



THE LATE LEONARD PROCTOR, ESQ., J.P.

MR. PROCTOR, the head of a family which has been seated at Benington for nearly three centuries, was born in January, 1816. From a very early age he took an interest in bells, as he could ring a bell in 1829, when he went to Eton, where he rang the bell at the death of George IV. After spending his school-days at Eton College, he went in 1834 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in January, 1838. It was at Cambridge that he first entered on the study of the science and art of change-ringing, practising chiefly on the fine ring of twelve contained in the tower of Great St. Mary's, the University Church.

Here was laid the foundation of that proficiency which has rendered Mr. Proctor's name so deservedly famous for nearly sixty years in ringing circles. After taking up his abode in the home of his fathers at Benington, Mr. Proctor added to the ring of bells in the tower of his parish church; and here, together with a band of his own men, he made himself master of all the best-known and most-admired crank methods. The Benington band was for many years the leading band in England, being proficient in Double Norwich Court, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise, ringing a peal of each. These feats are seen to be all the more remarkable when it is remembered that they were all achieved by ringers resident in one and the same small country parish. As may easily be imagined, Benington has always been a favourite spot with ringers. Nowhere did a ringer meet with a more cordial, hearty welcome, or with more generous hospitality, than at the house of 'The Squire.'

The Squire and his men grew old together. After he discontinued ringing, little was done in that way by them. The band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants. Benington was Mr. Proctor's world. He had few pursuits outside, and left it very seldom. Latterly he lived almost alone: he became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life, and was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.

'I HAVE found them of great service in the case of singers and public speakers,' wrote the great throat doctor, the late Sir Morell Mackenzie, of SODEN-MINERAL PASTILLES. For Hoarseness, Relaxed Throat, Clergyman's Sore Throat, and Irritating Cough simply invaluable. Saline and Odourless. All Chemists, 1s. 1½d. [Advt.]

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## BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

## The Chester Diocesan Guild.

WIRRAL BRANCH.—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Bebington on Saturday, March 9th, about eighteen members being present, representing the following towers:—Bebington, Bidston, Bromborough, Rock Ferry, and Woodchurch. The Rev. A. Neild (curate of Bebington) occupied the chair in the absence of the Rev. Canon Feilden, who was unable to be present on account of illness. The principal business was to finally adopt the rules for a Tontine Society, which this Branch has decided to start on July 1st. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for entertaining the members to tea, and also to the Rev. A. Neild, for presiding. Several touches were rung during the afternoon and evening by mixed bands.

## Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

5040							5040								
2	3	4	5	6	1	4	6	2	3	4	5	6	1	4	5
3	5	6	2	4	s	1	1	4	3	6	5	2	1	1	1
5	6	3	2	4		1	1	6	3	2	5	4	1	1	1
2	3	6	5	4	1	1		2	6	4	3	5		1	1
3	6	2	5	4		1	1	4	2	5	6	3		1	1
5	2	6	3	4	1	1		4	3	5	2	6	1	1	1
2	6	5	3	4		1	1	4	6	5	3	2	1	1	1
6	5	2	3	4		1	1	5	4	2	6	3		1	1
3	2	5	6	4	1	1		5	3	2	4	6	1	1	1
Twice repeated, produce—							5								
3	2	4	5	6				5	6	2	3	4	1	1	1
2	5	6	3	4	s	1	1	2	5	4	6	3		1	1
5	6	2	3	4		1	1	4	2	3	5	6		1	1
3	2	6	5	4	1	1		First part.							
2	6	3	5	4		1	1	4	6	3	2	5	1	1	1
6	3	2	5	4		1	1	3	4	5	6	2		1	1
5	2	3	6	4	1	1		3	2	5	4	6	1	1	1
2	3	5	6	4		1	1	3	6	5	2	4	1	1	1
This part twice repeated.							5	3	4	6	2		1	1	
Only the 4th, 5th, and 6th in							5	2	4	3	6	1	1	1	
a place at the course-ends.							5	6	4	2	3	1	1	1	
							4	5	3	6	2		1	1	
							3	4	2	5	6		1	1	

## Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

8064					
2	3	4	5	6	1 4 6
5	4	3	2	6	1 1
4	3	5	2	6	1
2	5	3	4	6	1 1
5	3	2	4	6	1
3	2	5	4	6	1
2	4	6	3	5	s 1 1
3	6	4	2	5	1 1
6	4	3	2	5	1
4	3	6	2	5	1
2	6	3	4	5	1 1
6	3	2	4	5	1
3	2	6	4	5	1

Five times repeated.

This peal has the 4th, 5th, and 6th the extent in 6th place at the course-ends without the 2nd or 3rd being there.

## 6048

2	3	4	5	6	1 4 6
5	3	6	2	4	1 1 1
2	6	3	5	4	1 1
6	3	2	5	4	1
3	2	6	5	4	1
5	6	2	3	4	1 1
6	2	5	3	4	1
3	5	2	6	4	1 1
5	2	3	6	4	1
2	3	5	6	4	1

Five times repeated.

Single for bob in the course marked \* of the 3rd and 6th parts.

Only the 4th, 5th, and 6th in 6th place at the course-ends.

JOHN CARTER.

## The Essex Association of Change-ringers.

A DISTRICT meeting of the above will be held at Kelvedon on Easter Monday. The towers of Coggeshall (eight bells), Feeing (six bells), and Inworth (five bells), will be open to ringers. Also the fine lately augmented peal of six at Kelvedon will be at liberty. Tea will be provided at five p.m., to be followed by business meeting. Ringers intending to be present should

announce the same and the station from which they proceed not later than the previous Thursday to me, HENRY T. W. EYRE, Association Sec. Great Totham Vicarage, Witham.

At Christ Church, West Bromwich, Staffordshire.

On Tuesday, the 12th inst., the following members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a peal of 5008 GRANDSIRE CATERERS, in 3 hrs. 7 mins. H. Hipkiss, 1; S. Reeves (conductor), 2; J. E. Groves, 3; J. Walker, 4; T. Horton, 5; W. Smith, 6; A. Griffiths, 7; J. Hall, 8; R. Hall, 9; J. Hares, 10. The peal was composed by the late Mr. H. Johnson, of Birmingham, with the 6th twenty-four times at home and twenty-four times behind the 9th without an 8-9 or 7-8 being called. It was rung in honour of Mr. J. E. Groves' birthday, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day.

At St. Peter's, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 3 hrs. W. G. Hall, 1; B. Dalton, 2; H. Knight, 3; H. Dawkes, 4; W. Smith, 5; A. Griffiths, 6; J. E. Groves (conductor), 7; F. Jones, 8. The above is a variation of Parker's Twelve-part peal, and was rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

A Muffled Peal at St. James's, Clerkenwell, London.

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., eight members of the Clerkenwell Society of Ringers rang a half-muffled peal (the usual whole-pull-and-stand) in memory of the late Leonard Proctor, Esq., of Benington, Herts, who died on the 7th inst., and was buried at Benington on Tuesday, the 12th, when a muffled peal was rung at the village church. C. Linstead, 1; A. Linstead, 2; E. March, 3; R. Matthews, 4; J. Bissmire, 5; W. F. Meads, 6; J. Barry (conductor), 7; J. Rayner, 8.

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