

DEDICATION OF NEW BELLS FOR ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, WELLS, SOMERSETSHIRE.

Mainly through the efforts of the amateur bell-ringing society, assisted by the generous aid of the citizens, Messrs. Taylor, the eminent bell-founders, of Loughborough, were some time ago commissioned to cast two new bells for St. Cuthbert's church tower, to complete a peal of eight which it was the ambition of the ringers should form a kind of Jubilee commemoration, and they are to be congratulated on the attainment of their commendable desire. Having obtained the funds for the new bells, a somewhat serious and discouraging discovery was made on examining the bell-cage, which was found to be in a most dilapidated and dangerous condition, and that a new cage would have to be provided, in addition to which the fifth bell was cracked, and would require recasting. Under these circumstances, an appeal was made to the parishioners, and was responded to in so generous a spirit, that sufficient funds were soon obtained for a new cage, and the contract for this also was placed in the hands of Messrs. Taylor, the necessary woodwork and beams being supplied and erected by Messrs. Wicks and Son, and the work altogether has been done to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. There then only remained the difficulty of the fifth bell to be overcome, and Mr. and Mrs. Slater nobly came forward and undertook to defray the cost of recasting. On Monday, March 5th, the dedication of the two new bells and the re-dedication of the fifth took place in the presence of a large congregation. At half-past two o'clock the amateur bellringers, with the children of the Central Schools, bearing flags and banners, with the Excelsior brass band, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Hillier, assembled at the Somerset and Dorset railway station, where the bells, gaily decorated with evergreens and banners, were already placed on trolleys. Shortly before three o'clock the band took up their position at the head of the procession which perambulated the town, the bells being drawn by the amateur ringers, and caused some excitement, there being large numbers of spectators in the streets. On arriving at the church, the bells were drawn up in front of the belfry door, and, with the members of the amateur bell-ringing society, were photographed by Mr. J. Webber. The bells were then drawn into the church beneath the tower, for the performance of the ceremony. The vicar (the Rev. Prebendary Beresford), the Revs. J. Smethurst and Morris, and the choir, ranged themselves around the bells. The lesser litany and the Lord's Prayer were intoned, and the 150th Psalm chanted in unison to Humphrey's "Grand" chant. Then followed the dedication prayers and a short address by the Vicar. The service was most impressively rendered, and was heartily joined in by the large congregation of parishioners and others. A special hymn was sung, the first verse of which was as follows:

Lift them gently to the tower,
Let our bells be set on high,
There fulfil their sacred mission,
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky.

The late fifth (present seventh) bell was then struck twelve times by one of the workmen, and proved to be of a full, mellow, and deep tone, and after the vibration had ceased, the vicar pronounced the benediction, and the service concluded. Many persons remained after the service, and saw the bell hoisted.

The inscription on the fifth bell is:—

"To the glory of God, and in memory of G. C. Hollis, and Mary his wife, by J. and F. Slater, their son-in-law and daughter."

On the treble:—

"Presented by the Wells Amateur Bell-Ringing Society.
Queen's Jubilee, 1887.
J. Beresford, Vicar and President.
J. N. Knight, Leader.
E. S. L. Collins, Hon. Sec.
'We praise Thee, O God.'"

On the second:—

"Presented by the Wells Amateur Bell-Ringing Society.
Queen's Jubilee, 1887.
F. W. Smith } Churchwardens.
G. Thorn }
'We acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.'"

It was intended that the procession should have included members of friendly Societies and others, but owing to the short notice the ringers were able to give, this was found to be impracticable.

An accident occurred during the procession. A boy was

pushed down by another, and the wheel of one of the trolleys passed partly over his leg and back, but it was found that he had sustained no serious injury.

The peal will be heard for the first time on Easter-day.

ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, February 28th, there was a friendly gathering of ringers in Birmingham to celebrate the 79th birthday of Mr. Henry Johnson. A peal of Stedman Cinques was attempted by H. Bastable, 1; W. R. Small, 2; H. Johnson, jun., 3; T. Reynolds, 4; A. Thomas, 5; C. H. Hattersley (Sheffield), 6; J. W. Cartwright, 7; A. P. Heywood, Esq. (Derby), 8; C. Stanbridge, 9; T. Miller, 10; E. Pemberton (Bury St. Edmunds), 11; E. Rowland (Wrexham), 12; but after ringing over two hours and a half, it unfortunately was lost through a "foul." At six p.m., some twenty-four ringers assembled at the "Woolpack Hotel," Moor Street, where an excellent dinner had been provided by Mr. Wheeler. The chair was occupied by W. Jones, Esq., Churchwarden of St. Martin's, and the vice-chair by A. P. Heywood, Esq. After getting well through another *fowl course*, the cloth was removed, and a very enjoyable evening spent.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the loyal toast, after which A. P. Heywood, Esq., in a very neat speech (which through the absence of a reporter we are unable to publish), gave the toast of "Our dear Old Mother Church."

Mr. C. HATTERSLEY was entrusted with the toast of the evening, and in proposing "The Health of Mr. Johnson," said it was now about twenty-one years since he first had the pleasure of making his acquaintance, and when he looked back upon that time, he felt how very much he was indebted to Mr. Johnson for what he had done for the science.

This toast was received with musical honours, after which touches of Triples, Caters, and Cinques were rung upon the handbells, and the remainder of the evening enlivened with songs and recitations from Mr. J. Ward.

WALTHAM ABBEY, ESSEX.

The above society of change-ringers beg to announce that it is their intention to hold a ringing day at the above place on Easter Monday, when they will be pleased to welcome as many visitors as may be disposed to attend. A dinner will be provided at the "Green Dragon" inn at two o'clock, tickets 2s. 6d. each. Those visitors who intend dining with the society, will oblige by forwarding their names not later than Saturday, March 24th, to the Secretary, W. C. DYMCK.

"Green Dragon" Inn, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

The usual QUARTERLY MEETING will be held at "The Ring of Bells," on Thursday, March 29th, at 7.45 p.m.

W. H. GODDEN, Sec.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

By J. W. WASHBROOK, Oxford.

12041.

2	3	1	4	5	6	4	5	16
*5	1	2	3	4	6	-	-	-
4	1	2	6	5	3	-	-	-
4	1	3	2	5	6	-	-	-
4	1	6	3	5	2	-	-	-
6	1	4	2	5	3	-	-	-
6	1	3	4	5	2	-	-	-
6	1	2	3	5	4	-	-	-
2	1	6	4	5	3	-	-	-
2	1	3	6	5	4	-	-	-
3	1	2	4	5	6	-	-	-
3	1	6	2	5	4	-	-	-
3	1	4	6	5	2	-	-	-

The last eleven courses nine times repeated, with a single at 16 in the 10th course of 5th and 10th parts, and extra bobs at 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, in last course.

*Bobs at 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20.

Rung at Appleton, Berks., on Monday, March 5th, 1888, conducted by its composer.

HOW TO LEARN CHANGE-RINGING WITHOUT AN INSTRUCTOR.—By Charles Pearson, M.A. Price Threepence, by post Fourpence.—WILLIAM POLLARD AND CO., Printers, Exeter.