

Bells and Bell-Ringers.

In Memoriam.

WILLIAM WAKLEY, OF BURTON-ON-TRENT.

On April 24th William Wakley passed to his rest at the comparatively early age of fifty-three years. His interests were many and wide, as were his friends. Born at Gittisham, Devon, on February 12th, 1853, he migrated in the year 1874 to Burton, where he spent the rest of his life. In August, 1877, he married Miss Louisa H. Macer, of Sidmouth, and leaves, besides his wife, two sons and five daughters. In 1878 he became a sidesman of St. Paul's, the new church built by the late Mr. Bass; and from 1882 to 1884 he was Vicar's warden. The Rev. J. H. Fish, at that time Incumbent of the church, was an ardent promotor of change-ringing; and Mr. Wakley energetically co-operated with him in bringing the St. Paul's Society of Change-ringers to a pitch of excellence that has nowhere been surpassed. From the year 1874 till the time of his death he occupied the position of leader and principal conductor to the St. Paul's ringers.

Of the gradual rise of the St. Paul's Society to the very summit of the art of ringing it is unnecessary here to speak. In the year 1882 Mr. Fish bestirred himself, in conjunction with his own ringers and others in Derby, to found the Midland Counties Association, which embraced roughly the districts around Burton, Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester. Mr. Wakley became hon. treasurer of the Association in 1883, and continued from that date to hold the office to the end of his life. In the year 1891 the Central Council of Ringers was formed, and with this body Mr. Wakley was from its inception connected, first as an honorary member, later as a delegate. It is noteworthy that his first peal was also the first on the then new bells of St. Paul's, one of Grandsire Triples, conducted by himself on April 27th, 1876.

But it was not only as a campanologist that Mr. Wakley made his mark. In 1868, when only fifteen years of age, he joined the Volunteers at Buckerill, Devon, and was transferred in 1874 to "A" Company 2nd North Staffordshire Regiment, being made sergeant in 1878 and colour-sergeant in 1899. On six occasions he represented his company at Bisley, and his county, and at Burton he also won numerous other shooting prizes. It should be mentioned, to his no small credit, that since their institution he never missed a church parade or a camp. He had served in the Volunteer force for thirty-eight years, thirty-two with this battalion and twenty-seven years as sergeant and colour-sergeant.

On Easter Monday the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association took place at Burton. Mr. Wakley was present and was again re-elected hon. treasurer of the Association, with hearty thanks for his past long services. On the following Tuesday week he passed to his rest in the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, whither he had been removed in view of a serious internal operation which was considered necessary, but which could not be hurried, and, indeed, was never performed.

On April 28th William Wakley was laid in the Burton Cemetery. The previous evening the coffin had been placed in the church he served so well, and loving watchers guarded the body throughout the night. The special service, the muffled bells and drums, the floral tributes, the gathered ringers, Volunteers, and Yeomanry, Chopin's Funeral March, and full military honours at the grave, brought home to the throng of onlookers that one had gone from them who was esteemed by his fellows as an able, earnest, reliable, and God-fearing man.

The London County Association.

(Late the St. James's Society.)

On Wednesday, May 16th, 1906, in Three hours.

At the Church of St. John, Waterloo-road, S.E.

A Peal of London Surprise Major, 5,088 changes. Tenor 20cwt.

Frederick G. Perrin.....Treble	Henry S. Ellis.....5
Alfred B. Peck.....2	Samuel E. Andrews.....6
Henry R. Newton.....3	William Shimmans.....7
Arthur G. Ellis.....4	John N. Oxborrow.....Tenor

Composed by J. W. Washbrook, and conducted by J. N. Oxborrow.

The London County Association

(Late the St. James's Society), and the

ST. MARGARET'S SOCIETY, WESTMINSTER.

On Saturday, May 19th, 1906, in Three hours and sixteen minutes.

At the Church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

A Peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5,072 changes.

Tenor 26cwt.

William Weatherstone.....Treble	William H. Hollier.....5
Arthur N. Hardy.....2	Thomas Langdon.....6
Frederick G. Perrin.....3	Ernest Brett.....7
Horatio G. Gummer, jun. 4	James E. Davis.....Tenor

Composed by Arthur Craven, and conducted by James E. Davis.

Quedgeley, Gloucestershire.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS.

On Saturday, May 12th, 1906, in Two hours and fifty-five minutes.

At St. James's Church.

A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5,088 Changes. Tenor 9cwt.

Thomas Baldwin.....Treble	Jesse Gillett.....5
Sidney E. Loxton.....2	George Condict, sen.....6
John Austin.....3	Thomas Newman.....7
William Sevier.....4	Ernest E. Davis.....Tenor

Composed by A. Knight, and conducted by John Austin.

Hackington, Canterbury.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 16th, 1906, in Two hours and forty-six minutes.

At the Church of St. Stephen.

A Peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes.

Pitstow's Variation. Tenor 11cwt.

Frederick G. Brett.....Treble	P. H. Pierce.....5
C. Leman.....2	H. G. Fairbrass.....6
Rev. F. J. O. Helmore.....3	E. G. Buesden.....7
C. W. Brett.....4	E. C. Foreman.....Tenor

Conducted by E. G. Buesden.

Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS.

On Saturday, May 19th, 1906, in Three hours.

At St. Mary's Church.

A Peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes. Tenor 23cwt.

Sir A. P. Heywood Variation Thurstan's four-part.

Thomas Baldwin.....Treble	William Sevier.....5
Thomas Newman.....2	John Austin.....6
Jesse Gillett.....3	Ernest E. Davis.....7
George Condict, sen.....4	John Ballenger.....Tenor

Conducted by John Austin.

The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Painswick on Whit Monday, June 4th.—C. E. D. BOUTFLOWER, Hon. Sec., 30, Broad-street, Bristol.

The Kent County Association.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Whit Monday, June 4th, at Tonbridge.—F. J. O. HELMORE, Hon. Sec., Canterbury.

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

The Whitsun Monday meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland. The parish church (St. Andrew's) and the eight at St. John's, Shildon, will be at the disposal of members. Dinner at Newgate-end Cafe, at 1 o'clock.—W. T. ROBSON, Hon. Sec., 24, Ingleby-terrace, Sunderland.

The Lincoln Diocesan Guild.

(EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH)

FLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Tuesday, April 24th, in one hour and fifteen minutes, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, a date touch, 1,906 changes of Minor, being 720 Oxford Treble Bob, 720 Double Oxford, and 466 of Plain Bob:—A. V. Hilliam, H. V. Fletcher, G. R. Truss, Rev. C. J. Sturton, J. B. Hallifax, R. Jarvis (conductor).

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