

Bells and Bell-Ringers.

Anniversary of the late John Meaton.

Saturday, April 7th, being the anniversary of the birthday of the late Mr. John Meaton, of Gloucester, campanologist, in accordance with the bequest in his will, the Ancient Society of Crypt Youths, accompanied by their master (Mr. J. Gillett) and the treasurer (Mr. A. C. Tomes), journeyed to Mitcheldean, where they were met by Dr. Searancho, and Messrs. W. H. Bennett, A. Chew, and E. Brain, and, proceeding to the church, several touches in the following methods were rung:—Grandsire, Stedman, and Erin Triples; Plain Bob, Forward, Double Norwich, and Cambridge Surprise Major; after which the Youths and their friends adjourned to a sumptuous meat tea, provided by Host Hatton at the Greyhound Hotel, in his best style, and presided over by the treasurer. When full justice had been done to the good fare, the chairman proposed the toast of "To the memory of the Donor," "The Mitcheldean and Ruardean Friends." Mr. A. Chew proposed "The Society of Crypt Youths." The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony and handbell-ringing, the party arriving home at 10 p.m.

Dedication at Dowlish Wake.

SERMON BY THE ARCHDEACON OF TAUNTON.

It was a day full of pleasant memories and of great interest to the inhabitants of the pretty little village of Dowlish Wake, near Ilminster, a day of importance, too, in the history of the finely-rundered parish church of St. Andrew, of which the villagers are so justly proud. On that day was dedicated a new bell, the gift of the beloved Rector, the Rev. F. H. Mules, and then also were re-dedicated the old bells, which had been tuned and re-hung.

The new bell, which cost 49l. 15s., is a treble, and bears the inscription: "To the glory of God, and with humble thanks for many blessings received during twenty-five years as Rector, this bell is offered by Francis Howard Mules, 1906." One of the four old bells has been re-cast, the others have been tuned, and the whole re-hung. What is now the second bell bears the inscription: "George Rook gave this bell, 1634," and the names "Mr. John Simons, Mr. James Burgin, wardens, 1736," which shows that it was evidently re-cast in that year. The third bell is inscribed: "Sancta Maria. F. G." "F. G." was the predecessor of Roger Simson, bell-founder, of Ash Priors, near Taunton, who carried on business about the year 1548. The fourth bell, the one which has been re-cast, now bears the inscription, "F. H. Mules, Rector; W. A. G. Dare and G. Norton, churchwardens, 1906." The most interesting bell of the ring, however, is the fifth, which is known as a "Jesus Bell." It was cast by Robert Norton, bell-founder, of Exeter, in the reign of Henry VI., and is in all probability 450 or 460 years old. It is interesting to mention that this bell is one of the seventeen known "Jesus" bells in Somerset, and that all of these are said to be in the archdeaconry of Taunton. The Dowlish Wake "Jesus" bell is inscribed: "I. H. S. Est mihi collatum istud nomen amatum"—"Jesus, the Saviour of men; that blessed Name is conferred upon me." The bells have been re-hung in a combination oak and iron cage, this work having been satisfactorily carried out by Mr. Thomas Doble, of Taunton.

The service, which was of an impressive character, commenced with the hymn "Lift the strain of high thanksgiving." After the recital of some Collects, and during the chanting of Psalm cxxii., the Archdeacon, Rector, and churchwardens, followed by the ringers, proceeded to the tower, where the Archdeacon first solemnly dedicated the new bell "to the glory of God and to the use of this church," and in the name of the ever-blessed Trinity, and then re-dedicated the old bells, using similar words. A peal was then rung on the bells by the village ringers. The Ven. Archdeacon Askwith delivered a very appropriate and interesting sermon, taking as his text Psalm xix. 3, 4. He said the first verse of his text was inscribed in Latin on a bell in the tower of Antwerp Cathedral, and that was the reason why he had chosen those verses as his text that afternoon. He referred to the various uses of church bells and pointed out how much they entered into the lives of the people.

Dealing more particularly with the improvements carried out in connection with the bells of that church, the preacher said he was very proud that the bells had been re-hung by one who lived in his parish at Taunton. They could understand that it was not only necessary for one who fixed up bells in a tower to be a good workman, but that it was also important that he should be a bell-ringer himself, and be able to understand when the work was finished

whether it answered the purpose in every respect. For that reason he was very glad that the work had been intrusted to Mr. Doble, of Taunton. Before concluding, the Archdeacon gave a very interesting description of the bells in the tower, making particular reference to the "Jesus" bell. There were, he said, seventeen of those bells in the Taunton archdeaconry, and he thought there might possibly be more in the whole diocese. Some were to be found in the diocese of Exeter. The work completed that day had been carried out for the promotion of God's glory and for the honour of their parish church.

Afterwards 120 Grandsire Doubles were rung on the bells by the following:—Messrs. T. Doble, Taunton (conductor), Ben. Coombes, G. Sibley, D. J. Taylor, and Walter Coombes.

The London County Association (i.e. the St. James's Society).

On Saturday, April 28th, 1906, in 3hrs. 21mins., at the Church of St. Magnus-the-Martyr, City of London. A peal of Stedman Caters. 5,139 changes. Tenor 20cwt.

*Edwin Barnett, Jun.	Treble	James E. Davis	6
Mark Woodcock	2	Arthur J. Neale	7
Frederick G. Perrin	3	William Hartshorne	8
Horatio Gummer, Jun.	4	Alfred B. Peck	9
William Weatherstone ...	5	Arthur N. Hardy	Tenor

Composed by J. P. Bradley, and conducted by James E. Davis.

*First peal of Caters.

On Monday, April 30th, 1906, in 2hrs. 57mins., at the Church of St. Mary, Putney, S.W. A peal of Stedman Triples. 5,040 changes. Sir A. P. Heywood's variation of Thurstan's Four-part. Tenor 16cwt.

William H. Fussell	Treble	Edward Cassell	5
Thomas H. Taffender	2	John T. Kentish	6
*George Edser, Jun.	3	Frank Skevington	7
William F. Hartshorne ...	4	George W. Coombes	Tenor

Conducted by Thomas H. Taffender.

*First peal in the method.

Walpole, Norfolk.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH.)

On Monday, April 16th, 1906, in 3hrs. 2mins., at the Church of St. Andrew, a peal of Minor, 5,040 changes, being two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, and three 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 17cwt.

W. G. Cross	Treble	J. B. Hallifax	4
W. Smith	2	G. Ladd	5
H. Hill	3	R. Richardson	Tenor

Conducted by W. Smith.

This is the first peal rung in Marshland, and the first since the ring has been augmented to six.

"George Peal"—Harlow, Essex.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 23rd (St. George's Day), in 3hrs. 2mins., at the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, a peal of Treble Bob Major, 5,088 changes, Kent Variation. Tenor 12cwt. 9lb.

George Barker	Treble	George Black	5
George Pipe	2	George Carter	6
George Margetson	3	George Faulkner	7
George Radley	4	George Dent	Tenor

Composed by George Newson and conducted by George Dent.

Bromley, Kent.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, April 24th, 1906, in 2hrs. 49mins., at the Church of St. Peter and Paul, a peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes. Thurstan's Four-part. Tenor 19cwt.

George H. Kite	Treble	Thomas Groombridge ..	5
Herbert P. Harman	2	George Huxley	6
Isaac Emery	3	George Durling	7
James E. Davis	4	George Head	Tenor

Conducted by George Durling.

First peal in the method as conductor.

It is with regret we have to announce the death of Mr. William Wakley, for many years a ringer of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. A short memoir will appear later.

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