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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 1942.

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**THE FUTURE.**

The ringing for victory showed beyond all possible doubt that the bells of England have not lost their old hold on the affections and sentiment of the people of England. We have a complete answer to the men who feared that advantage of the long silence would be taken by those who object to ringing to forbid the general use of church bells or to subject it to severe restrictions. Just the contrary has happened, and perhaps never in their long history—certainly not within living memory—have the bells been more gladly heard than recently. Not only so, but there is a very widespread hope and demand that the ban shall be removed now, and without waiting for final victory.

We have never feared that any general restriction of bellringing would be likely to be imposed by authority, and though we were agreeably surprised at the amount of interest evoked by the victory ringing, we have never doubted that church bells have a very secure place in the affections of Englishmen.

All this is a matter for pride and confidence, and the Exercise is fully entitled to congratulate itself on the way it played its part in the victory celebrations. But there is a great need for uttering a warning, lest what can be a great help to us prove a snare and a stumbling block.

The time will come—it may come fairly soon—when we shall have again to resume our places in the belfries and carry on again our work as ringers. When that happens we can be sure of a cordial and ready welcome from the general public, but we should not let recent events deceive us. After a short time, perhaps a very short time, we shall be faced again with the same problems we have always had to contend with. We shall have the same complaints we have always had, and it may be all the stronger because of the reaction which will naturally follow the first wave of enthusiasm.

This will by no means be on account of fickleness in the public fancy, but by reason of an extraordinary quality the bells themselves possess. The great majority of people are at different times moved and impressed by the sound of church bells, but the number of those who admire bells as musical instruments is quite small. The influence of bells on men is not on account of their tone or musical qualities, but because of the mysterious power they have of voicing and stimulating feeling and sentiments. When men feel strongly, or when they are in a contemplative mood, bells have an irresistible appeal, but those occasions are comparatively rare, and the bells which sound so lovely and so grand on one day can quite easily be an almost intolerable nuisance on another day.

(Continued on page 542.)

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Such an occasion as we have just had is not likely to re-occur to any of us more than once. We shall be called on to ring for final victory and for peace, but the conditions for which we should prepare ourselves are those of ordinary life. We must remember that the public which will hear us will not be a public keyed up by the thought of a great victory, but a public in its ordinary moods, and containing not a few critics and not a few objectors. Ringers and ringing will once more be on their trial, and if the art is to prosper it is most essential that the quality of the ringing should be as good as possible. That is the thought which should be in every ringer's mind, and everything else should take a second place.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, November 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT SOMERVILLE COLLEGE,

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

Tenor size 15 in C.

*WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) ... .. 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... .. 5-6
†JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... .. 3-4	‡MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) ... .. 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First handbell peal away from the tenor. † First peal on an inside pair. ‡ First attempt for a peal.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

On Saturday, November 28, 1942, in Two Hours and 18 Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

*JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) ... .. 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) ... .. 5-6
WILLIAM L. B. LERSE (St. John's) ... .. 3-4	†WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) ... .. 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

\* First peal of Triples. † First handbell peal of Triples. The first peal of Grandsire Triples for the Society.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BLACKBURN BRANCH.

At the meeting held at Accrington on November 14th members were present from Blackburn Church, Oswaldtwistle and Waterfoot. The local band was well represented and about half a dozen members of the Accrington Grammar School Society. Several touches were rung on the 'silent' tower bells and on handbells before the start of the meeting at 4 p.m.

In the absence (through the pressure of urgent business) of the branch president (Mr. T. Wilson), Mr. L. J. Williams was elected chairman. He extended a cordial welcome to the visitor from Waterfoot and said he was pleased to see a good attendance, and hoped they would soon meet under happier circumstances. The following officers were then elected: Mr. L. J. Williams, president; Mr. F. Hindle, re-elected secretary; and Mr. C. W. Blakey to serve on the committee.

Two new members, K. Hindle and J. Howe (both from the Grammar School Society) were elected.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Vicar and wardens, local ringers, etc., the next meeting being left for the secretary to arrange.

Cups of tea were provided in the school, followed by another couple of hours in the tower.

## CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in Mr. Morris' article on detached towers of England. I wonder whether he could give a list of churches with central towers where the ringing takes place on the floor of the church. Those I know of are: Ickleton, Cambs, 8; Anstey, Herts, 6; Thurleigh, Beds, 6; Meppershall, Beds, 5; Fairford, Glos, 8; Staunton, Glos, 6; Algarkirk, Lincs, 6.

A. E. AUSTIN.

Sunny View, Woodditton Road, Newmarket.

## FABIAN STEDMAN AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 535.)

The question has been asked why Stedman went to London to get his books printed. He was a printer, why did he not print them himself? The answer, and the really sufficient answer, would probably be that he did what was most convenient at the time. But there are obvious reasons why he did not himself produce the book. He was not a master printer, and there is no reason to suppose he had at his disposal the apparatus necessary for making a book—the type, the press, and the service of bookbinders. And if he had, he would not have been allowed by law to use them. Not only had every book to be licensed before being printed, but the number of master printers was strictly limited, and, as I have already said, the trade was practically the monopoly of the Stationers' Company of London.

Outside the metropolis, the only printing presses were at the two Universities, and they existed in face of the prolonged and bitter opposition of the London Company. In 1637 an order was issued by the Court of the Star Chamber, which appointed various licensers for various classes of books and limited the number of master printers to twenty, and the number of type founders to four. The triumph of the Parliament in the Civil War did not lead to the freedom of the press, and, although John Milton in his 'Areopagica' had given unanswerable arguments for liberty, his words failed to move his puritan associates.

In the King's Library at Bloomsbury there is a first edition of J. White's 'Rich Cabinet,' and bound up with it a pamphlet entitled 'A Brief Treatise concerning the regulating of printing, humbly presented to the Parliament of England by William Ball, Esq.' It was published in the year 1651, and advocated 'the regulating of Printing and Printers, not only for the welfare of the Publique, but even for the good of themselves (if not exhorbitant in their desires) if the number of Printing Houses in London were stinted and none of them suffered to be without the liberties of the City of London. If the number of printing presses were limited. If the number of apprentices were also limited; part whereof I have collected out of former Ordinances and have partly proposed somewhat of mine own.'

After the Restoration the restrictions on printing were tightened up, and an Act of Parliament was passed in 1662 which repeated most of the regulations of 1637. Sir Roger L'Estrange (1616-1704) was appointed licenser and given most extensive powers. All printing offices in England and sellers of books and pamphlets were under his control; he had authority to enter their houses and search; and he had the sole privilege of writing, printing and publishing anything in the nature of a newspaper. In 1663, soon after assuming his duties, he made a midnight raid on many publishing offices. In one, owned by John Twyn in Clothfair, he found a seditious book being printed. Twyn was arrested on a capital charge, convicted and executed. The 'Tintinnologia' bears L'Estrange's imprimatur, but the 'Campanalogia' does not. It does not, however, mean that the second book was not licensed, for the Licensing Act did not expire until 1679, and therefore covered both books.

Roger L'Estrange's activities brought him intense unpopularity, and he was one of the persons exempted by name from the Act of Idemnity at the beginning of the reign of William and Mary. He died in 1704, and was buried at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields. He was a younger son of a very ancient Norfolk family, for centuries settled at Hunstanton. John L'Estrange, the author of 'The Church Bells of Norfolk,' was a collateral descendant of his.

Fabian Stedman, therefore, had no choice in the matter of printing and publication, and he had to face the financial problems involved. In the next century he probably would have issued the books by subscription. In the seventeenth it was more usual for the bookseller to pay the author a lump sum for the copyright and then make what he could by selling copies to the public. In the case of the 'Tintinnologia' it is likely that Duckworth, who was not a poor man, cared little what money or fame the book would bring him, and, after he had written it, he handed it over to Stedman to do what he could with it; and Stedman had enough influence with the College Youths and the London ringers to make the book a commercial success.

The law of copyright was very vague. Once a man had parted with his manuscript he usually had no control over his book. The publisher issued reprints, if he thought he could sell them, without referring to the author for any corrections or additions, and pirated editions were common and difficult to check.

Stedman suffered much at the hands of pirates. As we have seen, 'White' thieved from the 'Tintinnologia' and spoilt the matter he took. The 'Campanalogia' fared as badly. Two books published about this time contained chapters on ringing; one the 'Husbandman's Magazine,' the other Lambert's 'Countryman's Treasure.' I have seen neither nor been able to find out whether any copies are extant, but it is pretty certain that they were cribbed from Stedman.

In 1684 was published a book called 'The School of Recreation,' which was a text book on various sports, and included a chapter on ringing. The title page reads as follows: 'The School of Recreation, or the Gentleman's Tutor in those most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Racing, Hawking, Riding, Cock-fighting, Fowling, Fishing, Shooting, Bowling, Tennis, Ringing and Billiards. By R. H., London. Printed for H. Rhodes next door to the Bear Tavern, near Bride Lane in Fleet Street, 1684.'

R. H. was a man named Howlett, of whom I know nothing. Rhodes was probably the same as a man who previously had a booksellers' shop at the sign of the Bible at Charing Cross. He it was who started a company of players which seems to have been the beginning of the famous Drury Lane Theatre. He was acquainted with some of the College Youths, and one of his leading actors, Cave Underhill, joined the society in the same year this book appeared. It therefore seems likely that, when he was producing 'The School of Recreation,' Rhodes told Howlett, his hack writer, to include ringing; and Howlett took the 'Campanalogia' and copied out just as much as he thought fit for his purpose.

In any case, whether Howlett had ever been inside a belfry himself or not, there is nothing in his chapter that he did not steal from Stedman. Like 'White,' he tried

(Continued on next page.)

## FABIAN STEDMAN.

(Continued from previous page.)

to cover up his thefts by altering the wording, and by an assumption of knowledge which can hardly have deceived anyone who had only glanced at the 'Campanologia.'

Stedman gives, besides the older methods, fifty-three 'London' peals, his own composition, and several Nottingham, Oxford, Cambridge and Reading peals. Howlett reproduced some of Stedman's methods, and this is what he says: 'I shall next collect what London peals I think most harmonious and agreeable, without troubling myself to go to Oxford, or Nottingham, or Reading to enquire after their different method of peals, as indeed needless, and my reason is this, because I think the same rules for peals that are suitable to our London genius may challenge likewise an acceptance among other cities, provided their steeples are furnished with as many and as good bells, and their belfries with as ingenious and elaborate ringers as here in London.'

The chapter begins as follows: 'Since this recreation of ringing is become so highly esteemed for its excellent harmony of music it affords the ear, for its mathematical inventions delighting the mind, and for the violence of its exercise bringing health to the body, causing it to transpire plentifully and by sweats dissipate and expel those fuliginous thick vapours which idleness, effeminency and delicacy subject men to: I say for these and other reasons I was induced to bring this of ringing into the company of exercises in this treatise.' And the chapter ends with a sermon, the burden of which is that ringers should go to church. 'The saints' bell of the church sounds in thy ears, and calls thee to attend the priest, who now signifies his entrance into the Holy Place, and invites thee to join him in prayer and praise.' 'Do not let Sunday morning's peal engage thy presence then, and the ale house have thy company afterwards.'

We should like to take this exhortation at its face value, but it does not ring true. We cannot forget that the pious writer had stolen from Stedman just as much as if he had put his hand in his pocket. Perhaps some of the College Youths pointed out to Rhodes that ringers did not ring a Sunday morning peal, and the incongruity of the sermon in a book like 'The School of Recreation,' which treated of such things as racing and cock-fighting, would be noticed even by a seventeenth-century reader. The writer half apologised for it, and in the following editions it disappeared.

Stedman, as I have pointed out, used in his opening sentences a much more ornate style than in the body of his book. Howlett tried to go much further. Compare the two following; the first is Stedman's, the other is Howlett's:—

'These clear days of knowledge that have ransackt the dark corners of most arts and sciences, and freed their hidden mysteries from the bonds of obscurity, have also registered this of ringing in the catalogue of their improvements; as well the speculative as the practick part, which of late years remained in embryo are now become perfect and worthy the knowledge of the most ingenious.'

Not very good writing, perhaps, certainly not up to the author's usual standard. But Stedman had something to say, and said it. He wished to point out (what was the truth) that, at the time great advances had been made in science, and that ringing had shared in the pro-

gress, and was now worthy of any man's attention. Howlett's paraphrase is merely bombast;—

'Art being a curious searcher and enquirer into the hidden and abstruse arcanas of difficulties, having found out that dark and remote corner of obscurity wherein the nature of those cross-peals lay at first involved hath exhibited by its proselytes the ensuing demonstration of that which before lay mantled up in doubt. And to effect this these favourites of art have, like ingenious architects, made order and method the basis on which the whole superstructure depends.'

When Howlett comes to deal with any technical part of ringing, his ignorance is at once apparent. He dare not trust himself far from Stedman's words, though he does what he can to keep up the pretence of being an original author; but every deviation from the 'Campanologia' is for the worse, and usually alters or obscures Stedman's meaning.

There is a fine copy of the first edition of 'The School of Recreation' in the King's Library at Bloomsbury. Several other editions were published. The sports treated of varied; billiards is omitted, but fireworks, military discipline, the science of defence, and singing are added. In 1710 two separate editions were printed, one for A. Bettesworth at the Red Lion on London Bridge, the other for H. Rhodes at the Star at the corner of Bride Lane. Except for a few details, these are identical, and it looks as if Bettesworth's edition was a pirated one, and Rhodes, who really owned the copyright, issued his as a counter-blast.

Other editions were issued in 1732 and 1736, by which time the chapter on ringing, which remained unaltered, was quite out of date. Copies of all these editions are in the British Museum, which has also a perfect copy of the 'Campanologia.' It belonged at one time to Osborn, who in 1846 bought it from a Mr. Kerlake, a bookseller, of Bristol. Previously it had been in the library of Sir Francis Gwyn, of Ford Abbey, Derbyshire.

(To be continued.)

## QUEX PARK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I think Mr. Bailey's information is at fault when he says that Quex Park tower was built as the result of a dispute between J. P. Powell and the church authorities at Birchington.

The Rev. John Price Alcock, who was Rector of Birchington before coming to Crayford, told us on more than one occasion that it was a matter of regret to Mr. Powell and 'one of my predecessors' that the tower at Birchington Church was too small to hold a peal of twelve bells, so he did the next best thing, he built a tower in the park to house them.

Remembering, as I do, Mr. Alcock's keen interest in parochial history leaves no doubt in my mind as to how the tower came to be built and the bells installed.

That there was complete harmony between J. P. Powell and the church authorities is, I think, shown by the rule he made when the bells were opened, and which still obtains, that the bells are not to be rung during service hours at Birchington Church.

Strangely enough, Mr. Alcock, before coming to Birchington, was Rector of Brookland, Kent, with its curious detached tower and peal of five. He also spoke of this, but as a youngster Brookland's five did not impress me like Quex Park twelve and I have forgotten whether he may have said about them.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

## A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I, for one, associate myself with Mr. C. T. Coles in all he says in his letter in respect to the so-called National Association. I have been looking forward to seeing someone come along to tackle this question. I heartily congratulate him.

G. RADLEY.

18. Macers Lane, Wormley, Hoddesdon.

**RINGING A TUNE.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The tune 'rung' on five bells was rung at Geddington by the old band of ringers who were all elderly men, 45 years ago when I was a lad, and had been rung by them on special occasions for many years.

I have a copy of the MS. book of the leader, Mr. William Cooper, which includes this tune. It is given thus: 'To be rung on five bells all bells up Shepherds Aye, 312, 314, 312, 3145 repeat, 3524, 354, 352, 3145 repeat.' I have taken part in this and it was rung here up to the last war.

A great part of this MS. has obviously been copied from 'Campanalogia,' by J. D. and C. M., a copy of the 1733 edition of which is in Kettering, having come to Mr. A. Henman, one of the ringers there, from an ancestor, Mr. Starmer, who was also a ringer. It would be interesting to know if this MS. was taken from the copy at Kettering, or, if not, how it was obtained.

I also have another MS. book, which belonged to a Mr. March, of Lowick, dated 1801, which is practically the same. On the front page of both is, 'The word Extreme as used in some of the following peals is the most proper signification in regards to the change, but there is now, and has been for some time past, a word called Bob instead of Extreme, upon what account the word was changed we know not, but nevertheless for fashion's sake we always use it.'

I also have a copy of 'A Key to the Art of Ringing,' by Jones, Reeves and Plakemore, which also belonged to Mr. March, which shows there was interest in the art in the villages of this district at that time.

ROBERT G. BLACK.

Geddington, Kettering.

**A NATIONAL RINGERS HOSTEL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Reading some of Sir William Beveridge's plans for the future set me thinking, and wondering, whether the Central Council would produce plans for a specific project, viz., a 'National Hostel' in London for members of our art. It could be commenced in a small way, and, if successful, eventually reach the standard of a good hostel giving accommodation for visitors staying in London overnight, etc. We have among our members the talent for designing, supplying and constructing. On suitable land for enlargement a start could be made firstly with an office, wherein the London societies could hold their meetings, and thus enable co-operation for the future, secondly rooms to house the Central Council Library, then accommodation for visitors, editorial offices for 'The Ringing World' after its reconstruction and eventually to the status of a licensed hostel. Here, then, is an opportunity for the sponsors of a National Society to direct their efforts, etc., to a National Ringers' Home.

PRO BONO.

**THE LATE MR. JOHN H. SWINFIELD.**

As announced in our last issue, Mr. John H. Swinfield, of Burton-on-Trent, passed peacefully away on Wednesday, November 18th, at 12 noon, at the age of 79. He had a heart attack in May last, which was followed by others, but was not confined to bed until the last fortnight. The death of his wife on the last day of 1938 was a great shock to him—they had been married over 50 years—and this, coupled with the ban on ringing, his one great hobby, considerably aged him. He leaves one son and two daughters to mourn his loss.

He was laid to rest in Burton Cemetery following a service in St. Paul's Church, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon W. H. Winterbotham. Floral tributes were sent from officers and members of the Midland Counties Association; Mr. E. Denison Taylor and Mr. J. Oldham, of the Loughborough Bell Foundry; and also St. Paul's Society.

As a last tribute of respect a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the open grave by J. W. Cotton (Overseale) 1-2, M. Swinfield (Burton) 3-4, E. W. Beadsmoore (Ashby) 5-6, J. Paget (Derby) 7-8.

Mr. Swinfield had rung 448 peals from Doubles to Cinques for the Midland Counties Association, as well as others for different associations, of which no account has been kept. He began his career at Earl Shilton, and around that district he was well known in every belfry. In those early days they had a good handbell tune-ringing band and used to tour the district giving selections. After leaving Shilton he settled at Burton-on-Trent, assisting at both St. Modwen's and St. Paul's. On the retirement of the late Mr. E. I. Stone as captain of St. Paul's, he was elected to the post, a position he held to the end.

About 1923 Mr. Swinfield with the late Mr. C. Draper organised the 'Wednesday band,' and their remarkable long period of successes—especially with peals of Stedman Triples—is well known, almost every known composition (over 230 different ones) being rung. They did not confine themselves entirely to this method, but on occasions rang Treble Bob, Little Bob, 5,728 Forward Major, 5,760 Duffield Major, the latter being the longest so far in these methods yet rung.

Mr. Swinfield could not tolerate bad striking or slovenly ringing, and those responsible for such could be sure of a chiding at the conclusion of touch or peal. He was ever ready to help young ringers and visitors to St. Paul's, Burton, were always sure of a warm welcome. His passing so soon after his old friend and colleague, John Jaggard, leaves a big gap in the M.C.A. ranks which will be difficult to fill.

The family desire to thank all those who sent floral tributes and letters of condolence.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John W. Jones, who reaches his 77th birthday to-morrow.

Alderman William Horrington, who is captain of the band at St. Mary's, Abergavenny, has been elected Mayor of the town for the second time. His first term of office was in 1929, and he has been a councillor for 22 years.

William Doubleday Crofts, of Nottingham, a noted eighteenth century ringer, died on November 29th, 1809, aged 67.

On November 29th, 1738, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, the College Youths rang the first peal of Double Grandsire Cinques, and on the same date in 1934 the Helmingham band rang the first peal of Marina Surprise Major.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung at Ipswich on November 30th, 1929, and the first peal of Wembley Surprise Major was rung at Aldenham on November 30th, 1935.

The extent of Spliced Surprise Major on the three-lead course plan, 5,760 changes, was rung by the Middlesex Association at Willesden on December 1st, 1931. There were nine methods in the peal.

The first peal of Ealing Surprise Major was rung at Christ Church, Ealing, on December 1st, 1934.

Sheffield men rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal on handbells on December 3rd, 1811.

The first peal of Stedman Triples which we definitely know was true was rung by the College Youths at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, on December 4th, 1803.

The first peal of Melbourne Surprise Major was rung at Warfield on December 5th, 1935.

Fifty years ago yesterday 7,072 changes of Superlative Surprise Major, with the tenors together, were rung at Christ Church, Southgate. It was the longest length in the method at the time, but Washbrook, who rang the tenor and conducted, made a mistake in the composition and it was false. Some of the leads were in the Burton variation.

### THE APPEAL OF BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would like to congratulate you very heartily on your leading article headed 'Last Sunday' in 'The Ringing World' of November 20th. It was quite one of the best I have read in the years that I have taken the paper, and one that it would have rejoiced the heart of Mr. J. S. Goldsmith to see.

You are absolutely right in saying that on emotional occasions nothing expresses the feelings of the British people so well as bells. And when they have been denied the sound of bells for 29 consecutive months, this is doubly true. Like those families who have left these islands to make their homes in distant lands and who long to hear the bells of their old home church.

It is often said that to appreciate a thing fully one must go without it for a considerable period. During the ban this has certainly been true of ringers and public alike with regard to ringing. 'It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good.'

I should like to suggest that those who have your article should show it to the bishops, priests and deacons, to the intent that they hang it in their church porches and bring it to the notice of their church-going people. Apart from other results, it might be a powerful stimulant to the recruiting of ringers—a thing we should all have at heart at this moment.

A. E. F. TROTMAN.

### A PROBLEM OF ACOUSTICS

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can any reader of 'The Ringing World' throw any light on this problem?

The bells of St. James', Barrow-in-Furness, are hung in the tower about 60 or 70 feet from ground level. Above them is the very high steeple terminating in a sharp point. The church stands on a hill. People living in all directions away from the church say that the bells could not be heard until coming quite close to the church on November 15th.

Previous to the blitz there was a floor above the bells (about 15ft.), which was covered with sheet lead. This was blown down when a nearby land-mine went off. Now one can look from the bells right up to the weather-cock at the top of the steeple.

Would the absence of this floor account for the shortening of the distance to which the sound of the bells will travel?

JAMES E. BURLES.

2. Rand Villas, North Seale, Barrow-in-Furness.

### THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At the meeting on November 21st, twenty-four members were present, including Mr. Frank Smallwood from Worcester, Mr. F. Warrington from Over, and Mr. A. W. Brighton, who had not been seen at a meeting for many years. The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided.

Mr. C. W. Roberts presented the balance sheet for the previous year, which had been audited by himself and Mr. E. C. S. Turner. He congratulated the society on a very sound financial position. The accounts were passed.

## THE BAN.

### DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL.

There is much evidence of a widespread desire that the ban on ringing should be suspended. 'The Church Times' printed two letters on the subject, one from Mr. W. Potts, of Banbury, who said: 'Your suggestion in last week's issue that some easily recognisable alarm signal might be rung on the bells, reminds me that in this town of Banbury a hundred years ago the fire alarm was sounded by the simultaneous ringing of the treble and tenor bells, the remainder of the peal remaining silent, awaiting their conventional use. Are we less inventive than our grandfathers?'

The other was from the Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of Sutton, Beds: 'We have been told over the wireless that the bells are not to ring again until there is another victory. If the bells are rung, and for earthly victory, and are silent at Christmas, it will be a real scandal—in the literal sense of the word.'

'Urbanus,' who contributes a weekly column to the same paper, had a good deal to say last week about bells, and all of it good. Here are some extracts:—

'People are still talking about the bells which sounded forth from church towers in celebration of our great victory in the Battle of Egypt. Indeed, there is more talk now, ten days after the event, than there was at the time. The bells had been so long silent that we were content just to listen happily to their exultant music as it came tumbling from the belfries. None of us was critical. The ringers had been nearly three years without practice, and in most places, I hazard, it was very much a scratch team that was got together for the joyful occasion. In few belfries could any serious attempt have been made to ring a proper peal.'

'To be sure, some folk thought ill of the ringing. They held it to be tempting Providence to ring the bells for victory until the final triumph of arms had been achieved. And, of course, there were those who dislike bell music at all times. They deserve our pity, not our censure. All, however, seem to agree that the ringers performed a remarkable *tour de force* in making the belfries resound so grandly. It looks as though the legend about it taking ten years to make a ringer needs to be revised.

'Perhaps because bellringing is a peculiarly English art it means much to the English people. English literature and especially English poetry abounds with allusions to the sound of the bells, which must be incomprehensible to the foreigner.'

'Now that the silence of the belfries has been broken, what about Christmas? Two years ago the "highest military authorities" successfully resisted the "strong representations" then made by Archbishop Lang in favour of the order prohibiting the use of the bells except as tocsin being relaxed on Christmas morning. Circumstances have greatly changed, and it may reasonably be argued that, if national security was not impaired by the bells being rung after due notice on November 15th, it will not suffer damage if the ban is lifted at Christmas.'

## CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### MEETING AT NORBURY.

A joint meeting of the Bowden, Stockport, Mottram Branch and Macclesfield Branch was held at St. Thomas', Norbury, on Saturday, November 14th, when 45 members and friends were present from St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bowden, Stockport (St. Mary's and St. George's), Reddish, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Disley, Poynton, Sutton and Manchester, together with a good number of local ringers.

The meeting opened with service in the church and was followed by tea in the school, where the Rev. W. Humphreys, Rural Dean, welcomed the ringers.

At the business meeting the members stood in silence to the memory of the following members who have passed away since the last meeting: Mr. W. Wilde, Denton; Seaman Raymond B'ench, Christ Church, Macclesfield (Merchant Navy); Seaman John Hassall (Royal Navy), Bowden, and the wives of two members, Mrs. Garside, Mossley, and Mrs. Langley, Hazel Grove.

An airgraph received by Mr. P. Laffin from Mr. C. K. Lewis was read to the meeting.

Mr. A. Barns proposed the following new members: Miss Elkin, Messrs. Peter Vincent, John Vincent, Gordon Vincent and Mrs. Vincent. It was decided to hold a meeting at St. George's, Stockport, in February, 1943. There was also a discussion on the Guild not carrying on its annual meetings as was decided at the last committee meeting.

After the meeting the handbells were brought into use, the ringing being opened with a course of Bob Major and a course of Grandire Triples by the Vincent family, Peter (aged nine) handling 1-2 like an old stager. During the evening the following methods were rung: Grandire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Royal, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major.

The members welcomed the following visitors: Messrs. J. S. Roberts, of Swinton, R.A.F.; T. R. Boys, St. Peter's, Weedon, Northants, R.A.F.; Mr. J. Hunt, and Mr. H. Shuker (hon. secretary), Lancashire Association.

## WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I be permitted to congratulate you on your leading article on the victory and thanksgiving ringing, which I think expresses the thoughts and aspirations of most of us?

It is also, I think, the answer to those who in peace time regarded ringing as a source of annoyance and a nuisance and often sought to have them silenced.

Referring to the Rev. Hugh Benson's letter, my view is that it is a matter of perspective. I agree that the ordering by Hitler of the church bells of Germany to celebrate destruction or devastation of countries he has overrun is an abuse of church property, but Hitler's system also stands for the disintegration of the mind and soul as well as the destruction of the body, and his so-called 'victory peals' can only be regarded by right thinking Christian people as celebrating a victory of evil over good.

We are fighting for freedom and liberty of the individual—mind, body and soul—so we regard our victory in Egypt as the first big step to final victory for good over evil and use our church bells in thankfulness and praise that He has strengthened us and made it possible.

F. E. PITMAN.

40, Tweedy Road, Bromley.

## A BLESSING IN DISGUISE?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—It is surprising how after an enforced silence in ringing members come together on an occasion like November 5th.

Here, in Thame, many members of the young band that existed before the war are serving with the armed Forces.

After the welcome news that the ban had been lifted for the Sunday morning, we could only muster four ringers at the outside—at least we thought so—but by Saturday evening nine men had promised to come, and that number arrived punctually at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning for an hour's ringing.

At least two of these ringers had not handled a bell for upwards of twenty years, and although there was a certain amount of rustiness, the ringing, on the whole, was good.

The ban on ringing, painful although it is to us regular ringers, may prove a blessing in disguise if, after the war, the enthusiasm as was shown generally on this occasion could be maintained.

H. BADGER.

Thame, Oxon.

## ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—No official announcement appears to have been made that the bells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields were broadcast on Sunday morning, November 15th, yet it is understood a touch of Stedman Caters was put 'on the air' between 11.15 and 11.25 a.m. on that day.

It would be of interest to know if any of your readers who may have been 'listening in' during that period heard the bells, and, if so, in which programme they were included.

G. W. STEERE, Hon. Secretary,  
Royal Cumberland Youths.

## LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

### MEETING AT PINCHBECK.

The quarterly meeting of the Elloe Deaneries Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild was held at Pinchbeck on November 14th, when ringers were present from Spalding, Pinchbeck, Surfleet, Donington, Deeping St. Nicholas and Algarkirk.

The service was held at St. Mary's Church, at which an address was given by the Vicar, the Rev. E. C. Gee, and Miss P. F. Worthington presided at the organ. After service the company adjourned to the Bull Hotel, where an excellent tea had been prepared by Mrs. Hargrave.

The business meeting followed, under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. C. Gee, president of the branch. A letter from Messrs. John Taylor and Co. was read, which stated that they could not promise when the 'George Ladd' memorial tablet would be completed, as they were at present engaged on work which was of much greater urgency. Unless it could be fitted in between other work, it may have to wait until after the war.

March 13th, 1943, was the date fixed for the annual meeting at Spalding. It was proposed by Mr. R. Richardson and seconded by Mr. R. Smith (treasurer) that the expense of the tea be met out of the Guild funds. The proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. T. Brown proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. E. C. Gee for conducting the service and giving such an excellent address, and to Miss Worthington for presiding at the organ, also to the organ blower, of whom, he said, 'we should do badly without.'

Afterwards members spent a pleasant hour or so ringing and listening to the handbells, which the Guild Master had carefully transported from Surfleet on the carrier of his bicycle, accompanied by Mrs. Richardson on her bicycle, a unique occurrence.

## THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN-BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 518.)

When we are dealing with problems of composition, of all the methods in common use Stedman Triples is the most difficult to write about in general terms. A man must be very skilful indeed, or very daring, before he can venture to say, without qualification, what can be done in that method; and, still more so, to say what cannot be done.

This does not mean that the general laws of composition do not apply to Stedman Triples as they do to other methods. They apply just the same. But the peculiarity of Stedman Triples is that, in its case, conditions are so very varied and so many factors have to be taken into consideration, that it is difficult, and often impossible, to state a problem in terms which will cover every possible instance. The problems of composition are not so much difficult to solve as elusive to grasp. This word 'elusive,' which was first applied to the method by Sir Arthur Heywood, fairly describes the nature of the subject. As a result it has been the custom to treat different styles of peals in the method as if they were independent groups.

Three of these groups have been fully investigated, and it is generally known what can be done in Twin-bob peals, Multi-bob peals, and (to a lesser degree) Odd-bob peals. Outside these three groups is an unknown and uncharted wilderness, which does not seem very inviting, but which may contain treasures for the future discoverer.

The first reason for this elusiveness is the absence of a fixed treble. In Grandsire and Plain Bob, and similar methods, the path of the treble divides the total number of rows into a definite number of leads and natural courses, which, with certain qualifications, are mutually exclusive. As we have seen, the problem of composing a peal of Grandsire Triples consists in joining together a definite number of either P Blocks or B Blocks, and so long as we do join together the proper number of either, we need have no fear that there will be any repetition of rows in the interiors of the leads. Provided we use Q Sets in the proper manner, all we need concern ourselves with is the rows with the treble at the lead.

When we are dealing with a method like Bob Major or Double Norwich we need not concern ourselves with any other rows than the 120 natural course-ends with the tenors together, or the 720 natural course-ends when the tenors are parted.

That sort of thing does not exist in Stedman Triples. In that method there is no one set of rows which are naturally marked out as the proper course-ends. Even when (as is usual) the course-ends are rows with the 7th at home, there are 720 of them, any one of which is capable of filling the post, while only 60 actually are required.

The number of sets of 60 course-ends which can be formed out of a total of 720 is enormous, far greater than is possible to deal with.

Great as is this number and, therefore, vast as is the variety of the ways in which sixty separate natural courses can be pricked, it is almost certain that no one set can exist which will contain the full 5,040 rows. Mr. W. H. Thompson about thirty years ago published a proof of this, and, though his earlier proof turned out to be a faulty one, no one has ever found a flaw in his amended statement, and it must be allowed to stand as sound.

Composition, therefore, in the sense of joining together natural courses by bobs arranged in Q Sets (which is the normal form of composition in most methods) is not possible. Bobs must be used not merely as links in the chain which joins separate blocks, but also as a means by which false Sixes can be eliminated, and we must find some other unit than the natural course as the basis of our peals. Such a unit can be found in the B Blocks—the block which is formed by making bobs at every six-end. The links by which such blocks are joined together are omits and singles, and the peals which can be obtained are interesting and valuable as compositions, but, owing to the excessive amount of dodging, are worthless for practical purposes. We should not, however, lose sight of the fact that it seems not impossible that this defect might be largely modified or even done away with altogether. This is a point which, so far as we are aware, has not yet received the attention of composers. The great difficulty in the way of having anything like a fixed observation bell would also strongly militate against these peals being of any great practical value.

So far, the style of peal which has produced the best results in Stedman Triples is the Twin-bob; of which Thurstans' Four-part is the best example.

Twin-bob peals are founded on twelve round blocks, each block consisting of five courses, and every course containing bobs at S and H. Bobs at S are made at the third and fourth Six-ends, and bobs at H at the fifth and sixth Six-ends.

123456	S.	H.
256431	x	x
531462	x	x
362415	x	x
615423	x	x
123456	x	x

Twelve round blocks similar to this one will contain 5,040 rows, and when we have selected the right twelve we form our peal by joining them together into one large round block.

To do that we do not use Q Sets of bobs in the ordinary way, but we remove certain bobs at S to L (5-6) and certain bobs at H to Q (7-8). And we shall find that we need singles for the final link.

(To be continued.)

### 'SIMPLY'

'The Sentinel' is well known as an inset to parish magazines. Recently its editor was asked what is the difference between change ringing and chiming. Here is his answer—

Change ringing, or changes, consists simply of altered melodies produced by varying the order of a peal of bells, while the term 'chiming' has a double meaning:—

(1) To play a tune on bells by means of hammers, or swinging the clappers, the bell remaining unmoved. This is opposed to *ringing* in which the bells are *rotated*—i.e., swung round.

(2) The term 'chime' is also used in reference to a carillon, i.e., a set of bells so arranged as to be played by hand or machinery.

If change ringing is 'simply' what it is said to be, it seems a pity ringers should make such a fuss about it. But it is rather strange that the editor of a magazine like 'The Sentinel' did not think it worth taking a little trouble to find out the facts.

**BELLS AND RINGING.**—A melodious peal of bells is not perhaps less captivating than the finest toned instrument ever yet invented; and much may be said on the merits both of the theory and practice of ringing.—Quoted by the 'Clavis.'

Every age leaves something for posterity to investigate and every age will experience something that is inscrutable.—'The Clavis.'



**DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.**

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 519.)

In giving descriptions of these towers I think it best for convenience sake to take these in counties as per the list given on page 517.

The first is Elstow, Bedfordshire, famous for its connection with John Bunyan. The church, dedicated to SS. Mary and Helena, has a noble detached tower on the north-west, with low spire, containing a clock and six bells, five ancient ones rehung in 1909 and a new treble added. It was here that John Bunyan used to ring the original fourth—now fifth—bell, and this bell still exists to this day. It is unusual in its inscription, being what is described as an alphabet bell, and was cast in Leicester, but is undated. This is how it reads:—

‘+ A B C D E F G \* V B C D E \* H S I A M \*’

and it weighs 7 cwt. 1qr. 10lb.

Among the noted bellringers of England, perhaps there is none so ‘picturesque’ as John Bunyan, the author of ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ and other works. He was born at Elstow in 1628, and—like his father—followed the trade of a tinker and brazier. He was a lad of spirit and imagination but not—he solemnly assures us—ever drunken or unchaste, although given to swearing. At the age of 20 he found a respectable young lady willing to marry him, and, although neither his prospects nor hers were brilliant, they duly married. Bunyan tells us that all she brought him were two books which belonged to her father, and these were ‘The Plane Man’s Pathway to Heaven, wherein every Man may clearly see whether he shall be saved or damned,’ by Alfred Dent, a Puritan minister; and ‘The Practice of Piety,’ by Lewis Bayle, Bishop of Bangor. Bunyan settled down with his wife at Elstow. They read these books together, and she would often be telling him ‘what a Godly man her father was, and how he would reprove and correct vice, both in his house and amongst his neighbours; what a strict and holy life he lived in his days, both in word and deed.’ For a long time Bunyan’s mind and conscience were bewildered among his puritanical books and conversations. The aspect of religion thus presented to him tended to make his conscience ‘tender’ about what he should or should not do, without giving him an insight into the principles or power of Christianity.

The Rev. Dr. Brown in his ‘Life of Bunyan’ thus describes this period of religious perplexity:—

‘When a man comes under the dominion of conscience, and is a stranger to love, conscience is apt to become somewhat of a tyrant: a false standard is set up, and things right enough in themselves seem to become wrong to the man. Bunyan had hitherto taken pleasure in the somewhat laborious diversion of ringing the bells in the tower of Elstow Church. He began to think this was wrong, one does not quite see why: still, having this misgiving about it, he gave up his bellringing, but not the love of it.’

Bunyan’s own words from ‘Grace Abounding’ say:—

‘Now you must know that before this, I had taken much delight in ringing, but my conscience beginning to be tender, I thought such practice was but vain, and therefore forced myself to leave it, yet my mind hankered. Wherefore I should go to the steeple house and look on though I durst not ring. But I thought this did not become religion either, yet I forced myself and would look on still. But quickly after that I began to think how if one of the bells should fall? Then I chose to stand under a main beam that lay athwart the steeple, from side to side, thinking there I might stand sure. But then I should think again, should a bell fall with a swing it might first hit the wall, and then rebounding upon me, might kill me for all this beam. This made me stand in the steeple door; and now, thought I, I am safe enough, for if a bell should fall then I can slip out behind these thick walls, and so be preserved notwithstanding.’

‘So after this, I would yet go and see them ring but would not go further than the steeple door, but then it came into my head, how if the steeple itself should fall?, and this thought, it might fall for aught I know, when I stood and looked on did continually so shake my mind that I durst not stand at the steeple door any longer, but was forced to flee for fear the steeple should fall on my head. Another thing was my dancing. I was a full year before I could quite leave that.’

Bunyan afterwards joined a Baptist congregation at Bedford, of which he was called to be minister in 1655. After the Restoration he got into trouble for offences against the law relating to religious conformity by preaching, and was imprisoned from 1660, with one brief interval, till 1672. During this enforced seclusion from his usual work, he wrote several books, including the biographical ‘Grace Abounding,’ and in a subsequent short imprisonment in 1675 he wrote the immortal ‘Pilgrim’s Progress,’ which has made his name known throughout the world wherever the English tongue is spoken. In this allegory he speaks of bells being in the Heavenly City. He says of the two pilgrims approaching it:—

‘They had the City itself in view, and they thought they heard all the bells therein to ring to welcome them thereto.’

At Marston Mortaine, in Bedfordshire, the Church of St. Mary has a massive detached tower standing fifty feet away from the church. It contains a ring of five bells, and these, like ‘Bunyan’s bell,’ are all ‘alphabet’ bells, and came from the famous Leicester foundry of Hugh Watts, churchwarden of St. Margaret’s and Mayor of the city. The letters are all fine Gothic capitals, and the bells are dated 1610, bearing Watts’ shield with the device of three bells and a crown.

The timbers of the bell frame are exceedingly large and strong.

(To be continued.)

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## VICTORY BELLS.

### MORE ACCOUNTS OF THE RINGING.

Last Sunday the Prime Minister began his broadcast with a reference to the victory ringing. Mr. Churchill said:—

'Two Sundays ago all the bells rang to celebrate the victory of our desert army at Alamein.

'Here was a martial episode in British history which deserved special recognition. But the bells also carried with their clashing, joyous peals our thanksgiving that, in spite of all our errors and shortcomings, we have been brought nearer to the frontiers of deliverance.'

'The British Empire, and, above all, our small island, stood in the gap all alone in the deadly hour. Here we stood, firm though all was drifting. Throughout the British Empire not one community faltered. All around was very dark.

'Here we kept the light burning which now spreads broadly over the vast array of the United Nations. That is why it was right to ring out the bells and lift our heads for a moment, in gratitude and in relief, before we turned again to the grim and probably long ordeals which lie before us.'

**BANSTEAD.**—The eight bells at All Saints' were raised at 9 a.m. and kept going to Grandsire Triples until matins at 10.30. It was fortunate that three young members of the band were on leave from H.M. Forces. Several touches were rung, concluding with a well-struck 504. Those taking part were Cadet Rating M. E. Pitstow, R.N.V.R., Pte. A. Adams, R.A.O.C., Corpl. J. Hobson, Grenadier Guards, A.C.2 C. Harris, R.A.F. Regiment, Miss Winifred Adams and Messrs. A. E. Cheesman, H. Cheesman, T. Norman, E. Wooloff and H. N. Pitstow (conductor).

**BARNWELL, LEICESTERSHIRE.**—Fourteen ringers (young and old) took part in the ringing. Included in the band were three generations, Charles Belton, Richard Belton and Tom Belton, who was on a short leave for the occasion.

**BARKING, ESSEX.**—At St. Margaret's, touches of Grandsire Triples and some call changes: G. and E. Faulkner, G. Cottis, S. Holgate, F. G. Newman, E. Lucas, W. Robbins, Corpl. E. G. Moore, C. Fenn and Pte. A. W. Welcome (Bath).

**BRAMSHOTT, HANTS.**—The bells were rung before the 9.50 Communion service and again at 10.15. The ringers were the Rev. E. A. Berrisford, the Rev. I. J. Best, Miss M. Pope and Messrs. F. Johnson, E. Baker, C. N. Pearson, A. Booker and S. Adams.

**BROXBORNE.**—Over a dozen ringers turned up. Starting off with set changes for a short time, the bells were kept going until 11 o'clock with several short touches of Grandsire Triples by Miss Gladden, Miss Long and Miss Radley, C. Gouldsmith, E. Gouldsmith, D. Hammond, A. Langridge, J. Luxon, W. Pedder, F. Perrin, W. Mumford, G. Radley, G. Cornhill and P. Radley. Mr. A. Langridge and Mr. G. Cornhill, who are serving in the Forces, were both home on leave.

**BRUTON, SOMERSET.**—Rounds and call changes were rung, the band being one short for Grandsire Doubles: R. Clarke, L. Lucas, C. Reakes, F. Symonds, T. White, H. White and W. Tiley.

**CARMARTHEN.**—At St. Peter's, touches of Grandsire and Bob Major with rounds and call changes were rung by J. Curtis (captain), Major Worden (Bristol), L.-Corpl. E. J. Thomas (Home Guard), J. Morris (Llanstephan), Corpl. J. Potter (Home Guard), J. Mayhook (late Welsh Regiment), L.-Corpl. C. Jones (Home Guard), and L.-Corpl. D. Curtis (Home Guard).

**CHURCHILL.**—At 10 a.m., several 120's Grandsire and Plain Bob until 10.55, when the bells were lowered in peal: G. Gilling, E. J. Avery, R. Dare, C. Reason, S. Avery, T. Roynon, J. Roynon, G. Griffin and F. Sugg, all the pre-war band except K. Gatehouse, who is serving with the S.L.I.

**CLIFTON.**—The bells of the Parish Church were destroyed in an air raid. The ringers joined with the band at Emmanuel Church. The bells were raised and lowered in peal, and rounds, Queens and firing rung along with several 120's of Grandsire Doubles, with 4.6.8 covering, conducted by W. J. Rawlings and H. W. S. Gregory. Others taking part were H. S. Gregory, W. H. Cole, W. Webb, D. Powell, Mrs. Bowles and Miss Salter.

**COOKHAM.**—The bells were rung from 10 till 11 a.m. before morning service and several different touches were rung, including Grandsire and Plain Bob. The bells were in perfect working order, and the Vicar, the Rev. B. H. Hayward Browne, referred to this fact in his sermon. The ringers were Messrs. T. J. Fowler, R. Fowler, E. Tuck, K. Tuck, G. Head, W. Ing and the Misses Joan Caught, Jean Jordan, Joan Tubb and Jessie Tubb.

**COVENTRY.**—In addition to the chimes broadcast from the Cathedral, 12 ringers took part in rounds, Doubles and touches of Minor at Allesley Church. At Keresley, eight ringers turned up and the bells were rung in rounds and Doubles before and after the morning service. The peal of eight at Stoke, Coventry, were rung from 10 to 11 a.m., plain courses and short courses being successfully accomplished. Nothing more ambitious than Grandsire was attempted. The fact that over 30 ringers turned up at the three churches where ringing is possible augurs well for the future.

**COSELEY, STAFFS.**—The bells of the Parish Church were raised in peal at about 9.40 a.m., and touches of Grandsire Triples were rung with a number of plain courses and call changes until before the service, when the bells were lowered in peal. Those taking part were W. Jeavons, S. Baker, W. Fisher, W. Grinsell, A. Baker, D. Holden, F. Holden, A. Cope, H. Caddick, L. Barnett and D. Whatmore.

**CRANLEIGH.**—After a good rise in peal, several good touches of Grandsire Triples were rung.

**CREWE.**—At Christ Church, Crewe, touches of Grandsire Caters, Stedman Triples and Bob Royal by members of the local band: H. F. Holding, T. Holding, W. T. Holding, W. Edge, J. H. Riding, G. Packer, G. Crawley, F. Stenson, H. Overton, J. Price, W. Kerr, R.A.F., and R. D. Langford.

**DAYBROOK, NOTTS.**—Two successive attempts for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples were lost owing to rope troubles. During the second quick splice two of the band left, but the remainder stayed to complete a 720 Bob Minor on the back six: T. Elson treble, A. Paling 2, W. Johnson, V.C. 3, F. Bradley 4, J. A. Barratt 5, T. Groombridge, jun. (conductor) tenor.

**DISS, NORFOLK.**—Thirteen ringers took part in touches of Bob Major, Oxford Treble Bob Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major: C. J. More, T. Ford, G. Archer, D. Whiting, E. G. Bennett, F. Roper, A. G. Harrison, W. Elsey, A. Elsey, C. Baker, F. Roope, W. Cheney and G. Kemp. The Rector visited the tower during the ringing and thanked the ringers, and the inhabitants of the town greatly appreciated hearing this grand old peal of bells again.

**DURHAM.**—Good striking rather than bad method ringing was the order. The Cathedral eight (tenor 30 cwt.) were rung to call changes throughout the allotted period. The following ringers were present: H. Oliver (Bell-Major), G. Metcalf, A. Henderson, E. Alison, C. Vasey, J. Temple, J. Hopper, J. G. Smurthwaite and F. Elliott (since joined Army).

**EARLS COLNE.**—Touches of Bob Major by G. Bishop, O. Laver, J. Turner, F. Claydon, W. Scillitor, F. Ridgwell, C. Saywood, W. Arnold and E. Bowhill. Two soldiers billeted in the village took part in a few rounds.

**EXETER.**—The bells of St. Thomas' Church were rung from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. to rounds, Grandsire Doubles and Grandsire Triples, the ringing being much enjoyed by the ringers and the congregation. Eleven ringers took part, among them Sergt. C. Hosgard, who was home on leave. At the Cathedral it was considered safe to ring only the 'Thomas' octave owing to bomb damage. The eights at Heavitree and St. David's were rung.

**FARNHAM, SURREY.**—At St. Andrew's Church, 448 Grandsire Triples by J. W. Wells 1, J. Read 2, C. Wells 3, S. Meadows 4, H. Kemp 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted 7, A. E. King 8. Two courses of Bob Major, in which O. Hoyle and G. Upshall took part, and short touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, in which C. Edwards, H. Hughes and J. Knight took part. All the ringers belong to the local band except Messrs. Hoyle and Knight. All the ringing was conducted by R. Hasted.

**FURNESS DISTRICT OF LANCASHIRE.**—At least ten towers were manned in this district with the help of visitors and ringers who emerged from their retirement. It is safe to say that full peals were ringing throughout this scattered area. Alverston had quite a decent ring, with good striking, although no elaborate methods were attempted. Ambleside and Hawkhead, up among the mountains, and Kendal, the gateway to the North, all were going. Broughton and Milom, too, on the Cumberland side. Peals of six were heard at Kirkby and Cartmel. Dalton mustered 12 and Barrow two full teams, one for rounds and Queens and the other for Triples and Major.

**GEDDINGTON.**—Grandsire Doubles were rung by R. G. Black, J. B. Hudson, A. Warren, J. Crick, C. Cooper and G. Black, the latter being over 80 years of age.

**GORLESTON.**—The eight bells were rung by local men, assisted by J. G. W. Harwood, W. Lee, R. Tooley and G. W. Fletcher.

**HASTINGS.**—At All Saints', touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples, and at Christ Church, Blacklands, Grandsire Doubles and Triples and Stedman Doubles: Miss B. Gallop, Mrs. J. Downing, W. Joiner, W. Bradfield, A. Easton, B. Funnell, S. Driver, H. Braund, T. Carlton, J. Gallop, J. Pogden, J. Gasson, T. Hinkley and J. Downing. The go of the bells at both towers and striking was excellent.

**HYPHE.**—Touches of Grandsire Triples and call changes by A. Amos, W. Bidnell, W. Fright, P. W. Jones, R. Marshall, W. J. Prebble, W. Parls, A. Swan and C. Swan, of the local band, and the following visitors: S. Baker, C. Munn, — Richards, Ernest W. Vowles and Frank Halsted.

**HENLOW, BEDS.**—The bells were rung from 9.30 to 11 o'clock in Grandsire Doubles by A. Gentle, K. Wilton, A. Dibley, L. Bwaters, P. Tompkins and P. Thompson.

**KEWSTOKE, NEAR WESTON-SUPER-MARE.**—All the pre-war band put in a punctual attendance, the bells were raised in peal and nine 120's of Grandsire Doubles were rung by G. Prescott, S. Thomas, W. Blake, W. Hart, W. Thomas, J. Weakley and C. Millier.

**GREENSTEAD GREEN.**—At St. James' Church, two touches of Bob Minor: A. Saunders, O. Laver, F. Ridgwell, F. Claydon, Miss H. G. Snowden and E. Bowhill.

**HENBURY, GLOS.**—All the local ringers took part in ringing rounds, Queens and firing and Grandsire Triples. The band were Mr. J. Gould, Mrs. G. R. Gould, C. Russell, H. Bromfield, C. Harding, A. A. Hilliar, V. J. Williams, C. Gould and F. Lewis. Mr. C. Harding cycled over 10 miles each way to attend.

**HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.**—At St. John's Church, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Grandsire Caters were rung, while most of the bells were raised and lowered in peal. The following ringers took part: Messrs. Honor and Pratt (both of whom have rung at St. John's for over 50 years), Smith, Goodfellow, Baldwin, Over, Mitchell (home on leave from the R.A.F.), Coles, Venn, Easton, Bannister and Mayne, together with Mrs. Goodfellow and Mrs. Mayne. The younger generation were also present in force and will no doubt refer to the occasion in years to come.

**KETTERING.**—Fourteen ringers from town and district rang the ten bells from 9 to 10.15 a.m. in rounds, Grandsire and Stedman Caters. The quality was not up to peace-time standard, but it was good to hear the bells again. Those taking part were Messrs. R. F. Turner, A. E. Payne, C. W. Bird, J. Bell, A. Henman, E. Chapman, A. Warren, R. G. Black, H. Baxter, R. Gilbey, P. Innis, — Clarke, C. Cooper and C. D. Nichols. The back eight were rung for the Civil Defence Service from 11 to 11.30.

**KINGTON MAGNA, DORSET.**—The bells were rung in well-structured call changes before morning service and were rung down in peal in the presence of the congregation immediately before singing a hymn of thanksgiving for victory. While the bells were being lowered the collection was taken. It proved to be the largest in the records of the church. Here may be found a tip for churchwardens!

**LELANT, CORNWALL.**—The bells were rung between 9 and 10 a.m. by Messrs. J. Cock, H. P. Hurrell, J. Thomas and the Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Roberts.

**LOWESTOFT.**—Two members of the local band, assisted by strangers including three or four sailors, rang for morning service.

**MABLETHORPE, LINCS.**—The bells were kept going to rounds and Grandsire Doubles for 1 hour from 10 to 11 by H. Hall, R. Mason, G. H. Dunnington, G. Hall, J. H. Michael, W. Freeman and a soldier from Suffolk. The striking was surprisingly good and the fall in peal was up to Mablethorpe standard. The six at Alford and the three at Marshchapel were also fully manned.

**MALVERN WELLS.**—The band at the Abbey School were unlucky in not being able to join a tower-bell band and having no ring of their own. But they made the best of their bad luck. The single bell, not hung for ringing, was chimed for five minutes by Miss Dorothy Richardson, and the handbells were then rung to Plain Bob Minor and Major at the back of the school chapel. The band was June Weall 1-2, Janet Peat 3-4, Dorothy Richardson 5-6, Elizabeth Dickinson 7-8. The last has only been learning three weeks.

**PORTMADOC.**—At St. John's, the eight bells were rung in rounds and Grandsire Doubles: H. Roberts (conductor), J. McMillan, G. C. Williams, S. C. Evans, H. Wakefield, T. Kirkhone and P. Roberts.

**PRESTON, SUFFOLK.**—A touch of Oxford Treble Bob was rung by F. Dav, F. Hunt, H. Hollocks, C. Pryke, R. Chambers, T. Hollocks (Monks Eleigh) and H. Whymark (Monks Eleigh).

**RUISLIP.**—Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by W. Bunce, sen. 1, J. Bunce 2, G. M. Kilby 3, Col. K. Arthur 4, Col. E. Coward 5, W. S. Beaumont 6, T. Collins 7, H. Ive tenor. Mr. A. Hunter and Miss Joan Bravbrooke also took part in the ringing, which, considering the lack of practice, was excellent and much appreciated by the congregation.

**SUNDRIDGE.**—The clappers were hastily restored to their right place and a band collected from far and near. No change ringing was attempted, but the striking was good throughout. Two beginners, John Finch and Bob Bateman, heard the bells they were ringing for the first time and kept their places very well.

**TALGARTH.**—Nine ringers turned up, including one home on leave, and Grandsire Doubles and call changes were rung. The ringers were congratulated on the striking.

**WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.**—The twelve bells were fully manned, and although nothing spectacular was attempted, the ringers (assisted by four visitors, who took occasional turns) were satisfied that they had lost little of their skill. The ringing terminated at 11 a.m. with a good course of Stedman Caters. Other towers in the district were fully manned.

## NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 3 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

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### ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Buckingham to-morrow, Saturday, December 5th. Handbells. Service 3.30. Tea and meeting immediately following. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

**NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting will be held at St. Giles', Norwich, on Saturday, December 12th. Bells (8, silent once more, alas!) 2 p.m. Service 3.30. Preacher, Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow. Tea in the Cosin Room, Stuart Hall, near St. Andrew's Church, 4 p.m., followed by business meeting. Please send names for tea to Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, 52, The Close, Norwich, by Monday, December 7th.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION and THE EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—A combined meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 12th. Tower of St. Peter's open from 2.30 p.m., where eight silent bells are available. Service at 4 p.m. Tea in Parish Hall at 4.45 for those who let Mr. B. Collison, 169, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, December 9th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—The address of Mr. William James Carter is now Wolstanton Workmen's Club, 46, High Street, Wolstanton, Stoke-on-Trent.

### A LETTER FROM CANADA.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On Sunday, September 6th, several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the bells of the Cathedral, Vancouver, as a tribute to Mr. W. Bond, being his 79th birthday. Mr. Bond was present and able to take the tenor after recovering from a severe illness, which had kept him away from the bells for several weeks. Those taking part were Mr. Silvester, J. Watts, R. Pitman, J. Pitman, Mr. Hird, R. Tapper, Mr. Bell, A. C. Limpus and Mr. Lake, who came over from Victoria. I am also sorry to announce that Mr. George Foster, the conductor of the first peal in Canada, is now in the Royal Columbian Hospital at Saperton, B.C., suffering from a severe breakdown in health. We are hoping for his quick recovery.

A. C. LIMPUS.

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