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PRINCIPAL BELLFOUNDERS

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These famous bell-founding firms have kindly consented to this adaptation of their advertisements to meet the pressure on our space, due to the compulsory reduction in the number of our pages this week.

RINGS OF TWELVE BELLS.

In the interesting and instructive article by Mr. Frost and Mrs. Ferguson on the bells of St. Peter's, St. Albans, we are reminded that the church for a time had a ring of twelve bells. The authors say it did not enjoy a high reputation, and that is rather an understatement, for, by the testimony of those who heard them, the trebles were a miserable failure, and there were few regrets when they were taken away in the year 1881. Recently a legacy has been left of £200 for the improvement of the bells, and the suggestion has been made (at present it is no more than a suggestion) that the trebles should be replaced.

Since 1881 many improvements have been made in bell founding, and among them the English founders have discovered how to control the overtones of small bells. At one time bells of less than a certain weight, or higher than a certain note, could never be made to harmonise with larger bells, and though the strike notes were correct, they always sounded wild and out of tune. That difficulty has been overcome, and a ring of twelve in correct tune with a tenor of no more than 21 cwt. (as at St. Peter's) could be guaranteed by any one of the three leading founders.

What the authorities at St. Peter's will decide to do remains to be seen, and we do not presume to offer comment or advice. But the general question of rings of twelve is worth a little thought. Is it a good thing to have twelve bells in a steeple, either from the point of view of the outside public, or of the ringers?

This is one of those questions about which much can be said on both sides, and about which varying and contradictory opinions may legitimately be held. But there are some conclusions to which experience seems to lead us.

So far as the outside public (which includes everyone who is not a ringer) is concerned, the only value bells have lies in the effect they produce on the listener, and therefore the question amounts to this—Does a ring of twelve bells sound better and has it a greater appeal than a ring of ten or even of eight? To that the answer must be, No, it has not unless in very exceptional circumstances. An ordinary ear will not notice the difference between ten and twelve, and probably the only effect of the two extra trebles is to confuse the sound and obscure the rhythm.

There are some heavy rings like that at St. Paul's Cathedral, where probably the two small bells do add to the effect on the outsider, but it is not easy to judge.

(Continued on page 566.)

The number of those who have heard the ten there must be very small. But it is not of such heavy rings we are thinking, but of those with tenors less than 30 cwt. Nor are we considering the effect on ringers. A man who is accustomed to ringing in a twelve bell tower can train his ear to the rhythms of Cinques and Maximus, and take a delight in them. The ordinary listehers; even the ordinary ringer, has no such training, and the majority of them would be hard put to it to tell how many bells were being rung.

The effect of bells on the listener does not depend on the number that is being rung. We must not forget that those rings which through the ages have touched the hearts and feelings of the people, and of which poets have sung, are not the heavy bells of great churches, but the humble fives and sixes of the village steeples. There are, of course, great and noble rings with fine reputations, like the bells of Mancroft, for so long the pride and joy of the citizens of Norwich; but magnificent as they are, they do not by contrast in any way lessen the charm of the village bells.

It is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that to increase a ring to twelve does not in any way add to the effect the bells have on the general public, even when they are rung as they should be, and that, unfortunately, is not often.

Why then, it may be asked, do parishes spend money to increase the number of their bells if it has no good result? The answer is, partly because of the laudable desire to have the very best and fullest that can be got, and mainly because of the great reputation twelve-bell ringing has always had among ringers. If there had been no change ringing there never would have been any rings of twelve. This is a matter of history, and not of mere speculation.

But is the possession of a ring of twelve a good thing from the point of view of the ringers? That is a question about which a lot can be said, but for which at present we have no space.

HANDBELL PEALS.

IVER HEATH, BUCKS.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 6, 1942, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
AT SEAFORD, SLOUGH ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

GEORGE M. KILBY	1-2	† ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
* FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW	3-4	EDWARD G. COWARD ...	7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* First peal in the method on handbells. † 100th handbell peal.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 8, 1942, in Two Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

EDWIN JENNINGS	1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ...	5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT	3-4	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ...	7-8

Composed by J. R. WERRING. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

VILLAGE BELLS

Sweet village bells, your tones most truly show
The mingled cup of human joy and woe;
Your jocund sounds attend us when we wed,
And mournful knells bewail us when we're dead.

FABIAN STEDMAN.

AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES.

(Continued from page 544.)

Neither White's 'Rich Cabinet' nor Howlett's 'School of Recreation' has any value as a text book on ringing, and neither is of any use as evidence of the development of the art at the time of its publication; for neither contains anything that was not taken from the 'Tintinnaloga' or the 'Campanaloga.' But both are interesting as showing the popularity of bell ringing among all classes during the closing years of the seventeenth century, and it is not unlikely that there were other similar publications issued at the time which have now been completely forgotten. There was one, more worthless even than those two, which for its oddity may claim our attention for a minute or two.

About the year 1705 was published 'The Shepherd's Kalendar,' or the 'Citizen's and Country Man's Daily Companion.' It is a little book of 157 pages, and contains a chapter on ringing. In the preface the author tells us that 'in this Laboured Work you will find so many Useful and Profitable Things, that I am persuaded to be constrained to acknowledge that you never before found the like (of what Volume soever) and I have digested them into so Easie a Method that any ordinary Capacity may Comprehend what has so long been handled in Ambiguous Sentences, Dark, and Abstruse, to keep all but those who are very learned in Ignorance.' What these so many and profitable things are we may learn from the title page, where they are enumerated as 'many Things that are Useful and Profitable to Mankind, with above Two Hundred Wonderful Curiosities, never before Published. Also a Discourse of the Eclipses of the Sun and Moon with Rules to know when they will happen. Infalible Signs of the Weather. To know when Wet or Dry. and when sudden Storms arise. Hot or Cold Weather by living Creatures. A Curious Observation never made Publick before.

'An Account of the Lucky and Unlucky Days throughout the Year. The Mosaic Wand to find out Hidden Treasures. The Calculations of Nativities and to Resolve all Lawful Questions.

'To which is added:

'The Countryman's Almanack, Directing when to Bleed and Diet the Body; a Treatise of Bees, Warrens, and the ordering of Cattle, Hawks, and how to Kill Vermine. The Measuring Land and Timber. The Art of Ringing. The true Value and Worth of a Single Penny; or a Caution to keep Money.

'Being above Forty years' Study and Experience of a Learned Shepherd.'

A treatise on ringing seems strangely out of place among such a motley company, but it is a sign of the popularity of the art. The Learned Shepherd promised to give a plain and easie Introduction to the Most Curious Art and healthful Exercise of Ringing Musically on 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 Bells, but he badly keeps his promise. He goes no further than 'The Old Doubles and Trebles on Six Bells,' which is a plain course of Bob Minor. He thus begins his chapter—'Since a knowledge of this Art has been much desired by many, and is a very Healthful as well as Pleasant Exercise, I have placed an Introduction in this so useful a Book of Rareties, though at first sight it may appear a Digression

from the rest; however since I have designed this Work to fit every one as near as may be, I cannot but Conclude that this will be desired by many and cannot be hurtful to none.'

After a statement of the number of changes to be had on different numbers of bells there follows a short discourse 'Of Peals.' 'The Musicalness of the Changes not being very Intelligible to Ordinary Ringers, and the best many times puzzled and at a loss to find them out, the more Judicious Professors conclude it necessary to cast peals that so Musical Notes might the better strike the Fancy and lead them to a more feasible and easier to a true understanding in Ringing, rendering it (for their Encouragement) the more taking and delightful, for every Peal on Bells Tuned to the Principals of Musick express the Notes, for in a Peal of Six Bells you have exactly the six Musical Notes, viz., La, Sol, Fa, Mi, Re, Ut. But to make them charming and harmonious they must be struck with skill and deliberation, gradually striking or leading with the lowest Note, and so rising up to the highest and then down to the lowest, causing the Fourth Bell to Hunt up to the Seventh and then dodg'd unless prevented by the Treble and so any other of the number Seven, so that in the complete number of Changes of the first striking there shall not be rung over twice the same. And in this doing you must have a Musical Ear and a Steady Hand to observe the least Defect and mend it by dodging or falling in course as the Bells hunt up or down by putting in between or taking place in a complete Harmony.'

I should imagine that this paragraph is the biggest piece of nonsense that ever has been written seriously about change ringing. Evidently the writer had read the 'Campanalogia,' and was trying to condense it and paraphrase it without in the least understanding it. In fact, to quote his own words, I am persuaded to be constrained to acknowledge that he was no learned shepherd at all, but some hack writer who was given the job of filling up so many pages, which he did by jumbling together odds and ends of sentences from Stedman without regard to their context or meaning.

The next thing our author deals with is Cross Peals. 'Having,' he says, 'already laid the Ground Work for plain peals to introduce the Learner, I now proceed to Cross Peals. These are so termed because of their Intricacy or Cross Method, wherein divers Notes moving as it were at once, Cross each other, some moving up and others down at the same time; and that the Learner may the easier find it out and comply with it, let him observe that one Note, the Hunt, is a guide to the rest; making one constant motion and uniform throughout the Peal, differing from that of the other Notes through keeping a Continual Motion through the several Notes stricken, viz.—From the leading to the striking behind and so thence to the Lead, which Motion up and down is reckoned the compleat Course, tho' some Peals on Five Bells, as the Old Doubles, etc., consist only of single Courses every single Course admitting 10 Changes, and twelve Courses are a compleat Peal; other Peals on Five Bells, as the London Paradox, etc., consist of Double Courses, 20 Changes going to every Course and 6 Double Courses to the Peals; but on 6 Bells there are double and single Courses, viz., 12 Changes to every Single Course as in Grandsire Bob, etc. The Change in which the Hunt leaves leading is

properly the first Change in every Course, and in Cross Peals all the Courses agree in three Respects, (1) in the Motion of the Hunt, (2) in the Motion of the remaining Notes, (3) in the making of the Changes; which being exactly taken Notice of may serve as a certain guide to the Rest; some few Changes in each Peal excepted.'

This is copied from the 'Campanalogia,' and in its original form and context is an accurate and clear description of a lead of a method. Whether it conveyed any meaning to the Learned Shepherd's readers may well be doubted.

New Doubles is given, and descriptions more or less muddled of Doubles and Singles on Four Bells and 'the Peals called Old Doubles and Singles on Five Bells.' In this there is the curious direction that 'the Treble moving down out of the Fifth Place, the bell that comes into it must Remain Silent till the Treble Hunts up to it again'; and this, I think, proves that our Learned Shepherd was a fraud. For Stedman, in his description of The Wild Goose Chase, wrote, 'the bell that moves up into 6th place when the Treble moves down from thence, lieth still there until the Treble displaceth it.' Now the word 'still' had then more than one meaning (as it still has). It might mean 'silent' or 'without sound'; or it might mean 'quiet' (without sound or movement) or it might mean 'constantly' or without intermission. When Stedman wrote that 'the bell . . . lieth still,' he was using an expression which has always been quite familiar to ringers, and which no practical ringer would misunderstand. It may mean, etymologically, either that the bell was not to move out of that position, or that the bell was to be in that position for the whole of the given time—which things in practice are the same. But it could not have meant that the bell was to be silent, and since the Learned Shepherd read it so, it shows he did not understand anything about the art, but was copying unintelligently.

The book, as a whole, is mere trash, and is one of those publications which are printed to be sold to uneducated and credulous people. The name was copied from a popular work which was first printed in France in 1493 and was translated into English and reproduced several times. It is a quaint book with a quantity of astronomical, and other information, but, of course, nothing about ringing.

I know of only one extant copy of the Learned Shepherd's book. It belongs to Mr. E. M. Atkins and was picked up some years ago on a secondhand bookstall. The book is entered in the catalogue of the British Museum Library, but I am informed that the copy has been missing since the year 1879.

(To be continued.)

A NATIONAL RINGERS HOSTEL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am rather surprised that no one has written about the proposal of 'Pro Bono' that there should be a National Ringers' Hostel. It seems an excellent idea, and I can see only one objection and that is the cost. It takes a lot of money in these days to do anything, and I don't see quite where it is to come from.

I have been told that Sir Arthur Heywood once thought of taking a public-house in London and putting a reliable ringer into it, so it could be a centre where ringers could meet, and where ringers from the country could stay. Can you tell us, sir, if there is any truth in this?

MAURICE WHITE.

[We have no knowledge of any definite action in this way by Sir Arthur Heywood, and we do not believe he ever mentioned such a thing publicly. Quite likely he mentioned it casually in conversation, for we have heard the same story more than once.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World'.]

BELFRY GOSSIP.

On December 13th, 1794, the Cumberlands rang at Shoreditch 5,200 changes of what they called Cumberland Treble Bob Royal. There is not much doubt that it was one of the earliest peals of Kent Treble Bob.

The College Youths rang 8,008 changes of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on December 15th, 1735. It was the first on the twelve bells and remained the longest in the method for many years. There were three men at the tenor, but John Cundell rang the eleventh single handed.

On December 15th the Junior Society of Cumberland Youths rang 5,886 changes of Stedman Cinques at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and five days later, on the same bells, the Senior Society beat it with 6,334 changes.

The first peal in Africa, Grandsire Triples at Woodstock, was rung on December 15th, 1904.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three Surprise Major methods fall on the same date—York, at Nupeaton in 1933; Erith, at Erith in 1934; and Newbury, at Bushey in 1938.

What was claimed as the first 720 of Stedman Minor was rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on December 16th, 1819.

The first peal of Canterbury Pleasure Major was rung at Warnham on December 17th, 1888. The method has been well described as 'Bob Major spoiled.'

On the same date in 1923 the Lancashire Association rang the first peal of Palatine Surprise Major, and in 1937 the Helmingham men rang the first peal of Monewdon Surprise Major.

The first peal in the City of Exeter—Grandsire Triples at St. Sidwell's—was rung on December 18th, 1875, and the first peal in five Spliced Surprise Major methods at Willesden on December 18th, 1928.

Four notable anniversaries fall on December 19th. Bob Triples by the College Youths on the old ring of eight at St. Saviour's, Southwark, in 1730; the first peal of Stedman Triples on handbells in 1853; Clifton Surprise Royal at Bristol in 1922; and 7,392 changes of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at St. Mary-le-Bow in 1925. The truth of the handbell peal was afterwards challenged.

The Brighton men rang the first peal of Champion Surprise Major at St. Peter's, Brighton, on December 20th, 1894.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES R. LILLEY.

WELL-KNOWN DEVONSHIRE RINGER.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles R. Lilley, of Perry Farm, Highweek, Newton Abbot, which occurred on December 10th. Mr. Lilley was 68 years of age. The funeral was at Highweek Parish Church on Monday last.

MR. DENNIS BROCK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—After many anxious weeks of waiting, his many friends will have received with thankfulness and joy the news that Mr. Dennis Brock is safe in Italian hands. He is one who has been in the fray right from the word 'go,' and appears to have received rather more than his share of the fortunes of war.

MALCOLM MELVILLE.

The Knowle, Lichfield, Staffs.

WHAT ARE BELLS FOR?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I voice a protest against the attitude of mind and spirit expressed in the letter to you from the Vicar of Sneyd, Stoke-on-Trent, in your issue of the 20th ult.?

It was with pure joy of doing it that I rang in a band of ringers, including two Service men, in response to the country's wish to witness our success in Egypt. Why?

Because it was the medium handed down to us by our history and make-up in our national character.

The Vicar's idea of our great nation being similar to the 'swine of Germany,' indeed the 'Huns' and still the 'Barbarians,' proved in this war by experience! Let him find out from some of our boys now prisoners when it is over, because he evidently has not caught the feeling or spirit of our people to express himself thus.

The bells rang out a message that that victory was indeed a turning point to victory over mass-murder, pillage, robbery, rape, etc. They gave and give messages to our people in a way that no other medium in our life can give in spite of radio, gramophone, etc.

If it were possible to find out the percentage of bells which did not ring this message, I am sure our poor vicar would be very, very much shocked, because it would not be a decimal point of 1 per cent.

Does not he appreciate that our boys are fighting (and the Allied Nations, of course) to enable him to preach the gospel in future?

Can he imagine his future under Germany, Italy and Japan? Let him think of China in her suffering to help him to obtain the right attitude and spirit—spirit, I repeat, to welcome those waves of pure joy emanating from the bells, bells, bells.

His letter made me very sad indeed.

IVAN STANWAY.

2, Ryles Park Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL.

The demand for the removal or modification of the ban on ringing shows no signs of weakening, and very many people would welcome the news that at least on Christmas morning the bells will be heard again. Up to the time of writing the Government has not announced its decision, but it cannot be delayed much longer.

In Parliament last week Mr. Atlee, replying to Mr. Driberg (Ind., Maldon) and Mr. Stokes, said that the whole question of ringing church bells at Christmastide and as a warning in the event of invasion was being considered.

Miss Rathbone (Ind., English Universities) asked, if church bells were considered as joy bells, would it not be rather a mockery to have them rung when the men, women and children of the nation that gave us the Bible were being massacred.

Mr. Granville (Ind., Eye) asked Mr. Atlee when investigating the question to take into consideration the fact that in the event of small raids on this country, the civil population in some places had no idea of the warning to be received.

Mr. Atlee promised to take that into consideration.

In his Diocesan Magazine, the Bishop of Lincoln wrote: 'It is right that we should connect the ringing of bells with good news, and doubly right, therefore, that they should be rung at Christmas, announcing the good news of the birth of the Prince of Peace. But remember, He is not the Prince of Peace at any price, but of peace with honour.'

IMPORTANT.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays all letters for publication in next week's issue must reach us not later than the first post on Monday morning, December 21st.

THE COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The Master, Mr. E. G. Fenn, presided at the meeting of the College Youths on Saturday week, supported by the treasurer, secretary and Messrs. F. E. Collins, R. F. Deal, W. T. Elson, H. Hoskins, E. Jennings, G. M. Kilby, C. Kippin, H. Langdon, C. M. Meyer, H. G. Miles, G. N. Price, C. W. Roberts, J. H. Shepherd, J. A. Trollope and E. A. Young.

The Master warmly welcomed Mr. A. R. Macdonald from Gloucester, Mr. P. Owen, of Brockley, and Mr. H. N. Pitstow, of Banstead. A welcome visitor was Mr. C. T. Coles, general secretary of the Middlesex Association.

Mr. Ernest Morris, of Leicester, sent another gift for the society's library, a copy of the last edition of the 'J. D. and C. M. Campanologia.' Mr. Morris wrote asking for information as to curious and extraordinary approaches and entries to belfries and towers. It was decided that it should be left to individual ringers to reply to Mr. Morris.

Mr. F. E. Collins gave a month's notice of a motion to delete or amend the rule about umpires at handbell peals.

Seasonable greetings were received from Mr. Harold Warboys, who is somewhere in the Middle East.

The question of Christmas ringing was discussed, and it was decided, if the ban was again lifted, to work on the same lines as those taken on November 15th.

WILLIAM ALPS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. E. Barnett's interesting account of the old parish clerk's headstone recalls to my memory that the late William Alps used to sing the Amen Obituary. He had the deep bass required to do justice to the 'Amens.' I often wondered where he had obtained such a quaint morsel of folk-song. Alps would also break into 'A starry night for a ramble' and sing it well.

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

Bromley

INFORMATION WANTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Replying to Mr. A. E. Austin's query on central towers where ringers stand in open church in full view of congregation, I may say that for some time past I have been collecting data on these. Also on towers that form west or south porches where the congregation pass through the rope circle, and churches where ringers stand among pews. Also 'built-in' west towers open on three sides exposing the ringers on each but the wall side. When complete I intend to form into a readable whole and submit articles similar to those I have recently done. In the meantime I should deeply appreciate it if any readers will write direct to me giving details of towers with unusual features as above.

ERNEST MORRIS.

24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the St. Albans District of the Hertford County Association took place at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on November 21st. During the afternoon the tower was open for dumb bell practice, but few took advantage of it and only six bells were rung—it was presumably too much of a come-down after the open ringing of the previous Sunday.

At 4.30 p.m. a short but very helpful service was held, conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, followed by tea in the St. Peter's Institute and the business meeting.

It was decided to hold future meetings every two or three months, the next being in St. Albans, if possible at St. Michael's.

The secretary's report mentioned the meetings held during the year, membership and subscriptions, the latter being rather a sore point as far as ringing members were concerned, although quite a number had made up arrears. The thanksgiving ringing of the previous Sunday had been well done in the district as far as had so far been ascertained, and the secretary was attempting to compile full details.

The district officers were re-elected, namely, Mr. R. Darvill, secretary, and Messrs. A. Day, A. Lawrence, H. J. Hazell and Mrs. Fergusson on the committee.

A letter from the St. Albans Cathedral Society was read. It stated that the Cathedral Society had received a most unsatisfactory reply to a resolution sent to the General Committee, and that as a result they had decided to withdraw from the association. They also claimed that their resolution had not been fully published in the Press or association reports, and that their final letter of resignation had been ignored. The resolution in question was as follows:—

'That this society is of the opinion that the General Committee as at present constituted under Rule 5 of the association is not a fair representation of regular Sunday service ringing bands with eight or more members who support the association, and, further, they consider that only ringers who belong to a band and are regular Sunday service ringers shall be eligible to hold office in the association.'

The matter was put to the meeting for discussion, and Mr. Cartmel, the general secretary, made a full statement of the points raised. The resolution had been carefully considered by the committee, but they could not agree to it. It was brought up again at the annual meeting at Easter, 1941, but there was nobody present from the Cathedral to put it forward. No letter of resignation had been received to his knowledge, and the latest situation as far as he knew was that the Dean was trying to arrange a meeting to clear the matter up.

Various opinions were then expressed by other members, and it was decided to ask the secretary to acquaint the Cathedral Society with the feelings of the district.

The business meeting closed with votes of thanks to those responsible for arranging the meeting. Handbell ringing then followed until 7.30 p.m. and included Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples, with a demonstration from Hatfield of a hymn tune on four bells and some tune ringing.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was interested in Mr. Austin's remarks about churches with central towers where ringing takes place on the floor of the church. Although I do not profess to be an expert on these matters, I can add a few more churches to the ones Mr. Austin mentions.

These are Melbourne, Derbyshire (8); Leckhampton, Glos. (8); Alfriston, Sussex (6); Branscombe, Devon (6); Wheathampstead, Herts (6); also, I believe, Bramshott, Hants (6), and Playden, Sussex (4).

These are apart from those churches with wooden and stone belfries over the east gate of the nave, containing one, two or three bells, most of which are rung or chimed from the floor of the church. One very interesting and probably unique case I have come across is at Foots Cray, Kent (5), where owing to the nave having been extended westwards at the restoration of the church last century, the wooden belfry is almost in the centre of the nave. The five ropes drop in a rough circle in the centre of the nave, and the ringers have to stand in the corners of the pews to ring. No doubt there are other such interesting cases in other parts of the country.

P. N. BOND.

THE PATRON SAINT OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Edwards suggests that the patron saint of ringers is either St. Cecilia or St. Dunstan. He could hardly have thought of two more dissimilar persons. What about King David? He is often represented in stained glass windows and old illuminated manuscripts as playing upon a chime of bells. But perhaps he is not eligible.

I should like Mr. Edwards to tell us what are the qualifications for the office, who has the appointment, and what are its privileges and duties. If we were living in mediæval times or in some of the Latin countries, I suppose we should expect the holder of the office to see that ropes did not break during peal attempts, or bobs get missed at inconvenient times.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT PICKERING.

WELL-KNOWN STAFFORDSHIRE RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Robert Pickering, which occurred on Wednesday, December 9th, at the age of 67 years.

The funeral was at Tettenhall Church on Saturday, December 12th, and was conducted by the Rev. J. Bickley (curate-in-charge), assisted by the Rev. Wilfred Goode (Vicar), who was on leave from his duties as chaplain to H.M. Forces. Six local ringers, Messrs. B. Dalton, H. Dalton, T. Taylor, J. Taylor, E. J. Southwick and F. S. Southwick, acted as bearers, and other ringing friends present were Messrs. H. J. Lookley, E. Genna and H. Knight. Among the many floral tributes were one from the Tettenhall ringers and another from Mr. H. Knight.

Mr. Pickering began his ringing career at St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Stafford, in the early '90s, and on August 29th, 1896, called his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples. Towards the end of 1896 he migrated to Wolverhampton, his occupation being that of a 'clicker' in the boot trade. On December 31st he found his way into St. Peter's tower, where he helped to ring in the new year. He soon became a member of St. Peter's company and for several years held the office of tower secretary. In 1914 he joined H.M. Forces, and in due course was promoted to company sergeant major. While serving in France he was badly gassed, which left a mark on his constitution to the end.

After the last war, by special request of the Vicar of St. Michael's, Tettenhall, Mr. Pickering had charge of the ringing there, and trained a young band, who in due time rang several peals of Grandsire Triples, of which he was justly proud. Of a total of 225 peals, two were outstanding, viz., 7,019 and 11,563 Grandsire Caters; two other noteworthy achievements were Holt's Original and Thurstans' Four-Part, both being rung strictly non-conducted.

Mr. Pickering's list of peals includes Grandsire Doubles to Cinques, Stedman Doubles to Cinques, Plain Bob Minor to Royal (many of which he conducted), Double Norwich Major and Caters, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise Major. Two, Grandsire Triples and Stedman Caters, were rung on handbells.

At the age of nine years he began to learn tune ringing (under the conductorship of a bandmaster), and with his young colleagues went to Belle Vue, Manchester, getting into seventh position in the list of many contesting bands. When he arrived in Wolverhampton, he not only joined the existing handbell band, but was instrumental in building up what eventually became the well-known St. Peter's handbell quartette.

Mr. Pickering joined the Stafford Archdeaconry Society in 1894, and later held the office of Ringing Master and for several years was a member of the special committee.

He leaves a widow and daughter to mourn their loss.

VICTORY BELLS.

ACORINGTON.—A total of about 20 ringers turned up at St. James' Church and several touches were rung. Three members of the Grammar School Society rang open tower bells for the first time. Two of the band cycled to Church Kirk, where only five of the local band were available (the others being in the Forces), and rounds, call changes and firing were rung on the back seven.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with the two tenors covering, by G. W. Peverell 1, J. Smith 2, T. J. Brown 3, J. West 4, G. H. Taylor 5, R. B. Robinson (conductor) 6, W. H. Wilson 7, G. Hutchinson tenor.

HARROW WEALD.—Grandsire Doubles and Triples by Miss F. Clayton, Miss E. K. Fulton, Messrs. H. Butler, H. G. Hart, W. Horrod, F. Vincett, F. Wilcox, H. Butler, jun., and N. Genna.

HESTON, MIDDLESEX.—Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob Major. All the regular ringers were present, viz., C. S. Bird, H. C. Chandler, H. Cooper, E. R. Gladman, W. T. Godfrey, F. Humphreys, A. Jones, W. A. Lewis, G. W. Morris, M. W. Norman, Miss P. Norman, W. Sparrow, W. H. Stevens, W. W. Webb, with Mr. Harris, of Sudbury.

KEGWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE.—The bells augmented to eight by Messrs. Taylor and Co. in September, 1940, were heard for the first time and turned out to be a splendid success. Rounds and call changes were rung, change ringing not being attempted in order to ensure good striking. Four lady ringers took part, including two who rang for victory in 1918.

NANTWICH.—Grandsire Triples before and after the morning service by E. J. Boffey, F. Ollier, H. Chesworth, R. Mowforth, J. E. Brough, A. Crosby, W. Thomas, W. Sutton (leader), and R. T. Holding from Crewe. Also a member of the R.A.F. took part in the falling of the bells.

SHILDON, COUNTY DURHAM.—720 Bob Minor, with two tenors covering, by S. Bryant 1, J. Smith 2, G. Hutchinson 3, J. West 4, J. Pentland 5, R. B. Robinson 6, J. Beck 7, J. Henderson tenor.

WISTANSTON.—Touches of Grandsire Doubles by H. Jones, E. Clark, F. Barnard, J. Hamersley, F. Porter and A. Crawley (conductor). There were full bands at the following towers in the Crewe district: Acton, Marbury (under F. Chapman), Wrenbury, Wybunbury and Warmingham.

NOTE.—The account in our last issue of ringing at Bishop's Stortford should have been headed Bishop Hatfield, Herts.

THE USE OF SINGLES IN SEVEN BELL METHODS.

(Continued from page 560.)

We have pointed out that the material for constructing peals of Stedman Triples on the Twin-bob plan consists of twelve independent 5-course round blocks, every course containing bobs at S and H. And we have shown how these twelve blocks are joined together in Hudson's peal.

That peal is one of the most important and outstanding compositions in change ringing; but it is useless for practical purposes, because it is put together by means of in-course singles, and in-course singles are not now allowed in actual ringing. The value of the peal therefore is not so much in itself, but because it serves as the starting point from which other peals may be obtained. That actually is the role it played in the development of the method.

The first question which naturally arises is, Why not join together these twelve round blocks by bobs instead of by in-course singles? We can set down the sixty in-course natural courses of Bob Major or Double Norwich in twelve 5-course blocks, each course containing bobs at W and M, or I and F; and having done so we can proceed to join them together by omitting some of the bobs, or making extra ones. We cannot join all of them together (the Law of Q Sets forbids it), but we can go a long way towards it, and with the help of two ordinary singles, we can complete the job. Why not do a similar thing with these twelve 5-course blocks of Stedman Triples?

The answer is that unfortunately it cannot be done. There is no place in any one of the blocks of Hudson's peal where either the making or omitting of a bob will put the bells into the corresponding part of another block.

The next question is, Why not set down the sixty natural course-ends we worked out, and treat them as we should the sixty natural course-ends of Bob Major? We look on each one of the latter as representing an independent natural course, and these natural courses we join together by bobs arranged in Q Sets. Why not do the same in Stedman Triples? Again the answer is that it cannot be done.

The sixty natural courses of Bob Major are mutually exclusive. That means that not one of them has a row which is also included in another natural course, and therefore unless we use the same part of the same course twice over, we cannot have falseness. But it is otherwise in Stedman Triples.

If from every one of Hudson's course ends we prick a full natural course, we shall find that we have not got the full 5040 rows, but that the third Six of every course reappears as the seventh Six of another course; and the fifth Six of every course reappears as the twelfth Six of another course. Thus in the whole sixty natural courses there are 120 Sixes which appear twice, and 120 Sixes which do not appear at all. Unless we can find some means of eliminating the duplicate Sixes and replacing them by the missing Sixes, Hudson's course-ends are useless for composing peals. This we cannot do, and leave the sixty as independent blocks in the way that the sixty natural courses of Bob Major are independent blocks.

We will illustrate this by an example. Here are the third Six of the plain course 1234567, and the seventh Six of the course 3652147 (we take the fourth row of the Six as the course-end).

3467251	7364251
4376521	3746521
3475612	7345612
3746521	7436521
7345612	4735612
7436521	4376521
4735612	3475612

And here are the fifth Six of the plain course and the twelfth six of the course 6423157.

4751326	1457326
7415236	4175236
4712563	4712563
4175236	7415236
1472563	7142563
1745236	1745236
7142563	1472563

These Sixes are all brought up plain, but in our treble 5-course blocks and in Hudson's peal, every third Six and every fifth Six is brought up bobbed, while every seventh Six and every twelfth Six is brought up plain. That gets rid of the false Sixes, which is half of what we want.

It also does another thing which is very fortunate. The new Six which the bob introduces in place of the duplicate, is one of the missing ones which we need to include. It appears in what is called an irregular form, and if we followed it with a plain Six we should find ourselves outside the natural courses based in Hudson's course-ends and in a hopeless position. But if we make a second bob the bells are put, not indeed into the original natural course, but into another one of Hudson's set.

A similar thing happens if we bob the fifth Six. It must be followed by a bob at 6, and the two will eliminate a duplicate Sixes and introduce one of those that are missing.

It follows that if in every natural course bobs are made at S and H we shall get rid of falseness, and we shall get our true twelve 5-course blocks.

Having got our true material, the next thing is to see how it can be used. Hudson, as we saw, employed in-course singles, but their use is barred to us. We may not add any bobs, for that would put us outside our selected natural courses. Nor may we omit any bobs, for that would at once produce false rows. What then can we do?

(To be continued.)

RINGING AS SPORT.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Some of the writers in 'The Ringing World' agree with your view that there is sport in ringing and some disagree. You can count me among the latter; I prefer to call it the joy of ringing. I was recently reminded of this by an old friend, who wrote that what with the 'joy' of having another pull even with a scratch band, he could not come to see me on Victory Sunday.

WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Severalls Hospital, Colchester.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.
(Continued from page 561.)

Cornwall has quite a number of detached towers, some of which are very quaint in their style of architecture. I am not able to give details of Chacewater tower, but at Feock the tower is the oldest part of the buildings, being of 13th century date. The church itself is at a considerably lower level, forty yards east of the tower, which is at road level. The churchyard falls steeply away to the sea. The tower contains three bells with chiming apparatus by Warner, and here are two out of the fifty mediæval bells now remaining in Cornwall. The tower is used as a store for gardening and grave digging tools.

At Gwennap, the Church of St. Wenneppa has a detached tower with pyramidal roof, and contains six bells. A similar instance occurs at Gunwalloe, where the Church of St. Winwalloe has a tower standing 14ft. from the west end of the church, and this contains three bells. The tower is of two stages, and on three sides the walls are formed of the solid rock against which it stands.

At Illogan, the church of the same name (St. Illogan) has an embattled tower with pinnacles, standing at some distance to the north-west from the body of the church. It contains a ring of six bells, all recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1889 at the expense of Mrs. Bassett, of Tehidy, in memory of her late husband, G. L. Bassett, Esq. The tenor is 8 cwt.

Lamorran Church has an ancient tower standing detached in the south-west corner of the churchyard. It contains three bells, two of which are dated 1732, and the other undated. The tower is supposed to be part of a monastic house that formerly existed here. The walls are of great thickness and now covered with ivy.

At Launceston, the Church of St. Mary Magdalen has an embattled western tower of the latter part of the 14th century, 84ft. high, with pinnacles, and containing a clock and eight bells. The old six bells were cast in 1720 by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, but the tenor was recast in 1870 and the treble in 1874 by Mears and Stainbank, who in 1901 added two new trebles, making the octave. The tower was formerly detached, but is now connected to the church by a room erected by the fifth Duke of Northumberland (d. 1867) for municipal purposes. It is now used as a vestry.

The Church of St. Mylor, Mylor, has a detached belfry some distance away, containing three bells, recast 1888 as a memorial to the Rev. J. W. Murray, Vicar, 1868-74, the original dates (1637 and 1634) being reproduced. The old bell of Trefusis Church, dated 1767, has also been presented to the church by Lord Clinton. At Talland there is a semi-detached tower of three stages, 55ft. high, and at a higher level than the church, to which it is connected by a large porch with two entrances. The ringing chamber is partly cut out of the rock on which the tower stands. It contains a ring of six.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Institute, Bushey, Saturday, December 19th. Handbells from 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

WOODBIDGE, SUFFOLK.—Tower bells (silent) Saturday, December 19th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Change ringers and beginners welcome.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 19th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at All Saints', Hertford, at 3 p.m., on December 19th. Tower bells (silent), together with handbells. This being the annual, please do your best to be present. Tea at 4.15 p.m.—G. Radley, Dis. Sec., 19, Macers Lane, Wormley, near Hoddesdon.

BIRTH.

CROSS.—To Marjorie, the wife of Geo. H. Cross, on Thursday, December 10th, the gift of twin daughters.

DEATH.

LILLEY.—On Dec. 10th, Charles Richard Lilley, of Perry Farm, Highweek, Newton Abbot, aged 68.

HANDBELLS AT GIBRALTAR.

It will be remembered that Mr. Charles Dean, of Croydon, was instrumental in sending a set of handbells for the use of men in H.M. Forces stationed at Gibraltar. He has now received a letter from the Rev. W. F. E. Burnley, Chaplain to the Forces, which shows that the bells have been put to good use.

'Dear Mr. Dean,—The enclosures will give some indication of the use to which your handbells are being put and of the interest they are providing. I hope that you will have as happy a Christmas as is possible in these difficult days, and that it will not be long before church bells can hail victory and peace.—W. F. E. Burnley, C.F.'

The enclosures are a photograph of a group of handbell ringers and the following notice:—

'Too H Gibraltar Group meets as usual to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock at 186, Main Street, when a talk on "Bellingring" will be given by the Rev. F. E. Burnley, C.F., assisted by a group of friends who will give a demonstration of handbell ringing. All interested are invited whether members of Too H or not.'

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