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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

THE AMENDED ORDER.

Ringers generally, and not only ringers but many other people also, will have read with disappointment and regret that a new edition of the order which imposed the ban on the ringing of church bells has been issued. It puts an end (definitely, we fear) to all hopes that there might be some relaxation of the restriction even if its total abolition was out of the question. The chances that we shall be allowed to ring at Easter do not now appear to be very great.

The order has been imposed by competent authority and for the welfare of the country. We, as ringers, must submit. We have neither the opportunity nor the wish to do otherwise; but, though in a sense it is no concern of ours, there are many of us who feel that a mistake has been made. If, in the event of invasion, church bells would be an efficient means of alarm, even if they would be only an additional means of alarm, then the order is fully justified. But that is just what ringers, with their experience to guide them, gravely doubt.

Traditions die hard and one of those which has lingered long among writers and poets is that in the olden times the whole land was roused to action from end to end by the ringing of the alarm on the bells of churches. Macaulay's stirring poem on the Armada voiced and fostered this opinion.

'Right sharp and quick the bells all night rang out from
Bristol town
And ere the day three hundred horse had met on Clifton
down;
The sentinel on Whitehall gate looked forth into the
night
And saw o'erhanging Richmond Hill the streak of
blood-red light.
Then bugle's note and cannon's roar the death-like
silence broke,
And with one start, and with one cry, the royal city
woke.
At once on all her stately gates arose the answering
fires;
At once the wild alarm clashed from all her reeling
spires.'

Unconsciously many people expected that these scenes would be repeated to-day if the enemy attempted an invasion. We know they would not and could not. The means of ringing the bells, even of chiming single bells, quickly enough to act as an efficient warning, hardly exist anywhere; and if they did, the range over which bells can be heard is very limited. Very few people engaged

(Continued on page 114.)

in business indoors would be likely to hear them. The danger seems to be that if bells are relied on to act as warnings, when the crucial time came they would prove a failure, and failures of that sort do not go unpunished in war.

We must believe that the people responsible know what they are doing and have allowed for the chances of this means of warning breaking down in action, but we sincerely hope it will not be put to a test.

JOHN MARTIN ROUTH. REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.

In his account of John Martin Routh, Canon Coleridge mentioned that he was the grand-nephew of the famous Dr. Martin Routh, president of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Martin Joseph Routh was born on September 18th, 1755, and died on December 22nd, 1854. His grand-nephew, John Martin, was then seven years old, and so their combined lives extended for just on 188 years. They included the two longest reigns in English history—George III. and Victoria—both over 60 years long; five other complete reigns—George IV., William IV., Edward VII., George V. and Edward VIII.—and parts of two more reigns—George II. and George VI.

Martin Joseph was a baby when the Seven Years' War began. That war first made Prussia one of the leading powers of Europe, and gave England Canada and India. The two greatest wars this country has ever been engaged in fell within these men's lives; first the war with Napoleon and then the great war with Germany. So did the industrial revolution, which changed England from an agricultural country to the workshop of the world, a position which she could not hope to hold for ever and actually has now lost. It would take a book to tell of all the changes and events that have happened since the first Martin Routh was born.

Many tales are told of Dr. Routh. He had a great reputation as a scholar, but it is said he owed his position as president of Magdalen because the fellows could not agree and fell back on him as a stop-gap. He was not expected to hold the office long, but 63 years later he was still president, for in those days men did not resign lucrative posts. In his 94th year he could still walk six miles, and his death in his 100th year was hastened because he fell off some steps he had climbed to reach a book on the top shelves of his library. 'It was really only a worthless book,' he complained after the accident.

He became Vicar of Tilehurst in 1810 when he was 55 years old, and only then was ordained priest. He had, of course, been in deacon's orders since the time he was elected a Fellow of Magdalen. The only time he could spend at Tilehurst was during the vacations. Then he resided at the Vicarage. For the rest of the year his nephew, John Martin's father, acted as his curate and did the work for him.

The following is the paragraph in 'The Bell News' about the raising of St. Paul's tenor: 'The pulling up of St. Paul's tenor generally occupies four, five or six men (sometimes more in hot weather), but on the last practice night, Tuesday, October 6th, 1885, this feat was accomplished single-handed by Mr. Joseph Jones, a private in the Royal Horse Guards (blue) and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, in the presence of several well-known ringers and friends. The time occupied was a little over three minutes, and the tenor weighs 62 cwt. This is the first time she has been pulled up by one man alone.'

It will be remembered that Mr. R. T. Woodley recently sent us some interesting memories of Joseph Jones.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I should like to thank Mr. C. E. Borrett for his excellent articles on St. Peter Mancroft and the record of all the peals rung on them. It rather tickled my palate when I read that he included me among the noted ringers who have rung peals there. It was the only 12-bell peal I ever rang.

As one of the survivors of the tour in Scotland and the North. I can enlighten him why the band selected the Norwich Diocesan Association. At the first attempt (for Double Norwich at St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh) it was found that more members of the band were members of the Norwich Diocesan Association than of any other.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Severalls Hospital, Colchester.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM. THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION LUNCH.

A very successful and enjoyable gathering of the St. Martin's Guild was held at the Market Hotel, Birmingham, last Saturday, on the occasion of the 55th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration. The chair was taken by Mr. F. B. Yates, supported by the Master (Mr. Councillor A. Paddon Smith), the hon. secretary (Mr. Thomas H. Reeves) and about eighty members and friends. A report of the speeches will appear next week.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WIMBORNE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT 116, ALMA ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores.

*JOHN V. DAVIS 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 3-4
†MISS MARY E. DAVIS 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

* First peal away from tenors. † First peal and first attempt, aged 12½ years. First peal by the family and rung to mark the 21st wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. Davis. Mrs. Davis witnessed the peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 28 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT 21A, STONARD ROAD, PALMERS GREEN, N.13,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

FREDERICK G. SYMONDS ... 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | WALTER J. BOWDEN 7-8

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by ISAAC J. ATTWATER.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Tuesday, March 2, 1943, in One Hour and Forty-two Minutes,
AT 8, CLEMENTS INN PAS-AGE, STRAND, W.C.2,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

LEONARD W. BULLOCK ... 1-2 | JAMES BULLOCK 3-4
THOMAS H. BULLOCK 5-6

Conducted by JAMES BULLOCK.

Umpire—J. S. Hawkins.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Friday, March 5, 1943, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE 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 | †DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall) 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. The first peal in the method for the society.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

On Saturday, March 6, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT NEW COLLEGE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*DEREK P. JONES (St. Edmund Hall) 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
†WILFRID F. MORETON (St. John's) 3-4 | *JOAN HOULDSWORTH (St. Hilda's) 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 27). Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob 'in hand,' and first peal on an 'inside' pair. The first peal of Treble Bob for the society.

BOURNEMOUTH.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, March 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

IN ST. PETER'S HALL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 15 in C.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK .. 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS 5-6
MRS. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY 3-4 | FRANCIS S. WILSON 7-8

Conducted by Mrs. F. JOHN MARSHALLSAY.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 105.)

THE LONG PEAL OF TREBLE TEN.

The men who rang the twelve-thousand in 1784 were as follows:—George Gross, James Barnard, Francis Nay, Thomas Reeves, Isaiah Bray, James Partrick, William Court, Abraham Smith, Malachi Channon, and Allen Grant. To record the performance a very fine tablet was erected at St. Leonard's. It consists of a copper panel with an elaborately carved and gilded frame. Another fine frame was erected to commemorate the long lengths by the College Youths. Both are now in the base of the tower which forms the main entrance to the church, and full page illustrations and descriptions of both are given in the 'Survey of London' issued by the London County Council.

On the tablet and in the peal book it is said that George Gross composed and called the peal, but there is no doubt that the composition was the five-part with the thirty course-ends which is given in the 'Clavis,' and is generally considered to have been the production of John Reeves. This probably was one of the many causes of contention between the two men, and no doubt the authors of the 'Clavis' had it in mind, as well as other things, when they wrote that 'there will not be wanting them who may lay claim to some of our figures, and so charge us with plagiarism.'

It is impossible now to judge quite fairly between the two men. The Exercise has accepted Reeves' claim, and no extant peal of Treble Bob is recognised as the work of Gross. William Shipway put Reeves' name to all the disputed compositions, and as he was a contemporary and knew both men, his is weighty testimony; but there are signs that he accepted and copied what was in the 'Clavis' without much questioning. It is not in the least likely that these men could have composed this peal independently of each other, and that adds to the difficulty of the matter.

'The Cumberlands' twelve-thousand still remains the record length for Oxford Treble Bob Royal, and though in other methods it has several times been surpassed both in number of changes and weight of metal, there has scarcely ever been another performance more famous, or one which has more captured the admiration of the Exercise. For more than a century it stood alone among long peals, and in the year 1878 Jasper Snowdon could write of it as a 'peal which has never been surpassed, and, I think, considering the weight of the tenor, that it will be a long time before it is again approached, let alone superseded.'

On April 14th, 1914, the Lancashire Association rang at Ashton-under-Lyne Henry Johnson's variation of John Reeves' 13,800, in which the tenor is called In and Fifths in the fifth course of each part and the number of changes increased to 14,000. This peal was in the Kent variation.

The Ashton tenor weighs 27 cwt., and is hung in modern fittings, and although the peal contained two thousand more changes than the one at Shoreditch, it took only nineteen minutes longer to ring, the rate for the one being 22.02 per minute, and for the other 24.82. In one respect history repeated itself, for though the composition was again one of Reeves', the peal was reported as having been composed and conducted by Samuel Wood.

An interesting feature of the famous long length contest between the London societies is that all the peals of Royal (except the 6,400 at West Ham) were rung in the same tower and under similar conditions. When judging a record the Exercise takes into consideration only the number of changes rung, and it is difficult to see what other standard could be adopted, because conditions vary so much. It is easy to compare the weights of tenors, but that by itself does not always convey much. Of two bells, equal in weight, one may be quite easy to ring and the other may tax the skill and strength of the best of ringers.

In 1784 there were in London four tenors of over two tons in weight. Two of them, Southwark and Spitalfields, had several times been turned single-handed in to peals, but the other two, St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Michael's, Cornhill, had so far defied the efforts of the most powerful men. Five other tenors were over thirty hundredweights—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Sepulchre's, St. Giles', Cripplegate, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and St. Lawrence Jewry. All had been rung single-handed to peals, but the go of them differed very much, and it is not likely that any of them except St. Leonard's could have been rung to a ten-thousand. Outside London, Norwich had the only tenor over two tons that could be rung to a peal, and the bell, as we have seen, required two men. It would not now be considered correct to attempt to beat a record with two men to a bell, but in the eighteenth century it had sometimes to be done or the attempt could not be made.

With the 12,000 at Shoreditch the contest came to an end for some years. Neither company gave up the hope of gaining the double honour. The College Youths, we may be sure, talked about trying to ring a longer length at Shoreditch, and William Lyford used to say in after years that his great ambition was to stand the clock round, but when it came to the point not enough men could be found to face the ordeal of nine and a half hours' ringing. Nor could the Cumberlands make an attempt on the twelve-bell record.

(To be continued.)

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

At a meeting of College Youths on Saturday, February 27th, there was a very fair attendance considering that other meetings were being held but business was very short. One new member was elected—Mr. Ernest W. Pye, of Chadwell Heath. Special mention was made of the passing of Mr. J. Martin Routh, who had been a member for 70 years, and was Master of the society 58 years ago. The death of Mr. Wilson, of Blackburn, was also referred to, and the members stood for a few moments as a token of respect.

Expressions of sympathy were extended to Mr. S. E. Flaxman, who is in hospital suffering from a broken leg. The Master welcomed Mr. J. Stuart Archer, who gave an interesting account of a visit to St. Paul's belfry in 1884. Other visiting members were Lieut. G. W. Debenham and Mr. E. Cole, of Gloucester, who brought greetings from Mr. John Austin and Mr. A. R. Macdonald.

Those present were the Master, Secretary, Treasurer, Stuart Archer, E. A. Young, J. Chapman, W. H. Pasmore, H. Hoskins, G. N. Price, F. C. Newman, R. Stannard, F. E. Collins, C. W. Kippin, J. H. Shenherd, J. F. Smallwood, C. W. Roberts, H. G. Miles, R. F. Deal, E. Hartley, R. Spears, F. Cole, and Lieut. G. W. Debenham.

RINGER'S WEDDING.

On Saturday, February 13th, at Henlow Parish Church, Bedfordshire, the wedding took place between Mr. Percival Wilfred Tompkins and Miss Florence Kathleen Hartle. Miss Hartle is a member of the band at Duffield.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—At 88, Grainger Street, on Thursday, February 25th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, 1,216 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Anderson 1-2, Sgt. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 3-4, W. H. Barber (conductor) 5-6, E. Wallace 7-8. Longest length in the method on handbells by ringers of 3-4 and 7-8.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ringers who were present at the 300th anniversary celebration of the College Youths will remember the birthday cake and its maker, Miss Lewis, daughter of the president of the Central Council. She is now Third Officer A. T. Lewis, W.R.N.S., after serving as a Wren, Leading Wren and P.O. Wren. She is the third of Mr. Lewis' children, and junior to her come Third Officer F. B. Lewis, W.R.N.S.; Sub-Lieut. (A) J. H. Lewis, R.N.V.R. (prisoner of war); T-Sub-Lieut. (E) O. T. Lewis, R.N.; and Sub-Lieut. (E) R. T. Lewis, R.N.

Will the person who, at the Birmingham lunch last Saturday, took by mistake a soft blue-grey felt hat, communicate with Mr. G. H. Williams, 173, Balden Road, Harborne, Birmingham, 32.

We are pleased that Mrs. F. J. Marshallsay, of Bournemouth, has sufficiently recovered from the severe illness contracted before Christmas to conduct a peal on handbells last Saturday.

Up to the end of last year 18 churches in the Diocese of Exeter were entirely destroyed by enemy action, seven others were so badly damaged that they had to be closed, and 81 others were damaged in a greater or lesser degree. Of the 18, ten are in Plymouth and they included a ring of ten and two of eight. Another ring of eight very near Plymouth has also been destroyed.

Mr. J. E. Spice writes that London University is not excluded from the new Universities Association, only the 'University Colleges' at Exeter, Southampton, Leicester, etc., where the students read for external degrees at London and Durham.

John Martin Routh rang the fifth at St. Saviour's, Southwark, to a peal of Stedman Cinques on February 28th, 1885; and on March 4th the fifth at Cornhill to another peal in the same method. Later in the year he rang the eighth at Fulham to Kent Treble Bob Royal.

On March 8th, 1737, the Norwich Scholars rang on the old ten bells at Mancroft 12,603 changes of Grandsire Caters, 'which for the excellency of its ringing, harmonious changes, and the number of them, was certainly superior to anything of the kind ever done in the world.'

On the same date in 1859 the Birmingham men rang at Aston what was then the record length of Stedman Caters, 10,047 changes.

The Leicester men rang the first peal of Leicester Surprise Royal on March 8th, 1924.

On March 9th, 1782, the Cumberlands rang at Hackney what was probably the first peal of Reverse Grandsire Triples, and at Southwark on the same date in 1795 what was probably the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.

The College Youths rang 7,008 Oxford Treble Bob Maximus at Southwark on March 10th, 1784. This was one of the peals in the famous long peal contest with the Cumberlands.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells was rung by the St. James' Society on March 11th, 1854.

Edwin Barnett, sen., called the first peal of Erith Little Bob Major, at Crayford, on March 11th, 1930, and on the same date in 1939 the Norwich Diocesan Association rang the first peal of Northrepps Major.

On March 12th, 1758, the College Youths rang the first peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, at St. Saviour's, Southwark. Joseph Monk turned in the tenor single-handed.

The first peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal in the City of London was rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, on March 12th, 1932, conducted by Mr. W. H. Hewett.

Mr. Hewett also conducted the first peal of Yorkshire Royal in Hertfordshire, at All Saints', Hertford, on March 8th, 1930, and in Kent at St. Alphage's, Greenwich, on March 13th, 1937.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM R. SCILLITOE.

The Earls Colne company of ringers have suffered a loss by the death of Mr. William R. Scillitoe, who passed away on February 9th at the age of 68 years.

He was a native of the parish and worked at the Atlas Iron Works for nearly 53 years. He had been connected with St. Andrew's Church as a member of the choir and a ringer nearly all his life. He took part in the victory ringing and on Christmas morning.

Although he had only a few peals to his credit, he attended most regularly for Sunday service ringing and was a good striker. He joined the Essex Association nearly 50 years ago and was made a life member last year.

At the funeral on the 13th inst. the local company was represented by Messrs W. Arnold, F. Claydon, F. Ridgwell, J. French and W. Burst.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

AMENDED ORDER.

An amendment to the Control of Noises Order, 1940, has been announced. In its original form it reserved the use of church bells as warnings in the event of an attempted invasion by air-borne enemy troops. In future they will be used as purely local alarms in the event of any form of attack, whether by air-borne or sea-borne troops. They will not be rung except on the order of the military or the police.

The ringing of bells is a purely local signal that enemy troops are either in the immediate neighbourhood or are approaching. In no circumstances will church bells be rung merely because those in adjoining areas are heard to ring.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The lifting of the ban on Christmas morning induces us to hope that a like freedom may be granted by the authorities for Easter Day.

But might not a representation be made to the proper quarter, in that possibility, pointing out that the time between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Easter Day is in many churches so largely occupied with services that little ringing can be arranged, and that permission for additional ringing, say, between 5 and 6.30 p.m. would be deeply appreciated?

One would like to endorse Mr. Hewett's suggestion that public notice of any concession might be given long enough beforehand so as to assist the making of adequate arrangements.

C. CAREW COX.

The Vicarage, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

THE LATE SPEAKER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the death of the Speaker of the House of Commons, it may be of interest to know that St. Margaret's bells were rung for his election and re-election as they were rung for all previous Speakers.

The ban has, therefore, caused a break in another old custom.

The bells were rung (8) on the day following his election at 3 o'clock, i.e., when he took his seat in the Commons.

W. H. HEWETT.

119, Coleman Road, S.E.5.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ATTLEBOROUGH.

A meeting, very successful for the present day, was held at Attleborough on Saturday, February 20th. The six bells, in the grand Norman tower, were available during the afternoon, the clappers having been kindly tied by Mr. Lawrence.

At the service the Rev. H. Llewellyn, Vicar of Cringleford, was the preacher. A very good tea was prepared in the Parish Hall. At the business meeting which followed, it was stated that shortage of materials made it impossible to do much to protect Mancroft bells. It was unanimously agreed that the annual meeting should be held on the Saturday after Easter, May 1st, at Norwich, and that the service should be evensong at 3 p.m. in the Cathedral. The enforced silence of Mancroft bells provides a reason for holding the service in the mother church of the diocese instead of at Mancroft as in the past.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rector for the use of the bells, the preacher, organist, ladies who provided tea, and to Mr. Lawrence for tying the clappers. The meeting was attended by over 26 ringers, from Norwich, Wymondham, Bergh Apton, Mulbarton, Diss and Attleborough.

DEATH OF WILLIAM E. PITMAN.

The death is announced of Mr. William E. Pitman, Mus.Bac., who passed away suddenly in November last at Canterbury. Mr. Pitman was a life member of the Kent County Association and rang about 150 peals. He also called Holt's Original and rang in the non-conducted peal at Tonbridge, Kent, on July 16th, 1930. He was very well known amongst Kent ringers and had often taken over the organ for the service at meetings. Many will remember him by his 'Farewell' when parting, and he will be greatly missed in Kent. He leaves a widow and one son.

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THE CHURCH AND BELLS OF KENDAL

By EDWIN JENNINGS.

The parish church of the Holy Trinity, Kendal, is one of the very few parish churches in the Diocese of Carlisle whose history reaches back through the centuries to the time of the Norman Conquest, or earlier. It is one of two of what we may call the original parish churches of the county of Westmorland.

There is a peculiar charm about an ancient parish church. It generally occupies a large and prominent place in the outward life of those who live within sight of the tower and within hearing of its sweet toned bells. It lights up memories of days long passed away. There arise unbidden in the mind pictures of the comings and goings of generations of parishioners of whom no record now remains, save on chiselled gravestones, in many cases, mossgrown or indecipherable.

It is, however, not many country towns that possess a church at once so striking and with so many claims upon the affections of its people as Kendal Parish Church, which stands on the fringe of the town near the riverside. It catches the eye at once as something out of the common. There is nothing quite like it in England. Its prototype may be seen, however, in the church of St. John of Jerusalem at Rome.

For many generations the bells of this church have called Kendalians to worship, solemnly tolling for her dead, or gaily bidding joy to young couples on their wedding day. But for several centuries before bells were ringing in the church tower, a church stood here as a witness to the early days of Christianity in this place. The remnant of the shaft of an ancient Anglian Cross, now standing on a window sill in the south aisle, is one of the most precious relics of the church. It probably dates back to the ninth century.

This cross, no doubt, was part of the old Saxon church. How long this church stood we do not know, but it is referred to in the records of the 'Domesday Book,' compiled about the year 1080.

The first Baron of Kendal, Ivo de Talebois, who built and inhabited Kendal Castle, restored the church and, in the year 1087, presented it to the Abbey of St. Mary, York. The district served by this church was very extensive, and Kirkby-Kendal came within the dominions of Malcolm, King of Scotland.

There is ample evidence that a church, consisting of chancel, nave, two aisles and tower, stood on the site in 1201, for in the process of restoration in the year 1829, when much of the plaster was being removed, there was discovered in the first pillar on the south side of the chancel a niche loosely filled with small stones, and this appears to have been the 'piscina' of that early church. The Gothic arch of this niche, rejected from its place at the restoration of 1850, bears the inscription, 'Salutis Nostrae Anno 1201.'

The old church seems to have fallen into considerable decay, for, in the year 1232, there was granted an indulgence for the restoration of the building, 'Miserabili ruina de formata.' Of this ancient church the chancel and the tower have been rebuilt, as will be stated later, but it appears to be fairly certain that the nave, the two inner aisles and the massive west wall remain substantially as they were.

The next stage was the building of what is known as

the 'Parr Chapel' in the south-east corner of the church. This was in the early days of the fourteenth century. It is not known to whom the chapel was dedicated, but that it was built by the Parr family is indicated by the fact that the corbel, from which the first arch springs, bears the arms of Strickland, and Parr, and Brus, while over each of the three most easterly windows of the south facade is carved a small head of a maiden—one of the badges of the Parr family. In the year 1331 John Kempe, a manufacturer from Manders, settled in Kendal, bringing with him Flemish weavers in large numbers. This influx of population led to an extension of the church.

West of the 'Parr Chapel' new chantries were added, and dedicated to St. Mary, St. Anthony, and St. Christopher. Subsequently the dividing screens were removed, and the building extended to the full length of the church, forming what was known as 'The Flemish Aisle.' This was completed about 1350.

Nearly two centuries passed by without further addition to the building, and then Sir Roger Bellingham, in the early part of the sixteenth century, erected 'The Chapel of our Lady,' commonly known as the Bellingham Chapel, at the north-east corner of the church. This chapel has a clerestory and stalactite ceiling with gilded crosses. In it lies a chest tomb on which may be read the inscription, 'Here lyeth Sir Roger Bellingham, Knt., which of his own proper costs and charges builded the Chapel of our Lady within the church of Kendal.' This chapel was complete in itself, with a west wall, but later in the sixteenth century the outer north aisle of the church was built as an extension of the Chapel of our Lady, and the west wall of the chapel was removed. Sir Roger died on July 18th, 1533.

The foregoing completed the church as it now stands, and subsequent history deals only with decay and restoration.

Between 1850 and 1860 a sum of £10,160, raised entirely by private subscription, was expended on restoration and adornment of the church.

For many years the Parr Chapel, enclosed by screens, was used for vestry purposes. In 1927, at the initiation of Archdeacon Lafone, plans were prepared for building new vestries, and subscriptions invited towards the cost, which was estimated at about £3,000. Two-thirds of the amount required was given or promised, but the committee did not feel justified in proceeding immediately. The delay was not prolonged, and in 1932 fresh plans were prepared and the scheme went forward.

In March, 1933, a faculty was granted, and on July 22nd of that year the Bishop of Carlisle laid the foundation stone.

The building was completed in the following year, and the Bishop dedicated the new vestries on May 29th, 1934. Accommodation is provided for a priest's vestry, a churchwardens' vestry, a large choir vestry and cloak-room. Provision was also made for housing a new electric blower for the organ. The plans were prepared by Messrs. J. F. Carwen and Sons, Kendal. The dressed stone of the building came from Darley Dale, whilst the main body of the walls is of Kendal limestone.

All of the work was executed by Messrs. G. F. Martindale, of Kendal.

(To be continued.)

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION. FOUNDATION MEETING.

In order to consider the formation of a 'Universities Association of Change Ringers,' there assembled in the Old Bursary, New College, Oxford, immediately after the O.U.S. annual lunch on Saturday, February 20th, the following university ringers: The Rev. C. E. Wigg, Messrs. J. E. Spice, W. L. B. Leese, W. F. Moreton, D. P. Jones, W. F. Gibbons, G. Bromley and Miss M. Lloyd (Oxford University Society), Mr. F. E. Haynes (Cambridge University Guild), the Rev. M. C. C. Melville (Birmingham), Miss M. R. Cross (Reading) and the Misses M. J. F. Richardson and J. Budden (Bristol). The Rev. C. E. Wigg was unanimously voted into the chair.

The question first raised was whether such a gathering could consider itself comprehensive enough for the formation of a new association. Lieut. Gibbons pointed out that it was doubtful whether any more representative one could be brought together during the war, and Mr. Spice said that as a large number of other university ringers had stated their views in letters to the proposers of the scheme, these might be considered to be present by proxy. Mr. Haynes felt sure that the meeting would be fully justified in discussing the question, and the chairman then asked Mr. Spice to read what replies had been received.

MANY REPLIES.

Replies from the following were then read: Canon Coleridge, the Revs. E. B. James, B. F. Sheppard, E. V. Cox, F. Ll. Edwards, A. C. Blyth, J. P. Pelloe, H. Drake, A. G. G. Thurlow, R. D. St. J. Smith, Messrs. C. McGuinness, M. C. G. Hooton, W. H. J. Hooton, E. M. Atkins, R. G. Cross, C. W. Woolley, R. Leigh and R. O. Street. With the exception of Professor Street, all were fully in favour of the proposals made. Besides these, Messrs. Lewis and Croft, and those present at the meeting, Dr. R. E. Havard, Mr. H. Miles, Major J. H. R. Freeborn, F/O C. T. Brown and Inst.-Lieuts. Scott and Houghton, R.N., had been approached personally and had signified their agreement. Professor Street thought that the energies of ringers should be directed more towards co-operation with the Church and less towards peal ringing, and that it was an unworthy thing to found a society with peal ringing as one of its main objects. Further, he had had considerable experience of non-residential universities, and doubted whether efforts to start change ringing societies there would be attended with much success.

The Rev. R. D. St. J. Smith had made some valuable suggestions. He thought that the formation of the association and election of officers should be done entirely through 'The Ringing World,' as no organisers could know of all the ringers who had passed through a university. The formation should not be effected at the meeting of any one society, and should not finally be made until six months had elapsed, so that all might have an opportunity of expressing their views. Very careful definitions of qualification for membership should be made.

Mr. Spice said he appreciated Mr. Smith's points, but felt nevertheless, that the most efficient course had been taken. It was true that there must be many more university ringers who had not been approached, but the meeting could surely assume that the proportion of those in favour would be the same as in the case of those who had been consulted, i.e., nearly 100 per cent. He saw no reason for delay in formation, in view of the support which the proposals had received. The O.U.S. lunch had seemed the best opportunity for bringing together a representative body of those interested.

THE ASSOCIATION'S AIMS.

The meeting then discussed the aims of the proposed association. Mr. Haynes sympathised to Prof. Street's views about the recording of peals, but felt it best to bow to established custom. He also had his doubts about the chances of establishing societies in the newer universities, but would like to hear what the representatives of these had to say. Miss Richardson announced that the next fortnight ought to see the recognition of a society at Bristol by the University Union, and said they would feel all the stronger if they had the support of a larger body in their efforts. Another point (made also by the Rev. H. Drake) was that the Universities Association should help to keep interest alive during the inevitable periods of depression.

Miss Cross said that when she was at Reading three other ringers were up. They were too few to form a society, but would have welcomed the chance of belonging to a joint organisation. Mr. Wigg endorsed these views and Mr. Leese called attention to the fact that the association should be very useful in encouraging reunions and co-operation between university ringers generally, as Mr. Atkins had also pointed out. Mr. Leigh, in his letter, had promised to give what assistance he could in training ringers at Manchester and Liverpool Universities. It was then put to the meeting that the association should be considered as formed. This was carried nem. con.

The meeting now proceeded to the election of officers. On the proposition of Mr. Spice, seconded by Mr. Haynes, Mr. E. H. Lewis was elected president, and on the proposition of Miss Cross, seconded by Lieut. Gibbons, Mr. J. E. Spice was elected secretary and treasurer, both these elections being for the duration. The Rev. M. C. C. Melville wondered whether a committee should also be elected, but the meeting thought this unnecessary. It was emphasised, however, that all decisions arrived at that day must be regarded as provisional, and liable to revision as soon as a tour could be held, after the war.

(Continued in next column.)

AN ANCIENT CELTIC BELL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Ernest Morris' recent article in 'The Ringing World' about the discovery of a Celtic bell at Mordon was very interesting, and I have also had the pleasure of reading his article in the 'Apollo.'

In the local museum there is an ancient Celtic bell, which was found some years ago, and some facts about this bell may be interesting to the readers of our paper.

The bell is known as the 'St. Cynon' and belonged to the parish of Eglwys Cummins, near Pendine, on the Tenby coast line. It was known that an ancient bell had been used in the parish and used to precede funerals, but no trace of it was to be seen, and the only evidence of it was from the ancient records of the parish.

For 25 years the late George G. T. Treherne, Esq., who was the first president of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club, had dug and excavated all over the area, and although he made some very interesting discoveries, he never found a trace of the bell. The search was continued by the Rev. J. P. Gordan Williams, M.A., who was then the Vicar of St. Ishmeal's, Pembrokeshire. He also dug and excavated around the parish, and after a ten-year search he found the ancient bell.

This ancient Celtic bell consists of iron plates riveted together and bronzed, and its great age is attested by the fact that one of the edges is broken away. Three rivets at the top show where the handle was fastened, and the bell still retains its clapper.

Mr. Morris, in his articles on detached towers, recently mentioned St. David's Cathedral and its detached tower near the 39 steps, but, strange to say, he omitted to say that these bells of Mears and Stainbank's are one of the few in Wales with inscriptions in Welsh. Mr. Morris was very good with the Welsh inscriptions, but not correct in the date of Saville's bell, which should be 1722. This bell went to Whitechapel to be melted down, and went into the new ring. Saville's clock bell is also dated 1722.

I read with great interest the Editor's review of the 'Bells of Monmouthshire,' but who are the publishers and price of same? I hope that Mr. Morris will continue to give us some more interesting details of bell-lore from his vast store.

EDWARD J. THOMAS.

Elephant and Castle, Carmarthen.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT WATH-ON-DEARNE.

A meeting of the Barnsley and District Society was held at Wath-on-Dearne recently and was attended by members from Bolsterstone, Bushey, Eastwood, Felkirk and the local company.

After handbell practice in the Church House, the ringers were the guests of the Vicar, the Rev. E. V. Evans, to tea. At the business meeting Mr. Evans presided. The business was soon disposed of and best thanks were extended by the secretary to the Vicar for the use of the room, for a nice tea and for presiding, and to the local company for all the arrangements made.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Barnsley on Saturday, March 20th. Further handbell ringing followed.

THE LATE J. MARTIN ROUTH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I do not know whether Canon Coleridge, in his interesting article on the late J. M. Routh, in saying that after the unfortunate incident in 1892 he gave up 'serious ringing' meant peal ringing, but nine years afterwards he took part in two peals of Grandsire Triples at Tilehurst. One was on February 6th, 1901, to which 'J. Martin Routh, Esq.' rang the treble and 'William P. Routh, Esq.' the fifth, and in the other on December 14th they rang the seventh and third respectively.

'B.'

THE UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from previous column.)

Various titles for the new body were proposed, but none seemed quite satisfactory, and it was finally decided to keep to the original suggestion of 'The Universities Association of Change Ringers.'

Then came the question of qualification for membership. There was some discussion on whether students reading for external degrees at University and Theological Colleges should be eligible. It seemed that it would be hard to know where to draw the line, and it was eventually decided to restrict membership at present to those who had at some time been full-time members of a university proper. It was agreed that some kind of subscription was desirable, as small expenses would be bound to be incurred even at present, and that this might serve as a criterion of membership. Miss Cross thought that those who had gone down could afford more than students, and it was decided to impose a minimum entrance fee of 1s. for the moment.

It was finally decided to give notice to the Central Council that the association would seek affiliation when a Council meeting could again be held.

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.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Spalding on Saturday, March 13th. Service at 3.45. Tea in Corn Exchange at 4.30. Business meeting afterwards.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Glenside, Pinchbeck, Spalding.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Dudley (D.V.), Saturday, March 13th, 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea. Usual evening arrangements.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Sevenoaks on Saturday, March 20th. Eight silent bells available from 2 o'clock. Service in church at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45. All requiring tea must let the Apline Cafe, Dorset Street, Sevenoaks, know by Tuesday morning, March 16th. Everybody welcome.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A ringing meeting will be held at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 20th. Tower bells and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. until black-out time.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—A meeting will be held at St. Michael's, St. Albans, on March 20th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at Olde Times Cafe and meeting in Parish Hall. Delightful spot on Hemel Hempstead bus route. All welcome, but please notify me for tea.—R. Darvill, 23, Elm Drive, St. Albans.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A meeting of the District Ringers will be held at St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, Bournemouth, on Saturday, March 20th next, at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome. Handbells, tea and fraternal gossip.—Arthur V. Davis, 116, Alma Road, Bournemouth.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—The next meeting will be held at Long Ashton on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (silent apparatus) 3 o'clock. Light refreshments available, approximately 4.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, March 20th. Handbells available 2.30 p.m. Tea for all who notify me by March 18th. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The annual committee meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27th (D.V.), at 3.15 p.m., in the Central Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Tea will be provided at a nominal charge.—Richard T. Hibbert, Gen. Sec., 69, York Road, Reading.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Leeds and District Society at St. Peter's, Bramley, Leeds, on Saturday, March 27th. Handbells in Schools from 3 o'clock. Tea only for those who send in names to Mr. S. Helliwell, 19, Warrells Avenue, Bramley, not later than Thursday, the 25th. Business meeting in Schools at 6 p.m. All welcome.—F. Rayment and H. Lofthouse, Dis. Secs.

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WANTED.—Second-hand set of ten or twelve handbells in good condition.—A. A. Hughes, Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT CLERKENWELL.

The annual meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at St. James', Clerkenwell, on Saturday, February 27th, and was attended by a representative gathering totalling about two dozen people.

A warm welcome was extended by the Vicar, the Rev. C. L. Parker, who conducted a shortened evensong with address, the congregation being ably led in the singing by the Rev. P. T. W. Tranter, of Islington, who acted as organist.

The Misses Bailey and Prockson, with other lady helpers, deserve all credit for an excellent war-time tea, which is a most important item towards a successful meeting.

Routine matters were dealt with at the business meeting, including the election of two new ringing members. At the election of officers for the ensuing year it was announced with regret that both Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Fletcher were compelled not to seek re-election on account of their departure from the county. Mr. C. T. Coles, as one who had received much assistance by their untiring energies, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher for the great amount of good work they had rendered over a period of years, to the benefit of the North and East District, and wished them both happiness and success in their new surroundings. This was seconded by Mr. W. H. Hewett, supported by other speakers, and carried with acclamation. Mrs. Fletcher suitably replied and thanked the meeting for the expression of good wishes.

It was announced that the next meeting will be held at Bishopsgate on Saturday, March 20th, from 2.30 p.m. until black-out time, when tower bells and handbells will be available.

Handbells were put to good use throughout the afternoon and a good variety of methods rung; the formal vote of thanks to the Rev. — Parker and the ladies beforementioned for their parts in ensuring a successful meeting was well merited.

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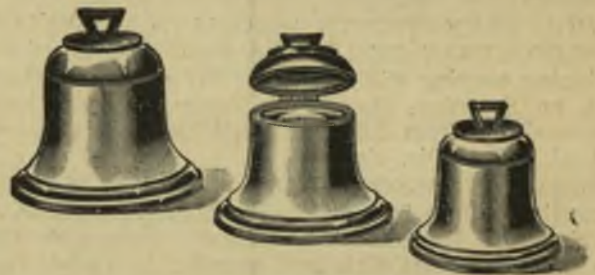
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