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FRIDAY, JUNE 4th, 1943.

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THE END OF THE BAN.

The ban on the ringing of church bells has gone at last. It was high time, for whatever justification there may have been for it in the first instance, at the end it was little more than a rather stupid bureaucratic interference with liberty of action. So long as there was any chance that church bells could serve a purpose in the grim struggle against the national enemy there was ample justification for reserving them for that only; but when the Prime Minister announced that 'the significance of invasion no longer attaches to ringing,' the moral right of a Government department to say how far and in what ways church bells should be used entirely vanished.

The authority under which the ban was laid down is strictly limited and conditioned by war circumstances. Parliament, acting for the nation and with the full assent of the nation, has given responsible ministers the powers to issue orders necessary for the carrying on of the war; but, apart from that, Parliament never intended to sanction departmental interference with the rights and customs of the people, especially the customs like the ringing of church bells which has more than ten centuries of history behind it. We do not say that in no circumstances must old customs like ringing be modified or controlled in the interests of the public; but such action should be taken by Parliament itself, not by a Government department, especially when the persons concerned have the haziest ideas of what they really intend to do. The War Office and the Ministry of Home Security are fully competent to say whether the bells are wanted for use as warnings. They are not competent to discriminate between Sunday ringing and week-day ringing, between service ringing and practices, between chiming for Matins and ringing for the Consecration.

We have recovered our liberty of action and it is for us to decide what use we shall try to make of it. That it will be welcomed by ringers and be a great help in the struggle to keep the Exercise alive is obvious. Now that open tower bell ringing is possible at meetings the attendances should increase considerably. It will also be possible in many places to hold practices and to give some amount of instruction to beginners.

In these things everyone should use restraint and moderation. The recovered privileges should not be stretched to the limit. It is very pleasant to have tower bell ringing at a meeting; it may not be so pleasant to the people who live near the church if the ringing lasts for the whole afternoon and evening and is but indifferent in quality. Ringers should remember that on a

(Continued on page 242.)

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fine Saturday afternoon and evening in the summer people have their doors and windows open and spend much time in their gardens. Bell ringing is far more likely to be a cause of annoyance than in the winter.

And what of peal ringing? There seems to be in many quarters a fear that some bands will proceed to indulge in what is called an 'orgy' of peals, to the great harm of the interests of ringing; and the view is expressed that peal ringing should be discouraged.

This is a subject on which it is very difficult indeed to form general views. There are many places where it would be foolish to ring for three hours even if permission were obtained from the authorities, but there are also places where peal ringing would not only do no harm, but would give pleasure to those who heard it. The quality of the ringing in a peal is usually far higher than at a meeting. We can find little justification for the opinion some men appear to hold, that there is something in peal ringing itself which is out of place in these days of war. Every case must be judged on its own merits and here, as always, there is great need for restraint and moderation. There are many factors which make much peal ringing unlikely. Bands are dispersed. Travelling facilities are scanty. Men's time is largely occupied in other things. Permission to ring will not be easy to obtain. What may be called the 'natural checks' on peal ringing will probably suffice to keep it within strict limits, and there seems no need for any special discouragement.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, May 26, 1943, in Two Hours and Eleven Minutes,

At 50, RUDOLPH ROAD,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

*EDWIN JENNINGS 1-2	HAROLD G. CASHMORE ... 5-6
*ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FREDERICK W. BRINKLOW... 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by HAROLD G. CASHMORE

Witness—John E. Rootes.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

On Thursday, May 27, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At New College,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MARGARET L. TUTT (Lady Margaret Hall) 1-2	JOHN E. SPICE (New College) 5-6
MARGARET D. TELFORD (Somerville) 3-4	MARGUERITE A. LLOYD (Lady Margaret Hall) ... 7-8

Composed by J. BARKER (C.C.C. No. 162).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal on an inside pair. A birthday compliment to the ringer of 3-4.

BELLS AND THE PUBLIC.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The effects of the sound of bells upon people of different temperament was summed up in the early years of the last century by one English bellfounder, or his patrons, who placed on a bell the inscription: 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.

Judging by recent Press correspondence, conditions have not greatly changed during the last 120 years.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**ITS TOWERS AND BELLS.**

The great abbey church which King Edward the Confessor built on the Isle of Thorney had a tower at the crossing and two at the west end; and one of the latter (probably the northern) contained bells. In the year 1245 Henry the Third pulled down the eastern part of the church, and by 1269 the choir and one bay beyond had been rebuilt as we see it now; but the old nave and its towers stood for many years longer. In 1375 the reconstruction of the nave was begun, but it was not until 1505 that it was completed.

It is very remarkable that, though the rebuilding was spread over so long a time, the original design was adhered to; and before the nave was completed in almost the earliest Gothic style, Henry the Seventh's Chapel, at the east end of the building, was being erected in almost the latest Gothic style.

The lower part of the north-west tower was finished in 1523 by John Islip, the last of the pre-Reformation abbots, who carried it up to the top of the clerestory; but it seems that the Norman towers were still standing until shortly before that time and contained the abbey bells. In 1492-3 the chief carpenter, Richard Russell, was employed 'about the repairs to the great belwhele in the small bell tower.'

From the time of its foundation the Abbey possessed bells worthy of its importance, and Simeonis Simon, a travelling monk, who visited London and Westminster in 1322, remarked that 'here are two bells, the first in the world for size and of admirable sound.'

The first definite account we have of bells is in the Close Rolls of Henry the Third for the year 1230, which record instructions given to Edward Odom or Odson, to provide for the Abbey Church of Westminster a bell bigger than any previously cast at his foundry. In the following year a further commission instructed Edward of Westminster (probably the same man) to make a small bell that shall be in tune with the great bell. Twenty years later he was instructed to cause a great bell to be hung to celebrate the eve of the approaching Feast of St. Edward.

Two entries in the Liberate Rolls of about the same date refer to the casting of new bells: 'Sep. 29, 1249. Windsor. To the Sheriff of Devon. Contrabreve to bring 4000 pounds weight of tin in his baliwick and carry it with all speed to Westminster for delivery to the keeper of the king's works for the king's great bell and other works.'

'August 24. Woodstock. Computate to Richard de Ponte the king's baliff of Kenyton in the issues of that manor of the last year 10l 8s 4d for 100 quarters of barley imprested to the Abbot of Westminster and assigned of the king's gift in aid of the purchase of two great bells for Westminster Abbey.'

The importance attached to the bells is shown by an illustration by Matthew Paris in an illuminated manuscript in the British Museum, where four great bells are shown in front of the church; and also by a grant dated March 8th, 1255, to the Brethren of the Guild of Westminster appointed to ring the great bells of Westminster, that they and their successors shall receive yearly 100s at the Exchequer for the ringing until the king provide for them in land or rent to that yearly value. And that

they have all the liberties and free customs which they had from the time of Edward the Confessor.

It is a pity we have no further information about the guild. Evidently from the last sentence it was an old one, though perhaps we need not take it as conclusive evidence that it was founded as far back as Edward's reign. It has been assumed by writers that it was one of many such guilds, but that is very doubtful. I have found no evidence of any other guild whose duties or privileges primarily included ringing. The privilege granted to the Guild of Saddlers of ringing the bell of St. Martin-le-Grand at the obsequies of a deceased brother was a different thing altogether, for though the members probably rang the bells themselves on those occasions, they were not otherwise interested in ringing. It was rather as if a modern club was allowed the free use of the organ of a parish church at the funeral of one of its members.

There are several instances of regulations in churches for the ringing of bells, but they concern persons who were the servants of the parish or monastery. We have been told that in medieval times the bells were regarded as such sacred objects that only men in minor clerical orders were allowed to ring them; and that sometimes the ringers had to be vested in surplices. There is no evidence for this view, and it is not at all likely.

In the fifteenth century the general custom was for the clerk to be responsible for the ringing of the bells at the proper times. He or his assistant performed that duty at the daily services. He looked after the bells, oiled them, saw to the ropes and baldricks, and engaged the ringers when the bells had to be rung in peal. Later on these duties were shared by the sexton. In status and duties there was practically no difference between these men and their successors, the parish clerks sextons and steeple keepers of later times.

We have no information about the custom before the fifteenth century, but we may assume that it was not dissimilar. In the monastic houses the ringing would be done by some of the monks or lay brothers, and neither in abbey, cathedral, nor parish church was there any need or room for a special guild of ringers.

It was of the essence of a guild that it should have a corporate and independent existence, and be subject to no authority but its own rules. We may assume, therefore, that the Westminster Guild was unique, that it was not part of the ordinary monastic establishment, but arose and existed in peculiar circumstances. Most likely it had nothing to do with ringing the bells for the abbey services, but was a royal foundation, paid by the king's exchequer, and was concerned solely with ringing done to celebrate royal events, triumphs, coronations, funerals, obits, and the like. It may even be that it had nothing whatever to do with the Abbey bells, and that the 'great bells of Westminster' were those which hung in the clochard or bell tower which once stood on the site of what is now the Middlesex Guildhall. But all is guesswork. We do not know when the guild was founded or how long it lasted; what its duties were or who were its members. There is just this one entry in the Patent Rolls and the rest is silence.

Writers generally have assumed that the clochard was part of the Abbey buildings and contained the Abbey bells until they were removed to the north-west tower

(Continued on next page.)

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

(Continued from previous page.)

by Abbot Islip. But the fact appears to have been otherwise. The bells which hung in the clochard to the north-east of St. Paul's belonged not to the cathedral but to the Jesus chapel; and similarly the Westminster clochard and its bells, though they were within the Abbey precincts, belonged to St. Stephen's chapel, and were, in effect, appurtenances of the royal palace.

Stow says that King Edward the Third, in the year 1347, rebuilt and endowed the chapel and also built to its use, 'though out of the palace court, some distance west in the little sanctuary, a strong clochard of stone, and timber covered with lead, and placed therein three great bells.'

The tower, however, was older than that, though Edward probably reconstructed it. According to W. R. Lethaby, the great authority on the history of the Abbey buildings, it was completed in 1253. It is mentioned in a Charter of the first Edward, dated December 3rd, 1290, and may be assumed in an entry in the Close Rolls of Henry the Third, where an order is given to Edward of Westminster to make four bells out of the metal remaining from the great bell of Westminster for the chapel of Windsor. Two of the bells were to be similar to two in the royal chapel of St. Stephen's and two larger. The great bell mentioned had evidently just been cast by Edward the bell founder, and was the lineal ancestor of the present great bell (the clock bell) of St. Paul's.

A description of the belfry has survived, though the reconstruction of the upper part and the spire is conjectural. It was a most massive structure, seventy-two and a half feet square and only sixty feet high. It was divided into two stories, the walls in the lower being twenty-five feet thick, and in the upper, three feet. At the top was a wooden structure, lead covered and surmounted by a spire; the whole something like the old bell-tower at Salisbury. There was but one door and four windows in the upper storey.

Here, according to Stow, Edward the Third hung three great bells which were usually rung at coronations, triumphs, funeral of princes, and their obits. 'Of those bells men fabled that their ringing soured all the drink in the town,' and that about the biggest was written:

King Edward made Me
Thirtie thousand three,
Take me downe and wey me
And more shall ye find me.

'But,' says Stow, 'these bells being taken down, indeed, were found all three not to weigh twenty thousand.'

No doubt, as Stow suggests, this was all largely fable, but there certainly were some big bells in the tower, and John Norden (A.D. 1593) says that the biggest was taken down and sold by Henry the Eighth before his expedition to Bouogne in 1544. 'A very ancient and old building and strong, now made a dwelling place. Sometime a tower, wherein was a bell of wonderful bigness, weighing as is reported, 33,000 wt. and was rung only at coronations, which bell King Henry VIII. employed to other uses at his going to Boulogne.'

Here again there must be some fable, for, whatever happened to the smaller bells, it seems certain that the

big bell (either that cast by Edward of Westminster in 1250 or its successor) remained in the clochard until 1698, when it was sold to the commissioners for building St. Paul's.

On its way to the City it was broken by a fall and was recast by Philip Wightman. Its inscription was—
TERTIVS APTAVIT ME REX EDVARDVS
VOCAVIT. Wightman's bell was a failure, and in 1709 a new one was supplied by Richard Phelps, of Whitechapel. It was cast of new metal and delivered to the Cathedral before the old one was taken away. It, too, was not a success, and seven years later was recast by Phelps into the present bell which weighs five tons and four hundredweights.

About the great bell of Westminster several legends were told. 'Call to mind,' wrote Anthony Munday in 'Sundry Examples, 'the grievous and sudden earthquakes hapning heer in London. The great bell of Westminster tolled of itself. Whitehall shook. A piece of Temple Church fell downe.' And John Gee, in 'The Foot out of the Snare,' 'When Father Campion came an apostle into England there was an earthquake. Nay the great bell of Westminster tolled of itself.' But he adds, 'that, I think, is a loud ringing lye.'

In the reign of William the Third a soldier on sentry duty was charged with sleeping at his post at Windsor Castle. His defence was that he could not have been asleep because he heard the Westminster bell strike thirteen instead of twelve at midnight. Evidence was produced that the clock did strike once too many, and the man was acquitted. It is pointed out that though the truth of the story has often been doubted, the striking thirteen is mechanically quite possible. But whether it is easier to believe that a bell at Westminster could be heard at Windsor than that an earthquake could cause a bell to sound without laying the steeple and every building in the district in ruins is another matter.

The belfry was pulled down in 1750. The upper structure and the spire which Alexander the carpenter and William the plumber had erected in 1248 had long since gone, and the building had degenerated into a store for a tavern. Just before it was destroyed William Stukeley made a survey of it and his description is printed in the first volume of 'Archæologia.' 'They were,' he says, 'a long time demolishing it with great labour and expense. It consisted mostly of rag-stone from Sussex. The mortar made of the same burnt into lime. No rock could be harder. And sometimes they attempted to blow up parts of it with gunpowder.'

When the Middlesex Guildhall was built the foundations of the belfry were laid bare.

(To be continued.)

SQUIRE PROCTOR'S BAND.

Mr. B. T. Jeanes informs us that many years ago he met one of the Huntsham ringers, C. A. W. Troyte's band, and he told him that Squire Proctor's ringers used to ring 'crank' methods. He asked him if he knew how they learnt them, and he said they had a long piece of board and drew eight lines with chalk on the board and placed small stones on them so as to form a diagram of the method they were trying to learn, and little pieces of chalk to mark the treble where they pass her, or dodge with her.

Proctor's band were the first to ring peals in all three Surprise Major methods. They worked on the land and could neither read nor write, so the tale is probably a true one.

AMERSHAM.—On Sunday, May 30th, 720 each of Surfleet and Norwich Surprise Minor: Miss D. Fletcher 1, E. O. Ayres 2, W. E. Redrup (conductor) 3, H. Wingrove 4, W. Edwards 5, Corpl. E. C. Coward, R.A.F. 6.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**MEETING AT SAWLEY.**

A meeting of the Nottingham District of the Midland Counties Association was held at Sawley on May 29th, and 20 members attended from Beeston, Breaston, Daybrook, Derby, Greasley, Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Nottingham and Sawley.

Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Norwich and Duffield were rung until the members adjourned to the vestry for the business meeting.

Mr. J. A. Barratt was elected to the chair, and the election of district chairman and one committee member resulted in the re-election of Mr. R. Narborough as chairman and the election of Mr. C. Hutchinson, of Sawley, to complete the committee.

The district secretary, Mr. T. Groombridge, jun., spoke in favour of holding meetings monthly instead of quarterly during the light evenings, and the following towers were decided on for the next three months: Greasley, June 19th; Bottesford, July 17th; Barton, August 21st.

It was decided that, for the present, the district secretary should take charge of the ringing at meetings, and the question of a short service was left for arrangement between him and the local officials.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rector of Sawley for the use of the bells and the vestry, and to Messrs. Dawson and Hutchinson, of the local band, for their wholehearted co-operation in the arrangements for the meeting and the tea.

As the bells were available till nine o'clock, it was decided to cancel the social hour and handbell ringing, which had been arranged at Long Eaton, and after a somewhat rushed tea, the bells were kept going for the full period.

FELMERSHAM TENOR.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—With reference to the recent correspondence in 'The Ringing World' by Messrs. A. P. Cannon, A. L. Coleman and J. Oldham regarding the tenor bell at Felmersham, Bedfordshire, in order to complete the details, I would be greatly obliged if any of your readers could favour me with a record of the founder's name and date of this bell, and also state whether she has canons. It would also be interesting to learn if Mr. Coleman's formulæ apply to 'Old Standard' or 'Simpson Tuned' bells.

FREDERICK SHARPE.

Derwen, Launton, Bicester.

TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.**WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—There was originally a ring of eight at Winchester Cathedral, which were increased to ten in 1892 by Mears and Stainbank. In 1922 two trebles were added by Gillett and Johnston as a war memorial to those members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild who lost their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. Since then they have all been recast and rehung by Messrs. Taylor and Co., thanks to the generosity of the Barron Bell Trust.

The following is a list of the peals rung on them.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Eastleigh.

June 13th, 1885, Grandsire Triples, F. E. Dawe.

April 21st, 1891, Grandsire Triples, H. White.

November 30th, 1895, Grandsire Caters, W. H. George.

September 27th, 1899, Stedman Caters, G. Williams.

October 17th, 1900, Grandsire Caters, F. W. Hoggood.

December 26th, 1903, Kent Treble Bob Royal, G. Williams.

December 9th, 1905, Stedman Caters, J. R. Sharman.

October 21st, 1911, Stedman Caters, G. Williams.

August 10th, 1912, Stedman Caters, A. H. Pulling.

June 1st, 1914, Stedman Caters, H. Law James.

September 8th, 1923, Stedman Cinques, F. E. Dawe.

May 7th, 1927, Stedman Cinques, G. Williams.

September 15th, 1928, Stedman Cinques, G. R. Pye.

October 26th, 1929, Cambridge Surprise Maximus, W. Pye.

September 5th, 1931, Stedman Cinques, A. Walker.

September 17th, 1938, Stedman Cinques, G. Williams.

The first peal was rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths, all the rest by the Winchester Diocesan Guild. The Stedman Caters in 1914 was a Central Council peal.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.—On Saturday, May 29th, at the Church of St. John, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1,232 changes: A. E. Laker 1, K. Hart 2, E. Barnett 3, F. Bennett 4, E. A. Barnett (conductor) 5, F. I. Hairs 6, R. G. Cross 7, P. A. Corby 8. A compliment to Jean Frances, daughter of the conductor, who was christened at the above church on the following day; to Michael Paul, son of R. G. Cross, whose first anniversary was on May 26th; and to S. E. Armstrong, general secretary of the Sussex County Association, on the birth of a son on May 15th.

HOOLE, CHESTER.—On Sunday, May 30th, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: A. Weetman 1, R. Sperring (conductor) 2, F. Fox 3, H. Cousins 4, L.-Cpl. A. Goddard (Lincoln) 5, A. Newall 6.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

On May 30th, 1741, the College Youths rang at St. Sepulchre's, Snow Hill, 5,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Royal. It was the second in the method ever accomplished and one of the very few in which Benjamin Annable rang, but did not conduct.

The first peal of New Cumberland Surprise Major was rung at Burton-on-Trent on May 31st, 1886. Mr. John Austin, who rang the treble, and Mr. Joseph Griffin, who rang the fourth, are happily still with us.

On June 1st, 1912, at Guildford, Mr. A. H. Pulling called 14,031 Stedman Caters on handbells. It was at the time the longest length rung in hand.

The first peal on the twelve bells at St. Martin's, Birmingham—Grandsire Cinques—was rung on June 3rd, 1773.

The ten bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, were rung for the first time on June 4th, 1762.

On the same date in 1794 the Birmingham men rang 8,000 Grandsire Major at St. John's, Deritend.

John W. Taylor died on June 4th, 1919.

What was probably the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at Leeds in Kent by James Barham's band on June 5th, 1774.

The first peal of Erin Triples was rung at Gateshead on June 5th, 1909.

The longest peal of Bob Major on handbells (13,440 changes) was rung at Pudsey on June 5th, 1911, and the longest on tower bells (18,144 changes) at Bennington on the same date in 1933.

Sixty years ago to-day Dr. John Symons called at Penzance the first peal rung in the county of Cornwall. It was one of Grandsire Triples.

ALL SAINTS', ISLEWORTH.

WELL-KNOWN CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Last week the Church of All Saints, Isleworth, which is one of the best known among ringers in the Greater London district, was completely destroyed by fire. The nave and chancel were gutted, but the tower is said to be intact, and we hope that the fine ring of ten bells is safe.

The tower dates from pre-Reformation times, but the nave was rebuilt in the early years of the eighteenth century. It was an interesting and pleasing building without any great claims to architectural excellence. The chancel was nineteenth century Gothic of no merit.

The church stands on the bank of the Thames opposite the Old Deer Park, and alongside Sion Park. There are comparatively few houses in the immediate vicinity and the conditions are excellent for meetings and peal ringing. The people of the district are generally proud of their bells, which are very musical.

ON PEAL RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Zur,—I don't want to put the cat in with the pigeons becoss I ain't a person of no consequence in ringing, but now as that there silly ban has been took orf I reckon us might do a bit of thinking about peal ringing.

Us gets a main o' pleasure out of our ringing, apart from the sound it makes, but us a got to remember as people outside only goes by the sound, and to a good many people it's a rare old chackle. If us overdoes it, us'll get in the wrong, and however keen people was to hear the bells again they don't want to hear 'em going on and on if they be a bit noisy. Like the bloke wot was praying for rain for his garden and it come a downpour.

I expects I shall get a rub or two about this, but I don't know as there's much need for all these 'ere peals. Five thousand ain't no special figger; you might as well make it one thousand, and to my way of thinking you can get settled down to a good beat and see your way about and how the bells come up, just as well in a quarter-peal as you can in a three hours do. People be more like to say 'That were good' arter three-quarters of an hour than arter three hours or more.

Course there be some places where it don't matter all that much, but us a got to remember as it's service ringing as matters. Us can still get an arternoon's pleasure when us can use motor-cars again, by going round to half-a-dozen places and giving them a bit of a touch for half-hour, and not be no annoyance to people, and us can hold our meetings and have a ring, and this'll keep us together.

Wot do 'ee say, Zur, becoss us looks to 'ee for a lead in this 'ere 'YOKEL.'

HENLOW, BEDS.—On Sunday, May 16th, for Home Guard parade, 600 Grandsire Doubles: A. Gentle 1, K. Wilton 2, S. Gravestock 3, J. Church 4, L. Bywaters 5, J. Mayes 6.

EAST HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—On Sunday, May 16th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. Sawyer 1, F. Abbott 2, K. White 3, B. Brown (conductor) 4, E. Robey 5, A. Webb 6, T. East, jun. 7, W. Goodenough 8.

THE TUNING OF BELLS.

A FAMOUS PAMPHLET.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that during the last half century the art of bellfounding in this country has been revolutionised, with the result that English bells are now recognised as the best in the world.

This has been brought about largely by two things. One has been the adoption of new ideas and standards of tuning. The other the introduction of high precision instruments and machinery which have made it possible to put those ideas into practice.

To a very large extent these changes were part of the normal development of the craft. The last quarter of the nineteenth century saw a great increase in the general interest taken in bells; the writings and activities of men like Lord Grimthorpe and H. R. Haweis, mistaken and erroneous though they were in many respects, excited public curiosity; and the tones of bells had been analysed on scientific lines and the conclusions published by learned men like Lord Rayleigh. All this would have naturally influenced the bell founders, who, like other manufacturers, were to an increasing extent able to make use of new machinery, and new tools and instruments. The old style of bell founding and bell hanging, with its traditional and rule-of-thumb methods, was passing away.

It was in the year 1897, when the time was ripe for changes, that a little book of forty pages was published which probably did more than anything else to influence public opinion on the question of bell tuning. It was written by the Rev. Arthur B. Simpson, Rector of Fittleworth in Sussex, and was a reprint of two articles from the 'Pall Mall Magazine,' of October, 1895, and September, 1896. The writer's object was to stress the importance of the overtones of a bell and the necessity of controlling and tuning them. There was actually little he had to say which was not already known to experts, and though the book had over thirty years' investigations and experiments behind it, it would hardly have been likely to attract much attention, still less to have exerted any great influence, if it had not appeared at exactly the right moment. As it was, the new ideas of tuning which it heralded are very generally known by the name of Simpson.

Most ringers have heard of Canon Simpson and his book, but few, we fancy, have ever had an opportunity of seeing it, and our readers will, we think, be glad of the opportunity. It will probably strike them as being rather slight and superficial, but it should be remembered that its success was due not so much because it stated anything startlingly new, but because it stressed truths which were vaguely known, but more or less ignored.

Some of the statements in the book will not command universal assent. We do not ourselves, for instance, think it is true that the traditional form of bells was originally worked out by men who were aiming at get-

ting perfect octaves in the overtones; and we are quite sure that the shape of English bells was never modified for the sake of convenience in change ringing. But it will be best to leave comment until we have heard Canon Simpson himself. He called his book, 'Why Bells sound out of Tune and How to Cure Them.'

I have nothing to say, he writes, on the ancient history of bells, nor shall I attempt to make any addition to the many pretty things which have been said as to their sentimental power. My object is more prosaic. It is simply to place on record certain facts which have come under my notice during a course of observation extending over many years, and which I have reason to think would prove interesting to many.

We have the bells with us everywhere and few people with musical ears have not at one time or another amused themselves and (I will venture to say) puzzled themselves, in attempting to determine accurately the notes of their own church bells.

Many of us, also, have been struck by the apparent want of harmony in the famous carillons of Bruges and other Belgian towns; and some few have been at great expense to set up carillons of their own, and have been reluctantly driven to the vexatious conclusion that they are painfully out of tune.

To all these I think I have that to say which will interest them. And I am not without hope that, through their influence, our bell founders and tuners may be roused to study their work more closely, to try to understand better what was the purpose of the original designers of the present form of bell, and endeavour to fulfil that purpose more nearly than they have done in the past.

I begin by boldly asserting, as the result of a pretty wide experience, that there is hardly a bell in England that is really 'in tune with itself,' and most certainly not a single peal of bells that are properly in tune with each other.

I do not say that there are not many peals which are in excellent tune as to the most important note in each, and their general musical effect very pleasing. But I do assert that the best of these might be much better; and in the majority of cases, the irregularities I complain of are such as seriously to mar their musical effect, and such as ought to be and might be avoided by more intelligent founding, or (in most cases) rectified by more intelligent tuning after founding.

Now, this whole matter turns on the expression 'in tune with itself.' Most people have an idea that every bell has one prominent unmistakable note which characterises it, and as to whose pitch no two people with musical ears could differ. Thus, in the article on 'Bells' in the latest edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' we read the following: 'A good bell, when struck, yields one note, so that any person with an ear for music can say what it is.'

(Continued on next page.)

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THE TUNING OF BELLS.

(Continued from previous page.)

If for 'a good bell' we may read 'a bell in good tune,' this statement is true; but, as it stands, it condemns as 'not good' some of the finest and best bells in the world.

One example and that a notable one, will suffice at present to support me in this.

In 'The Times' of July 20th, 1887, there is an account of the inauguration of the great bell 'Gloriosa' made out of French cannon and hung in the Cathedral of Cologne. The account concludes thus: 'The opinions of experts are divided as to whether the note which the bell sounds is C sharp or D.'

I feel sure that many of my readers have felt a similar difficulty in determining the note of a familiar bell.

Now to account for this and to clear the way for further observations, we must understand what is the true 'theory' of a bell, if I may be allowed the expression.

It would surely be unreasonable to suppose that the very peculiar form of bell which (with slight modifications) has been preserved for so many hundreds of years both here and on the Continent was adopted without the deliberate purpose of ensuring that the various tones and sub-tones of each bell should be in some fixed musical relation to each other.

What is that relation?

I make bold to suggest that it is this: Every true bell should give out, when fairly struck, a fundamental note or 'tonic,' its third, fifth, and octave above, and its octave below, thus sounding a full chord—do, mi, sol, do, with the bars do below.

This in the 'theory' which was, I am satisfied, before the minds of the original designers of the present form of bell. Almost forgotten (if ever realised) by many of their successors, it is still recognised by some, and irresistibly forced upon the acceptance of those who, like the present writer, have made a study of the tones of bells as they are.

The following extract from the article on 'Founding of Bells' in the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' 5th edition, 1815, though misleading in several respects, is of importance as showing that such a theory was recognised in this country not so very long ago, though, it is true, there is no reference to the lowest note we have spoken of. 'The height of the bell in proportion to the diameter is as 12 to 15, or in the proportion of the fundamental sound to its major thud: Whence it follows that the sound of a bell is principally composed of the sound of its extremity, or brim, as a fundamental—of the sound of the crown which is an octave to it—and that of the height which is a third.'

But now, to bring this paper within reasonable limits, we must dismiss all consideration of thirds and fifths and confine our attention to the three more important notes—i.e., the tonic, the octave above, and its octave below. For convenience sake, and for reasons which will appear further on, let us call the first of these the 'fundamental,' the second (or octave above) the 'nominal,' and the third (or octave below) by the name by which it is known in English foundries, the 'hum-note.'

If, then, a bell corresponded to its 'theory,' these three would sound the same note, in three consecutive octaves, and the bell would, so far, be 'in tune with itself.'

But, alas! where shall we find such a bell? Whatever the cause may be—whether founders, in ignorance or indifference as to the importance of having these notes in accord, have (1) for the convenience of ringing altered the original proportions of bells, or (2) to obtain greater power, put more metal into them—certain it is that it is quite the exception to find any two of these notes in unison, and rare indeed to meet with one in which all three are in accord.

By far the commonest state of things is this: The 'fundamental' is almost always the flattest of the three—irrespective, of course, of octave. The 'hum-note' is almost always the sharpest, and the 'nominal' generally between the two. Thus, if the nominal of a bell is C, the fundamental will probably be somewhere between C and B in the octave below, while the hum-note will probably be between C and C sharp in the octave below that. (It is not unusual for the hum-note to be much sharper than this.)

In support of this statement let us take a few examples. 1. Take first the peal at Terling in Essex, which consists of five bells in the key of F sharp, by five different makers, and of various dates, covering a period of 240 years. This is an excellent example, as from the variety of makers and dates, any general characteristics we may observe cannot be considered as peculiarities of time or foundry. And it has further this great value, that the tones of these bells have been carefully analysed by Lord Rayleigh, and tabulated in his most valuable paper, 'On the Tones of Bells,' printed in the 'Philosophical Magazine' for January, 1890. An examination of these tables gives the following results.

In the first three bells, including the oldest and newest, the tones follow just the rule which I have called the common one—i.e., they are nearly in octaves, but the fundamental is the flattest, the nominal sharper, and the hum-note the sharpest. In the fourth bell the fundamental and the nominal are true octaves and the hum-note sharper by a long semitone. In the tenor, the fundamental and the hum-note are true octaves, and the nominal a semitone (very unusual).

I claim this peal as a powerful witness to the truth of my position—(1) that the fundamental, nominal, and hum-note were meant to be in octaves, and (2) that, as a matter of fact, it is the exception to find a bell in which any two of them are in accord.

(To be continued.)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT KILBURN.

Despite the fact that only five affiliated towers were represented at the meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association held at St. Augustine's, Kilburn, on Saturday, May 22nd, over twenty ringers and friends attended and showed more than usual enthusiasm in ringing the tower bells silent. A good deal of interest was created in the handling of the treble and second bells of the light peal of eight, and the majority of the ringers ascended the full extent of the many steps to make an inspection of the bell chamber and its contents.

At the business meeting the hon. secretary (Mr. T. J. Lock) read a letter from Mr. C. T. Coles, which conveyed the sad news that his son, Capt. F. G. Coles, M.C., had been killed in action. On a motion of the chairman, Mr. E. M. Atkins, it was agreed to send a message of condolence to Mr. and Mrs. Coles.

The Hon. Secretary announced that he hoped the next district meeting would be in company with the Royal Cumberland Youths at Clerkenwell early in July.

Thanks were accorded to Father Woolley for conducting the service, to Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, lady ringers and other helpers for ensuring the success of the meeting.

Further ringing took place on both tower bells and handbells.

THE BELLS OF ISLEWORTH.

The Edwardian inventories for Isleworth have not survived, and we have no account of the bells until the year 1767, when Lester and Pack hung in the mediæval tower a ring of eight with a tenor of 18 cwt.

In the following year the College Youths rang the first peal, one of Bob Major. It was conducted by Joseph Monk, and Robert Holmes, who was the most influential man among the ringers of the district, rang the fourth.

At the time there were many skilful ringers at the neighbouring towers of Twickenham, Richmond and Mortlake. In 1770 they rang 6,400 changes of Treble Bob Major, which no doubt was one of several peals, and the records of the rest are lost. Robert Platt, who rang the sixth, was the first of a family which in the following years produced several good ringers. Four years previously he had rung the tenor at Richmond to a peal of Double Grandsire Triples, which was called by Charles Burt, who rang the second to the Isleworth peal. The conductor of the latter was also in the Richmond band.

In 1785 a band of College Youths, with John Povey as conductor, scored a peal of Oxford Treble Bob at Isleworth. John Cole, who rang the third, seems to have been the father or elder brother of George and James Cole, whose names appear on several peal boards. George was afterwards for long the leading conductor in the district, and, indeed, for some time in the Society of College Youths. It seems probable that the families of Platt and Cole both lived in the parish of Isleworth.

William Walker rang the fourth in the 1785 peal, and the name raises a difficult problem. As early as 1742 a William Walker rang the seventh to a peal of Richmond Triples by the Richmond Society, and probably called it. He was one of the men whom Theodore Eccleston took down to Suffolk to make a band for his new ring of ten at Stonham Aspell. In 1751 he took part in a 5,040 of Double Bob Major there, and in the following year he called Holt's Original. This was the second time it had been performed, and Walker followed the example of Holt and sat in the tower and called the peal from manuscript. A little more than a week later, the same band rang 6160 Bob Major, Walker ringing the tenor, but John Sharp calling the bobs.

In 1761, Walker had returned home and was now the conductor and leading ringer at Mortlake, Eccleston's Surrey residence. There he composed and called a peal of Bob Triples. In 1767 he took part in the Double Grandsire Triples at Richmond. In 1775 the name appears in the records of peals of Bob Major by the College Youths at Mortlake, and in 1785 of peals of Treble Bob at Mortlake and Isleworth. Two years later, in 1787, William Walker rang the sixth to a peal of Grandsire Triples at Ealing; in 1812 and 1813 he rang two peals at Twickenham; and in 1816 a peal of Real Double Bob Major at Richmond.

The dates of these peals cover a period of seventy-five years, and so there must have been at least two and probably three men called William Walker; but when we try to distinguish between them there is nothing to guide us. Usually, when a man and his father are both ringers, their careers overlap and they appear together in the same peals, but this does not happen with the Walkers.

The most probable explanation is that William I. was the conductor and leader at Richmond; that he had a clever son who, as a young man, was taken to Suffolk by Theodore Eccleston, and who settled at Mortlake, still through the influence of Eccleston, to become the leader of the band there; and that for many years he was one of the best-known ringers in the Thames Valley. William II. may have rung in all the peals from the Bob Triples at Mortlake in 1761 to the Grandsire Triples at Ealing, when he would be about sixty years old. William III. was probably the grandson of William II.

Of the later peals at Isleworth, the most interesting is one of Stedman Triples, conducted by George Cole and rung in 1825. In the previous year Cole had called a peal in the method at Richmond with a band which contained six of the same men, and another at Whitechapel for the College Youths. These were the first peals of Stedman Triples rung in the metropolitan area since Charles Barber called Edwards' composition at Kensington in 1803.

The peal rung at Isleworth is said to have been the composition of Joseph Clark, of Kingston-on-Thames, and to have 'consisted of 240 singles, 158 bobs, and 22 doubles, being the first ever rung with the least calls in this system.

We know nothing of Clark which would lead us to suppose that he was capable of composing an original peal of Stedman Triples or even of producing an improved variation of an old peal. This evidently was the transposition of Day's peal, which is given in Shipway's broadsheet.

Clark's name appears on several boards at Kingston, and he composed and conducted two or three peals of Grandsire Caters there.

After the first quarter of the nineteenth century, ringing began to decline in the Thames Valley towers, and very few peals were rung for many years. But there probably never has been wanting a band of some sort at Isleworth. For some time the Coles and the Platt's still belonged to the tower, and as late as 1853 George Cole rang the treble to a peal of Grandsire Triples with a band made up partly of local men and partly of visitors from London. Cole must by that time have been a very old man.

About this time it was a common thing for publicans to provide a set of handbells on which their customers amused themselves by playing tunes and lapping changes. The Isleworth men seem to have been experts in lapping, and in 1848 they lapped a peal of Grandsire Caters at the London Apprentice, a house on the riverside opposite the church. For this they put up a tablet on the wall of the room in which they rang it, and there it remains to this day.

During the last half-century, many peals have been rung on Isleworth bells in all the standard Triples and Major methods. In 1931 two trebles were added to make a ring of ten. The scheme was started in 1925 by the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association, and was carried through mainly by that body with the co-operation of Mr. H. Edgley, who was for many years churchwarden. The eight bells had been returned soon after the opening of the present century, and retuned on Simpson principles and lowered in pitch by Messrs. Taylor and Co. They were well suited to form

(Continued on next page.)

TWIN TOWERS.

(Continued from page 238.)

At Kings Lynn, Norfolk, St. Margaret's Church also possesses twin western towers, both 86 feet high, but not identical in design or dimensions. One of these western towers once had a spire which fell in 1741, destroying the nave and top of the central lantern. There are many memorials here, including the two largest Flemish brasses in England, one to Adam de Walsoken (d. 1349) and the other to Robert Braunche, Mayor of Lynn (d. 1364). In 1552 there were five bells here of 10, 14, 18, 22 and 28 cwt. Mackerell tells us that the great bell was called 'the Margaret and was for her curious sound one of the finest of that kind, and might be heard (the wind favouring, as I have been assur'd) full ten miles distant. Others had likewise their distinct names as the Trinity, the St. Thomas, etc., so christn'd, I suppose, as was usual before the Reformation. But the biggest and the least of these was purposely broken, and with some addition cast into others, to make a Ring of Eight, which was affected in the year 1663, as they remain to this day.' He also tells us that the 4th bell was new cast in 1627 by Draper, of Thetford, yet in 1673 the two great bells were called the Margaret and Thomas, as appears from the churchwarden's accounts for that year. As late as 1752 the 7th and 8th bells still went by those names. There is now a ring of ten bells with a tenor 30 cwt. in C.

The inventory of 1552 gives, 'Item sexe belles.' There remained six until 1747, when T. Lester added two trebles and recast the then 5th bell. These bells are now replaced by the glorious ring of ten with a tenor 41 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in C, which hang in the north-west tower, while in the south-west tower hangs the bourdon 'Great John,' weighing 7 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb., with a diameter of 7ft. 3in. Note G. In this tower also are the ancient bells, 'Peter' (the Prayer Bell), and 'Brithunus,' by Johannes de Stafford about 1330, and the inscription rings of two other bells of 1663 and 1747. The Yorkshire Association Report, describing these bells, says:—

'The reader will wonder when he reads that a bell of such a weight as this Bourdon is raised and rung with ease. The hanging of it must be truly magnificent. The tenor of the ring of ten in the north tower is something, we may suppose, like the back ten of St. Peter Mancroft and St. Michael's, Cornhill. All the bells, as well as "Great John," are from the Loughborough Foundry, and are held to be among Messrs. Taylor's greatest triumphs.'

Yorkshire has another glorious church with twin western towers—that of the priory church at Bridlington. Here the towers are quite different in height and architecture, that on the north being finished with a flat cornice, whereas the south tower goes on much higher and is crowned by open battlements and four tall crocketed pinnacles at the corners with four smaller ones in between. Of bells here, we read that at the

inventory of Ed. VI. (1558) there were at 'Birdlington . . . Item iij belles and ij handbells.' There remained three bells until 1902, when Messrs. J. Taylor and Co. installed a new ring of eight in an iron frame. The old bells had these interesting couplets inscribed on them:—

- (1) To songs of praise, to wake ye village round:
For light restored, is heard my silver sound.
- (2) Nor joy nor grief employs my peaceful voice,
Mine 'tis in consort only to rejoice.
- (3) To speak a parting soul is given to me,
Be trimm'd thy lamp, as if I toll'd for thee,

THE BELLS OF ISLEWORTH.

(Continued from previous page.)

a ring of ten, and are a very musical peal. Messrs. Mears and Stainbank supplied the trebles.

The augmented ring was dedicated by Dr. Maude, Bishop of Kensington, on June 13th, 1931. A fortnight later the first peal, one of Grandsire Caters, was rung by the officers of the Middlesex County Association, William Pye conducting. The bells were muffled in memory of Thomas Beadle, who for long was the captain of the local band and for a time a vice-president of the association.

The first peal of Royal was one of Kent Treble Bob in February, 1932, conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles. Later in the year the first peal of Cambridge Royal was rung muffled for Henry Edgley, who had done so much for the bells. Mr. G. R. Pye called it. Many peals have since been rung of Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Kent Treble Bob Royal, Bob Royal, Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Royal, and Isleworth Bob Royal. The last, of which only one peal has been rung so far, has claims to be the most musical method possible on ten bells.

DEATH OF TWO CHELTENHAM RINGERS.

The deaths of two Cheltenham ringers are announced. They were Mr. William Hale, who was buried at Cheltenham Cemetery a fortnight ago, and Mr. Sidney Hayward, whose remains were cremated last week.

Mr. William Hale many years ago was a Painswick ringer and captain of the local band. He was a mechanic by trade, and it was due to his attention that the bells went so well. At the end of the last war his work took him to Cheltenham, where he carried on his ringing activities, more particularly at Prestbury. Since the death of his wife he had not been so regular at meetings and service ringing, but his interest continued to the end. He was a vice-president of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association and was 79 years of age.

Mr. Sidney Hayward was a native of Fairford, Gloucestershire. In his youth he was apprenticed to a butcher at Cirencester and belonged to the local band. He went to Cheltenham some time before the last war and joined the Parish Church company, of which he had been a keen member ever since. He excelled as a tenorman, but was able to fill a gap on an inside bell to Grandsire Caters. He could always be relied upon to be in his place at Sunday service ringing and prompt to time. The funeral service was held in the Parish Church on May 26th, and, owing to the weekday ban, the bells were rung half-muffled on May 30th. He was 61 years of age.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. — On Monday, May 17th, at 88, Grainger Street, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Ernest Wallace 1-2, Sergt. K. Arthur, R.A.F. 34, Pte. G. Ballard, R.A.O.C. 5-6. Non-conducted. A first birthday compliment to Miss Gillian Green, niece of the ringer of the tenors.

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NOTICES.

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

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 5th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.

—Meeting at Woolton on Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Service 5.30 p.m. Cups of tea will be provided. Bring own food. Mossley Hill visit postponed.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual meeting

of Guild and Guildford District at Guildford on Saturday, June 5th. Bells of the Cathedral Church available from 3 to 4 p.m., and S. Nicolas' available from 3 p.m. and probably in the evening. Service at S. Nicolas' 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting at Ayers' Cafe 5 p.m. — G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon, near Guildford.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks

Branch.—Annual meeting at Newport Pagnell, Saturday, June 5th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30, followed by tea and meeting at the Church House.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

SUFFOLK GUILD.—Meeting at Woodbridge

on Saturday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. Handbells and eight tower bells. Tea shops near the tower.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Annual

meeting on Saturday, June 5th, in the Clergy House, Doncaster. Committee meeting 3 p.m. General meeting 4 p.m. Make own arrangements for tea. Plenty of cafes near the church. Handbells available.—Ernest Cooper, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—

Annual meeting at Howden, Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells and handbells. Service in church at 4.30 p.m. Tea, in Manor House Cafe, for those notifying Mr. J. W. Thompson, 16, Northolmby Street, Howden, by Wednesday, June 9th. Moderate charge. Business meeting at 6 o'clock.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting at Chelmsford

on Saturday, June 12th. Service in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., followed by meeting in the Chapter House. It will not be possible to arrange for tea.—L. J. Clark, Hon. Sec. (pro tem), Boones Farm, High Garrett, near Braintree.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton

District.—Meeting at Newhall, Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) 3.30 p.m. Tea and meeting in Church Room 4.45 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal.

BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT.—Meeting at St.

Peter's Church on Saturday, June 12th. Tower bells (8) from 3 p.m. Handbells also. Festival service at 5.30 p.m. Tea in St. Peter's Hall at 6 p.m. Canon Hedley Burrows, Vicar of St. Peter's, will preside.—

George Preston, Winchester and Portsmouth Guild; Rev. C. A. Phillips, Salisbury Guild; Arthur V. Davis, Tower Captain.

EAST GRINSTEAD AND DISTRICT GUILD.—Meeting at Shaldon, Upper Hartfield, on June 12th, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Oliver. Please send post card.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Central Bucks Branch.—Annual meeting at North Marston on Saturday, June 12th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Cups of tea provided. Bring own eatables.—F. Gibbard, Hon. Sec., 30, Horn Street, Winslow, Bucks.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Elloe Deaneries Branch.—Quarterly meeting at Long Sutton on Whit Monday. Bells from 2 o'clock. Service 3 o'clock. Bring food, tea for drinking will be provided.—W. A. Richardson, Hon. Sec., Pinchbeck.

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 secretary. This will be strictly enforced. Business meeting after tea.—Robt. G. Black, Hon. Gen. Sec., Stamford Road, Geddington, Kettering.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Countesthorpe on June 19th. Bells (6) from 3 p.m. Tea, at King William IV., for those who notify me before June 16th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Landseer Road, Leicester.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting at Hagley, Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2.30 p.m. Service 4.15 p.m. Tea 5 p.m., followed by business meeting. Usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—Joint meeting with Barnsley and District Society, Doncaster and District Society, and Sheffield and District Society, at Barnsley on Saturday, June 19th. A room available at the Royal Hotel from 2.30 p.m. for handbells, etc. Tea at same place 5 p.m. Plain tea, 1s. 6d.; meat tea and chips, 2s. 6d.—Notify Mr. D. Smith, 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley, by June 16th, stating which tea. Business meeting after tea, followed by social evening.—Sidney F. Palmer, Acting Hon. Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Diss on Saturday, June 19th. Bells (8) 2. Service 4. Preacher, Rev. A. St. J. Heard. Tea and meeting in Coffee Tavern 4.30. Names for tea by June 12th, please.—Rev. A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Service ringing, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, first and third Sunday, 9.40 a.m. St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 10.15, third Sunday.—G. W. Steere, 46, Milton Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

ST. MARY'S, PUTNEY.—Weekly practices will be resumed on Wednesday next at 7.45. Please inform friends.—W. T. Elson.

ST. MARY, LAMBETH.—Open practices second and fourth Wednesdays in each month, 7.30 to 9 p.m.—C. M. Meyer.

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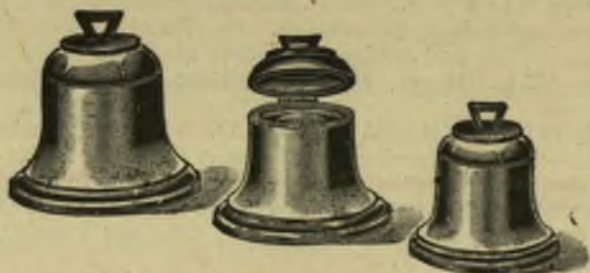
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