful that we should hear more of the suggested National Association.

Some months earlier a letter had appeared in 'The Ringing World' asking that such an association should be formed *immediately* (the italics are mine), and the writer added, 'It would be foolish to presume that after the cessation of hostilities ringing will follow in the footsteps of 1939 and that all we have to do is to enter the belfry and all will be well.' With the sentiments expressed in the last sentence I heartily agree, but I am not at all sure that the immediate formation of a National Association would make our chances any better than they are at present, nor did the writer give us any information on this aspect of the case.

A desultory correspondence on the subject followed, and the opening of the Ringers' Conference in the early weeks of this year gave a good opportunity of staging a discussion of the whole subject. With this in view I drew up a resolution expressing confidence in the present organisation of the Exercise, and the belief that it would be capable of overcoming post-war difficulties. As I anticipated, this caused a discussion on the subject of a National Association, but what might have been an interesting, even an instructive, debate was interrupted by the sad death of Mr. Goldsmith and the shutting down of the conference.

NEED FOR INVESTIGATION.

Now, Mr. Editor, the matter cannot be left there. If our present method of organisation is in any way weak, discussion might bring out means by which it can be strengthened. If it can be bettered by the formation of a National Association, well, let us find out about it, but so far we have been given little information which will convince many people.

Amongst the points put forward by your correspondents, or by contributors to the conference debate, were many that may be commented upon. It was suggested that all the present societies should be formed into one society, and that all the funds should be handed over. This, of course, assumes unanimity, and we were not told what was to be the penalty to be imposed on any society not 'joining up.' Nor were we told, even if unanimity was obtained, how we could by this means improve the position in towers which are always a source of worry to associations—I refer to towers where bands are not up to full strength, or are lacking in initiative. Could we go to the full-time secretary (paid) of our National Association and ask for two or three ringers to be sent to St. Mary's Church, —?

All of us with experience of association work know full well that the strength (or weakness) of any society lies with its affiliated towers, and it is at that source that improvement must be looked for. Ringers at the towers must be recruited *locally*; the organisation of those towers must be an affair of the *area* in which they are situated, and so we come back to the present method of diocesan or territorial associations, divided into districts according to circumstances. What advantage could be obtained by running these districts through a central office? The full-time secretary would never have time to visit all the districts in the country, and would never be able to acquaint himself with the differing conditions prevailing. These differences are, as we all know, considerable. The Executive Committee, too, would have to be a large body to contain representatives of all districts, and would, therefore, become too large to be *executive*. We should quickly come back to district or divisional organisation, and the central office, with its full-time secretary (paid) would be useless, except perhaps to send out circulars which, would be of value to few, if any, of the local societies.

FINANCE.

Now as to finance. Even if we had unanimity amongst existing societies (which is doubtful) on the question of merging funds, which means well-to-do societies sharing with poor societies, there is the question of the future. One correspondent mentioned 40,000 members at 1s. per annum, giving an income at £2,000. This shows a rosy picture, but where does the figure of 40,000 come from?

In his report to the Central Council meeting in 1936, the hon. secretary gave the following figures: Number of affiliated societies 49, including six non-territorial societies. Of the 43 territorial and diocesan societies two had no annual subscribing members, and the remaining 41 had an aggregate membership of 21,860. It is fairly safe to assume that the majority of members of the six non-territorial societies, i.e., College Youths Cumberland, Ladies' Guild, University Societies, etc., and of the two societies with no annual subscribing members, were also included in the membership of the 41 remaining societies. It is also safe to assume that the figure of 21,860 was swollen to a great degree by ringers who were annual subscribing members of more than one association. Thus the possible membership of a National Association is, at a reasonable estimate, much less than half of that mentioned by your correspondent, and the financial prospect is not nearly so rosy.

(Continued in next column.)

NORWICH BELLS.

Recently references were made in 'The Eastern Evening News' to some of the bells in Norwich churches, and the statement was made that the ring of six once in the tower of St. Mary's, Coslany, had been broken up and melted down. This led to an explanation from the Vicar, the Rev. C. H. Flack. He wrote:—

I note that in 'Over the Tea Table' in last night's 'Evening News' (October 17th), 'Whiffler' mentions the bells of St. Mary's Church, and says he thinks these were eventually sold and melted down.

May I be allowed to correct this last statement. The bells, after standing on the floor of the belfry for many years (one of them was hung, however), were sold in 1937 to St. Catharine's Church, Mile Cross, where they are now hanging in the tower. Before the ban on bellringing came in, they were 'chimed' (not rung) every Sunday at St. Catharine's.

They are a very old and I believe valuable peal, made in Norwich, and as you say of a very sweet tone, though very small. I think many people will be relieved to know that they are still in existence, and not melted down.

I do not know how long it is since they were rung at St. Mary's, but over 40 years ago, I'm certain. The tower became unsafe many years ago, and they were removed. When the church was restored in 1909 they were not rehung (except one as mentioned). The church was closed for services in 1892 and when restored was used mainly for Sunday School purposes. In April this year after St. Augustine's was damaged we were very glad to take refuge at St. Mary's and used it until June, when it was badly damaged by fire, and we were obliged to return to our other less damaged church.

Such is the story in brief of this beautiful church; twice filled with water in time of flood—there was 3ft. of water in it in 1912—and now damaged by fire, 'She've been wholly unlucky' as they say.

RUISLIP. — On Friday, November 13th, at Bell Haven, Acacia Avenue, a quarter-peal of Minor, 1,260 changes, consisting of 720 Plain Bob, 360 Double Bob and 180 St. Clement's Bob: G. M. Kilby 1-2, Cpl. K. Arthur, R.A.F. (conductor) 3-4, Cpl. E. Coward, R.A.F. 5-6. Rung as a compliment to Mr. Kilby on the occasion of his 60th birthday. First quarter-peal of Minor on handbells by all.

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Another optimist suggested 5s. per annum as subscription, which would entitle one to membership of the association and a free 'Ringing World.' Judging from the circulation of the paper (I think the pre-war figure was about 2,500), the free copy would not induce many to pay the five shillings. And of those who do not buy the paper, how many would pay 5s. per annum? Ask any secretary or treasurer of his experiences, and you will get the answer.

We were also told that a National Association would do away with the pin-pricking between rival associations. This evil does not only exist between associations—it exists between ringers and between bands. At the same time, instances can be quoted where associations work together amicably at border towers, and these are possibly much more numerous than the instances of pin-pricking.

'THE RINGING WORLD.'

We were also given a gloomy picture of the future of 'The Ringing World' without a National Association, but I will leave that subject except to say that the paper is still being published and looks like going on.

One doubtful correspondent asked what additional advantage could be got from a National Association, and answered the question himself by referring to the saving of the non-resident life member's subscription. Well, I think he is right. This *would* be saved, and as far as I can see would be the only advantage gained by anybody.

The question of support from the clergy is of the utmost importance. The tendency in recent years is for societies to become 'diocesan,' and this undoubtedly draws the clergy. It is extremely doubtful if a change would be of benefit in this direction, indeed, it is most likely to be otherwise.

There is also the position of the University Guilds. These have done, and are doing, excellent work, but would they be allowed to exist as branches of a National Association? I think not. Our old societies, the College Youths and the Cumberlands, would no longer exist, or would they? And if they did, would they be considered outcasts? They could hardly be considered as branches, and there seems to be no place for them in a National Association.

Before we consent to scrap our existing organisation we must be careful that what we have to put in its place is sure to work. We could not go back. We are at present reliant on a great deal of voluntary work; could we rely on this if somebody or other was getting a nice fat living out of ringing? The hundred or more district secretaries, *those who do the work*, could hardly be expected to carry on if they were placed under the orders of a full-time paid secretary. Alternatively, the cost of paying district secretaries would wreck the whole scheme.

Of course, if the Exercise could afford to pay a host of officials, secretaries, masters, instructors, etc., to say nothing of the expenses of a very large executive committee when attending meetings, we might get some sort of a National Association. C. T. COLES.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, November 21st. Meet in the vestry 3 p.m. Handbells will be available. Service at 4.30 p.m., followed by the meeting. Those requiring tea kindly let me know, and I will do my best to arrange for some. All ringers cordially invited.—George R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The annual district meeting will be held at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on November 21st. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. at the St. Peter's Institute, Hatfield Road, followed by the business meeting. Please try to come and make this a representative meeting, letting me know numbers for tea.—R. Darvill, Dis. Sec., 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The next meeting will be held at Yatton on Saturday, November 21st. Bells (silent apparatus) available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ash-ton.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at St. Chad's, Headingley, on Saturday, November 21st. Handbells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds 12.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 21st. Service 4.30. Tea 5 p.m., followed by annual meeting. — T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch. — Meeting for practice at Brierley Hill (D.V.), Saturday, Nov. 21st, 3 p.m. Bells (8) available ('silent'). Tea 5.30 p.m., in School-room. Handbells and social evening to follow. — Bernard C. Ashford, Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Watford district will be held at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by Nov. 26th.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 28th. Bells (silent) available between 2 p.m. and just before black-out.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Dec. 12th. Further announcement next week. — T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

TRURO CATHEDRAL.—Monthly practices are held on the first Saturday of each month. Silent tower bells and handbells from 2 p.m. All ringers welcome.—W. H. Southard, Penheard, Bodmin Road, Truro.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The present address of Mr. William A. Stote is 47, Cedars Avenue, Coundon, Coventry.

BIRTH.

CECIL.—On Tuesday, Nov. 10th, at Chownes Mead Maternity Home, Haywards Heath, to Julia, wife of G. W. Cecil, a son.

**THE FUTURE OF CHANGE RINGING.
FROM THE WOODSTOCK RURI-DECANAL MAGAZINE.**

Unfortunately we must again face the gloom of the black-out, but it is not so hard to endure as the continued silence of our church bells. To many people it was the one reminder that God is worshipped in our land, and that Sunday is the day when all Christians are called to worship Him. There are people who dislike the sound of church bells. Miss Dorothy Sayers in the foreword to one of her novels writes: 'It seems strange that a generation which tolerates the uproar of the internal combustion engine, and the wailing of the jazz band, should be so sensitive to the one loud noise that is made to the glory of God. England, alone in the world, has perfected the art of change ringing, and the true ringing of bells by rope and wheel, and will not lightly surrender her unique heritage.'

That was written in 1934. She has too lightly surrendered her unique heritage. God alone knows how much the call of the bells did to many people, even if they did not obey the call, the sound did not let them forget altogether. The decision to silence the call is a blow struck at the art of bellringing, perhaps we should say of change ringing, for anyone can jangle the bells as is customary on the Continent. No doubt in towns and large villages it will survive, for there will be a sufficient number of old ringers, but in many of the several hundred little villages of Oxfordshire there will be no more change ringing. For its continuation could only be preserved by getting hold of the most intelligent boys and young men and encouraging them to learn this very difficult art. It would have survived conscription, for with ringers in the army and air force in every district, and men coming home on leave, ringing would have continued, if irregularly. To begin again and create an interest, that will be the difficulty.

VILLAGE BELLS.

How soft the music of those village bells
Falling at intervals upon the ear
In cadence sweet! now dying all away,
Now pealing loud again and louder still,
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on.—

Cowper.

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