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GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.
BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WOLFEON CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two
new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton,
recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and gives
general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased
they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to
judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.
Yours faithfully, F. T. BUCK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK

JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER

The success which attended the Henry Johnson Com-
memoration dinner at Birmingham on Saturday week
was probably the greatest of any of the series which
have been spread over the last thirty years. This success
was the more conspicuous by reason of the conditions
under which the proceedings were this year held. Not
only was the dinner the fourth since the beginning of the
war, and came at a moment of supreme crisis in the his-
tory of the country, but the limitations of travel and the
restrictions upon catering were in themselves almost
sufficient to jeopardise the success of any such undertaking
upon a large scale. Yet it is on record that this year's
gathering was attended by a larger company than any of
the previous dinners, and the proceedings were never more
enjoyable, if that be possible, than any that have gone
before, for the principal speakers were in fine form, and
the musical programme reached a high standard.

The whole proceedings were worthy of the event, and
once more illustrated the capacity of the men of Birming-
ham to meet and overcome difficulties. They have seen
no reason, despite the war, to abandon this annual event,
which, after all, is a milestone in the onward march of
ringing. And when the war is over it will doubtless be a
matter of satisfaction to St. Martin's Guild to remember
that throughout this period of great vicissitudes they did
not fail, from year to year, to meet to honour the memory
of one of the greatest intellects that ever adorned the
Exercise.

It seems a pity that some effort should not be made to
preserve more fully than it has ever yet been done the life
story of some of these famous men of ringing. For
instance, those who knew intimately Henry Johnson are
growing rapidly fewer. When, with the passage of time,
these men too shall have left us, there will be very little
authentic information to be had concerning Johnson
himself. Only such reminiscences as may be passed down
from lip to lip—reminiscences which may gain or lose in
exactitude by the retelling—will be left for us to judge the
man by. In the same way the personal acquaintances of
men like Haley, Cox, and other noteworthy personalities
of the past, are rapidly diminishing in number. How
valuable it would be for future generations of ringers if
something in the nature of a detailed record of the work
of these men and others like them, could be compiled and
made available for reference in the future, to keep, as it
were, personal touch with their lives, even though there is
no one left who had enjoyed their acquaintance! There is
a big scope here for anyone with literary taste and cam-
panological enthusiasm, for much of the work of many
masters of the art has been lost in the past for want of a
competent biographer.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

OSAS EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

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BIRMINGHAM**

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TEN BELL PEAL.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

(ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD).

On Monday, March 18, 1918, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt., in E.

STEPHEN THOMAS Treble	WILLIAM H. THOMAS ... 6
RAYMOND JOHN WILKINS... 2	WILLIAM KNIGHT 7
MISS EDITH K. PARKER ... 3	ALFRED E. REEVES 8
CHARLES H. TOMKINS ... 4	GEORGE CONDICK, JUN. ... 9
RICHARD CLARK 5	WILLIAM A. CAVE Tenor

Composed by THE REV. H. LAW JAMES.

Conducted by WILLIAM A. CAVE.

Rung with bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. John Shopland, sexton of St. Stephen's for the past 20 years.

THE PEAL AT ST. STEPHEN'S, BRISTOL.

When the Rector of St. Stephen's (the Rev. E. J. Houghton) expressed his wish to the St. Stephen's Guild that full honours should be shown to the late sexton (Mr. John Shopland), the secretary (Mr. William Knight) acted with commendable promptitude, securing permission to ring through evensong on Monday in order that a peal might be attempted, and helping to get a band at short notice. This was not a difficult matter, for the Guild were as anxious to honour Mr. John Shopland as the Rector himself, for during all the time he had been sexton he had worked in harmony with the ringers and in few churches is this more necessary than St. Stephen's. There is no back entrance to the belfry; everyone must enter by the front gates and door, and cross the baptistry by the font, before ascending the belfry steps; but fair weather or foul, old 'Jack' was never heard to complain about the dirt the ringers left behind them, and, considering the amount of ringing done here in ordinary times, this must have been considerable. The hope of the Guild is that they will get on as well with his successor. The peal provided the opportunity for Miss Parker to ring her first peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal, and for the rest of the band to ring a peal with this distinguished lady ringer.

At the funeral service, on the 18th, as the cortege was leaving the church, 168 Stedman Triples and a course of Cambridge Surprise Major with the bells muffled: A. H. Wilkins 1, R. J. Wilkins 2, R. Clark 3, W. H. Thomas 4, W. Knight 5, H. Pring 6, G. Condick 7, W. A. Cave 8.

STEDMAN MINOR.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The principle given as 'Stedman Minor' in your issue of the 8th is very clever. But it can hardly be called Stedman. I thought the Exercise was agreed that the defunct and illegitimate principle, known as Shipway's Principle, was the correct extension of Stedman to even numbers. Anyway, they will find the proof that it is in various back numbers. The principle given approximates to the legitimate method 'Double Stedman,' and might be fairly called the adoption of that method to a principle. I am afraid its practical use is rather endangered by the fact that the plain course is not a factor of 720.—Yours truly,

H. W. FRIGHT.

1/5th S. Lancs Regt., B.E.F.

Second-Lieut.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the South-Eastern District, held at Writtle on Saturday week, members attended from Boreham, and the local company. Second Corp. E. G. Buesden, of Canterbury, who is stationed in this district with the A.A. Section of R.E., was also present. The methods rung during the afternoon included Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Plain Bob, and Kent Treble Bob Major.

At the business meeting, which followed, presided over by the District Master, M. J. Marks, of Boreham, was elected a member. Boreham was selected as the place for the next meeting, to be held in June. It was decided that this should be an evening meeting.

GORING, OXON.—Recently, in the belfry of the Parish Church, on handbells, 360 Grandsire Doubles: Miss S. Tarrant 1, Leslie Haines 2, J. Bower 3—4, W. Napper (conductor) 5—6; and 120 Bob Doubles, Harold Hague ringing the treble, the rest as above. — On Sunday morning, for Divine service, 360 Bob Minor: L. Haines 1, J. Bower 2, W. Aldridge 3, J. Carter 4, W. Napper 5, G. Wilson (conductor) 6. For evening service, 360 in the same method, H. Hague ringing the treble. Credit must be given to the ringers of the treble, as they only commenced to ring a church bell in October last, the ages of L. Haines and H. Hague are respectively 13 and 14 years.

A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.**CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. CHALLIS WINNEY.**

At St. Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, E.C., on Sunday evening, March 17th, for service, a quarter from Carter's Odd Bob peal of Stedman Triples was rung by eight members of the College Youths to celebrate the 60th birthday of Mr. Challis F. Winney, the ringers being: C. F. Winney (conductor) 1, G. R. Fardon 2, A. Disorens 3, Churchwarden T. Walker 4, E. F. Pike 5, W. A. Alps 6, T. H. Faffender 7, A. S. Pettitt 8. Time, 47 mins. Mr. Winney was the recipient of many hearty congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. Winney was born on March 17th, 1858, and became a ringer quite early in life. He has been a most valuable help to many, both on church bells and handbells, and in his distinguished ringing career has taken part in some difficult peals, as well as proving himself a brilliant conductor.

The occasion was of further interest, inasmuch as in addition to its being Mr. Winney's birthday, it was also the 44th anniversary of his old friend (Mr. W. A. Alps) being elected a College Youth, viz., on March 17th, 1874. Some 39 years ago Mr. Winney, in visiting Waltham Abbey, saw the youngster ringing Stedman 'double-handed,' and remarked at that time: 'I wonder if I shall be able to ring a pair inside in Stedman.' It is well known how he has distinguished himself in this particular method since then, and the service which he has rendered to ringing is much appreciated by his many friends.

Some time ago, Mr. Alps, in speaking at a meeting of the College Youths, said that perhaps the fact of their friend, Mr. Winney, being born in the year of the great Comet might account for his being such 'hot stuff' as a conductor, which caused much laughter. Although a very sharp Master at times, he has been of most valuable assistance to many members of the Exercise which he adorns.

The quarter-peal was also interesting, from the fact Mr. Churchwarden T. Walker took part in the ringing. He is a very active member of the Exercise, and during his year of office has always taken a keen interest in ringers generally. It is hoped he may be re-elected at the forthcoming Easter vestry. Mr. Walker takes an equally keen interest in other matters connected with his office as churchwarden.

RINGING NEWS OF 70 YEARS AGO.

Mr. E. Ridgeway, of Leek, writes: On looking through the 'Local Intelligence Columns' of two old Leeds papers, bearing the date July 4th, 1848, I came across the following items which I thought might be of interest to ringers of to-day. The following is from the 'Leeds Intelligencer':—

'False report about the ringing of the bells at Pontefract Parish Church.—We have received the following letter in answer to one which was copied from the "Cambridge Advertiser" into last week's "Intelligencer":—

'Dear Sir,—In your valuable journal of Saturday last, you have an article in reference to the winnings of Mr. Gully's horses, Pyrrhus and Mendicant, in the Derby and Oaks races. It is made to appear that the bells of the Parish Church at Pontefract were rung until every rope was broken. I have the pleasure to inform you that such was not the case, as they are in good order, and quite whole; and also that the ringers have the possession of the keys of the bell chamber, and, as soon as the minister and the churchwarden were aware what the ringing was for, immediately caused them to cease, being fully convinced that a building consecrated to the service of God, was never intended as an instrument to celebrate the success of any gentleman in the winning of races; and as to the treating in every public-house, I have not heard that any money was given in Pontefract for such a purpose. Trusting you will give this a place in your journal.

I remain, dear Sir, yours most respectfully,

MATTHEW DAWSON, Churchwarden.

Another letter also appears, but would be too lengthy for your limited space.

Under the same heading appears the following:—

'Leeds Parish Church Clock.—We were last night informed that this useful clock ceased to strike yesterday, in consequence of the want of a new rope. We are requested to call the attention of the public to this fact and to say that unless some £3 is raised by voluntary subscription (the churchwardens having no funds) the inhabitants will be deprived of hearing the welcome sound of the clock in future.'

In the local news column of the 'Leeds Mercury,' bearing the same date, appears the following:—

'Holmfirth.—We hear that a trial of skill in the art of change ringing will take place on the bells of Holmfirth Church, on Monday, July 27th, 1846.

Yours respectfully,

E. A. RIDGEWAY, Leek.

DALTON-EN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, March 17th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor: T. R. Jackson 1, Miss E. M. Smart 2, J. Huddleston 3, T. Watson (conductor) 4, W. H. Dannison 5, J. Burrows 6.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**WESTERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Western District was held at Holbeck, on Saturday week, when 40 members were present from Guiseley, Shipley, Tong, Pudsey, Hunslet, Earlsheaton, Leeds Parish Church, Headingley (St. Chad's and St. Michael's), Burley, Bolton, Halifax, Lightcliffe, Holbeck St. Francis, and the local company; the visitors included the following soldiers home on leave, Sgt. Jackson, of Guiseley; Pto. Simpson, of Shipley; Pto. J. McHale, of Holbeck St. Francis, and Lance-Corpl. Cundale, of the local band; also Mr. C. C. Mayna of Beaconsfield (Bucks). The ring of eight were well utilised until dusk in touches of Bob Minor and Major, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major.

Members and friends sat down to tea in the school, cups of tea being provided at a small cost, and the visitors bringing their own eatables.

The business meeting was held in the evening. Mr. G. B. Bolland presided, supported by the Rev. C. C. Marshall (President of the Association), the Rev. Thom. Handley (curate-in-charge of Holbeck), Mr. J. Cotterell (hon. treasurer), Mr. P. J. Johnson (Ringing Master), etc.

Mr. G. B. Bolland was re-elected vice-president of the district for the next three years, on the proposition of the Rev. C. C. Marshall, seconded by Mr. H. Smith.

The election of committeemen was then proceeded with, the chairman briefly explaining the alteration in rule upon this point. Previously nine had been elected annually, but in future three would be elected each year to serve for three years, one out of these to sit on the General Committee of the Association, and to bring this about it was necessary to elect now three for three years, three for two years, and three for one year. Messrs. Herbert Dransfield (Earlsheaton), Smith (Leeds Parish Church), and Gill (Bolton) were elected for three years; Lawson (Lightcliffe), Peel (Birstal), and Bancroft (Keighley) for two years; F. Dixon (Guiseley), Broadley (Shipley), and Hardcastle (Bradford) for one year. Of these Messrs. Dransfield, Lawson and Dixon were chosen to serve on the General Committee.

The place for the June meeting was brought forward, the Chairman announcing that the Vicar of Northwram would welcome the Association there. This was put to the meeting, and unanimously carried.

A vote of thanks to the Church authorities was passed, on the proposition of Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. Gill.—The Rev. Thomas Handley, in replying, said how pleased he was to welcome the ringers to Holbeck, and how the sound of the bells had inspired him as he came along that evening. He also referred to the stronger relationship which existed now between the belfry and the east end of the church, and said that of recent years the ringers had become great church workers. In conclusion, he said he hoped the Association would pay another visit to Holbeck.

The Rev. C. C. Marshall, in proposing a vote of thanks to the local company, referred to the present difficulties in providing for a meeting, and said he hoped that other companies would try to follow that day's example as regards the tea.—This was seconded by Mr. Cotterell, and carried; Mr. G. A. Jowett, of the local company, suitably responding.

In the absence of Mr. Williams (who was suffering from a severe cold), the Rev. C. C. Marshall said a few words on behalf of the sub-committee about the emblems. They had received the proofs (which were on view in the room), and the bulk would be ready in a few days, and on arrival would be sent out to the district secretaries for distribution; also photos of the Snowden Memorial tablet will shortly be sent to the different towers, and he believed by now the tablet had been fixed in Ilkley Church.

A vote of thanks was passed to the secretary for his services and this concluded the business. Afterwards the handbells were then brought in use, touches and courses of Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, Caters and Cinques, Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal, and Stedman Triples being successfully brought round, terminating a very pleasant meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

NORTHAMPTON.—Central Northants Association.—At All Saints' Church on Sunday, Feb. 3rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: H. Blundell 1, A. P. Hensman 2, S. J. Lawrence 3, R. Rollings 4, F. Hopper 5, H. Rainbow 6, W. Farer (conductor) 7. Driver W. G. Farer 8. Arranged for Driver W. G. Farer, who was home on leave from France.—On Sunday, March 3rd, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major: Lance-Corpl. J. C. Dean 1, A. P. Hensman 2, T. Law 3, F. Hopper 4, S. J. Lawrence 5, H. Rainbow 6, H. Blundell 7, W. Farer (conductor) 8. Arranged for Lance-Corpl. J. C. Dean, who was home on leave from Italy.

DEPTFORD, KENT.—At St. John's Church, on Sunday morning, March 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandire Triples, in 43 mins.: T. Eustrey 1, W. J. Jeffries 2, E. J. Pannett 3, Pto. F. S. Bacon 4, Pto. C. V. Ebberson (Wakenham, Norfolk) 5, J. Law 6, E. B. Crowder (conductor) 7, A. E. Reuningham 8.

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At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also

HENRY JOHNSON COMMEMORATION.

GREAT SUCCESS OF THE BIRMINGHAM DINNER.

The 30th annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner, notwithstanding the fact that it fell in the fourth year of the Great War, at a time when cheap railway tickets are but a memory of the past, and travelling facilities no longer facilitate travelling, when food is scarce, and prices are high, proved to be the greatest success of the whole series. This popular function and it certainly gets more popular as the years go by, was held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 16th, and the large number present amply justified the decision of the members of St. Martin's Guild to carry on if possible without breaking the sequence of these commemorations, even if it comes in the end to a 'cold collation'!

As it was quite a good war-time dinner was served consisting of soup, roast beef, boiled mutton, various vegetables, sweets, cheese and celery. No one could claim to have been overloaded, and those present were enjoined to note the quotation appearing on the menu under 'joins' which read as follows: 'It is not the quantity of the meat, but the cheerfulness of the guests which makes the feast.'

Undoubtedly the magnetic personality of the chairman Canon Willink was responsible in a great measure for the record attendance, and Birmingham ringers count themselves most lucky in having, in the person of the Rector of Birmingham, a man of great breadth of vision, of obvious sincerity, one who has shown in countless ways that he is a real friend of ringers. Truly it is not for nothing that he is called the 'Guild's Own Rector.'

One hundred and fifty-five persons including about three dozen ladies, sat down to dinner, and afterwards this number was largely augmented by those who came to hear the speeches and enjoy the musical items.

The Chairman was supported by the Guild's Presiding Ringing Master, Alderman J. S. Pritchett, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Taylor, Mr. J. J. Kendall, churchwarden of St. Martin's; Dr. Mulins and Mr. Woolleton, churchwardens of St. Phillips'; Messrs. Ediss, Parsons, Mason Heaton, Tilley and Tunstall. Officers of the Guild present were Vice-Presidents J. Carter, W. H. Godden and W. Kent; J. H. Groves, Deputy Ringing Master; Thomas Russam and Charles Dickens, trustees; J. E. Wells and G. F. Swann, auditors; Albert Walker and Wm. Short, past Masters; and A. Paddon Smith, hon. secretary.

Apologies were received from the Rev. G. E. Badger, Canon Reader-Smith, Messrs. J. H. Shepherd, J. S. Goldsmith, W. Cheshire, F. E. Dawe, and J. C. Achurch.

THE PROGRAMME.

A pleasing feature of the gathering was the presence of Messrs. Barr, Bayliss, Bennett, Chapman, Gorman, Hale, Matthews and Reid, of St. Martin's choir, who rendered in grand style the glee, 'Comrades in Arms,' followed by 'The Long Day Closes' as an encore. Mr. Bennett also sang a song, 'The Ringers,' a most appropriate and comical turn which caused much amusement. Messrs. Barr and Reid sang 'The Sailor's Grave' and 'I fear no foe' respectively, both items being much appreciated. Mr. Harry Withers again excelled himself tapping (or rather playing) a good course of Steedman Cinques on his dulcimer, this being the first time he has done it in public. It is probably the most difficult thing Mr. Withers is called upon to do, owing to the fact that it is impossible to pick a ring of twelve on the dulcimer without having to cross the 'bridge' in the centre. What this means when he has two bells dodging together, one of which is at the top of the left-hand side and the other at the bottom of the right-hand side, we will leave the reader to imagine. And remember that while he is doing this the other ten have got to be 'rung' as well. Whew! However, he got through all right, and a thunder of applause greeted the run home. He also delighted his audience with a musical selection. Another first-class turn was put up by Mr. J. Jones and Master Rosa Laban, who played the 'Hungarian Rhapsody' as a duet on the violin and piano in a masterly manner.

Mr. Frank Bank's party was responsible for an instrumental trio, and Mr. Tom Russam's daughter, Mrs. Davies, was as good as ever at a position she has occupied with success on several of these occasions, and which is looked upon now as hers by right.

In accordance with old-established custom a course of Steedman Cinques on handbells followed the toast of 'The Memory,' the performers being Messrs. Perrons, Russam, Walker, Groves, Swann and Neal.

During the afternoon the bells of the Cathedral and Bishop Ryder's were made use of, although it cannot be said that they made up for 'the twelve' St. Martin's, of course, not being available at present.

Canon Willink proposed the toast of 'The King,' remarking upon his Majesty's devotion to duty, and saying that we were indeed a favoured nation in these days of many changes and such extraordinary surprises in the political world. In these days, when crowns were falling to right and left, our king stood higher in the estimation of his people than any other king had done before, and they were thankful that the holder of the office of the kingship of our land was such a king as he is.

A verse of the National Anthem was sung with great heartiness.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Dr. Malins submitted 'Church and State.' He said it was two years since he had the pleasure of addressing them on an occasion similar to the one which they celebrated that evening. Then they accorded him a very kindly welcome, and he desired now to offer them thanks for the repetition of that invitation not only for the thoughtfulness, but for the assurance that it brought to his mind of the interest of their art in the affairs of the Church. If they looked back in the annals of the country, they would find the Church existed long before the State. In their locality there was a Bishop of Worcester in 689, whereas the first King of England, Egbert, did not reign until 807. They were told by many people in the present day that the close alliance between the Church and State must cease, that the Church must now be disestablished and disendowed and the proceeds given over to secular purposes; that religion should not be connected with the State in any form; that the State should go its own way and the Church its own, that, generally, it should be left to take care of itself. They said they wanted the wholly free exercise of liberty of conscience, and that this conducted to the best interests of Church, State, and individual. But it was not always so. They were living in the middle of a great war, in which their minds were fully occupied, and the outlook was still obscure. When they turned back to their own country they found that it was necessary to have the best support from all classes of the State, so that the two together act distinctly better in conjunction than by themselves. It was a deeply important point, that the Church, which had been preserved for so many ages past, should be allowed to have a voice in this matter. They were on the eve of great changes. The future would bring changes and reform in politics, religion in State, society and all conditions around them, and it would be for them to take their own individual parts willingly in the interests of the country. Continuing, Dr. Malins said their excellent friend, Mr. Smith, than whom could he find no more zealous a secretary of the bell ringers of that city had said something about the bells of St. Phillip's not being in action. When the members of that Guild gave the public the satisfaction of ringing the bells of St. Phillip's, a gentleman living not a hundred miles away, said, 'Dear me, what is the matter? how beautiful are the bells!' That man was a repentant sinner, for not long ago he used to pour out his wrath on those who set the bells in motion, and threatened to obtain an injunction. The bells had always given joy and satisfaction to the people who had heard them. They expressed consolation and jubilant feelings, and he could only say to them all: 'Go forth with manly hearts, ring out false pride, ring in the love of truth and right, ring in the love of communion with God' (applause).

The toast was enthusiastically honoured.

HENRY JOHNSON.

Mr. W. H. Godden proposed 'The memory of the late Henry Johnson.' He was sure, he said that Henry Johnson would have been delighted to be at such a gathering as that. The little he (the speaker) had to say about him that night could be summed up in the very apt quotation their secretary has placed at the foot of the toast—'So famous, so excellent in the art.' He (Mr. Godden) never knew Henry Johnson at the end of a rope. There were a few there who did, but they got less and less every year. He hoped that gathering would always be held, and held in his honour and he asked them to rise and drink in silence to the memory of a great and good man, the late Henry Johnson.

At this point, the Rector asked leave to vacate the chair for a little while, as he had to meet the headmaster of Malvern College who was arriving by train in a few minutes. This gentleman was to be his guest over the week-end, and was preaching in the Parish Church on Sunday evening. He would return to the gathering in a few minutes, and would bring his friend with him (loud cheers). He would ask Mr. Taylor to take the chair during his absence.

ALDERMAN PRITCHETT'S REVIEW.

Alderman Pritchett was once more in reminiscent and facetious mood when he proposed: 'Continued Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild.' He said: I don't know whether you read the notices on the toast list; if so, you observe the one annexed for this toast is:—

'Look; he's winding up the watch of his wit;
By-and-by it will strike.'

This is rather inappropriate, because I overwound the watch last time, and I have not been able to get it repaired, as watchmakers are very scarce (loud laughter). I have made feeble attempts in previous years to cover a lot of ground in a short time, and so I will begin with the graver topics and proceed to the more lively ones. First, we have to record the loss of three gallant fellows, who have given their lives for us and for their country during the past year: George Parsons, of Erdington; H. Howells, of Smethwick; and Frank Withers, of Selly Oak. I have often rung with Frank Withers, and I said all I have to say about him in 'The Ringing World' a few weeks ago. His loss is indeed a severe one. Last year I had a companion to go home with, but this time I have to go alone, for I have lost my old friend, William Palmer. He was a man who had his faults, but he

was a most enthusiastic ringer, most faithful to the Church, and we shall miss him.

Passing from those who have gone we come to those who are absent, and I am sorry to say our venerable Vice-President, Mr. Faux, who was 81 years of age on March 1st, is in a very critical state of health. We hope he will be spared for some years yet. I should not like to forget our old friend, Jimmy Jones. We have had many a laugh at his expense, but he can only just hobble round his house now, so that I don't think we shall ever see him here again. We are glad, however, to see many of the old veterans here to-night. Mr. Rock Small comes up smiling once more. We heartily congratulate him on ringing a peal a few weeks ago, and hope he will live to ring many more (cheers). I am very glad to see Mr. John Carter. I understand he is very busy making munitions, and, incidentally, investing very considerably in War Bonds (laughter). There is another old veteran we are delighted to see here, Mr. John Buffery. I should like to ask him if he can remember coming to see me at Oxford 13 years ago (Oh!), and whether he remembers the pigeon pie, and that glorious silver tankard of extra strong old ale (laughter), which he drank off, saying he thought it was soda water! (loud laughter). I hope he will pardon my mentioning it, but there was to have been some ringing after lunch, and we had to look out a substitute and get a local ringer (loud laughter, and cries of 'I say, Johnny!') Extra strong old ale is very scarce nowadays, but I hope he will have an opportunity of drinking a little yet before he finally departs (Mr. Buffery echoed the hope amidst much laughter). I am glad to see Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, who are heartily welcome. We are glad Mr. Taylor has been able to get a supply of petrol to get here, and I believe he told several policemen on the way that he was on war duties. I hope he will get back safely. Another gentleman I should like to mention because he has been in very indifferent health for the past two years, is Mr. Geoffrey Martineau, of Solihull. We wish him every success with his lady ringers, of whom some six or seven are present to-night (cheers). There are 19 of our old fellow ringers and companions serving their King and country in various fields. We wish them a happy return, and the sooner they come back the better (hear, hear). I think I might mention the absence of Mr. James George. I don't know the reason, but although he is not here to-night he is represented by four of his lady ringers (cheers), and I can assure you it is very pleasant to visit Bishop Ryder's Church and see these ladies struggling with the bell ropes (laughter). I am sure they will ultimately be a success. One of them here to-night welcomes her husband from the front shortly, and I hope he is safe and sound. We congratulate her on that fact. Before leaving Mr. George, I may say he wrote me a short time ago, and said he was suffering from influenza, and had lately lost his landlady, and was in consequence in low spirits. At any rate, although absent, we should like to congratulate him on having completed 605 peals.

GUILD PERFORMANCES.

With regard to achievements, during the past year there have been few, but a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung at St. Martin's Church on Boxing Day. We are glad to hear from the Rector to-night that there is nothing seriously the matter with the steeple, and that whatever it is, it shall be put right immediately (cheers). I hope we shall hear more peals during the coming year, but I trust there will be no muffled peals (hear, hear). The handbell ringing has gone on splendidly during the past year, and I am quite right in saying, thanks to Messrs. Groves and Walker in particular, that St. Martin's Guild would head the list of all in the country for such peals. Sir Arthur Heywood, had he been alive, would have been greatly delighted. He used to appreciate Stedman Cinques on handbells. I find that in the Birmingham Public Library there are no ringing journals, and I intend, as chairman of the committee of the library, to have as complete a set of ringing books as I can get together (cheers), in particular 'The Bell News' and 'Ringing World.' We have not yet advertised, but we shall be very pleased to purchase them at a fair price, and I give you the first offer. This toast list, added Alderman Pritchett, which is the work of our energetic and indefatigable secretary, is a work of art. It shows the greatest ingenuity and perseverance, and I intend depositing this toast list that I have in my hand in the local collection in the Reference Library, so that it can be preserved for all time, as a memento of this gathering (loud cheers). I congratulate Mr. Smith on this record gathering, there are 155 present, the largest we have ever had, due in a great measure to the ladies, who are coming amongst us in increasing numbers. The more they come the merrier: we are delighted to see them, and we hope there will be still more. Ladies are coming into their own in every direction. They have got the vote, and there is no reason why they should not compete in the belfries with the men. There is nothing by which I can express the great indebtedness of the Guild to Mr. Paddon Smith, and particularly for the splendid manner in which he has organised this magnificent gathering.

The toast was received with musical honours, and Mr. Paddon Smith in reply, thanked the company for the way in which they had received his name in connection with the toast.

(To be continued.)

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Emscote (Warwick) on Easter Monday. Bells available, Leamington (8) 11 a.m. till 12.30, Emscote (8) all day, St. Mary's, Warwick (10), 6 p.m. till 7.30 p.m. Committee meeting at Emscote at 2.30; service at All Saints', Emscote, 3 o'clock, followed by business meeting in Emscote Schools. Outstanding subscriptions should now be paid.—J. H. White, Hon. Sec., 59, George Eliot Road, Coventry.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—A meeting will be held at Christ Church, Southport, on Easter Monday, April 1st. Bells ready at 2, service at 5, meeting at 5.30. Members intending being present please send word to Secs.—Rev. E. C. Collier, Walter Hughes, Hon. Secs.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Witham on Easter Monday, April 1st. Service, with address by the Rev. Canon Galpin, at 4 o'clock. Tea will be provided at the Church Room at 5 p.m. at 9d. each.—B. Redgwell, Dist. Sec., The Street, Rayne.

OXFORD GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The annual meeting of the branch will be held at Beaconsfield on Easter Monday. Ringing, 2.30. Service at 5, preacher, the Bishop of Bucks. Tea, on rations, at 6 p.m., only for those who notify the Secretary. Business to follow, the Rev. Canon Drummond in the chair. Subscriptions for 1918 became due on 1st January last. High Wycombe tower open 11 to 1 o'clock for 12-bell practice.—W. H. Fussell, Farnburn Avenue, near Slough.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary notice.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, April 1st, 1918. The four towers will be open throughout the day. Early ringing can be had at the six-bell towers by writing to me a few days previously. Service at Cathedral 5 p.m., with address by the Rev. Montague Hall, Rector of Bushey. Tea in the Abbey Institute 6 p.m., followed by business meeting. *To facilitate tea arrangements kindly notify to me if attending.*—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., Duffield, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Burton-on-Trent on Easter Monday, April 1st. The bells at St. Modwen's and St. Paul's will be available for ringing from 11 a.m. Tea (1/6 each) in St. Margaret's Schools. Committee meeting at 3.45 p.m. Tea at 4.30 p.m.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting and 8-bell contest will be held at Earlsheaton on Monday, April 1st, 1918. The ballot for order of ringing will take place in the school at 11 a.m. Ringing to commence at 11.30 prompt.—F. Salmons, Secretary, 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Whiston, near Rotherham, on Easter Monday. Eight bells available all the afternoon.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 164, Greystones Road, Sheffield.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 1st, 1918. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 2.30 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, D.D., President. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. Address by the Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, D.D., Dean. Tea will be provided at the Angel Hotel, Sidbury, at 5.15 p.m. Bells available: Cathedral (12), 1 to 2 p.m.; All Saints' (10), Hallow (8), St. Helen's (8), St. Nicholas (6), St. John-in-Bedwardine (6); these bells will be available for short touches until 9 p.m. Subscriptions should be paid, expenses received, and reports obtained, in St. Helen's Church House between 12 and 1. Peal book on view.—J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec., Sheeppcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at the Church House, Bedford, at 2.15 on Easter Monday. Committee meeting at 2 o'clock. The bells at St. Paul's will be available from 9 a.m., and the St. Peter's bells from 12.—A. Rust, Hon. Sec.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—A special general meeting will be held on Monday in Easter week, April 1st, at the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Reigate, by permission of the Vicar, the Rev. F. C. Davies. The ten-bell tower will be available from 2 o'clock until dark. Service at 5 o'clock. Meeting at 5.45 in the Parish Hall, Lesburne Road, to elect a hon. treasurer in the place of the late Rev. A. J. W. Young. Tea will be served in the Parish Hall, Lesburne Road, at 5.45 (members 6d., visitors 1/-), to those who give me notice before Saturday.—Ch. Reading, Asst. Hon. Sec., Union Bank Chambers, Croydon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—General meeting at Tonbridge on Easter Monday, April 1st. Committee meeting in Vestry 11.30 a.m. Service (with address by the Vicar, Rev. Stuart H. Clark) at 12 noon. Business meeting in Parish Room 2 p.m. Travelling expenses up to 2/6 will be paid to members after the service. Towers open for ringing—Tonbridge (8), Marden (8); and in the afternoon, Speldhurst (8), Hadlow (8), Shipbourne (6), and East Peckham (6).—Fred. J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec., Canterbury.

OXFORD GUILD.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Slough Parish Church bells (8) will be available for ringing on Easter Monday morning from 10 o'clock until 11.15. Afterwards Farnham Royal (8) from 11.30 until 1 o'clock, previous to the annual meeting at Beaconsfield.—G. H. Gutteridge, Iver Heath, Uxbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on April 4th and 18th, and for general business on the 9th and 23rd, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, April 6th, 1918. Bells ready at 4. Meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 507, Wigan Road, Bolton.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A meeting for combined practice will be held at Farnham on Saturday, April 6th, 1918. The bells (8) will be available from 6.30 p.m. till 8.45 p.m. All ringers will be welcome.—A. C. Hazelden, St. Michael's, Joseph Road, Guildford.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting and dedication and unveiling of the Spittle Memorial will be held at Dudley on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service and dedication in church at 4 o'clock, which will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Gray Maitland (President). Tea will be provided by the Ringing Master (Harry Mason, Esq.) for those who notify me not later than Tuesday, April 2nd. Business meeting afterwards. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting, and it is to be hoped that all members will make an effort to attend.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The committee meeting usually held in April will not be "called" this year, but if possible it will be arranged to meet before the annual general meeting on the same date, notice of which will be duly given.—Richard T. Hibbert, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available at 3. Service in church, with address by Rev. R. N. Lawson, at 5.15. Tea (if possible) 1/-, in Parish Room at 6. Those intending to be present please notify me not later than April 2nd.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The 21st annual general meeting will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, April 6th, 1918. The service will be held at 6 p.m., conducted by the Rev. H. Carrick (Vicar of St. John's). Tea will be arranged if the necessary commodities can be procured, but only for those who *notify by card* their intention to be present to Mr. W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street, Harrow, *not later than March 30th*. At the business meeting the President will take the chair. The following towers will be open for ringing:—St. John's, Hillingdon, from 3 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, 4 to 5.30 p.m.—W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street, Harrow, H. C. Chandler, Church Road, Heston, Hon. Secs.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society will be held at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells will be available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk. The business meeting will be held in the Parochial Hall at 7 p.m., when the nomination and election of officers will take place. A good attendance is desired.—Wm. Gage, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Elizabeth's, Reddish, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, April 13th. Bells will be available for ringing from 3 p.m. till dark. Business meeting will be held in the Church House at 5.30 p.m. Subscriptions for 1918 were due January 1st.—William Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

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