

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No 1664.—VOL. XXXII.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914.

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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 1664

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914.

[Vol. XXXII.]

WHAT IS A LEGITIMATE METHOD?

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

I propose to break the proper order of this series of articles and deal with the question of music, which ought, perhaps, to be left to the end. But unless you understand the position that music really has in the science and art of change-ringing, you will not be able to appreciate the value and work of the different laws of construction. I start with the plain statement that change-ringing, in its fundamental nature, is not music, nor is the making of music its object; and therefore music has nothing whatever to do with settling what are the rules of construction, or with making a legitimate method. That is a statement which a good many people will be disposed to deny. Their judgement on a method amounts to this: it is very musical, therefore it MUST be legitimate; or it is very unmusical, therefore it MUST be bad construction. Certainly in practice change-ringing is a most curious mixture of music and mathematics, two things which one would think could agree rather less easily than fire and water. And certainly, since we have this strange compromise, the natural tendency is to accept it, and not to trouble as to whether it is logical or not. But the whole charm of theoretic ringing consists in the fact that it is an EXACT science. If it were not so, the making of peals and methods would be no more than children making patterns out of coloured beads. To the man who takes no interest in problems of theoretic ringing all this talking about legitimate methods is so much splitting of hairs. He is a practical man; give him a method that is good to ring and he tells you that he cares not one jot whether it be legitimate or not. Each to his taste. No one need bother his head about method construction, but if you do you must be prepared to follow some very close reasoning, and do some pretty deep thinking.

A bell is a musical instrument, designed entirely with the idea of giving a musical sound, an instrument as complex and advanced in design as the finest violin, or any musical instrument that exists. And ringing, using the word to cover all methods of sounding bells, is certainly a branch of music. Some is very high, as the Belgian carillon, which is comparable to the full orchestra. Lower in the scale is the mechanical carillon; much lower still ringing or chiming any set changes. All these are properly classed as music, for the reason that the whole object of the ringers is to produce musical sounds. But there are uses of bells which may be musical, but which are certainly not music, because their object is not primarily to produce musical sounds, but is something entirely different. The bell that strikes the hour is not music, but something quite different, and the object is equally well obtained whether the bell is good or bad, whether it be a perfect note or whether it be cracked. It may be unpleasant to hear a cracked bell strike twelve, but your object is fully attained if you learn the correct time. My point is that the real object for which a thing exists determines its fundamental nature. Now, what is the object of change-ringing? Why is it that we ringers

use that form of ringing in preference to any other? Certainly not because it is more musical. Sometimes Stoney is excellent music, sometimes change-ringing is very bad music; and that when the method is a highly esteemed one and the striking good. The fact is that all the interest of change-ringing lies not in the actual rows that are rung, but in the process by which they are rung. In ordinary music the interest lies in the particular sounds that are produced; they are the things for which the art exists. In painting the interest lies in the finished picture, that is the thing that really counts. But it is not so in change-ringing, the result, *i.e.* the music of the bells, is only a comparatively unimportant accident; the thing that really is change-ringing is the mental process that produces the sounds, and you can have the whole essence of the thing without any sound at all. Is this difficult to understand? Then look at the matter from another point of view. Ring a course of Double Norwich on an ordinary peal of eight and then go and ring the same thing on the front eight of a peal of ten. The music of the two is widely different; in one case as good as you want, in the other simply villianous. Yet they are absolutely and identically the same thing in change-ringing. Could this be so if music were of the essence of the matter? I am speaking of course entirely from the point of view of the change-ringer. To the outsider all ringing is music, or it is nothing; but the outsider neither cares about change-ringing nor distinguishes it from other ringing.

We talk, I talk as much as other people, about methods being musical or peal compositions being musical, yet, strictly speaking, no method and no peal composition is in itself musical; they are quite impartial, and the method or the composition that will give you good music will just as easily give you bad. Look at the three following:—

23456	W	B	M	R	23456	W	B	M	R
64235	-	-	-	-	45362	-	I	-	-
23456	-	I	-	-	23456	-	-	-	-
234567	W	5ths	IN	R					
572364	-	-	I	-					
234567	-	-	-	-					

The music is widely different in these three, yet they are all one and the same composition; not merely variations of each other, but one and the same. What laws of composition apply to one apply equally to all. Surely that is sufficient proof that music has nothing to do with the fundamental laws of change-ringing.

But while I find that change-ringing is not, in its essence, music, and that music and musical laws had nothing to do with forming its fundamental rules, I do not say that music has nothing at all to do with the matter. That would be absurd, and not true. Into the fundamentals of change-ringing music does not enter, but once those fundamentals are settled the laws of music tell you what to select and what to avoid. Double Norwich is a method which will give you good or bad music, as you please; it

is only by selection that you would avoid using a course with 2-3 in 5-6 at the course end.

There are few things that we ringers talk more about, and understand less, than music. I am not at all sure that I have any right to express any opinion as to what the music of change-ringing is. At any rate it need not trouble me now. What I want to make clear is that when we are considering the fundamental laws of method construction we must rule out all considerations of music; that is a matter that comes in later on.

BELL RESTORATION AND INSPECTION.

To the Editor.

DEAR SIR,—The article under the head of "Bell Restorations and Experts," in this week's issue, in reply to a letter from my pen, compels me once more to write upon the subject. The writer of the article in question cannot, I feel perfectly sure, claim to have no interest in any firm of bell-founders or bell-hangers, as anyone who is accustomed to read between the lines will see, urging, as he does, "that the nearest approach to the ideal is the bell-founder himself." Now, sir, I will relate a true incident of a couple of years ago. I was invited to go to a foundry, in company with two of our most able ringers, to meet some Church officials regarding their bells, at that time lying in the foundry. One of these bells had five holes bored through the crown, and we were calmly informed that "it would be necessary to drill THREE MORE HOLES AS THE EXISTING ONES DID NOT COME IN THE RIGHT POSITION TO FIT THEIR CAST IRON STOCK, which was made before the bells were brought from the church tower." Is this the ideal the writer of the article would suggest as the best man to advise upon the carrying out of this work? Here is a man, posing as an expert, talking flippantly of mutilating this bell because, forsooth, the position of the holes at present in the crown of the bell did not correspond with those in the lugs cast on the stock, which was made to their usual pattern. This is only one instance. I can give many, but this is sufficient to show your readers the fallacy of such argument. Again, the writer of the article asserts: "Church authorities are not ignorant of the ways of the world," but I gave an instance in my previous letter, and that is only one of many known to me, where the authorities had been HAD (which is the only way to describe it) to the tune of £200. My previous letter mentioned "engineer," and that word was used to describe the man with theoretical as well as practical knowledge of general engineering, who would be the one to oversee the work in the interests of both Church authorities and ringers, and I therefore combined the two words "engineer-ringer," meaning that he should be a capable ringer as well as an engineer. The writer this week mentions civil, sanitary and heating engineers, but some of these gentlemen might be of more use to Church authorities than some of those whom I have mentioned previously who pose as experts. I am not, and never have been, connected in any shape or form with any firm in the bell-founding or bell-hanging industry, so claim to be absolutely disinterested and unprejudiced; and I claim to know a good deal about constructional iron and steel work. Upon one occasion I visited one foundry and remarked upon some work in progress, red-hot gudgeons being driven into cast iron stocks and the ends rivetted over instead of being turned taper and screwed to receive a nut and washer with a split pin, and the stock reamed to the same taper, which would be a good engineering job,

and the former method is not. I asked, "How if one of those gudgeons fractured?—It would necessitate taking the bell off the stock and the stock from the tower to have the broken piece bored out;" and was answered that, if that did happen, whoever was called in would have to get over the job as best they might. Do either the clerical or lay authorities understand these matters generally? I say they do not, and are leaving far too much to the firm or firms, who are out in some cases (I do not say all) to make as much out of the job as possible. With regard to the metals used in bell founding, surely that has been an open secret for years, and no skill is required, only a knowledge of the correct proportions; and I could mention instances of bells being sent into towers with spongy crowns, where the expert I am advocating would have condemned them and sent them to their proper place—the melting pot. I have yet to learn that tuning forks, which the writer describes as "apparatus" (there is nothing like making these things as mysterious as possible), are too complicated and cumbersome to carry about in the waistcoat pocket, but there are many others more capable than I who will, no doubt, benefit by the information (?). I will conclude by wishing I had more space to give actual experiences that I have encountered, but these will keep for some future time. I trust that I have said enough to make the matter more thoroughly discussed by ringers who, like myself, have no axe to grind, but who desire to see bell restorations carried out as they should be, and as some are, but, I regret to say, not all by a very long way. If you will find room for further interesting matter on this subject I will be pleased, when we have heard other people's views and experiences; and in the meantime I beg to remain,

Faithfully yours,

EDWARD P. O'MEARA.

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION.

Last week Mr. and Mrs. Robert Christian, of South Market Road, Great Yarmouth, in honour of their golden wedding, invited the Parish Church Ringers and a few friends to dinner and a musical evening, at the Savoy Hotel. Among the guests were Mr. A. J. Christian, Mr. C. Christian, Mr. W. Crowson, Mr. G. E. Lupson (Parish Clerk), Mr. J. Iugram (Sexton), and several others.

The chair was taken by Mr. Denison Hayward, who said that on behalf of all those present he offered to Mr. and Mrs. Christian their heartiest congratulations and trusted they would be spared to see a diamond jubilee. He came to Yarmouth from Stamford, in Lincolnshire, in 1872, as a good nger, and in December, 1874, was elected a member of St. Nicholas' Company. He (Mr. Christian) was an excellent striker, and there was not another ringer in Yarmouth who could raise and fall a treble bell in peal like him; he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples in Yarmouth, in November, 1881. In honour of this event, a peal of 5,040 changes was rang at Gorleston Parish Church, also a quarter peal at Belton Church, in Rutlandshire. He also had 30 peals of various kinds to his credit.

During the evening, Mr. Christian was presented with a miniature gold bell from the ringers of Great Yarmouth. A pleasant evening was wound up with "Auld Lang Syne."

BENTLEY, SOUTH WEALD.—On Thursday, January 15th, for practice, 720 Doubles, being two 6-scores each of Grandsire, Plain Bob, and St. Simon. W. Ottley, E. Furbank, W. Sheldon, F. Ottley, A. Rainbird (conductor). On Sunday, February 8th, for evening service, 720 Doubles, being two 6-scores of Grandsire and Plain Bob, and one 6-score of New Doubles and St. Simon. G. Sewell, E. Furbank, W. Sheldon, F. Ottley, A. Rainbird (conductor).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL TENOR BELL.

The new Ring of Twelve Bells (Tenor 34cwt. 2qrs. 22lb.) for Chelmsford Cathedral was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of St. Albans on Saturday, Sept. 27th, 1913.

Messrs. JOHN WARNER & SONS,
OF THE **LTD.**
SPITALFIELDS FOUNDRY, LONDON,
Have in hand the Restoration of the following Ring of 12 Bells:
YORK MINSTER (Tenor 50½ cwt.)

MR. TROLLOPE'S RULES.

In the valuable articles he has given us under the title "What is a Legitimate Method," Mr. Trollope has advanced the matter considerably. He has not, however, yet gone far enough. There is no doubt that we are getting much clearer ideas of the Art by simplifying its fundamental ideas, but we want a little more of this work yet.

Thus Mr. Trollope says: "A false peal of Stedman is not less Stedman because it is not true, nor have the ringers or the conductor shewn less ability. It is simply that a certain condition has not been fulfilled. This and the last two rules, A and B, are rules that can be, and often are broken, and yet you can still have change-ringing. You could not break the first two rules without destroying the nature of change-ringing itself." Again, on another point, he says: "This is not so much a rule as the recognition of a fact."

Here we have confusion and inconsistency run riot, and we may well use Mr. Trollope's own words about someone else, and say that this "is really not worthy of his mental abilities."

Joking apart, we know that in other Sciences, investigators have worked out what are called "Laws of Nature," or, it may be, "Laws of the particular Science." One occurs to my memory:—"Action and re-action are equal and opposite."

Why these are called "Laws" I could never understand, as they certainly have not the nature of law, and as the word would for other reasons mislead us, we will find some other name for such statements.

Euclid used to call similar propositions in geometry by the name of Axiom. "Things that are equal to the same thing are equal to one another." is one of his axioms. Euclid is, I fear, somewhat out of fashion just now, but for the present we will use his term, until we can find a better one. But first of all we must agree as to the exact things that we are talking about. So before Axioms come Definitions.

When we have worked over sufficient ground with our Definitions and Axioms we can apply them to work out Theorems, such as whether the extent of Grandsire Triples can be got without a single; or, what is the correct proof scale for any given Method.

So far we have discussed the NECESSARY parts of a Science. There are also ARBITRARY matters. [Of course I use "arbitrary" in the sense in which Mr. Trollope uses it when he says the "selection of 5000 changes to be a peal is quite arbitrary." That is, as meaning that something chosen by deliberate judgement out of others, as being the best, and therefore to be the one solely employed. Too often nowadays the word implies "chosen without judgement," and "in arbitrarily" would express the meaning better.]

We usually find then that it is advisable to limit our work by setting standards. Such a standard may be one of pure Science, I believe, such as that by which we always make the Treble the Hunt.

Or, it may be, more usually a Standard of Applied Science. That is one in which reasons of utility prevail: such as that by which we confine our investigations to twelve bells or less.

Again, we may have Standards of Art. Such are those by which we condemn an unsymmetrical arrangement of a peal when a more symmetrical one is available. Such, of course, also, are musical Qualities and Defects.

All these Standards may vary as the Science develops,

and it will be noticed that in each example I have selected they have actually varied in course of time.

II.

Now, let us take Mr. Trollope's rules. His first is that "a bell can only change with its next neighbour, etc."

Now, surely, this is nothing like a rule, but is simply a definition. There is nothing unscientific in writing changes in which bells jump two places at a time; or strike twice in one row and miss the next; or other similar arrangements; we have simply decided that we will not take any notice of such, nor will we call them "Change-Ringing."

The second rule I cannot understand, owing to the vagueness of the terms. (The word "must" alone has several meanings, and is quite doubtful here). We will assume, however, that it might read—"Change-ringing always progresses in cycles." If so, this is a real axiom, and, I should say, a valuable one.

But, then, his next sentence, instead of being, as he seems to think, a Corollary, becomes a Definition—"A complete Cycle with all the rows it contains is called a "Round Block."

As to the bells coming round at handstroke in a plain-course, I am afraid my imagination boggles at such a catastrophe! But, perhaps, that is because this is written on a bed of sickness.

The next rule is that "Methods must be Symmetrical." Now this is surely a Standard, not a rule. We cannot be certain, because, although we are told it is "necessary," we are not told why it is so. And, till we know whether Mr. Trollope means this as an Axiom or a Definition we cannot tell what he means exactly. And that is just why there has been so much wasted argument on this matter lately. Even if we assume that it is to be a Standard, we still want to know whether it is a Standard of Pure or Applied Science, or of Art. I fancy Mr. Trollope would say of the first of these, and his critics would say it was the last.

The next rule is that no bell may strike more than two consecutive blows in any one position. Now this was certainly not "settled as necessary in the infancy of the Art"; witness the Single in Grandsire. It is simply a standard of Art which has gradually been attained. And now Mr. Trollope wishes to make it a Standard of Science. To do this he must improve his argument. He says it "arises from the things that specially distinguish change-ringing from other kinds of ringing: for change-ringing is first and last, the continual movement of the bells among themselves." If so, it is simply a matter of Definition: and that one which has never yet been agreed upon.

If, therefore, Mr. Trollope wants this Standard agreed to, he should give us further reasons for it. Moreover, he perhaps would explain wherein it differs from the Standard of Sir Arthur Heywood:—"That the maximum number of pairs of bells must change at every change." This seems to me the complement to Mr. Trollope's Standard, and I do not think one ought to be sustained without considering the other.

One can suggest reasons for a bell not striking as often as four blows in one place; such as, that it is clumsy, or, it spoils the music—questions of Art; or that it conceals some movement that should be shown, or, duplicates some action which should be simple—questions of Science. And I am sure Mr. Trollope can give us a better reason; but, whatever it is, we should decide which one it is to be, or else we shall meet with difficulties later on.

Again, I do not think any reason has ever been given for a bell not striking three times in one place. I remember something about an Estcourt Single in Grandsire, which seemed to me at one time to have possibilities.

The last of the rules is that about "truth." Mr. Trollope hesitates whether to call it a "rule" or a "standard." Of course, as a matter of fact, it has always been considered a definition, and might read: "True change-ringing is that in which no row is repeated between the first and the last."

Perhaps it does not very much matter, in a case like this, which one of the three categories it is put into, as far as the proposition itself is concerned. Only it alters the whole manner in which we investigate the Science. Just as it does not matter whether we begin to measure the height of a wall from the top or from the bottom. But having begun one way we must stick to it. Therefore, if we are to alter the status of long-standing definitions, we shall have to re-write the whole science.

I think I know Mr. Trollope's reasons for the alterations, but I am sure the reasons against it are more weighty.

Last of all he refers to the "lead ends." He calls his proposition here the "recognition of a fact." Now this is an excellent description of what I have called an Axiom. This one, for instance, might be worded:—

"The lead ends of all methods are the same as in Plain Bob."

From this we draw this Standard of applied Science:—

"The Bob Major Lead Ends may never be concealed."

III.

So far we have not referred to the term "Illegitimate." Now by illegitimate we mean something which naturally would be all right, but which has been condemned by an arbitrary law, which it is advisable to make. Ordinarily however, the greater is made to include the less; and all such wrong things, whether naturally or artificially so, are called illegitimate. But it should always be remembered that, strictly speaking, this is incorrect; and therefore, so far from Mr. Trollope being right in maintaining that only Methods naturally wrong are illegitimate, we might even say that no methods naturally wrong are illegitimate, but only those that have arbitrarily been made so.

Thus he maintains that a Method which brings up the tenors the wrong way cannot be illegitimate, because its only offence is a musical one. This is not so. It cannot be illegitimate because, and solely because, no Law enforcing a Musical Standard has been made. I suppose it is not considered necessary, and that a Method which is bad musically is, as a rule, sufficiently condemned by that very fact. But there is no reason why such a law should not be made, and then that method would be illegitimate.

I have always thought that the word five ("five or more bells") in the Glossary definition was a slip for two. Otherwise, I agree with Mr. Trollope's condemnation of the Definition. But, while it stands, all Methods that do not conform to it are illegitimate. If we think it wrong, we ought to get it changed at once; and that ought not to be a difficult matter.

He suggests that the restriction of the Glossary is USEFUL, and that of Sir Arthur Heywood is DESIRABLE, but says that such argument is not the same as making the Methods illegitimate. No, but both are good reasons for making them so: but, in a case like this, we need reasons which are not only good, but also sufficient.

Perhaps it would be better if we avoided the use of the word illegitimate when a more definite term can be used.

Thus we often apply it to Bob Triples and Grandsire Major: now it would be much better, from every point of view, to say that these are INCORRECT ways of ringing Grandsire Triples and Bob Major.

IV.

In conclusion, let me tabulate my analysis of the article which appears in BELL NEWS of February 7th, and we can see whether it forms a good basis to work from, and whether the method is a good one.

DEFINITIONS.

1. Change-ringing is a movement by which a bell changes only with its next neighbour (*i.e.*, up or down, one step only at a time).
2. True Change-ringing is that in which no row is repeated between the first and the last.
3. A complete cycle with all the rows it contains is called a "Round Block."

AXIOMS.

(Recognitions of fact.)

1. Change-ringing always progresses in cycles.
2. The Lead Ends of all Methods are the same as in Bob Major.

STANDARDS OF SCIENCE.

1. Methods which are not to be dealt with, are such as are not symmetrical, or,
2. Cause a bell to strike more than two consecutive blows in one position, or,
3. Conceal the true Lead Ends.

Of course, the above is subject to Mr. Trollope's correction, as it is more than possible I have not correctly interpreted him in places. I am afraid he will say I have spoiled his argument, but I hope he will find I have given him a better one in its place.

HERBERT DRAKE.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The first quarterly meeting this year of the Winchester district was held at Alton last Saturday—St. Lawrence Tower, with a ring of eight bells, was open at 2.30, and during the afternoon and evening touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major, Treble Bob and Double Norwich were rung. Having such excellent ringers among the company as Messrs. H. White (Basingstoke), G. Williams (N. Stoneham), J. J. Jones (Guildford), F. E. Dawe (Woking) and C. Edwards (Farnham), there was no lack of good conductors. The ladies' guild was also well represented by Miss Belcher (Bramley), Miss Alice White (Basingstoke), Miss M. Edwards (Farnham), and Mrs. Williams (N. Stoneham). An excellent tea was provided by Mr. Kerridge, of High Street, Alton, in the Church Room (which had been kindly lent by the vicar) at which 45 members were present. The vicar of Alton (Rev. C. R. S. Elvin) very cordially welcomed the visitors and hoped they would pay him another visit, when he would be able to spend more time with them than he had been able to do that day. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the vicar for the use of the bells and Church Room. Members were present from N. Stoneham, Twyford, Owslebury, Selborne, Basingstoke, Farnham, Guildford, Bishopstoke, Woking, Alton, Bramley, Aldershot, Binsted, and Winchester.

At a subsequent committee meeting, at which the Rev. W. E. Colchester presided, several new members were admitted either as full members or probationers.

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ROPE-SIGHT. 1s. 6d., sixth ed.; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob; commences on three bells.

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STANDARD METHODS. 2s. 6d.; fifth ed.; revised; Diagrams alone 1s. 6d.; 41 pages; Letterpress alone 1s. 6d.; 100 pages.

STEDMAN. 2s. 6d.; 275 pages, by the Rev. C. D. P. DAVIES, M.A., with an appendix by Sir ARTHUR HEYWOOD, Bart., etc., etc.

TREBLE BOB. Part I. 1s. 6d.; second ed.; with appendix; 108 closely printed pages. Part II., suited for Conductors only; very scarce; 2s. 1½d.; 236 pages.

DOUBLE NORWICH C.B. Major. At present out of print.

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IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Will correspondents please note that all communications for insertion in "THE BELL NEWS" should be addressed to "The Editor, 'THE BELL NEWS,' 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow. In the past some have been addressed to the Publishers, thus being delayed, and not reaching us till too late for insertion in the current issue.

All business communications should be addressed to "Mr. Geo. Carter, 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow."

Notices of any kind, to ensure insertion in the current issue should reach us not later than first post on Thursday morning. Unless this is done we cannot insert them till the following week.

Many correspondents when sending copy write a note asking for insertion. This means that they have to pay 1d. for postage. There is no need for this; if the copy is put in an unsealed envelope, with just the name of the sender, we shall understand, and a ½d. stamp will be sufficient. But the envelope must be endorsed "News copy only."

"THE BELL NEWS" will be sent to any address in the United Kingdom for 1s. 8d. per quarter, or 6s. 6d. per year.

The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914.

DEATH OF MR. NATHAN PITSTOW.

It is with feelings of deep sorrow that we announce the death of Mr. Nathan Pitstow, which took place at his residence, at Saffron Walden, on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, after a lingering illness.

Although not unexpected, his decease will cause a shock to his numerous ringing friends, who looked up to him as a stalwart guide and counsellor, and an ardent enthusiast in matters campanological.

The funeral takes place to-day (Saturday) at three o'clock, at Saffron Walden.

We hope next week to give a sketch of his career.

Meanwhile we tender to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy and pray that God will send them comfort in their distress.

Pressure on our space compels us to hold over a number of peals and other matter till next week,

The Metropolis.**BETHNAL GREEN (E.)****THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 14 cwt.

Bertram Prewett Treble	Reuben Sanders 5
William Pye 2	Charles T. Coles 6
Alfred W. Grimes 3	William Grimes 7
Isaac G. Shade 4	Cornelius Charge Tenor

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff, and Conducted by William Pye.

The Provinces.**HORRINGER, SUFFOLK.****THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

(The St. James's Society, Bury St. Edmunds.)

On Saturday, December 13, 1913, in Two Hours and Forty seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GEANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Ten-Part. Tenor 9 cwt. 0 qrs. 3 lbs.

Arthur E. Moore Treble	Arthur Rolfe 5
Frank J. Levitt 2	Harry A. Turner 6
Charles Quantrill 3	Walter Salisbury 7
George Debenham 4	James Debenham Tenor

Conducted by Arthur E. Moore.

First peal of Grandsire Triples by the 3rd, 5th and tenor.

BRISTOL.

On Wednesday, January 21, 1914, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

George Tomkins* Treble	Alfred E. Reeves 5
Harry Brownjohn* 2	George Condick jun 6
Albert Stowell* 3	John A. Burford 7
Edgar Pemberton 4	William A. Cave Tenor

Composed by John Carter, and Conducted by William A. Cave.

*First peal of Double Norwich. It is twelve years since a peal in this method was rung in Bristol, and was rung on the same bells, with the same ringers on 7th and tenor, and in the same time.

DUFFIELD DERBYSHIRE.**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION**

On Wednesday, February 4, 1914, in Three Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES.

Tenor 17 cwt.

Joseph Lord Treble	Henry Litts 6
Charles Draper 2	John Flower 7
George Freebrey 3	Joseph Davies 8
John W. Glew 4	Frederick Hickling 9
William Poyser 5	Arthur B. Stone Tenor

Composed by Ernest Morris and Conducted by Fredk. Hickling.

CODDENHAM, SUFFOLK.**THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

On Saturday, February 7, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES:

In the Kent Variation. Tenor 16 cwt.

George Whiting Treble	George Farnish 5
William Weedon 2	Ernest E. Lanham† 6
George Pryke* 3	Sydney W. Pilgrim 7
George Bennett 4	Thomas W. Last Tenor

Composed by H. Dains, and Conducted by Thomas W. Last.

*First peal of Treble Bob. †2nd peal.

BARKING, SUFFOLK.**THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

On Sunday, February 8, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford Delight, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor 11½ cwt. in G sharp.

Albert Fleming Treble	George Fleming 4
George Bennett 2	Edward Jenkins 5
George Pryke 3	George Farnish Tenor

Conducted by G. Farnish.

This is the first peal on the bells, and first in seven methods by all the band.

BRISTOL.**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

On Tuesday, February 10, 1914, in Three Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5031 CHANGES.

Tenor 36 cwt.

Alfred E. Reeves Treble	William White 6
Albert Stowell 2	Henry B. Burt 7
Fred G. May 3	Gilbert Wiltshire 8
Fredk. W. Wade 4	Isaac Long 9
Henry Howell 5	Uriah Braven Tenor

Composed and Conducted by Fred G. May.

FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK.**THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**

On Wednesday, February 11, 1914, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Original. Tenor 16 cwt. 2 qr. 4 lb. in F.

Robert H. Hayward Treble	Hobart E. Smith 5
Rev. William C. Pearson 2	David G. Wightman 6
George E. Symonds 3	William Flory 7
Stanley Bonney 4	Charles A. Ward Tenor

Conducted by George E. Symonds.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**

On Thursday, February 12, 1914, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Original. Tenor 17 cwt. 9 lbs.

Henry Beardsley* Treble	Cecil J. Baker 5
Henry Harrison 2	Edward C. Gobey 6
Isaac Hufon 3	James F. George 7
Joseph Hall 4	Frederick W. Shaw† Tenor

Conducted by E. C. Gobey.

*First peal away from the tenor, †First peal, and was elected a member previous to starting. Rung with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. J. Turton, who always took a great interest in the bells and ringing. Also as a mark of respect to Joseph Iliffe, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Iliffe, who is a member of the band.

STANSTED, ESSEX.**THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

On Friday, February 13, 1914, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR,

5088 Changes. Tenor 13 cwt.

Arthur Jordan Treble	Arthur B. Wiffen 5
William T. Prior 2	Thomas Jordan 6
George Jordan 3	Thomas J. Watts 7
Walter Prior 4	William Watts Tenor

Composed by Frederick Dench and Conducted by William Watts.

Rung as a farewell peal to P.C. Wiffen, who is shortly leaving the district for Southend.

LONG ASHTON, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 31 cwt.

Fred G. May Treble	Albert Stowell 5
Alfred Pearce 2	Henry B. Burt 6
Alfred E. Reeves 3	Walter Farley 7
George Tomkins 4	Uriah Braven Tenor

Composed by Sir Arthur Heywood, Bart., and
Conducted by Fred G. May.

MEOPHAN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12½ cwt.

H. Lynds* Treble	H. Holden 4
G. A. Jones 2	S. Brenchley* 5
B. C. Owen 3	J. Burles Tenor

Conducted by J. Burles.

*First peal. Rung in honour of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. H. Holden. The band take this opportunity to thank the Rev. A. F. C. Owen for the use of the bells.

BELGRAVE, LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s called differently. Tenor 14½ cwt.

Alfred Ballard* Treble	Edward Geary 4
George H. Geary 2	Fred Staniforth 5
Arthur J. Ballard* 3	Ernest Morris Tenor

Conducted by Ernest Morris.

*First peal of Minor. First peal of Minor on these bells. The peal contained 232 Singles and no Bobs. Rung on St. Valentine's Day.

NETHERSEALE, DERBYSHIRE

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Heywood's Transposition of Thurstans'. Tenor 11½ cwt.

Walter Canner Treble	Herbert Hurdman 5
John H. Swinfield 2	William W. Worthington 6
Walter Hair 3	Ernest W. Beadsmore 7
John Hought 4	Reuben Stevenson* Tenor

Conducted by E. W. Beadsmore.

*First peal in the method. 150th peal.

MELBOURN, CAMBS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Oxford Bob College Single and Plain Bob.

Tenor 15 cwt.

Albert Gilbert Treble	Robert Wilkerson 4
Abraham Wilkerson 2	Samuel E. Roberts 5
William D. James 3	Robert G. King Tenor

Conducted by Robert G. King.

This was the first peal on the bells (rung at the first attempt), which have lately been rehung in new steel frames and a new treble added by Mr. Howell, of Ipswich, the "go" and tone being splendid. Messrs. James and Wilkerson hail from Cambridge; the rest are members of the Royston Society. The band wish to thank the Rev. M. de Courcy Ireland for the use of the bells.

DARLEY, DALE, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(Darley Dale Branch.)

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Lindoff's Ten-Part. Tenor 17 cwt. in F.

John Siddall Treble	Benjamin Greatorex 5
Thomas White 2	Alfred C. Wright 6
Henry Gregory 3	John L. Derbyshire 7
William Taylor 4	John W. Derbyshire Tenor

Conducted by James L. Wright.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Fred A. Atwell and Mr. Joseph Derbyshire.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES. Tenor 19½ cwt.

Arthur E. Chaplin Treble	George R. Pye 5
Leonard A. Pye* 2	Alfred Pye 6
Ernest J. Butler* 3	John Dale 7
William Billenness 4	Ernest Pps Tenor

Composed by C. Middleton, and Conducted by Ernest Pittsow.

*First peal in the method.

YORK TOWN, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,
5184 CHANGES. Tenor 17½ cwt.

Rev. G. F. Coleridge Treble	Charles Giles 5
Alfred H. Pulling 2	Charles Hazeldene 6
Clarence H. Dobbie* 3	Rev. Cyril Jenkyns 7
George Martin 4	Richard T. Hibbert Tenor

Composed by J. W. Washbrook, and Conducted by R. T. Hibbert.

*First peal in the method.

BERROW, SOMERSET.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MAVY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being forty-two 6-scores. Tenor 12½ cwt.

William Coombs Treble	George Griffin 4
John Harris 2	William H. Thorne 5
John Rawlings 3	William Rose Tenor

Conducted by William H. Thorne.

First peal by all the band except the ringer of the 2nd; first peal on the bells; first peal as conductor.

CHALFORD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(Stroud and District Branch.)

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s, each called differently. Tenor 10 cwt.

Noah Coates Treble	George Packer 4
George Edmonds 2	Albert Wright 5
Henry Newman 3	Frank Cole Tenor

Conducted by Albert Wright.

The ringers of 1 and 4 were from Avening; 3 and 4 from Minchinhampton; 5 and 6 from Fainswick. The bells of this church are steel bells.

STOURBRIDGE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION
(Northern Division).

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

At the Church of St. Thomas,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES.

Tenor 19 cwt.

Charles W. Cooper Treble	Charles E. Perkins 5
William Hand 2	John Bass 6
Walter J. Bretherton 3	Joseph Pigott 7
William At Pugh 4	Robert Matthews Tenor

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff and Conducted by Joseph Pigott.

* First peal of Major.

BEDWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, February 14, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

Roland O. Pollard Treble	Ernest Stone 5
Harry Argyle 2	Thomas W. Chapman 6
E. Maurice Atkins 3	Douglas H. Argyle 7
James F. Clarke, jun. 4	E. Harry Stoneley Tenor

Composed and Conducted by E. Maurice Atkins.

First peal in the method by all except the conductor, and rung at the first attempt. First peal in the method on the bells, in the county and by the Guild. Also first peal in the method as conductor on tower bells.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Thursday, January 1, 1914, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Taylor's 6-part.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

W. T. Pates Treble	C. Tovey 5
J. Major 2	J. Davis 6
A. Humphries 3	T. Pendry 7
G. Phillott 4	G. Caunce Tenor

Conducted by T. Pendry.

The above was rung as a compliment to Mr. Daniel Davis, of Prestbury, Master of the above Guild, and also of the Prestbury Society. Mr. Davis has been a constant attendant in the belfry, and last New Year's Eve was the 50th time on which he has assisted in ringing the old year out and the new year in, without having missed doing so on any occasion for 50 years. Mr. J. Davis is nephew to Mr. D. Davis.

Handbell Peals.

CHEVINGTON, SUFFOLK.
THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 29, 1914, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes.

At the Church of All Saints.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Robert Quantrill Treble	Robert Morfit 3
Edward Clarke 2	Charles Quantrill 4
Arthur W. Rolfe Tenor	

Conducted by Arthur W. Rolfe.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

STANSTED (Essex)—On Wednesday, February 4th, for practice at the Parish Church, 576 London Surprise Major. G. Gray, G. Jordan, T. Jordan, F. M. Butler, J. Luckey, T. J. Watts, W. T. Prior, W. Watts (conductor). On Sunday, Feb. 8th, for morning service, 588 Stedman Triples. G. Gray, T. Jordan, G. Jordan, F. M. Butler, J. Luckey, T. J. Watts, W. Watts (conductor). F. Potter. On Sunday, February 15th, for morning service, 224 Cambridge Surprise Major and 252 Stedman Triples. Tenor 13 cwt.

Correspondence

Whilst always ready to insert correspondence on subjects of interest to ringers, the Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed.

METHOD OR PRINCIPLE?

To the Editor.

SIR,—Neither Mr. James nor Mr. Trollope have replied to my question in your issue of the 7th inst. Am I to take their silence as an admission that they have no adequate answer?

I agree with Mr. James that the Major Principle he gave is a legitimate slow eight. I also agree with him when he says that the middle eight changes of No. 1 System are also a legitimate slow eight.

For comparison I give a repetition of the figures:—

12345678	34872156
21354687	43827165
12536478	34281756
21563487	43218765
12654378	34127856
21645387	43172865
12463578	34718256
21436587	43781265
24163857	47318625

Considered separately we have at least two legitimate slow eights which will run the full plain course of 64 changes, and these, by amalgamation, will give a plain course of 128 changes.

The Systems which are given below contain the whole of the 128 changes mentioned—no more, no less—and all four Systems are one and the same. It seems very strange to me we should be told that the two slow eights when considered separately are legitimate, but when spliced together—as below—they are something else.

12345678	12345678	12345678	12345678
21354687	21354687	21354687	21354687
12536478	13254768	12536478	21436587
21563487	31245786	21563487	12463578
25136847	13427568	25136847	21645387
52163874	31472586	52163874	12654378
25618347	34127856	25618347	16245738
52681374	43172865	52681374	61254783
25863147	34718256	56218734	16527438
52836174	43781265	65281743	61572483
25381647	34872156	56827134	65127843
52318674	43827165	65872143	56172834
53281764	34281756	68527413	65718243
35218746	43218765	86572431	56781234
53127864	42381675	68754213	57618324
35172846	24318657	86745231	75681342
	42136875		57863124
31527486	24163857	68472513	75836142

It was rather amusing—and nothing new to me—to see Mr. James's analysis of No. 1 System.

Mr. James must know very well if one is out for extents in Systems—as in peal composition—that one cannot pick and choose, and, as I mentioned at the time, the twenty-two change division is only two changes short of the full extent possible in Major Systems that have reciprocal relationship.

Yours etc.,

GEORGE BAKER.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

A district meeting was held at Waltham Abbey on Saturday, Feb. 7th, but there was only a small attendance, owing to the bad weather. The tea and business meeting was held at the Green Dragon Hotel, the Master (Mr. F. Pitstow) presiding, supported by the Secretary (Mr. W. Watts) and Mr. W. A. Alps (Master of the Waltham Abbey Society). Mr. John Nugas, of Elmdon, was elected a probationary member, and Mr. W. A. Alps, a life member, on his leaving the county. It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Stansted.

Mr. G. Dent proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, also to Mr. D. Tarling, steeple keeper. Mr. W. A. Alps replying on behalf of the Vicar and churchwardens, said they were always pleased to welcome the association to Waltham Abbey. The following places were represented:—London, Walthamstow, Cheshunt, Saffron Walden, Stansted, Harlow St. Marys, Harlow Common, Broxbourne, and the local company. Various touches were rung on the Abbey Bells, including Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Plain Bob.

DEAN ON THE BELLS OF HEAVEN.

Preaching at the Ringers' Service at Bocking, the Very Rev. the Dean of Bocking (Canon Brownrigg) preached from the text "The song of the Lord began with the trumpets," from Chronicles II. The Dean said the use of bells for summoning worshippers to God's House was not known to the Jews, who used trumpets for the purpose. The first application of bells to church use was by Bishop Paulinus, A.D. 400. In England, bells did not come into use in our churches until 900 years ago, about the time when Bocking Church was built. Just over 900 years ago, the church and the land at Bocking were given by two Saxon gentlemen to the Church at Canterbury, the gift being witnessed by King Ethelred, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of Winchester. The first Norman Church at Bocking stood upon the site of the present parish church, and here bells had always marked the beginning of the services. From year to year the bells had spoken the same clear and distinct note; the bells changed not, and the old truth which they proclaimed remained. The world was not made by chance, nor left to chance, but at the beginning it depended upon God. As the bells were rung in perfect harmony, so they illustrated the life of Christ from the Manger to the Cross—nothing out of tune or harmony. And so in the life of the Church—every doctrine and sacrament was in harmony, nothing was out of place or superfluous, and nothing could be dispensed with. They dare not blot out any doctrine or sacrament from the Church, because to do so would mean throwing the whole system out of joint; it would be just as wise to take one bell from the church tower and try to ring a peal. Church bells were a picture of the Church system, from which nothing could be taken without serious loss. In the present day the passing bell had lost much of its meaning, because it was so long delayed after death; it was meant to remind parishioners of the passing of a soul, that the prayers of the faithful might be raised. He thought the passing bell might sound earlier, in order to bring comfort to the hearts of those who were sorrowing, and prayers to the lips of those who heard. The Dean added that he did not know whether there would be bells in heaven, as well as trumpets and harps and all that was good, but perhaps there would be bells. Whatever God's servants loved and appreciated on earth would be in heaven to meet them after passing through the valley of the shadow of death. All the trumpets would be sounding and it might be the bells would be ringing when those who had been faithful in God's service were welcomed on the other side, where Jesus stood to bring all into perfect harmony.

After the service the ringers were entertained to tea by the Dean and Mrs. Brownrigg at the Deanery. Mr. C. H. Howard presided at the business meeting, when twelve new members were elected. There were ringers present, in spite of the inclement weather, from Bocking, Braintree, Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, Sible Hedingham, Maldon, Rayne, Stebbing, and Stisted. At the close the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, vicar of Great Totham, and hon. sec. to the Essex Association of Change Ringers, proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean and Mrs. Brown-

rigg for their hospitality, and at the same time thanked the Dean for his excellent sermon.—Mr. Eyre said he had heard a great many sermons preached on bells and ringing, but never had he heard before the text taken which the Dean of Bocking chose, and from that sermon ringers and other Church people could take many sacred and inspiring thoughts.—The Dean of Bocking said he had been delighted to welcome the ringers, and he hoped they would come again.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL GUILD.

The Annual Supper, in connection with the above guild took place at the Hop Market Hotel, Worcester on Friday, February 13th. About 25 members and friends sat down, including ringers from Upton, Soodsbry, Madresfield, and Hallow. The Warden (Rev. F. L. Whateley) presiding, announced apologies for absence from the following:—Rev. Tupper, Rev. Canon Wilson, the Dean, Rev. Dr. Moore Ede, Mr. J. R. Newman, and Mr. A. Hill. After showing that they could ring the changes on other good things besides bells, a musical programme was arranged and carried through, as follows:—Overture, Mr. H. Johnson. A course of Grandsire Caters and other selections on handbells were rung by Messrs. W. C. Jones, W. H. Johnson, R. G. Knowles, G. Hinton, and J. Morris. Songs, recitations, etc., were rendered by Rev. F. L. Whateley, Messrs. J. Morris, G. Richings, G. Perry, T. Brown, J. Clements, H. Johnson, R. G. Knowles. Accompanist, Mr. H. Johnson.

NEW BELLS AT DARESURY.

Owing to the lack of space, the account of the dedication of the new ring of 8 bells, tenor 16½ cwt., for All Saints' Church, Daresbury, nr. Warrington, is held over until next week.

It is interesting to note that a peal was rung upon the bells on Sunday afternoon after the dedication, in which two of Messrs. Warner's bell hangers took part.

Several interesting and unusual features are embodied in this work of restoration, and, in view of the various opinions of well-known ringers with regard to the position of the main girders, it will be found that the main girders, as generally known in bell work, have been entirely eliminated, and Messrs. Warner's new steel frame is only supported at the four corners of the tower by diagonal steel set-offs, thus taking a bearing at the strongest point of the tower, and also tying all four walls together.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT MANCHESTER.

On Saturday, February 14th, a mixed band of the Lancashire Association met at the Town Hall to attempt a peal of Stedman Caters, on the noble peal of ten (tenor 52 cwt.) in honour of the birthday of Mr. Richard Newton, now in Boston, U.S.A.

Mr. Newton was for over 27 years a member of the Manchester City Police Force, and a well-known and respected member of the Town Hall Band of ringers.

Unfortunately, owing to a trip in the slow, the attempt for the peal came to an untimely end in the sixth course, time not permitting for another start to be made, a quarter peal of Stedman Caters was rung in grand style by the following:—H. W. Wilde 1, H. Jackson 2, J. T. Bottrill 3, F. Page 4, C. Page 5, J. Ridyard 6, J. Potter (conductor) 7, W. Davies 8, H. Chapman 9, R. F. Williams (tenor), after which an adjournment was made to the Midland Hotel, where by the kind forethought of Mr. Newton, refreshment had been provided, his brother strings wishing him many happy returns of the day.

HANDBELLS.—Fine set of 44 for Sale, with Music specially arranged, 6 Stands, Stick and Tin Trunk.—CHARLES BARBER, Littleton, Liversedge, Yorks.

"THE BELL NEWS," post free, 1s. 8d. per quarter, or 6s. 6d. per year

BOB ROYAL.

By JAMES GEORGE, Rugby.

23456	W	M	H
46235	-	S	-
23465	-	-	-
54236	-	-	-
25436	-	-	-
42536	-	-	-
53426	-	-	-
45326	-	-	-
34526	-	-	-
52346	-	-	-
35246	-	-	-
32546	-	S	-
53246	-	-	-
25346	-	-	-
23546	-	S	-

Repeated.

This peal contains the 6th the extent at home.

BOB ROYAL.

By H. PRICE.

23456789	W	H
45236978	-	-
2453	-	-
5243	-	-
4352	-	-
5432	-	-
3254	-	-
5324	-	-
2534	-	-
3452	S	-
5234	-	-
3524	-	-
2354	-	-
5423	-	-
2543	-	-
4253	-	-
5342	-	-
4532	-	-
3245	-	-
4325	-	-
2435	-	-
3542	S	-
4235	-	-
3425	-	-
2345	-	-

452368970

234567890

The first and two last courses thus: 1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 4: the 24 9780s.

FOR SALE.—Set of 57 handbells (E flat scale) by Mears and Stainbank, in perfect condition; complete in strong travelling box, collapsible table, padding, plush cover, music books. Accept £18 for quick sale. Cost £40.—CLIFTON, 18, Charles Street, Newport, Mon.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

(WESTERN BRANCH.)

The first meeting of the year, for this Branch, was held at Areley Kings on Saturday, February 14th. The Rector of the Parish conducted a service in the Church at four o'clock. In his address he said how pleased he was to welcome the members to his Church on this the first visit of the Association. His remarks on the history of the bells, which date from 1621 to 1905, was listened to very attentively, this, with the help of the organist and choir-men, making a pleasant and enjoyable service.

Tea followed in the Parish Room, kindly provided by friends and nicely arranged by the local ringers. The business meeting followed with the Rector presiding, members attending from the Cathedral and St. John's, Worcester; Upton-on-Severn, Suckley, Marley, Hallow, Powick, Ombersley, Shrawley, Malvern Link, Madresfield, and the local ringers, with Mr. T. J. Salter, of Kidderminster, and others.

The quarterly peal was arranged to be attempted at Areley Kings, and Mr. J. Reynolds to be conductor. Welland was the place selected for the next meeting, to be held on June 20th. One life hon. member, two hon. members, one life performing and five performing members were elected. The bells at the Church were rung before and after the service; this included touches of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob, Double Stedman and Plain Bob Minor, also several six-scores of Doubles for the young ringers. The handbells being rung in the Parish Room to Caters and Triples, was much appreciated. The members who visited Areley Kings are very pleased with the arrangements made for their comfort, this greatly helping to make a very successful meeting.

RINGERS AT THE FEAST.

ST. JOHN DE SEPULCHRE, NORWICH.

The annual complimentary dinner to the ringers and members of the Choir took place on Thursday, February 12th, at the Criterion Cafe. Several gentlemen of the congregation, and friends from St. Peter Mancroft were also present. Between 40 and 50 sat down to an excellent dinner, the Vicar (Rev. G. N. Herbert, M.A.) presiding, supported by both Churchwardens (Mr. F. P. Pear and Mr. W. B. Greenfield, J.P.), Mr. Geo. Smith, Mr. Chas. E. Borrett (Secretary of the Diocesan Association of Ringers), Mr. Geo. Tyrrell (Choirmaster), Mr. F. R. Franklin (Organist), Mr. Geo. Mayers (Ringing Master), Mr. W. W. Goodbourn (Deputy Ringing Master), Mr. S. Robertson, Mr. Wellington, Mr. Cogman, and others. The Toast of "The King" was proposed by the Rev. G. N. Herbert, M.A., while Mr. F. P. Pear gave "The Vicar," to which Mr. Herbert responded; "The Ringers, Choir, and Officials," was proposed by Mr. G. Smith, and responded to by Mr. Platten; while Mr. Wellington gave "The Visitors," to which Mr. Sedley Robertson made reply. A capital musical programme was contributed by Mr. F. Carrington, Mr. G. Tyrrell, Mr. C. Brundell, Mr. W. W. Goodbourn, Mr. H. Chamberlin, Mr. E. Cogman, Mr. Harry Carver, and Mr. Mobbs. The accompanist was Mr. F. R. Franklin. A vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Borrett, seconded by Mr. W. Tyrrell, which ended a most enjoyable evening.

PEAL CARDS.

You want to keep a record of the peals in which you ring. You can get them nicely printed on tinted bordered cards from this Office at 1s. 1d. per doz., post free, if the order is sent accompanied by Postal Order when the peal is sent for insertion; otherwise the price is 1s. 6d. Send for specimens of new selection, which surpasses any others yet sent out. A Ringer writes:—"I and the rest of the band are very pleased with such nice cards as you supply."

We can also supply Records of Peals printed on large Cards, tinted and with grandly illuminated borders, suitable for framing and hanging in your Ringing Chamber, at 3s. 6d. each.

A customer writes:—"I must thank you for the beautifully printed peal-board of 'Newton peal.' It was indeed past my expectations, and we are delighted with it."

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THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

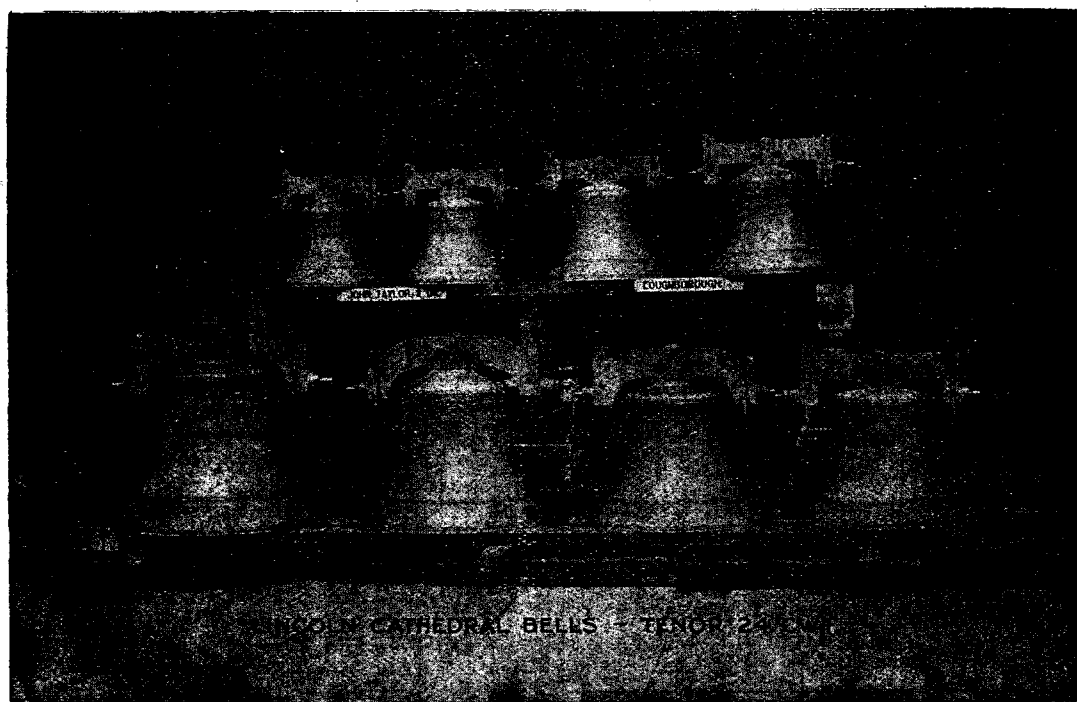
CHESHUNT Herts).—On Sunday, February 1st, for evening service, 726 Stedman Triples. W. G. Darlington, G. Maxim, H. Cornwell, F. Jelf, H. G. Rowe (conductor), R. Tracey, H. Simmons, R. Smith. On Sunday, February 15th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. H. G. Rowe, G. Andrews, G. Maxim, W. G. Darlington, F. Jelf, C. Dilling, H. Simmons (conductor), R. Smith. For evening service, 252 Stedman Triples and 392 Grandsire Triples. G. Andrews, G. Maxim, W. G. Darlington, H. Cornwell, F. Jelf, H. Simmons, H. G. Rowe (conductor), R. Smith.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND —On Sunday morning, February 15th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Argent, J. Burler, G. Jones, F. Hayes, G. Ambrose, F. Mitchell (conductor). In the evening, 720 Cambridge Surprise. H. Argent, J. Burler, G. Jones, G. Ambrose, F. Mitchell (conductor), F. Hayes. Ring to welcome the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. H. Holden, of Eopham.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD (Gloucestershire).—On Tuesday, Feb. 10th, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, 2520 changes, in 1 hr. 33 mins. R. Hookham, H. Gillett, F. E. Davis, F. Bird, E. Pardon, W. Stratford, W. Large (conductor), G. Pugh.

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This is unquestionably the grandest ringing peal in England, and therefore in the world." The late Lord Grimthorpe, K.C.
Times, Nov. 20, 1878.

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of Notices under this heading Sixpence for 36 words, for the first insertion repetitions at half that price. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—Established 1637.—Meetings for practice will be held at St. John's, Hackney, on February 17th; St. Magnus, Lower Thames Street on the 12th and 26th; St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, on the 17th; Southwark Cathedral on the 24th. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturdays. St. Magnus 7.30, the others at 8 p.m. The subscription of 1s. 8d. which entitles members to vote on matters of finance, should be paid before February 28th.

William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec.

32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

Durham and Newcastle Association.—The Pre-Lent meeting of the above Association will be held at Cramlington on Saturday, February 21st. Bells available afternoon and evening by kind permission of the Vicar. Committee meeting at 4.30 p.m., and tea at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Those intending to be present, please communicate not later than February 16th, with

R. Stephenson.

2, Cleveland Terrace, West Hartlepool.

Winchester Diocesan Guild.—The next meeting will be held at Aldershot, on Saturday, February 21st 3.30, St Michael's bells (6) available till 9 p.m.; 5.30, Service, preacher Rev. F. O. T. Hawkes, Vicar; 6. Tea in the Parish Hall—Tickets 6d. each to members, 1s. to visitors. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid at or before the meeting.

John J. Jones, Hon. Sec.

North Street, Guildford.

Lancashire Association. — Manchester Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church Prestwich, on Saturday, February 21st. Bells available from 4.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock. Bells available from 3.30; meeting at 7; service in church at 7.15; bells 8 to 9 p.m.

W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec.

Guild of Change-Ringers for the Archdeaconry of Salop.—The next quarterly meeting of the Guild will be held at Shifnal on Saturday, February 21st, 1914. Ringing at 3.0 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m.

Rev. H. B. Beckwith, Hon. Sec.

Ridgemonnt, Shrewsbury.

Worcestershire and Districts Association (Southern Branch).—A quarterly meeting will be held at Cropthorne on Saturday, Feb. 21st. Bells available afternoon and evening; business meeting at 6 p.m.

J. Hemming, Branch Sec.

29 Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

The Lancashire Association.—Rossendale Branch.—The next Branch Meeting will be held at St. James, Haslingden on Sat., February 21st. Bells ready at 5.30 p.m. Meeting at 7.30 a good attendance requested. Subscriptions are also due.

J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec.

31 St. Pauls St., Ramsbottom.

St. Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham. Established 1755.—The Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at Ye Olde Royal Hotel, Temple Row, on Saturday, February 28th, at 6.30 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Canon J. W. Willink, Rector of Birmingham. Tickets free to all fully qualified members whose subscriptions are paid up to date, to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) and St John's (8) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock.

A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec.

11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

The Kent County Association.—Canterbury District.—A meeting, principally for Stedman practice, will be held at Chilham on Saturday, February 28th, commencing at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

E. Trendell, Hon. Dist. Sec.

The Dudley and District Guild.—The annual meeting of this Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 7th. Tower open at 3.30; service in church at 5 o'clock, to be conducted by the Rev. A. Gray Maitland, Vicar of Dudley. A free tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than Wednesday, March 4th. Business meeting afterwards. Subscriptions are due, and should be paid at this meeting.

Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.,

113, Himley Road, Dudley.

The Lancashire Association.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The half-yearly meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Church of St. James, Barrow-in-Furness, on Saturday, March 7th, 1914. By kind permission of the Vicar the peal of eight bells will be available at noon. Meeting at 4 o'clock. Tea kindly provided by the local ringers after the meeting.

W. Robinson, Branch Secretary.

Thorn Field, Smithy Brow, Ambleside.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—North Bucks, Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Swanbourne, on Saturday, March 7th. Service at 3.0 p.m.

Thos. Best, Secretary.

Bletchley.

The Kent County Association.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14th, at the Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Swanscombe. Tower open from 3.30 p.m. Half railway fares allowed. Subscriptions are now due.

Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. Sec.

77, Bill Street Road, Frindsbury, Rochester.

Herts Association (Western Division).—A meeting will be held at Oxhey and Bushey on the 21st instant. The bells at the former church will be available at 3.30, and those of the latter after tea. Tea at the Institute, Bushey, at 5.30.

43, Heath Road,
Oxhey, Watford.

H. Eden, Hon. Sec.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND THE LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

ACTON.—For C.E.M.S. Service at St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, February 15th, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. *R. H. Boddington, H. W. Cotton †H. Holloway, Robt. Holloway, V. Holloway, J. W. Frun, J. R. Mackman conductor, *A Roker *First quarter-peal. †First on an inside bell

STAFFORD.—At St. Mary's Church, on Saturday, February 14th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins. G. Booth, F. V. Haggis, W. H. Jones, F. Ryell, J. Warri low, J. J. Taylor, A. Moreton (conductor) J. Spencer.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—On Sunday, February 15th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 46 mins. W. Latter, G. Thompson (conductor), S. Faithful, A. Barden, W. Smith, H. Sellars (first quarter-peal), H. Porter, K. Ruth. First quarter-peal of Stedman as conductor.

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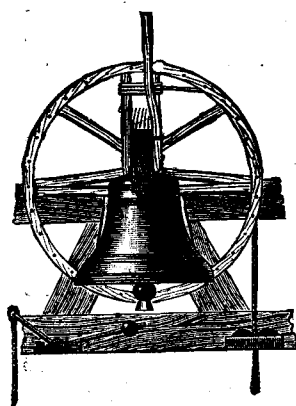
The 12 Bells at Southwark Cathedral were Rehung by us September, 1911. Since then 2 peals of Cambridge Maximus, 3 of Treble Bob Maximus, 9 of Stedman Cinques and 1 of Stedman Caters have been rung on them by various Societies.

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