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THE BAN ON RINGING.

Since the temporary lifting at Christmas time of the ban on the use of church bells, the demands in Parliament and the Press for its total abolition have abated, but that does not mean any lessening of the feeling that it is useless and quite unnecessary. Many people are inclined to look on it as a bureaucratic infringement of rights and liberties, and resent it accordingly.

This feeling finds expression in a letter by the Rev. Stewart B. Preston which recently appeared in 'The South Wales Argus,' and which we reproduce on another page. Mr. Preston calls attention to the fact (which we ourselves had already noted) that no general provisions have been made to ensure that the bells could be used as a warning, and no general tests have been made to see if the warning would be effective. The obvious conclusion is that the authorities do not now attach any importance to the use of the bells as warnings and therefore the reason for the order has passed away.

So far we quite agree with the Vicar of Worsborough Dale, but there is much in his letter to which neither we nor, we believe, ringers in general will assent. The order may have been inadvisable, it may be useless, it may be an infringement of rights. But it certainly is not illegal. No doubt the Prayer Book orders that a bell should be tolled before divine service, and as the Prayer Book is a schedule to an Act of Parliament, that is statute law. But Parliament which has made a law can also amend or suspend a law, and that is what has been done in this instance, for the order issued by the responsible Ministry has the full authority of Parliament. Anything like an attempt by the clergy to set the order at defiance, as is recommended by Mr. Preston, would be distinctly wrong, and not only wrong, but eminently foolish. It would have short shrift from those men (not the Government) who have to administer justice, and it would bring the clergy and the Church into direct conflict with the general public. But there is little fear of such happening. For one thing we do not believe ringers would lend their aid.

Nor do we believe the order was the work of some stupid panic-stricken official who lost his head, and is now too pig-headed to acknowledge he made a mistake. It was issued at a time of dire peril, when anything and everything which could or might help had to be done, when there was no time to wait for tests of efficiency. The emergency passed and it is hardly likely that any enemy invasion of this country will be attempted. The reason for the ban has largely ceased to exist, and we

(Continued from page 78.)

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imagine that the authorities no longer attach any value to the use of bells as warning.

Why, then, it may be asked, is the ban not removed? The answer, we are convinced, is not because it is feared that the ringing of bells would cause a panic, but because it might lead careless and unthinking people to imagine unconsciously that there is less need now for effort, and chiefly, perhaps, because the Prime Minister attaches great value to the use of the bells at the time of victory. It is not without significance that in most of his important speeches Mr. Churchill has referred to church bells and always in the same spirit. Last week in the House of Commons, when he was asking the members to have confidence in Generals Eisenhower and Alexander, he said, 'Let them alone and give them a chance and it is quite possible that one fine day the bells will ring again.'

If church bells are to be the supreme expression of the feelings of the people of England in the hour of victory it is essential that they should remain silent at other times. Whether that is too high a price to pay we do not venture to decide, but we do think that it is the real reason for the continuance of the ban and the only one which has any sort of justification. We may be allowed to ring on Easter Sunday, but we shall not be surprised if the general restriction remains until the end of the war sweeps the order and all its fellows into the limbo of old, unhappy far-off things and battles long ago.

HANDBELL PEALS.

COVENTRY.

THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Sunday, February 7, 1 43, in Two Hours,

AT 117, WIDDRINGTON ROAD,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST STONE 1-2 | FRANK E. PERVIN 3-4
JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 5-6

Conducted by F. E. PERVIN.

First peal of Minor 'in hand' by all.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, February 14, 1943 in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT 21A, STONARD ROAD, PALMER'S GREEN, N.13.

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. J. THOMAS 1-2 | ISAAC J. ATTWATER 5-6
JOHN THOMAS 3-4 | FREDERICK G. SYMONS 7-8
WALTER J. BOWDEN 9-10

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by JOHN THOMAS.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago yesterday the first peal of Surprise in the City of Birmingham was rung at St. Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral by the Worcester and Districts Association. The method was Superlative and the band stood as follows: John Barber treble, William Short 2, George Salter 3, Albert E. Parsons 4, Thomas J. Salter 5, Thomas R. Bennett 6, John Crane 7, R. E. Grove tenor. Composed by C. H. Hattersley and conducted by R. E. Grove.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, February 14th, at No. 49, Windsor Avenue, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 40 minutes: George Kilby 1-2, Frederick W. Goodfellow 3-4, Frederick G. Baldwin 5-6, Thomas G. Bannister (conductor) 7-8. First quarter-peal on handbells by ringer of 5-6. First quarter-peal as conductor. Rung to celebrate the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Bowerman (nee Gutteridge), of Iver Heath, Bucks.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.

THE LOCAL BANDS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The reply of Mr. Borrett to my comments on his letter seeking the list of all peals rung in 12-bell towers has, to my mind, justified my point in trying to ascertain the 12-bell performances in these towers, rather than the total rung on all numbers. In his original letter he points out that we as ringers hold a reverence for 12-bell towers and I certainly agree, but surely Mr. Borrett would also claim that this reverence is more likely to be given in listening to well-struck Stedman Cinques rather than, say, a good touch of Double Norwich on the middle eight, which may be heard from many of our eight-bell towers.

With the exception of Birmingham and Ipswich, he goes on to lament the contribution given by many of the provincial centres to 12-bell ringing, and on this reckoning, when these towers publish their lists of peals rung, there will certainly be another large percentage of ten and eight-bell peals among them. This point is also answered this week by the interesting list of peals from Newcastle Cathedral. Out of 85 peals rung in this tower only 25 are on the twelve bells. The reasons for this, I appreciate, may be similar to those given for Mancroft, but my point is that we as ringers recognise these towers as 12-bell towers and look to them, in normal times of course, to practise and promote the art of 12-bell ringing and, as a rule, only to resort to ten or eight-bell peals when, for instance, they meet short for twelve.

Mr. Borrett raises another interesting point when he asks, 'What likelihood is there of 12-bell peals at these (naming several 12-bell towers), except by visiting companies or largely made up of visitors?' Well, in a good many of these towers and many of our cathedrals where the number of rings have been increased to twelve 'as flies in summer', as Mr. Borrett puts it, the augmentations have been carried out by our guilds and associations as memorials and thankofferings to their members who have died or fallen in action, and no doubt after the end of this war many similar schemes will be carried out, but often enough these towers have not the good fortune, at the time, to be equipped with a local 12-bell company. Surely it is not to be encouraged that a strong mixed company should be denied the opportunity of ringing 12-bell peals in such towers, possibly with the inclusion of many of the local company.

In mentioning this I should like, on the other hand, to instance the example of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, possessing a brilliant local company which has achieved perhaps the highest yet in 12-bell ringing and could content themselves, if they wished, with entirely local peals. But the visitor has a warm spot in the Ipswich heart and many of us have got to thank them for the opportunity given to ring our first peal in a method that would be denied us if all our 12-bell towers were to close their peal ringing doors to visitors.

Fortunately similar treatment is afforded us visitors by many of our famous 12-bell towers, and for this blessing alone the practice of encouraging 12-bell peals inclusive of visitors is to be welcomed and not looked upon as a weakness of the local band not to be able to do it 'off their own bat.'

Mr. Borrett hopes that by publishing the complete list of peals rung on all numbers in 12-bell towers we shall have information at our disposal that would give us something to think about. Well, if these statistics help to infuse some spirit, when we return to normal, to raise the percentage of 12-bell ringing in these towers, I am all for publishing them.

In conclusion, I would suggest that to allay our friend Mr. Borrett's fear that our 12-bell towers are not put to their best and fullest use, we should still promote the opportunities to augment our depleted local companies with a good acquisition of proficient visitors rather than have to leave the local company to ring the back ten or eight which otherwise would be the case until the millennium we all look for is reached.

FREDERICK W. ROGERS.

Portsmouth.

ST. PETER'S, SHEFFIELD. A GOOD RECORD.

Dear Sir,—I think that Mr. Borrett, in his latest letter headed 'Peal performances in 12-bell towers,' is hardly fair to Sheffield. He asks the question, 'What has Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield contributed to 12-bell peals?'; by inference it would appear that they have done little or nothing. He goes on to answer the question himself by stating, 'Very little indeed'; with that statement I do not agree.

I cannot speak for either Bristol or Liverpool. Leeds, perhaps, has not done much, but there are mitigating circumstances to take into account there, as, I suppose, there are at many twelve-bell towers. Sheffield, however, has, to my mind, a record of which no twelve-bell tower need be ashamed, even if it does not come up to the standard of Birmingham and Ipswich, the two towers which Mr. Borrett specifically mentions.

On looking through the performances that have been recorded by the Yorkshire Association since its inception in 1875, I find that 69 peals on 12 bells have been rung by the association during that

period, and of those no fewer than 36 have been rung at St. Peter's, Sheffield (now the Cathedral). I hardly think that that fits in with Mr. Borrett's statement '... if you take a general look round the 12-bell towers in the provinces you will find their peal performances lamentably small'; of course, much depends on the interpretation of the term 'lamentably small,' but one would hardly compare by numbers peals on 12 as against peals on eight or even on ten bells.

An analysis of the twelve-bell peals at Sheffield will perhaps, be interesting. Although it does not include Surprise, it is, at any rate, one not to be despised: Kent T.B. Maximus 10, Bob Maximus 2, Little Bob Maximus 2, Oxford T.B. Maximus 1, Stedman Cinques 17, Grandsire Cinques 4, total 36. How many peals were rung on the bells prior to October, 1875, I cannot say. Perhaps one of our Sheffield brethren will be able to supply that information. Altogether 105 peals have been rung on the bells at Sheffield Cathedral since that tower has been affiliated to the Yorkshire Association.

WILLIAM BARTON,

Hon. Peal Sec., Yorkshire Association.

9, Pembroke Road, Pudsey, near Leeds.

ST. MARTIN'S, BIRMINGHAM. A FINE LIST.

Dear Sir,—I have been very interested in the list of peal performances at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich and Newcastle Cathedral, and enclose you a list of peals rung at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, from 1758 to 1938.

This list totals 260 peals and has been compiled by Mr. George F. Swann, St. Martin's Guild librarian, and his list gives totals of Maximus, Cinques, Royal, Caters and Triples. They comprise many historic performances and record lengths at the time rung. The 11,111 Stedman Cinques rung in 1901 is the true record length to present date.

We in Birmingham are very much indebted to Mr. Swann for his untiring work, and I trust it will be possible for you to publish with this letter the various methods rung and the summary from 1758 to 1938.

I myself have been privileged to ring 159 peals on the 12, 10 and eight bells at St. Martin's, am looking forward to the 160th as a great victory peal, and may it be soon.

ALBERT WALKER.

86, Scriber's Lane, Birmingham 28.

S. Martin's Holt S. Martin's Society Society Guild

	Visitors	Total
Grandsire Maximus	1	1
Bob Maximus	1	2
Kent T.B. Maximus	3	9
Oxford T.B. Maximus	2	2
Forward Maximus	2	2
Duffield Maximus	1	1
Cambridge Maximus	4	4
Grandsire Cinques	8	10
Stedman Cinques	17	194
Kent T.B. Cinques	1	1
Bob Royal	1	2
Kent T.B. Royal	3	4
Oxford T.B. Royal	1	1
Cambridge Royal	2	2
Grandsire Caters	5	6
Stedman Caters	4	10
Oxford T.B. Caters	1	1
Kent T.B. Major	1	1
Double Norwich Major	1	1
Superlative Major	1	1
Cambridge Major	1	1
Stedman Triples	2	3
	49	260

The first peal on the bells was rung on November 19th, 1758, and from then till December 24th, 1888, 51 were rung.

The Guild was formed on January 1st, 1889, and 25 peals were rung up to the end of 1900, so 76 were rung in 142 years, and since then 184 have been rung in 38 years.

The Stedman Triples rung on May 18th, 1846, was, I believe, rung on the front eight. The Kent Major rung on February 25th, 1847, may also have been, but I have no information. All the rest were, to the best of my knowledge, rung on the back bells.

MR. GEOFFREY V MURPHY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have just received a card from Geoffrey V. Murphy from a prisoner of war camp in Italy. It was dated in November last. He just says he is well and adds very pathetically, 'Write to me as often as you can.' I shall be very pleased to let anyone have his address if they will drop me a line.

E. BARNETT.

10, Kings Close, Crayford.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 71.)

SOME INTERESTING PEALS.

On March 21st, 1773, George Gross called the first peal, one of Bob Major, on the new ring of eight which Thomas Janaway, of Chelsea, had put up at St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and on the following September 21st the first peal, one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at SS. Peter and Paul's, Bromley.

ber, 1773, 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in the following January, and Plain Tittum Royal and Tittum Treble Bob Royal, both at Shoreditch in 1781. The latter was the first time a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal had been rung in the tittums.

In 1780 Gross called Holt's Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples. The composition has never had anything like the popularity of the Ten-part, and this seems to be the earliest recorded performance, though it is not un-



ST. SAVIOUR'S IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

Both towers were shortly to be the headquarters of a first class band. At Kensington many peals were rung during the closing years of the eighteenth century, most of them, but not all, by the College Youths. The Bromley Youths, at the same time, were one of the best of the provincial bands.

In June, 1773, the Cumberlands visited Gravesend and rang a peal of Bob Major 'by desire of William Manley, Esq.' Manley was a country gentleman, a patron of ringing, who lived at Woldham Hall, four miles south of Rochester. He joined the Cumberlands in the following year and held the office of Master. He gave the medal representing the Duke of Cumberland with the attached silver medallion about 4 x 3½ inches in size, which is still worn by the Master at the society's meetings.

Other notable peals, conducted by George Gross, included 7,001 Grandsire Caters at Shoreditch in Novem-

ber, 1773, 5,258 Grandsire Cinques at Southwark in the following January, and Plain Tittum Royal and Tittum Treble Bob Royal, both at Shoreditch in 1781. The latter was the first time a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal had been rung in the tittums.

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likely that it had been rung before. John Reeves had composed and called 5,088 Bob Major 'with only 66 bobs'; Gross composed and called the same number of changes 'with only 51 bobs' at St. George's-in-the-Borough in 1774, and in 1777 at Christ Church, Southwark, 5,200 changes 'with 30 course ends and 55 bobs.' The figures of these two peals are not extant.

In 1777 we get one of the very rare glimpses of these ringers in their relations to their contemporaries and to the life of the world outside the Exercise. On December 21st they rang at West Ham a peal of Grandsire Caters 'in remembrance of John Wilkes, Esq.' Wilkes was one of the most notorious men of the eighteenth century. Journalist, demagogue, freethinker, libertine, Member of Parliament, outlaw, Lord Mayor of London, he played a prominent part in the political struggles of the time. A man of extraordinary contrasts, as ugly as sin, but with

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a charm, that captivated even those, like Samuel Johnson, who thought the worst of him. A man who fought for liberty and freedom of speech, and who shared in the dissolute orgies of the 'monks' of Medmenham Abbey where 'black masses' were celebrated and vice practised for its own sake. In his struggle with the Government he gained enormous popularity with the common people and this peal is a proof of it. What he had done to be specially remembered on this occasion at West Ham I do not know, and it is not at all likely that the clergy either ordered or condoned the ringing, any more than their successors would have had the bells rung for Charles Bradlaugh in the nineteenth century, or for Horatio Bottomley in the twentieth. The churchwardens may have done so, for they represented the laity and lay opinion, but it is probable that the ringers took the matter into their own hands, knowing that they had the support of outside people behind them. But it was the men from Shoreditch who rang the peal, not the local ringers.

In January and February, 1775, Charles Purser rang five peals with the Cumberlands, one of them 5,111 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow, 'being the greatest performance' (so the peal book says) 'ever done on those bells.' Purser rang the ninth (later the eleventh) and three were needed for the tenor. He also rang the seventh to 5,152 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Spitalfields, where he was for many years steeple keeper.

There were several ringers of the name of Purser, all probably belonging to the same family, and quite likely descendants of a man who had been sexton at Stepney in the previous century. Michael Purser rang in the first ten peals by the London Youths. In 1760 he joined the

Cumberlands and rang ten peals with them. Four years later he was back with the London Youths and took part in a couple of five-thousands. Then he returned to the Cumberlands and rang six more, the last in 1773. He probably was the brother of Charles, but there was only one peal—Grandsire Triples at Spitalfields in 1769—in which they rang together. It may have been only a coincidence that directly Michael dropped peal ringing with the Cumberlands Charles became active, and when Charles left the company Michael resumed peal ringing until Charles returned.

Charles Purser was at one time (probably later in life) the landlord of the Ben Jonson tavern in Booth Street, Spitalfields, a house, we are told, 'which was resorted to by the gentry of the parish.'

Like many another ambitious ringer, Purser wanted to call peals, and so far no band had given him the chance. Among the Cumberlands George Gross monopolised the conducting, but in 1776 the College Youths lacked a conductor and that gave Purser his opportunity. He joined them and during the next four years called nineteen peals, some of them of more than usual interest. They included a peal of Real Double Bob Major at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West (which was false in its composition), a 7,008 of Grandsire Caters at Fulham in 1777, and the first peals on the new bells at Dunstable (1776), Chelmsford (1777), and St. Mary's, Walthamstow (1778). It was while Charles Purser was leader of the College Youths and George Gross was leader of the Cumberland Youths that the famous contest took place to see which could ring the longest lengths of Oxford Treble Bob on ten and twelve bells.

(To be continued.)

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Two or three of our readers have called us to account for referring to Monmouthshire as a Welsh county. Mr. Edwin Barnett in particular protests against being classed as a Welshman. We apologise, but the lapse, such as it was, was due neither to ignorance nor carelessness. Technically and historically Monmouthshire is in England, but for all practical purposes it is usually included in Wales. For instance, the Church in Wales includes the parishes of Monmouthshire.

Mr. G. L. Grover, hon. secretary of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, has been awarded a certificate for gallantry or good service by the Army Commander of South-Eastern England (Lt.-Gen. J. G. des R. Swayne). Mr. Grover is a sergeant in the 5th Surrey Battalion of the Home Guard.

Mr. George H. Cross tells us he has received a letter from Thomas H. Francis, who is serving as a staff sergeant in the Forces overseas. At the time of writing Sergt. Francis was quite happy and well.

Joseph Tebbs, of Leeds, a prominent Yorkshire ringer and composer, died on February 14th, 1836.

On February 14th, 1931, the College Youths, with Benjamin Annable as conductor, rang 7,018 Grandsire Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill. Three men were needed at the tenor.

On the same date in 1920 the Painswick men rang 13,001 changes of the same method.

Samuel Thomas called the first peal of Yorkshire Major at Ranmoor, Sheffield, on February 14th, 1903. Yorkshire Surprise is a fairly close variation of Cambridge, but is an excellent method and is likely to increase in popularity in the future. It is undoubtedly the best Surprise method that can be had on ten and twelve bells.

The anniversaries of the first peals in three other Surprise Major methods fall on February 14th: Irchester at Irthlingborough in 1931; and Lincoln at Helmingham, and Belvedere at Staines in 1935.

The Oldham men rang 9,999 changes of Grandsire Major on February 15th, 1825. The composition turned out to be false.

Mr. H. G. Cashmore called the first peal of Uxbridge Surprise Major at St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, on February 15th, 1936.

John Holt and the Union Scholars rang a peal of Court Bob Major at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on February 16th, 1752.

On February 16th, 1789, 14,224 changes of Bob Major were rung at Aston.

The Painswick men rang 8,448 Stedman Cinques on February 16th, 1858. It beat the College Youths' 7,524 at St. Giles', Cripplegate, rung in 1851, and was in turn beaten by the College Youths' 8,580 rung at Cernhill in 1861.

Mr. T. W. Last called the first peal of Clacton Surprise Major at Helmingham on February 16th, 1938.

The first known peal of Union Triples was rung at St. Lawrence Jewry by the College Youths on February 17th, 1727. The method was by Robert Baldwin, of the Union Scholars, and was the result of an attempt to produce a peal of Grandsire Triples. It evidently was suggested by John Garthorn's peal. Whether the Union Scholars ever rang it we do not know.

The first peal of Shipway's method, Place Triples, was rung by the Cumberlands at Hackney on February 17th, 1801.

London lost a fine ring of twelve bells when the steeple of Christ Church, Spitalfields, was burnt out on February 17th, 1836.

On the same date in 1856, Henry Johnson called the first and only peal of Stedman Major at Aston Parish Church.

The College Youths rang 10,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on February 18th, 1777, and the second peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on the same date in 1792.

The Trinity Youths, the society referred to by Mr. Edwin Barnett on another page, rang their first peal on February 18th, 1782.

Henry Haley was born at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1851.

The Oxford University Society was founded on February 20th, 1872.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I would congratulate Mr. Arthur Wright on having completed his Survey of the Bells of Monmouthshire and on the publication of his book under the above title.

In order, however, that I may bring my geography up to date, I should be much obliged if you could tell me when Monmouthshire became a Welsh county, as it is described in your leader in 'The Ringing World' dated 12th inst.

A. PADDON SMITH.

Donnor. Handsworth Wood, Birmingham 20.

DEATH OF MR. J. M. ROUTH.

We regret to announce the death on February 15th, 1943, of John Martin Routh, in his 97th year.

THE BAN ON RINGING.

A PROTEST FROM SOUTH WALES.

The following letter, protesting against the continued ban on the use of church bells, appeared recently in 'The South Wales Argus':—
 'Sir,—Is it not high time that the ridiculous superstition banning the use of church bells from their lawful purpose was brought to an end? There is some doubt if there is any legal regulation in existence which forbids them to be rung for worship. Some panic-stricken official issued the original ill-conceived idea as to the consequences involved. It is at least doubtful whether this order has proper legal authority in face of the statutory obligation laid on the clergy to ring their bells for divine worship. Nevertheless the original order has been reaffirmed on the wireless, and in the Press, and even, I believe, in Parliament. And now the clergy are afraid to ring their bells, not because there is any real reason why they should not be rung, but simply because, owing to the wireless support of the original stupid blunder, the ringing of the bells might cause panic to large numbers of ordinary people, who might imagine that the Nazis were at hand.

I believe the following facts are indisputable:—

(1) No intelligent provision has ever been made to carry out the ringing of the bells in case of emergency.

(2) No competent persons have been provided to ring them; and most of the trained ringers are no longer available.

(3) If unskilled Home Guards or others attempted to ring heavy bells (which are the only ones which could be of any use), there would undoubtedly be heavy casualties, and possibly even deaths in the belfries concerned. A heavy bell is most dangerous if tackled by an unskilled ringer.

(4) Not one person in a thousand knows what to do if the bells were to give the alarm.

(5) In the unlikely event of the emergency contemplated in the original panic order actually arising, there are several easier and more effective ways of giving the alarm, provided, of course, that proper instructions were given beforehand to all concerned. At present no instructions have been given which could be of the slightest use in an emergency. So the ringing of the bells, if the amateur ringers succeeded in getting them rung, would serve no useful purpose, even if they were heard by any considerable number of people amid the noises of the town or the distances of the country.

I, therefore, seriously suggest that all the clergy should agree to advertise their intention to ring their bells as usual from Easter onwards. No one would then be alarmed; and I should be much surprised if the authorities, who must, if they have any intelligence, have long ago regretted the issue of the order, would take any action against the ringers in ten thousand churches who obeyed the law of the land, which says that church bells *must* be rung before service.—Stewart B. Priston, The Vicarage, Worsborough Dale.'

A BISHOP'S OPINION.

A recent issue of the 'Chelmsford Diocesan Chronicle' contains the usual monthly letter by the Bishop of the diocese, in which he writes:—

There is a growing volume of protest against the continued prohibition of the ringing of the church bells. I always regarded it as an emergency measure of rather doubtful value. It is not everyone who can ring a bell. The whole process of discovering the approach of the invading force, wakening the custodian of the church, opening the church building and ringing the bells, would appear to be so complicated that when at last the ringer approached the church he would probably be greeted by a contingent of the enemy, who would naturally make straight for the church, since that was known to be the place from which the warning would be given. Moreover, as I discovered to my cost in my first years in Essex, it is an exceedingly difficult thing to locate the sound of a church bell, as the echoes are most confusing.

I have always felt the firing of a rocket would be a much more effective warning. However that may be, it is most desirable that the authorities should reconsider the whole question and restore a traditional feature of our national life, the loss of which has definitely contributed to the decay of churchgoing.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BETTISON.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Bettison, which took place in hospital on February 3rd.

Mr. Bettison was born at Ripley in Derbyshire, and for some years was a member of the skilful band at Bolsover under the leadership of John Flint. He had rung over 200 peals.

Mr. Bettison, who was 77 years of age, had resided at Watford, Hertfordshire, with his daughter since the death of his wife. He leaves a son and two daughters. He was of a quiet nature, beloved by all with whom he came in contact. His body was cremated at Golders Green on February 8th.

Among other diversions and recreations practised by and delighted in by the inhabitants of this land none is more diverting, ingenious, harmless and healthful than the art of ringing used and practised with discretion.—'The Clavis.'

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.

A meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Lancashire Association was held on Saturday, February 13th, at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, and was attended by members from several towers in the district. Welcome visitors were Messrs. R. Moseley, of Bolton, Norman Heaps, of Southport, and H. Martin and S. Moston, of Aston.

Handbells were rung before service and after the meeting. The Rector, the Rev. R. A. Reeves, conducted the service, and tea was served in the lower vestry. The Rector regretted he was not able to stay for the meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. D. P. Roberts. The curate, the Rev. Leslie Evans, was present.

Reference was made to the death of Mr. E. Breeze, and the branch secretary was requested to send a letter of condolence to the widow and family.

The meeting instructed Mr. R. W. Cave to prepare a suitable theme for discussion at a joint meeting with the university members of the Student Christian Movement on February 20th.

On the suggestion of Mr. T. S. Horridge, it was agreed to support an effort to arrange a joint meeting with the Wigan Branch.

The next meeting of the branch was fixed for St. Nicholas' on March 27th. In the meantime we may expect to see the completion of the building of the temporary chapel—in the ruins of the old church—which will allow for the accommodation of 200 people. Votes of thanks to the Rector and the ladies who prepared the tea concluded the meeting.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM WEATHERLEY.

The death is announced of Mr. William Weatherley, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, who passed away on January 28th at the age of 57.

Mr. Weatherley, who was born under the shadow of the parish church tower, learned to ring at an early age, and had been connected with the clock and bells all his life. When his brother Ernest went abroad about 22 years ago he was elected captain of the local band.

He had rung close on 100 peals, ranging from Doubles in two methods to Treble Bob Maximus, and including Double Norwich, Cambridge and New Cambridge Surprise Major.

The funeral service at St. Mary's on February 1st was conducted by the Vicar and was attended by a very representative congregation. During the service handbells were rung by Messrs. W. Saunders, F. Pryce, W. Chester and A. Harrison. The handbells were a gift from Mr. Ernest Weatherley, of Los Angeles, to Mr. W. Saunders, and were then used for the first time.

On the following Sunday, at the request of the Vicar, Mr. W. Chester tapped a course of Bob Major during both the morning and evening services.

At the annual meeting of the Shropshire Association, held at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, on February 13th, reference was made to the deaths of Mr. Weatherley and Mr. C. R. Lilley, who had done good work among the ringers of Shropshire.

DEATH OF LT. COL. G. C. ROGERS.

The death is announced of Lt.-Col. G. C. Rogers, of the Royal Engineers, who has been killed in action in North Africa.

Col. Rogers was one of a number of young men, members of the congregation at St. James', Clerkenwell, who formed a band under the leadership of Mr. Arthur G. Millett, now captain of the Rickmansworth company. In 1912 they joined the Middlesex County Association. Despite the drawback of a badly going ring of bells, considerable progress was made, and five of them, including G. C. Rogers, rang a peal of Grandire Doubles on handbells single handed. In May, 1914, G. C. Rogers rang in a peal of Grandire Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, conducted by the late G. H. Daynes. This was his first tower-bell peal.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 G. C. Rogers joined the 5th City of London Regt., the same battalion as Bertram Prewett belonged to. He was wounded at Hill 60. Later on he became Staff-Sergeant at the School of Musketry. Of the ten members of the Clerkenwell band, nine joined the Forces in 1914-15, two gained commissions, others non-commissioned rank, one was killed and others wounded.

Col. Rogers, who was 48 years of age, entered the service of the Port of London Authority in 1911 as a clerk, and was stationed at Surrey Commercial Docks until 1914. After the war he served in various posts in the docks, and in 1939 he was granted a commission in the Royal Engineers. He saw service in France until the evacuation, and was among the first ashore in the North African landings.

IVER HEATH, BUCKS.—On Sunday, December 13th, at Seaford, Slough Road, a quarter-peal of Grandire Caters in 43 minutes: George Kilby 1-2, Edward G. Coward 3-4, Ernest C. S. Turner (conductor) 5-6, Frederick W. Goodfellow 7-8, Thomas G. Bannister 9-10. First quarter of Grandire Caters on handbells by all except the conductor.

THE MEAT SAFE.

A TALE OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

In his description of Oxford bell towers Mr. Morris mentions the belfry at Christ Church and says it was known as the 'meat safe,' and gave rise to many witticisms. It is still often called that name by ringers, though we doubt if many, or any, know what it means, or rather what it once meant, for to-day it has no meaning at all.

About the year 1870 extensive improvements and alterations were carried out at Christ Church. The Cathedral was restored and the east end rebuilt from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott. The bells were taken down from the tower, in order (we believe, but are not quite sure) that the ringing floor could be removed and the lantern opened out to the church as had been done at Norwich, Hereford, St. A'ban's, Merton College, Pershore Abbey and other large churches.

Scott then handed the job to his pupil, George Frederick Bodley, who was entrusted with the construction of a new passage from the Tom Quad to the Cathedral, and the rehousing of the bells over the staircase leading to the Great Hall. Bodley designed a tower of wood and copper, but for lack of money it was not built, and bells were hung in a massive wooden structure. To do this, part of the stonework had to be temporarily displaced.

The passage was rather narrow and dark, the plain square wooden casing to the bells was incongruous among the spires and turrets of Oxford, the gap in the stonework was an eyesore; and not unnaturally there were many hostile critics. Foremost among them was a Christ Church don and mathematical lecturer, the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, who earned undying fame as Lewis Carroll, the author of 'Alice in Wonderland.'

'ETYMOLOGY.'

Dodgson wrote and published three pamphlets on the subject. One was in serious style, the other two were clever skits which were intended (and succeeded) in throwing ridicule on the work. The passageway was 'black as midnight' and minded people of vaults and of charnel-houses. He called it 'the Tunnel.' The gap in the masonry was 'the Trench.' The belfry was likened to a box, a bathing machine, a clothes horse, a meat safe, a tea caddy, a cake of soap, a parallelopiped, a portmanteau, and a tea chest.

The first of the two skits, 'a monograph' on 'The New Belfry of Christ Church, Oxford, by D.C.L.', has a view of the belfry as seen from the Meadow. The 'view' consists of four straight lines arranged as a square, and nothing else. The letterpress is divided into paragraphs, each numbered and with its appropriate heading. The first is:

'On the etymological significance of the new Belfry, Ch. Ch. The word "Belfry" is derived from the French 'bel, beautiful, becoming, meet," and from the German "frei, free, unfettered, secure, safe." Thus the word is strictly equivalent to "meat-safe," to which the new belfry bears a resemblance so perfect as almost to amount to coincidence.

The joke is not a bad one; no joke by Lewis Carroll could be that. But it is rather laboured and far-fetched, and decidedly below the author's standard. Evidently he did not think much of it himself, for he did not refer to it again.

Two puns which follow shortly after it are vastly superior, though perhaps a little too subtle for ordinary readers. The belfry is said to be a 'casus belli'; and the rhetorical question is asked, 'What traveller is there, to whose lips when first he enters that great educational establishment and gazes on this its newest decoration, the words do not rise unbidden—Thou tea-chest?'

THE 'TEA-CHEST.'

The Tea-chest was Dodgson's favourite name for the belfry, but we are not quite sure whether the pun was really his. There was a famous and very complicated pun current in Oxford which turned on the inter-relationship of Thou teachest, its Latin version Tu doces, Thou tea chest, and Two doses. It, however, may have been Dodgson's, for it is quite in his style.

The cause of all the trouble is said to have been that one day, when the Dean and the architect (Scott) were away in London on business, a wandering lunatic architect turned up and got the job. 'The poor man is now incarcerated at Hanwell.' Scott's disapproval, we are told, took the following poetical form:—

'If thou wouldst view the Belfry aright
Go visit it at the mirk midnight—
For the least hint of open day
Scares the beholder quite away.
When wall and window are black as pitch,
And there's no deciding which is which:
When the dark Hall's uncertain roof
In horror seems to stand aloof;
When distant Thames is heard to sigh
And shudder as he hurries by;
Then go, if it be worth the while,
Then view the Belfry's monstrous pile
And home returning soothly swear,
'Tis more than Job himself could bear!'

'Credible witnesses assert,' says D.C.L., 'that when the bells are rung the Belfry must come down. In that case considerable damage (the process known as pulverisation) must ensue to the beautiful pillar and roof which adorn the Hall staircase. But the architect is pre-

pared even for this emergency. On the first symptom of deflection (he writes from Hanwell) let the pillar be carefully removed and placed with its supertruent superstructure in the Centre of Mercury (the ornamental water in the quad). There it will constitute a novel and most unique feature of the venerable House.'

The other skit, 'The Vision of the Three T's,' was published in 1873 and was in the form of dialogue between various persons who hold a conference in the quadrangle. 'Think you,' says one, 'that those two tall archways, that excavation in the parapet, and that quaint wooden box belong to the ancient design of the building, or have men of our day thus sadly disfigured the place?'

'I doubt not they are new, dear Scholar,' was the reply. 'For indeed I was here but a few years since and saw naught of these things.'

To them as they discuss many things, enters a Professor to whom one puts the question, 'But, Sir, I will by your favour ask you one other thing, as to that unseemly box that blots the fair heaven above. Wherefore in this grand old City, and in so conspicuous a place, do men set so hideous a thing?'

Prof.: Be you mad, Sir? Why this is the very climacteric and coronal of all our architectural aspirations! In all Oxford there is naught like it!

Venator: It joys me to hear you say so.

THE WANDERING BURGESS.

When the Professor had gone one of the men read to the other the 'Ballad of the Wandering Burgess,' a skit on a visit of W. E. Gladstone to Oxford. 'Our Willie' came to Christ Church (his old college) to look round.

The first look that our Willie cast
He leuch loud laughers three,
The neist look that our Willie cast
The tear blindit his e'e.

Sae square and stark the Tea-chest frowned
Athwart the upper air,
But when the Trench our Willie saw
He thought the Tea-chest fair.

Sae murderous-deep the Trench did gape
In parapet aboon,
But when the Tunnel Willie saw,
He loved the Trench eftsoon.

He turned him round and round about
And looked upon the Three
And dismal grew his countenance
And drumlic grew his e'e.'

George Frederick Bodley was an eminent architect who left some excellent work behind him. The reredos at St. Paul's Cathedral is his, and so are many fine churches up and down the country. He did work at both Oxford and Cambridge among the colleges, and when he died was engaged on the designs for the vast new cathedral at Washington, U.S.A. But Dodgson satirised him unsparingly. He was Jeepy (J.B.) the lunatic architect, who, having escaped from Hanwell, turned up in the Tom Quad fantastically dressed. Asked, 'Why do you wear so gaudy, but withal so ill-sorted, a garb?' he replied, 'This raiment that I wear is not the newest fashion. No, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, the fashion.'

Venator: I can well believe it.

Lunatic: And therefore 'tis, Sir, that I wear it. 'Tis but a badge of greatness. My deeds you see around you. Si monumentum quaeris, circumspice! You know Latin?

Ven.: Not I, Sir. It shames me to say it. But if, as you affirm, I see your deeds around you, I would fain know which they be.

Lun.: Aloft, Sir, stands the first and chiefest! That soaring minaret! That gorgeous cupola! That dreamlike cfluence of—

Ven.: That wooden box?

Lun.: The same, Sir? 'Tis mine.

Ven. (after a pause): Sir, it is worthy of you.

A COMPARISON.

And so on with a lot more most excellent fooling. The Latin quotation was an extraordinarily clever comparison of Bodley with Sir Christopher Wren, who built the Tom Tower at the other side of the quad. But it had an application which Dodgson never dreamt of. For the man who standing in St. Paul's accepts the invitation to 'look around' for the memorial to Wren, cannot fail to see also what may prove to be Bodley's most lasting memorial.

When Jeepy had had his say and was gone, a learned Tutor turned up, who proceeded to expatiate on a Latin text. 'Witness,' said he, 'that beauteous Belfry which, in its ethereal grace, seems ready to soar away even as we gaze upon it! Even as a railway porter moves with an unwonted majesty when bearing a portmanteau on his head—or as ocean charms us most when the rectangular bathing-machine breaks the monotony of its curving marge—so are we blessed by the presence of that which an envious world hath dubbed the Tea-chest.'

Ven.: But for the Belfry, Sir. Sure none can look on it without an inward shudder?

Tutor: I will not gainsay it. But you are to note that it is not permanent. This shall serve its time, and a fairer edifice shall succeed it.

(Continued on next page.)

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**THE LEWISHAM DISTRICT.**

At the meeting of the Lewisham District of the Kent County Association, Mr. Edwin Barnett read a paper on the activities of the district since its formation in 1892. The paper will be read with interest by many more than the local ringers, and we gladly agree to the suggestion that it should be published in our columns.

The meeting which was held at Woolwich in November last year was the jubilee meeting of the district, and the fact that it was overlooked is not surprising when we consider the times we are living in.

It would not, however, be right for it to be passed over without reference, and as one who has been associated with the Lewisham District practically ever since its formation, I thought it not out of place if a short account of our fifty years were given to-day.

Before the year 1892 we were included in the Rochester District, but Canon Helmore rightly thought that this district was too large to admit it being properly worked. With that object in view, he proposed at Greenwich on May 30th, 1892, 'that a new district be formed comprising those towers which lie north of the L.C. and Dover Railway, and west of a line drawn southwards from the Thames at Greenwich to the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, to be called the Lewisham District,' and this was agreed to.

The Rev. E. E. Teignmouth Shore, a ringer and assistant curate at Lewisham, was the first secretary, and Mr. George Conyard, of Crayford, the first district representative, a post he held until his death in 1909.

At that time there existed in this district an old society called the Trinity Youths, whose founders were mainly shipwrights working in the Royal Dockyard and other shipyards at Deptford. They took their title from Trinity House, with which some were said to be connected. For many years this society had been in a state of suspended animation, but their old records and peal books were preserved at Greenwich Church.

THE TRINITY YOUTHS.

In or about the year 1888 the Rev. H. A. Cockey came to Greenwich as a chaplain in the Royal Naval College. He revived this old society and for a few years it entered on a new lease of life, but with the departure of Mr. Cockey to take up the living of Oldland, near Bristol, its fortunes began to ebb, and to save it from extinction Canon Helmore offered to amalgamate them with the Kent County Association, and to preserve their individuality by calling this new district he proposed to form the 'Trinity Youths District.' This proposal the Trinity Youths rejected, and by so doing signed their death warrant.

At a meeting they held in the vestry at Greenwich on April 5th, 1892, they passed the following resolution: 'That this meeting is of the opinion that it is inexpedient to amalgamate the Society of Trinity Youths with the Kent County Association, and that the secretary be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the secretary of the Kent County Association.'

Very little was heard of them after this. Many of their old peal books and records disappeared, but some have been preserved in the Central Council library.

In passing it is worthy of note that Mr. Cockey became a tower of strength to the Gloucester and Bristol Association, and was Master for many years until his death.

The Rev. Teignmouth Shore left the district in 1894 to take up a position in India, and in 1895 he was succeeded by Mr. William Bedwell, of Lewisham. Mr. Bedwell was a good ringer and conductor, and is remembered by his efforts to start a new ringing paper in opposition to 'The Bell News.' This venture, unfortunately, failed, mainly because of Mr. Bedwell's lack of experience as a journalist, but it had the effect of waking 'The Bell News' up, for a time at least.

He held the post for two years and was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Jeffries in 1897. In his report for that year Canon Helmore said, 'Mr. W. J. Jeffries has succeeded Mr. Bedwell at Lewisham, and the district are to be congratulated on their choice.'

TWENTY-ONE YEARS' SERVICE.

Mr. Jeffries retired in 1899 and was followed by Mr. Percy E. Bex, of Crayford. Percy Bex is remembered by few to-day, but those who do will agree that it was a privilege to have known and worked with him. He had a wonderful personality and a great gift for organisation, and the lines on which he worked have served as a pattern to his successors. He was forced to retire from active ringing by reason of his public duties as deputy town clerk of Bexley, but his interest remained unabated until his death. He held office for three years.

Joseph E. Sykes was our next secretary, but held the post a few months only when he left the county. Mr. T. Groombridge, sen., took over the duties pro tem, and thus began his wonderful record of service to the Lewisham District.

Mr. Groombridge was elected to the office in 1903 and retired in 1924 after 21 years of faithful service. These services were recognised by the members in 1913 when they presented him with an illuminated address and cheque as a token of their esteem.

(Continued in next column.)

SURREY ASSOCIATION.**NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.**

The annual meeting of the North-Western District of the Surrey Association at St. Peter's, Croydon, on Saturday, February 6th, was attended by about 40 members and friends from Banstead, Beddington, Benlilton, Carshalton, Croydon (St. John's and St. Peter's), Chadwell Heath, Epsom (Christ Church), Mitcham (SS Peter and Paul's and Christ Church), Leatherhead, London, Sprotborough, Yorks, and St. Leonard's, Streatham.

Handbells and silent tower bell practice during the afternoon was followed by a service in the church, conducted by the curate, the Rev. — Hyde. Tea in the Church Hall was kindly arranged by the lady ringers of St. Peter's, under the able leadership of Miss Pat Terry.

At the business meeting, Mr. Harold Pitlow, of Banstead, presided, supported by Mr. D. Cooper, District Master (acting district secretary in the absence of Mr. G. Massey, who is serving with the R.A.F.), Mr. H. Simmons, treasurer, and members of the committee. Two new members were elected. The company stood for a few moments in silence as a token of respect to three members who died during the past year—Mr. J. S. Goldsmith, of Woking, Mr. A. H. Jones, of St. Peter's, Croydon (killed on active service with the R.A.F.), and Mr. A. Calver, of Mitcham Parish Church. The treasurer's statement, which showed a small increase on last year's balance, was approved.

The district officers and committee were re-elected, no other nominations having been received; and all the general officers were re-nominated for election at the annual general meeting.

It was agreed to hold four district meetings during the year and the annual district meeting in January, 1944, circumstances permitting.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all concerned in making the meeting such a success, and further handbell ringing was indulged in before the ending of another very happy gathering of ringers in spite of the ban and the war.

THE 'MEAT SAFE.'

(Continued from previous page.)

Ven.: In good sooth I hope it. Yet for the time being it doth not, in that it not permanent, the less disgrace the place. Drunkenness, Sir, is not permanent, and yet is held in no good esteem.

Tutor: 'Tis an apt simile.

To appreciate the wit and cleverness of Dodgson's skits they must be read in their entirety, for, of course, we have given only a few scraps. They served their purpose, for they hastened the time when the wooden box was screened by the stone walls of Wolsey's tower, as had been intended all along. Lack of funds was the only cause of delay. To talk about the 'meat-safe' has long been meaningless and even ridiculous.

THE LEW SHAM DISTRICT.

(Continued from previous column.)

SOME PROMINENT MEMBERS.

Our present secretary, Mr. Hill, succeeded Mr. Groombridge in 1924. He is fast approaching the latter's record, and how faithfully he has carried out his duties is too well known to require further comment.

We can look back with pride on our 50 years as a district, and it would not be right if we did not refer to some of those men, past and present, who have done so much to build up our wonderful record.

Here I know I shall be forgiven if I enter on a personal note and refer first to my father. He was a member for 43 years and called no fewer than 30 'first peals in the method for the association' on eight, ten and twelve bells.

Jack Cheesman, whom we all loved, called 11, also on eight and above, including the first twelve-bell peal by the association.

William Pye, who in the years 1898-1902 was so active in this district, called five. He also called a 10,464 of Treble Bob Major at Erith in 1898, and in 1899, also at Erith, the then record peal of Double Norwich, 15,072 changes, and the first peal of London.

Frank Bennett, while resident at New Cross in the years 1907-13, and to whom so many of us owe our first peals of Surprise, called eight on both tower and handbells.

Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., and Mr. F. J. Cullum, who both belong to the second generation of our founders, have carried on the good work of their fathers by calling four and five respectively.

Mr. George Cross in the past 11 years has called seven in tower and hand, and the third generation has been represented in the 'firsts' by one young member who in 1937 called the first peals in two new methods, and in 1940 called the longest peal of Double Norwich yet rung 'in hand.'

Last, but not by any means least, we must remember those clergy whose interest and encouragement meant so much 50 years ago. Today a greater understanding exists and we take it for granted, but in our early days ringers to many incumbents were 'necessary evils,' and one remembers with gratitude the ever ready welcome to their towers and their hospitality in those early days of Canon Escreet, of Woolwich, Dr. Bickersteth, of Lewisham, the Rev. Arthur Hart, of St. Nicholas', Deptford, and the Rev. Brooke-Lambert, of Greenwich.

E. BARNETT.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.
(Continued from page 67.)

At Tongham, near Seale, Surrey, St. Paul's Church has a bell tower which is more curious than picturesque. This detached and rather ugly toy tower of wood is riveted to the ground with iron struts and contains a set of 13 tubular 'bells' erected in 1899 by Henry Morris Chester, Esq., L.L.D., C.C., of Poyle Park, as a memorial to his mother. The tower, which is only six feet square, was erected in 1898; the church itself is modern, being built in 1863.

Chichester Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in Sussex, has a detached campanile, the only one of its kind now existing attached to a cathedral in England. It is 120 feet high, and contains a ring of 8 bells, with a tenor approximately 20½ cwt. The bells originally were a ring of six only, but in 1729 two trebles were added, the gift of Mr. Musgrave. These are by R. Phelps, who also cast the tenor in 1706. The 3rd and 7th are by John Wallis, dated respectively 1583 and 1587; the 5th and 6th are by William Purdue, both of the Salisbury foundry and of the date 1665. The 4th was cast by William Eldridge, the Chertsey founder, in 1674. There is also a service bell without inscription, and in 1876 a large clock bell, weighing 3 tons 13 cwt., was put up in memory of the late Dean Hook, inscribed in Latin with the phrase 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?' It was cast by Messrs. John Taylor and Co.

At Holy Trinity, Coventry, there is a curious wooden detached campanile containing a ring of eight bells. When a general renovation of the church was undertaken in 1855, these bells were taken out of the church tower, and seven of them were recast by Messrs. Mears at a cost of £162 16s. and the whole ring hung in a timber campanile in the churchyard, where they remain to this day. The original eight were cast in 1776 by Pack and Chapman, with a tenor 20 cwt. 18 lbs., and cost £284 4s. In 1898 the tenor was recast by J. Taylor and Co., and now weighs 23 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lbs.

Mr. H. B. Walters, in his 'Church Bells of Warwickshire,' gives many extracts from ancient records of the bells and ringing here from 1563 onwards, and there are some of the most interesting records extant on the duties of the 'Dekyns of Coventry' connected with this church, dated 1462. These have already been fully dealt with in these columns by Mr. J. Armiger Trollope. One full peal of 5,000 changes was rung on the old bells when they hung in the church tower, but none since their removal to the 'wooden hut.' This is about 35 feet high and is very unsteady when the bells are swung. In spite of the terrible air raids suffered by Coventry in this present war, this campanile still stands intact. An ancient endowment of £100 exists here, the interest of which is given to the ringers on January 24th yearly to ring a muffled peal in memory of one Thomas Smith.

Warwickshire also has an example of a **semi-detached** tower at Lapworth, where, at the church of St. Mary, the tower is connected to the church only by a vestibule. The tower has a turret at its north-west angle, and a spire. It contains a ring of five bells, one of which—the 3rd—is of mediæval date and bears an invocation to St. Katherine. The treble and tenor are by William Mears and dated 1786; 2nd is by Bryan Eldridge 1656

and the 4th is by Hugh Watts, of Leicester, and dated 1600. There are pits for six bells, and the treble hangs above the others. The tenor is approximately 18 cwt. An endowment of £50 per annum from the Lapworth Charity for the Maintenance of Divine Service, covers the supply of bell-ropes, but not ringers' payments.

One of the most famous of all detached campaniles in England is that at Evesham, Worcestershire. This bell tower, which is an independent and separate campanile, with a roadway through its base, stands in a churchyard in which there are two parishes—All Saints and St. Lawrence. It was built by Abbot Clement Lichfield between 1533-9 and is 110 feet high, is in the Perpendicular style, and is undoubtedly a most splendid tower. It now contains a ring of ten bells, tenor approximately 29½ cwt. Originally a ring of eight by Abel Rudhall in 1741, two trebles were added by Messrs. Barwell, of Birmingham, in 1910. The tenor was recast by T. Mears, of London, in 1821 and, besides other sentences, bears:—

'I sound the sound that dolefull is
To them that live amiss:
But sweet my sound is unto such
As live in joy and bliss.'

The first detached tower here is said to have been built after the fall of the central tower of the Abbey about 1220. There are records of bells here at a very early date, and in Browne Willis' 'Mitred Abbeyes,' i, p. 91 (1721), referring to the visit of Leland, the historian, he says:—

[In the Bell Tower] 'hang eight bells tho' not very great ones, which at the Restoration of King Charles the 2nd were taken out of the two parish churches. . . . neither of them hath any Bells, but the Bells in the Abbey Tower serve for the use of them both. Leland hath informed us that in the aforesaid Tower was a Great Bell and a goodly clock: but I have not been able to learn what is now become of this Clock Bell, tho' I suppose it continued till the Restoration of King Charles the 2nd, when the Youth of the Town joyning together and taking the Bells out of the Parish Steeple, melted them and coined the present ring of eight Bells now hanging together in the Tower.'

At a special Vestry meeting in August, 1664, it was agreed

'that ye ring of Bells that are speedily to be hanged in the Great Tower in ye churchyard of ye Parishes aforesaid shall be repaired for ever thereafter by equal charge of the Whole Towne, and not by district parish payments.'

And on February 16th, 1663, there is a further resolution that

'the overplus of the Metall of ye Ring of Bells that was lately cast and hanged in ye Tower shall be sold by ye present churchwardens of both Parishes for a defraying ye charges of casting and hanging ye said bells.'

The bells were rehung in 1875, but in 1895 were reported on very unfavourably, the framework being declared insufficient for their weight. In 1909 a committee was formed for the restoration and eventually Messrs. Barwell's tender for rehanging in a steel frame, and adding two trebles, was accepted. The old clock here had two Quarter Boys or Jacks outside the tower

(Continued on next page.)

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.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South and West District.—A joint meeting of the above and the East Berks and South Bucks Districts of the Oxford Diocesan Guild will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, February 20th. Church Hall available for handbell ringing and social events from 3 p.m. Tea, followed by meeting, at 4.45 p.m. Subscriptions and latest news by tower secretaries will be welcomed.—J. E. Lewis Cockey and A. D. Barker, Hon. Dis. Secs.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—A joint meeting with the Biggleswade District of the Bedford Association will be held at Henlow on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Silent tower bells and handbells from 5 p.m.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20th, at Attleborough. Bells (silent), 2. Service 4. Tea and business meeting in Church Hall, 4.40. Trains leave Norwich 2.5 and 2.25; leave Attleborough 5.47 and 6.32. — A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Stockport and Bowden Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, Feb. 20th. Tower open 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5.15. Bring your own eatables; cups of tea provided.—T. Wilde, Hon. Sec., 23, York Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—North and East District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. James' Church, Clerkenwell, E.C.1, on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at 3 p.m. Service at 4.30 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., names for which should be received by me by the previous Tuesday. Current information regarding towers and members, also subscriptions, would be welcomed.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Holloways Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey, on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells 3.30. Tea 5.30.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—A meeting will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, Feb. 27th. Handbells in Millbridge W.M. Club from 2.30 p.m. Tea (1s. 3d. per head) of those who notify Mr. F. Hodgson, 566, Halifax Road, Hightown, Liversedge, by Feb. 25th. Business meeting 6.30 p.m.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual Henry Johnson Commemoration will take place on Saturday, March 6th, and will be a luncheon at the Market Hotel, Station Street, Birmingham. The chair will be taken by Frank B. Yates, Esq., at 1.30 p.m. prompt. To fully paid up members tickets will be issued at 1s. each; to other ringers and friends at 5s. 6d. each. Owing to food rationing early application for tickets is requested, the latest possible date being Saturday, 27th inst., to T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, March 1st, certain? All welcome. A good attendance desired.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SITUATION VACANT.

GARDENER or LADY GARDENER wanted; good wages; eight bells.—Rector, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

(Continued from previous page.)

to strike the quarters on two small bells. It is said they dated from the time of Edward IV., or at least from that of the erection of the present tower. They were taken down about 1860, and transferred to the Abbey Manor, where they still remain. In 1665 the Vestry agreed 'that Anthony Munslow shall keepe the Bells in ye Tower with sufficient Ropes and shall abate Twenty Shillings of the pay that formerly he received of the two parishes for the Ringinge of greate Bell Mornings and Nightes and Keepinge the clocke.' Chimes used to play regularly on the bells since 1878 when the carillon was put up, the tunes from Sunday to following Saturday being respectively:—Bedford: My lodging is on the cold ground: Blue Bells of Scotland: Drink to me only: There's nae luck: Barbara Allen: Home Sweet Home.

Seven new tunes were added in 1910, being:—Nicæa: The Minstrel Boy: Ye Banks and Braes: Bonnie Dundee: The Banks of Allan Water: The Wearing of the Green: The Bailiff's Daughter.

(To be continued.)

ACCRINGTON.—On January 10th, at Newstead, Willows Lane, 720 Bob Minor: *J. Howe 1-2, R. Leigh 3-4, C. Blakey (conductor) 5-6. * First 720.

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