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FRIDAY, MAY 14th, 1943.

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THE ESSENTIAL THING.

There has been abundant evidence during the last few weeks that the partial lifting of the ban on the use of church bells has failed to satisfy a considerable amount of public opinion, and it is not at all unlikely that efforts will be made to secure a complete removal of the restrictions. Ringers would welcome any such effort and they would be delighted if they were once again allowed to hold practices and to ring at association meetings. But it is advisable not to expect too much and to make the most of the concession already granted. Anything like an attempted agitation on our part would be a mistake, for it would have small chances of success, and would lay us open to the taunt that we were seeking only our own selfish pleasure.

The present position is an illogical one, and it is no wonder that people are asking the question—If the ban on ringing was imposed because the bells were needed as warnings in the event of invasion, and if, as Mr. Churchill said, the significance of invasion no longer attaches to ringing, what justification can there be for any restriction at all? The question seems to be unanswerable. The semi-official reason, that ringing at times when the public was not expecting it would cause misunderstanding, will carry weight with no one. Nor do we think there is anything more in the suggestion made by 'The Church Times' that 'the authorities are properly anxious to cause as little disturbance as possible to the well-earned sleep of workers on night shifts.' The real explanation probably lies in the way the bureaucratic mind works in such matters, and to some extent in the fact that it was thought necessary from the start of the war to keep a strict control over all noises, however made.

We must accept the situation as it is, and we shall be most foolish and shortsighted if we do not realise its limitations as well as its possibilities. We may only ring for church services and that means we must still put aside many things which we should like to do and which we are sorely tempted to do. The one essential thing is that the ringing should be good. Striking is the one thing which matters, and the desire to ring the more advanced methods should be resisted until the general public is again familiarised with frequent ringing, and opportunities for practice are again available.

Let us never forget that we are on our trial. When 'The Times' said that badly rung bells would be a 'mixed blessing' it was saying what the general public

(Continued on page 210.)

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(including that part which most desires the bells to be heard) strongly feels.

Ringers suffer from one great disability. Although they are among the most public of performers, yet they realise less than almost any others the publicity of their performances. The same men who would shrink from making an exhibition of themselves by slovenly and bad handbell ringing before an audience of a score or two in a parish hall, little think, when they are shut up in the seclusion of a belfry, that they are being heard by a whole parish. And not only being heard, but being criticised and judged.

It cannot be insisted on too much and too often that the one essential is good striking. It is essential now in these days if we are to retain the support of the public, and it is essential always, for method ringing, however advanced, unless it is based on good striking, is only a fraud and a sham.

If the restriction of ringing to Sunday services during this time of transition leads ringers to pay more attention to the outside effect, it will be by no means an un-mixed evil.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, May 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS, MOOR STREET, CITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES;

Tenor size 17 in B flat.

GEORGE F. SWANN	...	1-2	ALBERT WALKER	...	5-6
FRANK E. PERVIN	...	3-4	GEORGE E. FEARN	...	7-8
*HENRY H. FEARN 9-10					

Composed by JAMES E. GROVES. Conducted by ALBERT WALKER.
* First peal on handbells and first attempt. First peal of Stedman on an inside pair by G. E. Fearn. 100th peal for the Guild by F. E. Pervin.

SWINDON, WILTS.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 7, 1943, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT 37, VICARAGE ROAD, RODBOURNE CHEREY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor size 12 in F.

*HAROLD E. BROWN	...	3-4	W. BERTRAM KYNASTON	...	3-4
*WILLIAM M. GREENAWAY 5-6					

Conducted by W. B. KYNASTON.

* First peal on handbells. The ringer of 5-6 is 71 years old.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for publishing the article on Spliced London and Bristol Surprise Major. Unfortunately the three-part peal which accompanied it has been very much jumbled. It may be my fault, but as it appears with ten callings and course-ends instead of nine, the only remedy is to republish it, if you will be so good. The correct figures are herewith. JOSEPH W. PARKER.

61, Ewesley Road, Sunderland.

5,664 SPLICED LONDON AND BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR.

23456	—	In	Out	5th's	W	H	
42356	—	—	—	2	—	—	1 lead of B
54263	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBLL
63425	—	—	—	—	—	—	LLBLBLL
53462	4th's	—	—	—	—	—	4LB4L
46325	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBLL
62453	—	Out 4th's	—	—	—	—	LLBB4L
25634	—	—	—	—	—	—	6L
53246	—	—	—	2	—	—	LLBLBLL
23645	—	—	—	—	—	—	L6B

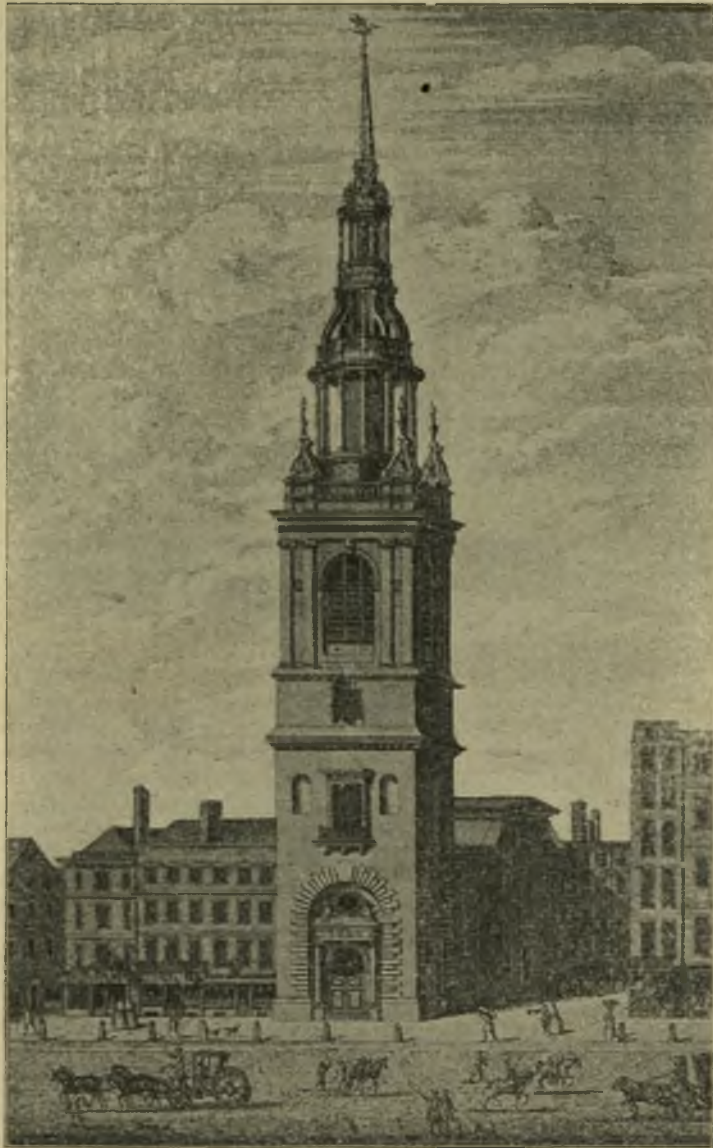
Twice repeated.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 201.)

THE YOUNGER GEORGE GROSS.

In 1801 two trebles were added to the ring of ten at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and that gave the Cumberland Youths a twelve bell tower to practise in, but it was some time before they gained access to the belfry.



THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW.

The bells were now in the charge of Charles Purser, who was the landlord of the Ben Jonson tavern, in Booth Street, near the church. For several years his name had been absent from the ringing records of the Metropolis, apparently because he had been living in the West of England. In 1783 he called a peal of Grandsire Triples at Almondsbury in Gloucestershire, with a band belonging to the Bristol Society. Earlier in the year he had rung the treble to the College Youths' Cambridge Surprise Major at St. Giles'-in-the-Fields, and during the following eight years his name does not appear in

any performance by a London company. He was not among the subscribers to the 'Clavis.' William Williams rang the sixth at Almondsbury. He shortly afterwards went to London, where, in due course, he made a name as one of the best ringers in the Society of Junior Cumberland Youths.

In the course of a long and varied ringing career, Charles Purser had played many parts. He had joined and left every one of the leading companies. At one time he was almost the foremost man in the London Exercise. At another he stood outside all the societies. He led the College Youths in the earlier stages of the long peal contest, and he went backwards and forwards between them and the Cumberlands as suited his purposes. Such a man was sure to have made rivals and enemies, and it is more than likely that the elder George Gross was one of them. For twenty years the Cumberlands had rung every recorded peal in Christ Church steeple, but during the years that Gross was beadle of the society, and Purser was steeple-keeper at Spitalfields, they rang only one.

Gross died in 1803, and on March 5th, in the following year, the Cumberlands rang the first peal on the twelve. It was one of Grandsire Cinques, 5,170 changes, and was conducted by the younger George Gross, who had succeeded his father in the office of beadle. He rang the treble, and the others were Anthony Cavalier, Peter Jones, James Nash, William Beard, Thomas Reeves, James Barnard, William Richardson, James Stickbury, Malachi Channon, John Hints, and William McDonald.

Five weeks later, on Spitalfields bells, the society repeated the great performance they had achieved two years before at Southwark, and again rang Reeves' nine course peal of Maximus containing 7,104 changes. Marlton was once more the tenor man, and Stephens at the eleventh. Gross conducted, and Shipway rang the fifth. The time taken was ten minutes longer than at St. Saviour's.

In the same year the Cumberlands rang two other peals, one of them 5,024 changes of Treble Bob Major at Chelmsford, where George Gross acted as composer and conductor; the other, 5,039 changes of Grandsire Caters, at Shoreditch. It will be remembered that when, after the upheaval of 1787 John Reeves joined the Cumberlands, he called for them a peal of Stedman Caters, the second achieved in the Principle, and though they rang no more five-thousands, we may assume that so long as he was beadle the society practised the method. The College Youths rang peals of Stedman Cinques in 1788 and 1792, and John Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands rang Stedman Caters in 1797, and Stedman Triples in 1799. But after the elder Gross had returned to his old office of beadle, the senior Cumberlands appear to have neglected the method. Gross did not ring in the 1787 peal (though his son did) and it is likely he despised and discouraged a method which was so closely associated with his rival, John Reeves. As long as he was beadle the Cumberlands rang no peals of Stedman, but his death made a great difference. The younger Gross, who became leader, had taken part in the early peal, and since had studied the composition of the method. (Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from previous page.)

The society again began to practise Stedman Caters seriously, and on February 26th, 1805, after an unsuccessful attempt which they lost through the breaking of the clapper of the sixth bell when over 5,500 changes had been rung, they scored at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, a peal of 6,129 changes, in four hours and twelve minutes. This took its place as the longest in the method, beating the 6,003 rung by Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands in 1797.

George Gross called from the treble and the band was made up of the most skilful ringers then belonging to the company—William Shipway, Samuel Cowling, William Beard, James Stichbury, Peter Jones, William Richardson, John Hints, Anthony Cavalier, and Philip Pilgrim. Pilgrim, apparently, had broken with the College Youths, and since 1801 he had been out of their peal band.

The composition was by Gross, and was on the five-part plan, with the big bells in the tittums and the treble fixed in second's place at the course ends. This style of peal had lately been introduced by Noonan, and was generally adopted by composers during the following hundred years.

John Noonan and the Junior Cumberlands had a band fully capable of ringing Stedman Caters, but they did not attempt to regain the record they had lost, and the Cumberlands' peal remained unbeaten for nearly forty years. Instead, the two societies started a rivalry in Stedman Cinques, which culminated in a regular match at Spitalfields lasting for six weeks. Every Monday the junior society attempted a peal, and every Saturday the senior. On December 13th, 1806, the seniors rang over 5,500 changes and got out—curiously enough the same length they had rung in their failure for Caters. On the following Monday, the juniors rang the first peal of Stedman Cinques on the bells, 5,086 changes in three hours and fifty-nine minutes. Noonan rang the treble and conducted; and the band was made up of Thomas Humphrey, William Williams, William Troup, Joseph Ladley, Richard Jagers, William Mackee, Robert Bates, Samuel Garratt, James Blacklock, Thomas Oven-den, and William Fletcher. The figures of the peal have not survived, but there is no doubt that it was on a similar plan to the Caters.

On the following Saturday, December 20th, 1806, the 'old' Cumberlands were also successful. They rang a peal of 6,334 changes in four hours and fifty-five minutes.

The band was, George Gross the conductor, James Purser, James Nash, Peter Jones, James Stichbury, Edward Bartell, William Shipway, John Hints, Thomas Freeth, Anthony Cavalier, William Stephens, and Philip Pilgrim. James Purser, after some years with the College Youths, had come back to his old society, and Edward Bartell had also come back. He was now the steeplekeeper at Shoreditch, having succeeded Charles Purser, who died in 1805.

As the Cumberlands' peal was 130 changes longer than the one the College Youths rang in 1788, it was the longest so far in the method, and the society for some years held the double record for Stedman Caters and Cinques, conjointly with the double record for Treble Ten and Treble Twelve. They lost it in 1820 when

Thomas Thurstans called a peal of 6,600 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham for the St. Martin's Youths.

The early days of the nineteenth century were a time of considerable activity in bell founding, and Thomas Mears, of Whitechapel, supplied several rings to churches in the metropolitan area, and augmented or restored several rings already existing. In 1807 he recast the heavy octave at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, into the present ring of ten, and the first peal on them was one of Grandsire Caters by the Junior Cumberlands on March 8th. Noonan conducted and James Marlton rang the tenor.

The next day the senior Cumberlands rang 5,075 changes in the same method, and four days later 5,080 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. George Gross, who rang the treble, was the composer and conductor and the rest of the band were James Purser, Peter Jones, James Nash, William Shipway, Thomas Reeves, John Hints, James Stichbury, Anthony Cavalier, and Stephens.

On the following February 24th, the Junior Cumberlands rang 5,200 changes of Treble Ten composed and conducted by Noonan. The peal book claims it as the first peal in the method on the bells; but, owing to the very haphazard way in which the book was written, it need not be taken as an assertion that Gross' peal was false in composition or execution.

When George Gross succeeded to his father's post of beadle he inherited much of his prestige and influence, though there were men like Hints and Shipway, who were inclined to resent and resist his assumption of authority. For some years he managed not only to maintain the society's reputation, but through his peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques to add to it. The Cumberlands were reaping the reward of their less exclusive spirit; for while the College Youths were ceasing to ring peals because the older men's ambition was sated and there were no younger men to take their places when they dropped out of the peal band, the rival company still included many active and skilful ringers.

In 1805 the society promoted a scheme for increasing the ring at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, to twelve, and the necessary money was subscribed or collected. The amount had to be raised twice, because the man appointed as treasurer absconded with the first subscriptions.

Permission to install the new bells was granted by the vestry on October 29th, 1805, and the casting was done at Whitechapel. It would seem that at first they were not a success, for they were recast in 1823.

The new bells were hung in November, 1807, and on the last day of the month the opening peal was accomplished, 5,390 changes of Grandsire Cinques, composed and conducted by George Gross, who rang the treble. The other ringers were William Shipway, James Nash, James Stichbury, Anthony Cavalier, Peter Jones, John Hints, William Stephens, Thomas Freeth, James Purser, Philip Pilgrim and James Marlton.

On the following March 8th the Cumberland Youths scored a notable peal when they rang 5,094 changes of Stedman Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow. Gross was again composer and conductor, and the band was made up by Shipway, Nash, Jagers, Stichbury, Hints, Freeth, Cavalier, Stephens, and Pilgrim. It was the first in the method on the bells.

(To be continued.)

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association was held in Norwich on Saturday, May 1st, and was very successful. Nearly 50 ringers were present from Mulbarton, Bergh Apton, Norwich (Mancroft, St. Giles' and St. Miles'), Aylmerton, Long Stratton, Stradbroke, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, King's Lynn, Wymondham, Redenhall, Aylsham, Buxton, Palgrave, Ealing, Enfield, Shelfanger, Winfarthing and Diss.

As Mancroft bells cannot be rung on weekdays, it was thought most appropriate to hold the service in the Cathedral, at which, in addition to the usual beautiful music, a special hymn and psalm were sung and the association prayers used.

The Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Precentor of the Cathedral and general secretary of the association, preached, and took the opportunity of enlightening the general congregation with regard to some of the elementary facts known to ringers, but less well known than they should be to the majority of church people. A most popular innovation was the ringing of handbells in the triforium of the Cathedral before the service.

After tea, in the Cathedral Cafe, the business meeting was held. A most warm welcome was given to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, who, to the general pleasure, are hoping to come and live in the diocese soon; and to Mr. J. A. Trollope, one of the oldest members of the association.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Diss on June 19th, subject to the usual conditions. Two new members were elected. It was a great pleasure to elect Mrs. Fletcher a member, and to convert Mr. Fletcher from a non-resident into a resident member.

All the officers of the association were re-elected. After discussion it was agreed to try to issue a single sheet report and balance sheet, of correct size to bind up with previous annual reports. It was agreed that the general secretary should receive his honorarium for a change; he replied that he did not see why he should do this, as it would mean half of it going in income tax. Instead, with the consent of the members, he would put a small sum to defray part of the cost of making it possible to chime his ring of three at St. George Colegate. He is on the look out for another three, perhaps from a blitzed church, to add to these, to make a handy six on which to teach learners.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Dean for the service at the Cathedral, the preacher, Mr. C. Bird for tying the clappers at St. Giles', Mr. Tooke for arranging the handbell ringing at the Cathedral, and Mr. Harrison for bringing the handbells from Diss.

Before the service and after the meeting the general secretary conducted parties of ringers up the grand and interesting Norman tower of the Cathedral.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher, took the chair at the annual general meeting of the Sussex County Association, held in the belfry of St. Peter's, Brighton, on Saturday, May 1st. An apology was received from the Vicar of Brighton, who had promised to address the meeting, but was kept away by illness. Apologies were also read from Mr. J. Downing, acting secretary of the Eastern Division, Mr. W. Stenning, late of Hurstpierpoint, and Mr. G. Wiggins, of Ringmer.

The Master's report for the year and the accounts, which showed a satisfactory balance, were passed. The peal secretary reported the ringing of nine handbell peals, eight of which were rung at Burgess Hill.

The officers were elected as follows: Master, Mr. H. R. Butcher; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. D. Stone; hon. general secretary, Mr. S. F. Armstrong; hon. peal secretary, Mr. F. I. Hairs; hon. trustees, Messrs. Butcher, Dallaway and Tompkins; auditors, Messrs. J. T. Toms and W. C. Hart.

It was strongly expressed that meetings should be held whenever possible, but the secretaries of the Northern and Southern Divisions, while agreeing in principle to the holding of meetings, stated that it was impossible for them to give their personal attention, owing to pressure of other duties. It was then suggested that an assistant should be appointed in each of these cases, and the Northern Divisional Secretary, Mr. O. Sippetts, was re-elected, with Mr. A. E. Laker as assistant. Mrs. F. I. Hairs was appointed secretary of the Southern District, Mr. J. Downing of the Eastern District, and Mr. L. Stilwell of the Western District. Committees were re-elected with the exception of the Southern Division, where Mr. R. G. Cross replaced Mr. J. Dearlove.

A short discussion took place on the value of practice on silent bells, the general opinion being that it was a useful aid in the teaching of beginners up to the stage of rounds, but in method ringing was likely to lead to the formation of bad habits as regards striking.

Finally a proposal was made that at the next general meeting a tea and social evening should be possible. This was agreed to, and on the general secretary's suggestion a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. F. I. Hairs and Mrs. Cross, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

ST. ALBANS.—On Sunday, May 2nd, at St. Peter's, for evensong, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters in 51 minutes: A. Kendall 1, Lieut. G. E. Debenham 2, Miss K. M. West (first quarter-peal) 3, R. W. Darvill 4, E. J. Gale 5, R. Dobson 6, Lieut. G. W. Debenham (conductor) 7, H. G. Cashmore 8, W. Ayre 9, S. Jones 10.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The handbell peal of Stedman Caters at Birmingham, on May 1st, was a birthday compliment to three members of the St. Martin's Sunday service band—E. Mansell (May 1st), E. T. Alloway (May 2nd) and Albert Walker (May 3rd).

Mr. Albert Walker is doing good work in the Birmingham district by giving lectures on bells and ringing illustrated by lantern slides and change ringing and tunes on handbells. One at Bearwood on May 4th resulted in a very good collection to start a new fund for a tower and bells. Mr. Walker is to give another lecture on Tuesday.

Visitors to the Middlesex Association meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, to-morrow, are advised to bring their own sugar.

Two or three of our friends have written to us pointing out the absurdity of the permission to ring on Good Friday. Nobody ever does ring on Good Friday, they say, and it is only another example of official ignorance and stupidity. Our friends have been misled by newspaper reports. The order does not say anything about ringing. It forbids the sounding of bells, and that includes tolling and chiming, as well as ringing. Good Friday and Christmas Day are mentioned because they are the two holy days which legally are always classed with Sundays.

The first peal of Clifton Surprise Royal was rung at St. Stephen's, Bristol, on May 9th, 1922.

The Cumberland Youths rang 10,200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at Shoreditch on May 10th, 1777.

On the same date in 1779, the Braughin Youths rang 12,240 Bob Major.

The Imperial Institute was opened by Queen Victoria and the ten bells rung for the first time by a representative band from all England, on May 10th, 1893. Among the ringers were C. H. Hattersley, C. F. Winney, A. P. Heywood, J. W. Washbrook, G. F. Coleridge and J. W. Taylor.

The first peal of Painswick Surprise Major was rung at All Saints', Wokingham, on May 10th, 1933.

The record peal of London Surprise Major, 14,112 changes, was rung on May 11th, 1903, at King's Norton, by a mixed band which included the three brothers Pye, James Motta, of Ipswich, Gabriel Lindoff, William Keeble, and William Short. Harry Chapman rang the treble.

The first peal of Watford Surprise Major was rung at Watford on May 12th, 1937; and on the same day a peal in seven Spliced Surprise Major methods was rung at Wigston Magna.

Mr. Ernest Turner called the first peal of Double Coslany Court Major, at St. Mary's, Twickenham, on May 13th, 1939. John S. Goldsmith was in the band.

The first peal of Stedman Caters at St. Clement Danes' was one of 6,485 changes by the College Youths on May 14th, 1845, composed and conducted by John Cox.

The first peal of Spliced Surprise Major (Cambridge and Superlative) was rung at Whitley Bay on May 14th, 1924; and on the same date in 1936 the first peal of Leeds Surprise Major was rung at Helmingham.

The College Youths rang the first peal of Reverse Bob Maximus at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on May 15th, 1769.

On May 15th, 1837, at All Saints', Fulham, the St. James' Society, with Thomas Tolladay as conductor, rang 12,096 changes of Grandire Caters. The board says it was the greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only, but 20 years earlier the Painswick men had rung 12,312 changes in the same method single-handed.

What was at the time the longest length of Superlative Surprise Major (8,800 changes) was rung at Loughborough Parish Church on May 15th, 1894. Nathan Pitstow, who composed the peal, rang the treble and conducted; John W. Taylor, the bell founder, rang the tenor, and Canon G. F. Coleridge the second.

The first peal of Spliced Double Norwich and Double Oxford Bob Major was rung at Crayford on May 15th, 1926; and on the same date in 1924 the first peal of Pudsey Surprise Major was rung at Bolsover.

WEDDING OF MR. C. W. DENYER.

The wedding took place on April 28th at St. Alban's Church, Streat-ham Park, S.W.17, of Mr. Charles William Denyer, eldest son of Mr. W. Denyer, of 120, Ash Road, Aldershot, to Miss Edna Phyllis Page, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Page, of 15, Furzedown Drive, Tooting, S.W.17.

The bridegroom, a member of the Aldershot band, is a lance-bombardier in an anti-aircraft unit. The bride is a lance-corporal in the A.T.S., attached to the Royal Army Pay Corps. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of St. Alban's (the Rev. W. Dodd), and Mr. G. Stafford at the organ played the Bridal March from 'Lohengrin' and Mendelssohn's Wedding March. The hymns sung were 'Bright the vision' and 'May the Grace of Christ our Saviour.' The bride wore a dress of vieux-rose pink with navy blue accessories and a spray of anemones. She was attended by her sister, Miss Doris Page. The duties of best man were carried out by the bridegroom's youngest brother, Mr. John M. Denyer. A reception was held at the bride's home and later Mr. and Mrs. Denyer left for a honeymoon in Dorset and Somerset.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held at St. Albans on Saturday, May 1st. St. Peter's belfry was open for silent ringing, and members attended evensong at the Cathedral in full strength, the address being given by the Rev. David Bickerton, Vicar of Redbourne, who based his remarks upon the Collect for Easter Day. A collection for the Benevolent Fund realised £2 13s.

Fifty-two sat down to tea at the Waterend Barn, a 16th century building removed from the estate of Lord Brocket.

At the business meeting the president (Mr. H. G. Cashmore) presided, supported by the Dean, the Rev. A. M. Fergusson, the Rev. David Bickerton, Lieut. G. E. Debenham (treasurer), Mr. G. W. R. Cartmel (secretary), Messrs. Walter Ayre, G. Radley, A. Symonds, R. Darvill (district secretaries), Messrs. A. Lawrence (Hatfield), A. G. Crane (Knebworth), A. W. Coles (North Mimms), E. C. S. Turner, A. Day (Harpenden), J. Hobbs (Redbourne), R. G. Bell (Watford), F. Smith, E. Jennings (Bushey), F. W. Elliott (Rickmansworth), Mrs. Fergusson (librarian), Mrs. Cashmore, Mrs. Radley, Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Wolstencroft, Messrs. Brinklow, L. Chambers, T. J. Lock and many others.

The President said how pleased he was to see such a representative gathering, and regretted the absence of Mr. W. H. Lawrence, who had only missed attendance once in 40 years. Mr. Lawrence sent a message to all old friends, and expressed the hope that he would be able to attend on the next occasion.

Lieut. G. E. Debenham thanked the association for their expressions of goodwill on his recent wedding, and, in presenting the balance sheet, said that members' subscriptions were up on the previous year, which he thought very satisfactory in the circumstances. On the expenses side there were several items which would be non-recurring and there was a small credit balance. The Central Council subscription for last year was to be paid, and this would produce a very small loss over the year. The Benevolent Fund showed a balance of £33 16s. 7d., and he thanked the Dean for the collection that day. There had been no claims on the Voluntary Bell Fund, and the slight increase was due to accrued interest.

The accounts were passed, having been subjected to audit by Messrs. Mercer and Hale.

MR. CARTMEL'S REPORT.

The hon. secretary, Mr. G. W. Cartmel, presented his annual report. It gave an account of the activities of the various branches and was evidence that the life of the association has been well maintained. Fifteen handbell peals had been rung, most of them at Bushey. Reference was made to the losses by death and to the ringing for victory and Christmas.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore was unanimously elected president on the proposition of Mr. E. Jennings, seconded by Mr. R. G. Bell.

Lieut. G. E. Debenham was elected treasurer on the proposition of Mr. W. Ayre, seconded by Mr. Frank Smith.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel was elected hon. secretary on the proposition of Mr. G. E. Debenham, seconded by Mr. A. Lawrence. Mr. Cartmel returned thanks.

Mrs. Fergusson was elected a librarian on the proposition of Mr. Cartmel, seconded by Mr. E. Jennings.

At the suggestion of the secretary, Mr. Walter Ayre was elected assistant hon. secretary on the proposition of Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. A. Symonds.

The President proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. David Bickerton for his address at the service. He thought it a good idea that a different preacher should be found each year, so as to get as many of the clergy as possible into touch with the association. The Rev. David Bickerton expressed his appreciation of the ringers' welcome and said he was pleased to come.

Mr. Cartmel proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for the great interest he took in the association, an interest which had always been taken by Archdeacon Lawrence and the Deans of St. Albans since the formation of the association in 1884.

The Dean said the association would always be welcomed at the Abbey so long as he was there. He congratulated the St. Peter's band on the lead taken in ringing as in other spheres of church work. Mr. Watkins, who had been verger at the Abbey for 40 years, was also a friend of the ringers.

The Dean was asked to convey to his verger the ringers' appreciation of his services at their annual service. Afterwards he was unanimously elected as an honorary member.

Mr. Maurice Hibbert proposed that a resolution of good wishes for a speedy and safe return should be sent to members on service, and this was carried.

Mr. Ayre asked what the association could do to help Sunday ringing. He mentioned how they had tackled the matter in the Hemel Hempstead area by combining to ensure sufficient to ring at one church in the morning and another in the evening.

The Rev. A. M. Fergusson agreed with Mr. Ayre's suggestion, and thought that similar arrangements could be made in the St. Albans area.

This concluded the meeting. Many lingered to listen to some beautiful handbell ringing by Messrs. Jennings, Brinklow, Turner and Cashmore.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

According to the usual rota, the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association should have been held this year at Burton-on-Trent, but owing to war conditions that was not possible, and it was decided to hold it at Leicester as being the most convenient centre for the majority of the members.

Accordingly the meeting took place on Saturday, May 1st, when the bells of St. John the Divine (10) and St. Margaret's (10) were available for silent practice. Good use was made of this opportunity and a representative gathering assembled.

The committee met in St. Margaret's Choir Vestry at 4 p.m., and the general meeting followed at 5 p.m. in St. Margaret's belfry, presided over by the president, the Rev. Canon R. F. Wilkinson, supported by the vice-president, Mr. Colin Harrison, the hon. treasurer, Miss I. B. Thompson, and the general hon. secretary, Mr. Ernest Morris.

All the districts of the association (except Chesterfield) were represented, viz., Burton, Derby, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham. Visitors were present from Rugby, Birmingham, Coventry, Warkton (Kettering) and elsewhere.

The hon. secretary explained the reasons for the change of programme as advertised in 'The Ringing World.' The Cathedral bells were not available, therefore St. Margaret's were substituted, also as private individuals may not now cater (the ringers' wives had originally volunteered to do this), tea would be at Arcari's Cafe, and a convivial afterwards at the Globe Hotel.

LOSS BY DEATH.

The Chairman then welcomed the large and representative gathering and voiced the feelings of all concerned in thanking the general and local secretaries for the arrangements made. It was a most welcome concession to have the ban lifted and Sunday service ringing allowed, and he knew from past experience everyone would make good use of the opportunity. He trusted that ere long the ban would be entirely lifted. He recalled how during the past year the association had lost several old and valued members, naming those known personally to him—William E. White, of Cotgrave, a devoted officer of the association for so many years; John Jagger and John H. Swinfield, of Burton, two of the old stalwarts of the early days of the association's activities; Charles Hart, the grand old man of Derby; and John Flint, who did so much for ringers and ringing in the Chesterfield district. On behalf of all members he thanked the hon. treasurer and secretary for their work in keeping things going in face of very difficult times.

Miss Thompson stated that the past year had showed an increase in the working balance, thanks to the local secretaries' energy in gathering in many outstanding subscriptions. The Bell Repair Fund and appropriation account were also in a healthy condition, and the whole most satisfactory.

In committee, Mr. Colin Harrison had thanked Miss Thompson for the excellent way she had explained the various items, and this was reiterated by the president and supported by all. Two auditors, Mr. A. J. Harris and Mr. F. Poole, were chosen.

MANY HANDBELL PEALS.

The General Hon. Secretary, in his report, stated that during 1942 twenty-two handbell peals had been rung from Doubles to Cinques. Nottingham and Hinckley districts had each scored peals, but the bulk had been rung in Leicester. A 'handbell week-end,' arranged by Harold J. Poole, resulted in six peals being scored, and Miss Jill Poole was to be congratulated on ringing Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques before her 14th birthday. The secretary then read over the list of members departed during 1942 and called on all present to stand in silence a moment as a tribute of respect to their revered memory. A brief review of the local district's work showed that meetings had been periodically held in all branches except Chesterfield, and, considering all things, had been satisfactorily carried out and appreciated by numbers of members attending.

The general officers were re-elected en bloc, and in place of the late Mr. W. E. White, Mr. Ralph Narborough, of Nottingham, was elected as a co-trustee with Mr. John Oldham, of Loughborough.

The new members elected were three life, two honorary, four ringing and four rejoins.

The party then adjourned to the Arcari Cafe for tea, at which over 50 sat down. Later on a convivial was held at the Globe Hotel, where handbells were made good use of, practically everything from Gardsire Triples to Stedman Cinques, 'Blue Bells' to 'Cagmag,' being successfully accomplished.

NEWCASTLE.—At the Cathedral on Sunday morning, May 9th, for service, 435 Stedman Caters: G. Pickering 1, C. L. Routledge 2, J. Anderson 3, W. Storey 4, J. E. Keen 5, A. W. Greenwood 6, E. Wallace 7, G. Ballard (Leicester) 8, W. J. Davidson (conductor) 9, Lance Ingledew 10. Rung as a congratulatory message to the Provost, Canon G. E. Bridgestock, and his wife on the coming of a first-born (a son). Under the rules it was impossible to ring out the joy bells except through a service touch.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 206.)

By an easy transition, we may pass from the grey majestic towers of the old Abbey, to the big square-sided pillar with the tall nightcap commonly known as the Westminster Clock Tower.

This top-heavy edifice contains some of the latest specimens of English bell-founding, and I must do it the justice to say that it is better inside than out. On a close inspection the massiveness of the structure is imposing, and it is really surprising that such a huge amount of stone work should be so wanting in external dignity. The walls are of a uniform thickness of between five and six feet, and are little likely ever to be shaken down, like the Pekin towers, by the vibrations of the bells.

There is a wide passage all round the top of the tower between the white enamelled glass clock-face and its illuminating apparatus. The proportions of the four dials are truly colossal, measuring each over 70 feet in circumference. Each is illuminated by a blazing wall of light behind it, composed of five horizontal gas tubes full of jets, of an average length of 17 feet apiece. Thus the four clock discs that can be seen so well from all parts of London at night, owe their lighthouse radiance to a furnace composed of no less than 340 feet of gas pipes.

Outside, the mighty minute-hand swings visibly round, travelling at the pace of a foot a minute. The machinery of the clock, to which a large room is devoted, being on a colossal scale, looks extremely simple. It bears the inscription: 'This clock was made in the year of our Lord 1854, by Frederick Dent, from the designs of Edmund Becket Denison, Q.C.'

Telegraph wires from Greenwich are introduced into the interior of the works in order to regulate the time.

We may select a quarter to twelve o'clock to enter the immense belfry containing the five bells. The iron framework in which they are swung is at once neat and massive, and contrasts with the rough and ponderous timbers of the older belfries very much as a modern iron-clad might contrast with an ancient man-of-war. We feel, in the presence of these modern structures, that we have gained much and lost something. The mechanical element predominates over the human, and in the presence of these cast iron columns, symmetrical girders, and neat bolts, we experience a sense of power, but without the particular dignity which belongs to the heavy and cumbrous rafters of the more ancient towers. The very same feeling is inspired by the massive modern iron-work in the belfry of Cologne Cathedral.

Big Ben hangs in the middle and the four quarter bells at the four quarters. The original big bell was cast by Warner, of Clerkenwell, who is also the founder of the four quarter bells. The bell, having cracked, was replaced by Ben, from the foundry of George Mears. It bears the following inscription:—

This bell, weighing 13 tons 3 qr. 15 lbs., was cast by George Mears, at Whitechapel, for the clock of the Houses of Parliament, under the direction of Edmund Becket Denison, Q.C., in the 21st year of the reign of Queen Victoria, and in the year of our Lord MDCCLXVIII.

The decorations round the top are of the hard Gothic type of the Houses of Parliament. On one side of the

bell is the ordinary raised heraldic grating and on the other are the arms of England. The letters are of the worst possible kind of that narrow Gothic type which makes the despair of the antiquarian. In a couple of hundred years, when the rust and mould, which have already begun to accumulate in our wretched English atmosphere, has clotted the letters together and confused the tops, we may safely predict that this inscription will be entirely illegible.

The largest of the four quarter bells, cast in 1856 by Warner, weighs 3 tons 17 cwt. 2 qrs.; the second weighs 1 ton 13 cwt. 2 qrs.; the third 1 ton 5 cwt. 1 qr.; the fourth 1 ton 1 cwt.

After seeking for some quaint text or solemn dedication, which should convey to posterity some idea of the founder's reverence for his work, or taste for his art, I discovered the following noble and original inscription—John Warner and Sons, Crescent Foundry, 1857. Then follows her Britannic Majesty's arms, and underneath the striking word 'Patent.' I could not help thinking of the Belgian bells, on which the founder—half poet, half artist—has printed the fair forms that seemed for ever rising in his free and fertile imagination. How often do we feel as we note the graceful tracery, and the infinitely varied groups, just sufficiently unstudied to be full of feeling, that the artist has been tracing memories of netted branches, beloved faces, or nature's own hieroglyphics written upon flowers and sea-shells. There is one bell in a dark corner of a Louvain belfry, nearly plain, only against the side of it a forest leaf has, as it were, been blown and changed to iron, with every web-like vein perfect—but, of course, a forest leaf is a poor thing compared to a 'Patent.'

Neither in the Abbey, nor St. Paul's, nor the Clock Tower do we find the bells have any higher vocation than that of beating the tom-tom. They do not call the citizens 'to work and pray.' They remind them of no One above the toiling and moiling crowd; of no changeless and eternal sympathy with man, his joys and his sorrows. They give no warning note of fire, of pestilence, of battle, or any other peril. There are no Peals of Triumph, no Storm-bells, no Salvators, merely Old Toms and Big Bens.

Big Ben is cracked; and his tone grows sensibly worse every year—I might almost say every month. Yet, considering he is 8½ inches thick, we can hardly be surprised that the crack does not go right through him (1871). It is said that the designer of the bell insisted on the metals being mixed on scientific principles and in certain proportions; and it is rumoured that had the advice of the founder been followed and the metals mixed as only a practical founder knows how, the bell would not have cracked. On this subject I cannot pretend to have even an opinion.

Big Ben is not a true bell. He suffers from a flat third. His unhappy brother Patent, who is nevertheless so far in his right mind as to be still uncracked (we allude to the next largest bell, which hangs at one of the corners) is no more true than his magnified relative. If I am not much mistaken he is afflicted with a sharp third. To crown all, I fear it must be confessed (but on this subject I would willingly bow to the decision of Sir Sterndale Bennett or Sir Michael Costa) that none of the bells are in tune with each other. The intended intervals are indeed suggested; but it can scarcely be

(Continued on next page.)

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS.

(Continued from previous page.)

maintained by any musician that the dissonant clangour which is heard a quarter before each hour, is anything more than a vague approach to the intended sequence.

The excited citizens of Mechlin or Antwerp would have had these bells down after their first tuneless attempt to play the quarter; but the strength of Old England lies more in patents than tuning forks.

I have before mentioned that one bell in the neighbouring tower of the Abbey on which is inscribed 'John Lester made me' expresses a laudable desire with the rest to agree. We may regret that its aspirations rose no higher, and still more that modest as it is, it was not destined to be realised. But if both the Clock Tower and the Abbey Tower bells are thus discordant in themselves and with each other, it must be admitted that they agree excellently well in disagreeing.

I do not wish to be hard upon English bells, and I confess that I have seen more of foreign than English ones, although since writing the above I have inspected a great many English towers, amongst them Peterborough, York, Lichfield, and Durham; yet such specimens as I have seen have not inspired me with much enthusiasm, and it is with a feeling of relief that I turn even from such celebrated belfries as St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey to the old cathedrals of Belgium, with their musical chimes and their splendid carillons.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the O.U.S.C.R. was held in the Master's rooms, New College, on Tuesday, May 4th. Mr. H. Miles in the chair.

The Master, Mr. J. E. Spice, in his report, spoke of the achievements of the past term, in which five peals were scored, and much good work done. The climax was the annual lunch, which saw the successful inauguration of the new Universities Association. The Master noted with regret the gap caused by the calling-up of Mr. W. F. Moreton, who had proved himself as good a ringer on handbells as tower bells. He spoke of the partial lifting of the ban and the ideal opportunities presented by the many towers in the city of Oxford. Although the society intended to keep up its high level of handbell ringing, it could now turn also to tower bells, and a number of its members had taken part in the ringing on the previous Sunday. There would still be practices on the silent bells of New College.

The Master was unanimously re-elected. Miss Joan Houldsworth succeeded Mr. W. L. B. Leese as secretary, and Miss Margaret Tutt became treasurer in the place of Miss E. J. Macnair.

At the end of the meeting the society presented to the Master a small gift on the occasion of his twenty-first birthday, and to show appreciation of his untiring efforts on behalf of the society and in the cause of ringing generally.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT COLCHESTER.

A quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern Division of the Essex Association was held on Saturday, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Colchester, and 14 ringers attended from eight towers, the lowest recorded since war broke out. Handbells were made good use of both before and after the service, which was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Edward H. Shaw, who expressed his firm belief that on the previous Sunday St. Peter's bells played a great part in filling his church. The organist was Capt. Herbert Ruglys, diocesan reader, from Stratford St. Mary.

The tea and business meeting were held at Crispin Court. In the unavoidable absence of the Master, the district secretary presided. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Leonard's. Mr. W. Chalk proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, the organist and everybody who had helped to make the meeting a success.

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.

WHICH WAS THE FIRST PEAL?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Among the interesting anniversaries recorded in Belfry Gossip, there is mention, in your issue of April 23rd, of the 7,200 Kent Treble Bob Maximus rung at St. Martin's, Birmingham, on April 17th, 1820. The paragraph concludes with the words: 'It is generally supposed to be the first of Kent Maximus ever rung, but that is more than doubtful.'

In the St. Martin's Peal Book the peal is described as Oxford Treble Bob Maximus (with the Kent Variation) and the footnote asserts that it 'was the most Treble Bob ever rung on Twelve Bells and is the first in the Kent Variation.'

In a peal book compiled by Henry Johnson it is described as 'the longest length up to this date, and the first peal in the Kent Variation.'

Furthermore, the St. Martin's Guild has in its possession a printed sheet (a copy of which I enclose) pasted upon a wooden board, and written in the highly embellished, flowery language of those times, which eulogises the above performance and describes it as 'the first peal of New Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of changes ever rung on 12 bells.'

In view of this evidence, is there still room for doubt that this was the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus?

I am aware of the Cumberland's performance at Shoreditch in 1795, when they rang 5,232 Cumberland Treble Bob Maximus; but it seems to have been the custom of the Cumberland Youths at that time to use the prefix 'Cumberland' to almost any method that they rang.

There appears in Shipway's book among Treble Bob methods variations entitled Oxford, Kent, London and Cumberland Exercise.

Is it not possible, therefore, that Cumberland Maximus differed from Kent Maximus?

GEORGE E. FEARN.

92, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

A SUPERLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT ON THE ART OF RINGING.

Birmingham April 17, 1720.

The Society of St. Martin's Youths having for some time contemplated a Peal of Changes on 12 Bells, which should exceed in number any Peal ever rung in the United Kingdom, appointed Monday the 17th inst for the attempt; and although there were very high odds (say 100 to 1) against any Band ringing a plain Peal at the first onset, yet by an anxious attention to, and a superior possession of, this great science, they succeeded in completing the Herculean task in 5 hours and 8 minutes. The Peal comprised 7,200 Changes of New Treble Bob Maximus; and what eminently combines to enrich this performance is, that it was rung at the first attempt, was the first Peal of new Treble Bob Maximus ever performed, and the greatest number of changes ever rung on 12 Bells.

Another generation may rise up to eclipse this, but the present will in all probability suffer it to remain a **STANDING DISH UNTOUCHED.**

The Band, as Stationed.

Mr. WM. BENNETT.....	Treble	The Peal.	52364
JAMES JARVIS.....	Second		24365
WM. HASSALL.....	Third		23645
THOMAS WORRALL.....	Fourth		32546
ALEX. SANDERS.....	Fifth		45236
HENRY COOPER.....	Sixth		34562
SAMUEL LAWRENCE.....	Seventh		42563
JOSEPH GRAYSON.....	Eighth		45623
JOSEPH RILEY.....	Ninth		54326
THOMAS CHAPMAN.....	Tenth		23456
WILLIAM MARSH.....	Eleventh		
THOS. THURSTANS.....	Tenor (and Conductor)	Leads	150
Mr. James Dovey, of Stourbridge, and many other			48
Auditors, expressed their high approbation of the			
above performance.			7200

The first considerable Peal of Treble Bob Maximus, and which created much emulation in the Exercise, was performed at Norwich, by St. Peter's Company in the year 1778, comprising 6240 Changes. The next by the College Youths, London, in the year 1784, being 7008 Changes. 18 years afterwards, viz in 1802, the Cumberland Youths rung two leads more than the preceding Peal, making their 7104 Changes: 18 years subsequently to this, viz, in 1820, the St. Martin's Youths, Birmingham, exceeded this latter Peal by two Leads Making their Peal 7200 Changes.

[There is sufficient evidence that the method rung in 1795 by the Cumberland Youths at St. Saviour's, Southwark (not Shoreditch), was

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G. & F. COPE & CO.
NOTTINGHAM
 Tower Clock Manufacturers

Estimates submitted for New
 Clocks, Chime Additions, Re-
 pairs, or Repainting of Dials

THE LIFTING OF THE BAN.**COMMENTS AND CRITICISM.**

In the course of its comments on the lifting of the ban, 'The Church Times' last week remarked:—

'Many readers of "The Church Times" have been expressing concern at the terms of the recent order permitting church bells to be rung on Sundays and on certain other days. The Prime Minister's announcement of the decision in Parliament was not explicit as to the "other special days" on which ringing was to be allowed; but the subsequent order of the Ministry of Home Security, made under its powers for controlling noise, specified only Good Friday and Christmas Day. It is manifestly right to extend the concession to the day on which Christians commemorate the redemption of the world by the Cross and Passion of our Lord, and to that on which they praise God for His entry into the world of men in human flesh. But to omit that day on which He ended His earthly course and was crowned in our common manhood on the throne of Heaven, betrays a striking inability to distinguish between the great feasts of Christendom and the public holidays granted to the banking profession by the English Parliament in 1871.

'The question has also been raised why, since the church bells are no longer to be utilised to give warning of invasion, their use has not been wholly restored. The answer presumably is that the authorities are properly anxious to cause as little disturbance as possible to the well-earned sleep of workers on night shifts. If our conjecture is correct, the Ministry might well have said so candidly.'

CORRESPONDENTS' OPINIONS.

The journal also published several letters on the subject from correspondents. The Rev. C. E. Goshawk, of Horbling Vicarage, Lincolnshire wrote:—

'I expected to see some comment in your issue of April 30th on the new order with regard to the ringing of the bells. Surely it is an anomalous and unsatisfactory position. The Prime Minister has stated that there is now no connection between the ringing of church bells and invasion. Why, then, is the ringing to be restricted to Sundays and the two days in the year alone recognised by the Government as "special days," Good Friday and Christmas Day? What of other great festivals of the Church, such as Ascension Day, and what of the rubric in the Prayer Book which orders the ringing of a bell before the daily services? It seems a grudging concession. Are the authorities determined, if they cannot silence the bells altogether any longer, to keep up a petty interfering attitude towards the Church?'

'I cannot believe that you will be content to let this pass without a protest in your columns.'

The Rev. Alban E. Russell, of Amport, Hampshire, raised a point which will appeal specially to ringers—how can fresh ringers be trained?

'It was with some surprise that I noticed no mention in your columns of the strange wording of the Government's recent decree on the ringing of church bells. We have been told that the bells may be rung on Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday—the latter a day on which tradition is against their being rung at all—but not on great festivals such as the Ascension.

'Since they are no longer to be used for military purposes, what is the point of keeping the bells silent on weekdays? Can it be that the Government has become so "ration-minded" that even campanology must be subjected to the points system?'

'It means that the ringers can never practise their craft, which may be a gain to the people who live near our churches, but certainly does not make for efficiency, nor can fresh ringers be trained. Perhaps more serious still is the fact that the bell for daily Mass and the offices, with its reminder that prayer is constantly being offered, must not be heard.'

The Rev. G. W. Brodribb, of Horbury Bridge, pointed out that Ascension Day is as important a Church festival as Christmas Day and should have been included. The practical answer would probably be that it has never been possible to have bells fully rung on that day since ringers are not generally available.

'Would it not be possible to try and obtain permission for the church bells to be rung on Ascension Day? It seems an excellent opportunity of stressing the greatness and importance of this festival, which may be lost if no effort is made to bring home to the people that Ascension Day is at least as important a feast as Christmas Day.'

A layman, Mr. E. D. Idle, raises a point which ringers will do well to take into consideration, whether they agree with it or not:—

'A short time ago an appeal was broadcast by the B.B.C. for the control of radio and other "noises" over the week-ends for the sake of those who are on night work and need sleep during the day.

'Church bells are now to be rung again. Even in the good old days before the war there were numbers of town dwellers who found their Sundays anything but a day of rest on account of the persistent ringing of church bells "across the street."

'It is essential for the sake of the unusually large proportion of the population—war workers, civil defence personnel, etc.—at present doing night work, that the ringing of church bells should be reduced to a minimum, or, better still, should cease entirely in built-up areas.

'In making this appeal I shall, I am certain, have the support of very many men and women throughout the country.'

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.**

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—Meeting at Rishton on Saturday, May 15th. Tower bells (silent) from 3 p.m., also handbells. Meeting at 6 p.m. Please bring your own food.—F. Hindle, Branch Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—Meeting at Hallow on Saturday, May 15th. Silent ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4.15 p.m., followed by business meeting.—E. F. Cubberley, Park Cottages, Kempsey, near Worcester.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Meeting at Hawkhurst, Saturday, May 15th. Service in church 4.30. Tea will be arranged if possible.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., East Peckham, Tonbridge.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Annual general meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, May 15th. Church bells (silent) and handbells available from 2.30 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea, at a charge of 1s. 4d., at 5.15 p.m. Business meeting to follow.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Gen. Sec., 21, Vincent Road, E.4.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting at Wokingham on Saturday, May 15th. Service at All Saints' Church 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at All Saints' Rectory. Handbell ringing in tower from 3.30.—B. C. Castle, Hon. Sec., The Briars, Westfield Road, Winnersh, Wokingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—Meeting at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 15th. The Vestry open from 3 p.m. Handbells provided; also cups of tea. A short service at 5.30.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern District.—Meeting at Maldon on Saturday, May 22nd. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting afterwards. Numbers for tea not later than Wednesday, May 19th.—H. W. Shadrack, Hon. Dis. Sec., 48, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd. Silent tower bells and handbells from 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea to follow. Names to be sent to Mr. E. M. Atkins, 18, Westbere Road, N.W.2 (Tel. Hampstead 4510) by previous Thursday.—T. J. Lock, Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—Meeting at Worsley on Saturday, May 22nd, at 3 p.m. Cup of tea for those who notify me by Tuesday, 18th. Bring your own food and sugar.—F. Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—Meeting at Halstead on Saturday, May 22nd. Handbells from 2.30 in church. Service at 4 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the school. Please bring own food.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Belbroughton, Saturday, May 22nd, 3 p.m. Bells available ('silent'). Tea at 'Shoes' 5 p.m. and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at St. Leonard's, Malins Lee, Saturday, May 29th, 3 p.m. Silent tower bells, handbells and service. Tea will be provided.—E. D. Poole, Hon. Sec.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch.—The annual meeting at Gainsborough on Saturday, May 29th. Service 4 p.m. Business meeting in the tower 6 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea.—J. Bray, Hon. Sec.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—Meeting at South Weald on Saturday, May 29th. Handbells and silent tower bells from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow. All requiring tea please notify me not later than May 24th.—J. H. Crampton, Hon. Sec., 14, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, E.11.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Bowdon and Stockport Branch.—Meeting at Bowdon on Saturday, May 29th (not 22nd as arranged previously). Further particulars next week.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—Quarterly meeting at Sawley on Saturday, May 29th. Church bells (silent) from 3 p.m. Meeting in Vestry 4.30 p.m., followed by tea. Handbell ringing and social hour after. Names for tea to Mr. W. Dawson, Clarke Drive, Sawley, Long Ditton, Notts, by Wednesday, May 26th. Important business.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec., 74, Dornoch Avenue, Sherwood, Nottingham.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Meeting at Rainham (Kent) on Sunday, May 30th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4 p.m., followed by meeting in Church Hall. Ringing at 5.30 for evening service.—G. H. Spice, Hon. Dis. Sec., 35, Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting Whit-Monday, June 14th, at Thrapston. Central Committee meet in Vestry 2.45. Service in Church 3.30. Tea in the Guide Room, Grove Road (off Market Road) only for those who send names to the general

sec. by June 4th. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, service ringing on first and third Sunday of each month. Meeting 9.40 a.m. (duration of war arrangement). St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 10.15 a.m. on third Sunday of each month.—G. W. Steere, Hon. Sec., 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, PUTNEY.—Ringing every Sunday at 10.15. All ringers heartily welcomed.—W. T. Elson.

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Ringing 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings in each month at 10.40 a.m.—C. M. Meyer.

ST. STEPHEN'S, WESTMINSTER.—Ringing 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings in each month at 5.45 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CROYDON.

The annual meeting of the Surrey Association, held at Croydon on May 1st, was attended by over 50 members.

The service in the Parish Church was conducted by the Bishop of Croydon, who paid tribute to ringers for having the bells and themselves ready for ringing at short notice, and said how very much impressed he was by seeing an airman and a couple of soldiers ringing with the local band on Easter Sunday morning and by the hospitable welcome they received. How much better the world would be if everyone would practise the fellowship which exists among ringers when they get together.

At the business meeting which followed, the Master, Mr. D. K. C. Birt, occupied the chair.

Mention was made in the report by the assistant secretary, Mr. C. de Ste. C. Parks, of the loss by fire at Mitcham Parish Church. The tower was burnt out and it is feared that the bells will have to be recast. The organ has been ruined, and peal boards, handbells and a small ringing library have been destroyed.

Mr. A. A. Hughes suggested that it would be a good idea for the larger centres to put a notice in 'The Ringing World' stating when and where ringing would take place for the benefit of members of the Forces who might be in the vicinity.

Mr. Birt said that the Southern District were hoping to hold a meeting at Reigate, probably in August, at which Mr. A. A. Hughes would give a talk on bells and ringing. Due notice will be given in 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. C. H. Kippin proposed a vote of thanks to the Bishop and organist, to Mr. Dan Cooper for making the arrangements, and to the ladies for looking after the members at tea.

KENT TREBLE TWELVE.

(Continued from page 217.)

a simple variation of Oxford Treble Bob which would run equally well on eight, ten and twelve bells. It had the ordinary Treble Bob lead ends and the ordinary Treble Bob lengthening-lead bob. It could be rung by a first-class ten-bell band on twelve bells without previous practice, for the Cumberlands had then no twelve-bell tower to practice in. Shipway knew the method, for he rang in one of the peals, and it is not at all likely he would have omitted it from his book if it had been different from one of the standard methods. Kent is the only method which fulfils these conditions.

In 1795 the name Kent had not yet been generally adopted by the Exercise, and it would be quite in accordance with their usual custom for the Cumberlands to give it their own name.

When the Birmingham men rang their peal in 1820 they quite honestly thought it was the first in the method, but they were not likely to have known of the other performance. The statements on peal boards and in peal books that such and such a peal was the first in the method are frequently incorrect.—The Editor, 'The Ringing World.'

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