CHAPTER VI

ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES: Wales, and the North

"Bells o'er the moorland swinging slow,
Thro' the city-shadows floating free;
Oh tranquil bells, that calmly go
Through the glade and o'er the lea,
Teach ye the ignorant to know
The truth, and teach the blind to see."

W. H. D. A.

Wrexham (North Wales)

In that fine tower which S. Lawrence, the noted ringer, calls "the Elegant and Wonderful tower of Wrexham in Denbighshire, North Wales," is a tablet recording one of the earliest peals rung. It is inscribed:

"The Whole and Complete Peal of
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES being 5040 Changes
was rung truly in three hours and fifteen minutes, on Wednesday morning, being the 26th day of March 1729, by the persons undermentioned, six of which, not having been Practitioners in the Art of ringing the space of twelve months.

JOHN AILSON—old Practitioner . . . 2
ARThUR LaNGFORD . . . . . . 3
SAMUEL OWENS . . . . . . 4
EDWARD EDWARDS . . . . . . 5
THOMAS BULCKELEY . . . . . . 6
ROBERT BARRISSON . . . . . . 7
WILLIAM DIXON—old Practitioner . . . 8
JOHN BULCKELEY . . . . . . 9

Ralph Wragg
JOHN STEPHENSON Churchwardens;
JOHN WRIGHT
SAMUEL ROBERTS

This is the first known peal in Wales, but it is strange that in two other places claims are made for the first. Thus in
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

S. Lawrence’s peal book 5021 Grandsire Caters are recorded on July 27, 1803, rung in three hours fourteen minutes by the following ringers:—

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RICHARD CROSS . . . Treble  JAMES Lee . . . 6
SAMUEL Lee . . . 2  THOMAS HILL . . . 7
JOHN HARTSHORN . . 3  CHARLES BIGG . . . 8
JAMES DOVEY . . . 4  JOSEPH RILEY . . . 9
ROBERT RAWLINS . . 5  SAMUEL LAWRENCE . Tenor
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called by RICHARD CROSS and was the first peal rung in the Principality of Wales.”

This then fails in its claim, and must stand as the first of “Caters”; while from the same record, the peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples at Dolgelley, Merionethshire, on September 25, 1809, called by John Hints, of London, and the following day 5088 Oxford T.B. Major called by R. Cross at the same place, must take their places as “third and fourth peals in the Principality,” and not “second and third.” The College Youths ¹ also claim “first peal in Wales” for their visit to Llanysteph, January 1, 1881, when they rang 5040 Grandsire Triples, but this should be made correct by adding the words “by this Society.”

In the tower of Ellesmere, Salop, is an ancient record, inscribed on a peal board:—

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The whole Peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was (on the 4th day of February 1730 within the Space of 3 hours & 5 minutes) completely rung by the following persons:—

JOSEPH LANGFORD
THOMAS FRANKS
JOHN SADLER
THOS. KYNASTON
WILLM. GOUGH
WILLM. DAVIES
THOS. SADLER
JAS. EATON.”
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It will be noted that in this peal there is a ringer of the same surname—Langford—as one of the Wrexham men the year before, though whether any connection existed we are unable to say. The places are twelve miles apart. It is always supposed at Ellesmere that all the band were locals, and this is

¹ Rule Book of 1928, p. 23.
borne out by the fact that there are still old and respected families of each of the names mentioned living in the district. The bells are in good order now, and peals have been rung here in various methods.

Another tablet at Wrexham records a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples (Holt’s), by the Junior Society on February 19, 1827, superscribed “Floreat Campanologia,” and rung by:

Edward Thomas... 1  Maurice Jones... 4  Robert Bayley (Sexton) 7
Charles Davies... 2  Thomas Davies... 5  John Davies 10
Joseph Davies... 3  John Jones (Conductor) 6  Edward Jones 11

Another record cites a similar peal by a band “All Natives of the Town” on February 3, 1879, and since that date this fine tower, with its grand ten bells, has been the scene of many peals.

On two occasions—August 14, 1924, and March 5, 1925—compositions of Kent T.B. Royal by the author were rung here by members of the Chester Diocesan Guild and North Wales Association, conducted by Robert Sperring.

At Oswestry, Shropshire, are two old records of peals (on tablets in the tower), as follows:

“Memorandum
The whole Peale of TRIPPLES being 5040 changes was rung by ye Inhabitants of ye Town in 3 hours 16 minutes on ye 3rd of May 1731—viz.:

   THOMAS EDWARDS 1st
   RICHARD KITCHINER 2nd
   JOHN LLOYD 3rd
   CHARLES JONES 4th
   MATHT. BURTON Bob caller
   JOHN EVANCE 6th
   JOHN PRICE 7th
   RICHARD TOMLEY 8th”

Nothing further is known of the above, either as to composition or method—which is most probably Grandsire. The next is by a curiously named Society:

“March 3rd 1785
Holt’s Peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES containing 5040 changes was rung by the ANACREONTIC SOCIETY, in 3 hours 15 minutes:

   OWEN OWEN Tbl
   WM. EVANS 2d
   J. WILLIAMS 3d

1 We are indebted to Mr. W. B. Kynaston, of Swindon, Wilts, for these transcripts.
An old newspaper has the following account of this Society, signed and dated thus:

"SALTER, PRINTER, OSWESTRY
— Jan 1st 1809 —

"It is probably unknown to most Oswestrians that once upon a time Oswestry used to boast of an Anacreontic Society which met at the George Inn. A band of Jolly Fellows who met together and used to discuss the topics of the day, without reference to the Greek Poet whose name they adopted. A kind reader has sent up a list of the members and Honorary members. Some of the Honorary members belonged to towns far distant from Oswestry, thus showing the Society was 'cosmopolitan' in some degrees. Anacreon was a Greek Lyric Poet who flourished B.C. 560-470. He wrote short, lyrical poems of Love & Wine, which his followers, as quoted by Herrick, called "Anacreontic Poems"—hence the Oswestry name.

The membership certainly worshipped Wine & Beauty choosing the Poet who wrote those desirable (to them) possessions. Anacreon was choked by eating a quantity of dried grapes in his 8th year.

ANACREONTIC SOCIETY (Members)

| Mr. Robert Salter  | Mr. Thomas Maurice | Mr. William Leigh |
| Mr. Thomas Salter  | Mr. Evan Jones     | Mr. Shuttlefield Williams |
| Mr. Jackson Salter | Mr. Robert Roberts | Mr. Edward Jones |
| Mr. James Howell   | Mr. Francis Campbell | Mr. William Issard |
| Mr. Thomas Howell  | Mr. Robert Cartwright | Mr. Ed. Birch Marriott |
| Yeo. William Person | Mr. John Crotrox | Mr. John Fox |
| Mr. Peter Roberts  | Mr. Edward Croxon  | Mr. John Harleston |
| Rev. Nathaniel Roberts | Mr. Richard Higgison | Mr. Richard Poyall |
| Mr. Edward Edwards | Mr. Thomas Jones    | Rev. Mr. Ellis |
|                  |                    | Mr. Evan Arthur |

HONORARY MEMBERS.

| LIEUT. Robert Cockerill | Mr. Lawton Parry  |
| Mr. John Lloyd Cockerill | Ruyton |
| Mr. John Dearkin | Mr. John Glover |
| Mr. Ed. Kynaston Moody | Mr. Arthur Davies |
| Mr. Thomas Dearkin | Hayes |
| Mr. Charles Glover, Sen. | Lt. & Q.M. Richard Salter |
| Mr. Thomas Dunack | Mr. Robert Tudor |
| Mr. Thomas Lloyd | Pentreclawdwell |
| Mr. Richard Cross | Mr. Richard Jee |
| Mr. John Harthorn | Chirk |
| Mr. Richard Wilding | Mr. Thomas Jackson |
| Mr. Thomas Barker | Rhos-y-llyn |
| Mr. Charles Bigg | Mr. Richard Salisbury |
| Mr. Samuel Simon | Llanforsa |
| *Mr. Samuel Lawrence | Mr. Bull |
| Mr. Edward Owen | Salop |
| Mr. Richard Howel | Mr. J. Barrow |
| Mr. John Hunt | Capt. Philip White |
| Mr. Charles Stanton | Trwylau |
| Rev. Baldwin Lloyd  | Capt. Lee |
|                  | Lt. & Adjt. Arthur Downes |
|                  | Capt. Lee |

* A most celebrated ringer to whom further reference is made.

1 The *Daily News*, August 6, 1929, p. 3, states that the Anacreontic Society was a convivial society founded in 1766, which met at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, London.
After the 1785 peal, change ringing seems to have died out at Oswestry, until it was revived in 1888 by Mr. Griffith Whitfield, and the next recorded peal was in 1893.

The Union Society (Shrewsbury)

Mr. H. B. Walters 1 gives the following extract in reference to the old Shrewsbury Society:

"An interesting account of Bell-ringing in Shrewsbury is given by a writer in the Shropshire Notes & Queries Vol i 13 Aug 1886 pp. 155–166. He says:—'In the year 1714 an association of bell ringers was formed in Shrewsbury of which the leading men of the town were either ringers or patrons. They practised the art of bellringing—particularly that part known as change-ringing as a pastime, and by the endeavours of 'THE UNION SOCIETY,' as the bellringing association called itself, and by other means, the number of bells was increased at St. Mary's'.

In the old church of St. Chad was a large tablet describing several peals rung in 1773 by the Union Society in Shrewsbury, 3 and at other places in the county. This tablet was broken to pieces by the fall of the Church in 1788. An old handbill of 1714 implies that the meetings of the Society were of a decidedly convivial character. While enthusiasm lasted they did good and useful work. They visited from time to time, most of the churches in the County which possessed peals of bells, and made larger excursions into other counties.

They had a large share in furnishing St. Chads with its new peal of twelve in 1798, and also with the augmentation of S Mary's from 8 to 10 in 1811.

From the early part of the last century the Society seemed to decline; it was consequently dissolved and reformed on a new basis, the respectable members giving it up, and allowing it to fall into the hands of an inferior class of men. Two cups from a set presented to the Society are said still to exist, and Mr. T. Morgan, printer, of Swan Hall, in 1886 possessed a set of 13 hand-bells which they used.

His father was one of the last surviving members of the Society. Professor Lee, during his early life in Shrewsbury was also a member."

1 "Church Bells of Shropshire."
2 The back 8 bells of S. Mary's were cast in 1775 by Pack and Chapman, and considered a very fine ring. Two trebles added by T. Mears, 1811, but poor in quality. J. Taylor & Co. recast these in 1910 and tuned others. Tenor is 21½ cwt.
3 The old church had 10 bells, tenor about 28 cwt. They were destroyed in the above-mentioned fall of the tower. The new tower has a ring of 12 cast by T. Mears in 1798, tenor about 34 cwt., but the latter was recast by him in 1825. This was always considered 43 cwt., but when weighed in 1914 she was found to be 38 cwt. In that year (1914) all recast by J. Taylor & Co., with a tenor 39 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb. in B.
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

In the tower of the old church of St. Chad were tablets recording peals of Grandsire Triples rung in 1762, 1769 and 1770, and one of Grandsire Caters, 6210 changes, rung in March 1772, in three hours fifty-eight minutes thirty seconds. The *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of December 10 (?), 1802, reports another peal of Grandsire Caters rung by the Union Society in three and a half hours, and on August 4, 1801, the same Society rang a peal of 5016 Bob Maximus. The last two would, of course, be rung on the then new peal at the new St. Chad’s, the old tower having but ten bells.

In the three belfries of Shrewsbury are many peal boards, of which we give copies of the most ancient ¹:

[S. Mary’s] “On Wednesday March 28th 1798 was rung in this Steeple, a Peal of **GRANDSIRE EIGHT In**
containing 5151 changes which was performed in 3 hours 26 minutes by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THOS. SPENDLOVE</td>
<td>RICHD. GEE</td>
<td>THOS. HILL</td>
<td>RICHD. WILDING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHD. CROFS</td>
<td>ROBT. LLOYD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLM. BULL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOS. GROVES</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above peal was call’d by Mr. Crofts.”

[S. Chad’s] “Union Society
On Monday Evening Novr. 25th 1799 was rung in this Steeple, a Peal of **GRANDSIRE CINQUES**
containing 6006 changes which was performed in 4 Hours and 27 minutes, by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THOS. SPENDLOVE</td>
<td>THOS. GROVES</td>
<td>WM. FARRELL</td>
<td>RICHD. WILDING</td>
<td>EDWD. ROBERTS</td>
<td>Wm. FARRELL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHD. CROFS</td>
<td>JOHN HARTSHORN</td>
<td>WM. FARRELL</td>
<td></td>
<td>ROBT. LLOYD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLM. BULL</td>
<td>THOS. PARKER</td>
<td></td>
<td>CHAS. BIGG</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Called by R. Crofts.

¹ Kindly transcribed by Mr. E. V. Rodenhurst, of Kenstone. He informs us that Mr. Wilding, whose name appears on some of the tablets, was a schoolmaster at High Ercall, and composed the quaint couplets on S. Chad’s and S. Alkmund’s bells, also on the treble at High Ercall.
The above Peal was an uninterrupted succession of such correct and fine striking that during its continuance 'Not a note of jarring discord hurt attentions ear.'

This footnote speaks for itself, and should be the aim of every aspirant in the art.

[S. Chad’s] ‘Janry 28th r8oo
Was rung in this Steeple
A Peal of OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL
containing 5000 changes in 3 hours and 43 minutes
— by —
T. SPENDLOVE ... 3rd | T. PARKER ... 8th
E. ROBERTS ... 4th | T. HILL ... 9th
T. GROVES ... 5th | R. CROFS ... 10th
W. BULL ... 6th | R. LLOYD ... 11th
W. FARRELL ... 7th | R. WILDING ... Tenor
Call’d by R. CRofs.’

This is curious, as being rung on the back ten bells, the record starts with the third bell. It is now usual to state the first as treble, no matter which particular set is rung in the peal described. At St. Chad’s also is the following, which aptly describes the record:

“This tablet was erected by the Union Society to record an excellent Peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS rung here on Tuesday April 5th r8o8 which if surpased by future Practitioners will stand as a memorial that their Predecessors were not deficient in skill and Perseverance. It contained 10,097 changes and was performed in 6 Hours and 50 Minutes (by)

T. SPENDLOVE ... 3rd | R. CROFS ... 8th
E. ROBERTS ... 4th | W. BULL ... 9th
G. ROBERTS ... 5th | R. WILDING ... 10th
S. LEE ... 6th | T. PARKER ... 11th
C. BIGG ... 7th | J. PERRETT } Tenor
| T. HILL ...

Called by W. BULL.'

1 Samuel Lee was a clerk in Holy Orders, and a great friend of S. Lawrence.
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At St. Mary’s is a board recording 5219 Caters in three hours twenty-five minutes on September 2, 1811, at the opening of the bells by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEO. GEM</td>
<td>Treble</td>
<td>CHAS. RAVENSCROFT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDD. ROBERTS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WILLM. BULL</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO. ROBERTS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>JAS. LEE</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAML. LEE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ROBT. LLOYD</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RGRT. RAWLINGS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>WM. ELLEDGE</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call’d by WILLM. BULL.

At St. Alkmund’s a tablet tells of the opening peal on these bells, “Whitsun Monday” 1812, with 5280 Oxford Treble Bob Major in three and a quarter hours by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAS. SHELLEY</td>
<td>Treble</td>
<td>JNO. BADELEY</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JNO. LEWIS</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>C. RAVENSCROFT</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAS. LEE</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>R. MICKLEWRIGHT</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM. BULL</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>THOS. WILMOT</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Composed and call’d by CHARLES RAVENSCROFT.

On Monday, December 27, 1813, at St. Chad’s, in a peal of 5088 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in three hours fifty-nine minutes, that celebrated ringer S. Lawrence, of Shifnal, rang the tenor. It was conducted by “R. Crofs”; Earlier in the same year we find Lawrence ringing the tenor in at S. Mary’s to Oxford T.B. Royal, also “call’d by Mr. Crofs,” on February 17: 5120 changes.¹

Other Shrewsbury peal tablets record:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19th 1818, S Alkmunds</td>
<td>5040 Grandisire Triples, R. MICKLEWRIGHT</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apl 30th 1833, S Mary’s,</td>
<td>5040 do</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 6th 1839, S Alkmund’s,</td>
<td>5040 do</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>² Sep 15th 1842, S Chad’s</td>
<td>5040 do</td>
<td>W MICKLEWRIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 28th 1857, S Mary’s,</td>
<td>5040 do</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15th 1864, S Mary’s,</td>
<td>5040 do</td>
<td>do</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and several modern ones at St Chad’s.

¹ This tablet Mr. E. V. Rodenhurst discovered broken in two, and lying among rubbish in a corner! The verger cleaned it with petrol, and promised to restore it to its proper appointed place (1929, April 24).

² This peal was rung at Condover (four miles from Shrewsbury) on the occasion of a visit by Mr. C. Balle, of the London College Youths.
There is also a ring of eight bells at Shrewsbury Abbey, but the tower being considered unsafe, they are now hung "dead," and chimed only by apparatus.

The Albion Society of Shifnal

There was a good band of ringers at Shifnal in the early days, doubtless due to the energy and enthusiasm of Samuel Lawrence, who took part in peals over a wide area. Of him we give other details (see p. 528). In the belfry of Shifnal Church are six peal tablets, which, owing to their interest, are given in full:

"The Albion Society.

April 20th 1774 was rung a complete peal of 5040 Grandisire Triples in 3 hours and 10 minutes.

R. Amies ... Treble | J. Downing ... 5
J. Perry ... 2 | T. Sandford ... 6
E. Richards ... 3 | A. Peake ... 7
H. Pidgeon ... 4 | J. Smyth ... Tenor

April 30th 1783 was rung a peal of 5040 Grandisire Triples in 3 hours and 8 minutes:

R. Masfield ... Treble | J. Downing ... 5
J. Holding ... 2 | A. Peake ... 6
R. Amies ... 3 | T. Sandford ... 7
S. Lawrence ... 4 | J. Nickolls ... Tenor

April 23rd 1785 was rung the quarter-peal of Bob Major, (viz) 10,080 in 6 hours and 30 minutes.

T. Yates ... Treble | J. Cooper ... 5
J. Holding ... 2 | T. Sandford ... 6
J. Downing ... 3 | A. Peake ... 7
R. Amies ... 4 | S. Lawrence ... 8

July 23rd 1786, was rung a peal of 6,608 Bob Major, being the 59 courses, in 4 hours and 30 minutes:

R. Perry ... Treble | S. Lawrence ... 5
R. Amies ... 2 | J. Nock ... 6
J. Debney ... 3 | A. Peake ... 7
T. Sandford ... 4 | J. Holding ... 8

August the 19th 1786. The Albion Society did ring at W. Hampton a complete peal of Bob Major, consisting of 5088 changes in 3 hours and 18 minutes, being the first peal rung on those bells.

J. Debney ... Treble | R. Amies ... 5
J. Downing ... 2 | A. Peake ... 6
J. Nock ... 3 | J. Holding ... 7
T. Clemson ... 4 | S. Lawrence ... 8

1 We are indebted to Mr. A. Pritchard, of Wellington, for these copies.
March 18th 1787, 5008 **BOB MAJOR** in 3 hours and 25 minutes.

| R. Perry | Treble | J. Cooper | 5 |
| T. Sandford | 2 | J. Nock | 6 |
| T. Clemson | 3 | A. Peake | 7 |
| J. Debney | 4 | J. Holding | 8 |

May 20th 1790, 5040 **PLAIN BOB TREBLES**, in 3 hours 10 minutes.

| R. Perry | Treble | J. Cooper | 5 |
| J. Debney | 2 | T. Sandford | 6 |
| E. Richards | 3 | S. Lawrence | 7 |
| T. Clemson | 4 | J. Cooper, Junr. | 8 |

Novr. 5th 1797, 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES** being the first peal rung out of Holt’s method, in 3 hours and 7 minutes.

| R. Downing | Treble | J. Cooper | 5 |
| J. Debney | 2 | T. Sandford | 6 |
| A. Peake | 3 | S. Lawrence | 7 |
| T. Clemson | 4 | J. Nock | 8 |

Feb 1802, 5007 **GRANDSIRE EIGHT-IN**, in 3 hours 9 minutes.

| G. Price | Treble | J. Cooper | 5 |
| J. Debney | 2 | J. Pea | 6 |
| R. Downing | 3 | W. Bucknall | 7 |
| T. Clemson | 4 | S. Lawrence | 8 |

June 4th 1812, 5040 **GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES** rung at Newport in 3 hours 8 minutes (no names given)."

All the preceding are on one large board, and the next large board is interesting, as Treble Bob methods are the chief feature:—

**THE ALBION SOCIETY SHIFFNAL.**

March 4th 1826 rung a complete peal of 5248 changes of **OXFORD TREBLE BOB** in 3 hours and 12 minutes:—

| T. Sayer | Treble | R. Williams | 5 |
| W. Davis | 2 | T. Clarke | 6 |
| T. Yates | 3 | S. Fenn | 7 |
| R. Beetlestone | 4 | T. Beetlestone | Tenor |

We have not given names to the peals bracketed, as they are all similar to the first. A smaller board records 6000 Bob Major on February 8, 1785, and another 6272 Oxford Treble Bob on
March 22, 1790, in four hours; and 5088 New Treble Bob on April 27 following, the latter being "the first of that kind" rung in the county. S. Lawrence rang the tenor to these peals.

Another large tablet is interesting from the curious methods, now obsolete:

**The Albion Society, Shifnafen.**

July 18th 1843 rung a true peal of 5040 changes of **Treble Bob Triples** in 3 hours and 8 minutes, being the first of that method ever rung in the Kingdom.

| J. Beetlestone | Treble | G. Porter | ... | 5 |
| T. Clarke | ... | 2 | J. Rogers | ... | 6 |
| T. Yates | ... | 3 | J. Heskey | ... | 7 |
| E. Beetlestone | ... | 4 | R. Beetlestone | ... | 7 |

Odd (Oct 18th 1843, 5040 Treble Bob Triples in 3 hrs. 9 minutes.

Jan 23rd 1844, 5040 Treble Bob Triples in the Oxford and Kent Variations combined together in 3 hrs. 8 mins.

Feb 20th 1844, 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major in 3 hrs. 12 mins.

Dec 10th 1844, 5040 Stedman’s Triples in 3 hrs. 7 mins.

Those braced are by practically the same band as the first recorded, as also are the following, noted on another board:

Feb 28th 1845. 5184 Kent Treble Bob Major in 3 hrs. 11 mins.

Jan 24th 1845. 5040 Stedman’s Triples

July 30th 1845. 5088 Treble Bob

Sept 3rd 1845. 5040 Treble Bob Tripples

**South Wales** was backward in taking up the art. One of the earliest men to advance change ringing in the districts of Monmouth and Glamorgan was the late Mr. Evan Davies, who, about 1880, started it at Caerleon; before this date only rounds and call changes were rung. In 1882 Mr. E. Barnett, Senr., of Crayford, Kent, went to Monmouth and interested the locals there, and he called their first peal—Grandsire Triples—July 1, 1886. The Rev. Clements started the art at Penarth, and at Cardiff a move was made about this time. At Pentre a practically self-taught band went as far as Surprise ringing. Since the advent of the Llandaff and other kindred Associations (1893), change ringing has advanced, and good bands are to be found at several places.

At Chepstow is a record of a 5040 Grandsire Triples on January 9, 1837, by the Union Youths of Bristol, Composed
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

and Conducted by Wm. Ayres. The first peal at St. Mary, Monmouth, was 5040 Grandsire Triples (Hol’s ten-part) on July 1, 1886, conducted by E. Barnett. Taylor’s six-part was accomplished at Caerleon, Mon., on January 12, 1889, conducted by E. Davies. The first peal of Stedman in Wales, and the first peal at Llandaff Cathedral, was on September 10, 1891, conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe. The first at Newport, Mon., was “Taylor’s bob and single,” on November 12, 1895, conducted by R. T. Hibbert.

Liverpool

The first peal rung in Liverpool was at St. Peter’s Church, November 9, 1800, when 5040 “Grandsire Triples” was accomplished in three hours seven minutes, by:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>1st</th>
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<th>6th</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HENRY ROTHWELL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN KEWLEY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMES DENVER</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN HAND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conducted by JOHN HAND.

The next peal was at the same church, in a like method, on November 3, 1808, conducted by Wm. Jaeger; and the same company also scored the first peal at Croston, near Southport, on May 23, 1809. The Society then rang 5088 Oxford T.B. Major at St. Peter’s on November 1, 1809, in three hours twenty-three minutes, those taking part being:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>1st</th>
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<th>4th</th>
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<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAMES DENVER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENRY ROTHWELL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHARD SALE</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN HAND</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On November 23 of that year, W. Jaeger called the first peal of Bob Major (6048) at St. Peter’s; two peals of Grandsire Triples followed on January 1 and January 18, 1811.

At St. Michael’s, Ashton-under-Lyne, on September 9, 1811, a peal of 5040 Grandsire Caters was rung under the style of “Liverpool and Ashton-under-line College Youths,” the names of the ringers being:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenor</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HABRM. OGDEN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAS. TURNER</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAML. MOIS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOS. DENSNAPE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Peal conducted by SAML. MOIS.

WILL. BURGETS, Stewards.}
On January 6, 1812, at St. Peter’s, Liverpool, 5040 Grandsire Triples by “Liverpool College Youths and St. John’s of Chester” was conducted by W. Jaeger. The society next rang a peal at:

Saint Mary Ann’s, Ormskirk.

“A complete and fine struck Peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES was rung in 3 hrs. 29 mins. by the following Band of the Society on August the 31st 1812.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAS. LLOYD</th>
<th>Geo. SAUL</th>
<th>WLLM. JAEGER</th>
<th>CHAS. ROBERTS</th>
<th>HENRY ROTHWELL</th>
<th>JNO. TITTENSON</th>
<th>S. W. Wood</th>
<th>JNO. JONES</th>
<th>WM. LLOYD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treble</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tenor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conductor of the Peal—WM. JAEGER.

This was the first Peal ever rung on the bells.

Ormskirk has the peculiar distinction of having both a tower and a spire, built separately, it is said, by two sisters, daughters of Orme, a famous pirate, who also built the church. They disagreed over the design, and according to the old legend:

“‘Sister,’ said one, ‘tis my desire,
The church should have a tapering spire,
To point to realms where sin’s forgiven,
And lead men’s thoughts from earth to heaven.”

The other sister did not want a spire, but a tower:

“The other said, ‘I like a tower,
It speaks of strength, of might, of power—
An emblem of the church’s strength
To overcome the world at length:
To show that ’gainst the church, though frail,
The gates of hell shall not prevail.’”

The outcome of this was that they made “Orme’s Kirk” unique among churches by erecting a massive square tower and a graceful tapering spire.

The St. Peter’s, Liverpool, ringers next rang 5040 Grand-sire Triples on October 21, 1813, in celebration of the opening of the monument in the area of Liverpool Exchange
to the memory of the Right Hon. Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson.

The new ring of twelve bells cast by W. Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk, for St. Nicholas, Liverpool, was opened on June 4, 1814. The first peal by a local band was 5040 Grandsire Caters in three hours thirty-three minutes on October 3 of that year, conducted by Wm. Jaeger. It is probable that this was rung on the front ten bells, as usually the two heavy bells were rung double-handed, while in this peal they are single-handed, and written 1st to 10th.

On October 25, 1814, a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung—probably on the front eight bells—"one of the finest struck peals ever rung." The Liverpool College Youths opened a new ring of eight at Christ Church, Liversedge, Yorks, on July 12, 1815, and the following day rang 5040 Grandsire Triples in two hours forty-six minutes:

| JAMES LLOYD | Treble | HENRY ROTHWELL | 5 |
| JOSEPH NEWTON | 2 | JOHN HAND (Con.) | 6 |
| JOHN TITTENSON | 3 | SAMUEL W. WOOD | 7 |
| WILLIAM JAEGER | 4 | CHARLES ROBERTS | Tenor |

The following somewhat quaint account of the opening of the ring of twelve at St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, appears in the Peal Book of the St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham:

ON JUNE 4th, 1814,
was rung at
ST. NICHOLAS', LIVERPOOL,

At the opening of a new Peal of Bells cast by Mr. Dobson, of Downham, Norfolk, when a numerous assemblage of amateurs were invited, and on the 6th instant,

A BEAUTIFUL SILVER CUP
worth TWENTY GUINEAS,
was presented by the Town for the best performance, and was ADJUDGED

JAMES DOVEY | Treble | HY. COOPER | 7 |
—. GRIESEN | 2 | THOS. CHAPMAN | 8 |
—. HUDSON | 3 | —. DAGLEY | 9 |
THOS. WORRALL | 4 | ROwen | 10 |
ALEX. SANDERS | 5 | S. LAWRENCE & G. HARRISON | 11 |
WM. BOOTH | 6 | BILLS and HUDSON | Tenor |

On the following day a complete peal of Grandsire Cinques was rung by members of the same Society, and is duly recorded in the peal book.

Unfortunately the cup ‘disappeared,’ or it would be a very highly prized possession of the St. Martin’s ‘Youths’ of to-day.

It will be noted that on this occasion the ringing was not a matter of a few hours, but extended over several days.
The following peals were subsequently rung at St. Nicholas, Liverpool:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 29th 1815</td>
<td>5126</td>
<td>Grandsire Cinques</td>
<td>W. THISTLEWOOD</td>
<td>Jan 12th 1820</td>
<td>5126</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 25th 1828</td>
<td>5016</td>
<td>Stedman</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Jan 31st 1831</td>
<td>5213</td>
<td>Grandsire</td>
<td>JOHN HERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30th 1842</td>
<td>5258</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Feb 12th 1850</td>
<td>5148</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9th 1850</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>Triples</td>
<td>W. THISTLEWOOD, Jun.</td>
<td>Feb 10th 1854</td>
<td>5125</td>
<td>Cinques</td>
<td>W. THISTLEWOOD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conductor su6 Grandire Cinques w. THISTLEWOOD, Jun. th. 2 men on each 11th and tenor.

Two men on each 11th and tenor.

--- First peal by twelve men only ---


Peals at St. Peter's, Liverpool, include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 21st 1827</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>Grandsire Triples</td>
<td>T. KEVAN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2nd 1831</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>Kent T.B. Royal</td>
<td>PETER WILKINSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29th 1838</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>Grandire Caters</td>
<td>W. THISTLEWOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mch 16th 1840</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>P. WILKINSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18th 1845</td>
<td>5007</td>
<td>Stedman</td>
<td>E. HERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9th 1850</td>
<td>5021</td>
<td>Grandire</td>
<td>J. HERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20th 1851</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>Bob Royal</td>
<td>E. HERON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 20th 1865</td>
<td>5021</td>
<td>Grandire Caters</td>
<td>J. HERON Jun.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rung muffled to memory of J. Hand, conductor of first peal on these bells.

Mch 1st 1866 5000 Stedman Caters Conductor J. HERON Jun.

Since this time a variety of peals in all methods have been rung in and around Liverpool, where many rings of bells have of later years been augmented and rehung. Most notable are the records scored at St. Nicholas of Cambridge Surprise in Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus, which may be found under the reports issued by the Lancashire Association. A Society of Royal Youths was formed in Liverpool at one time, and their first peal—at St. Luke's—was 5040 Grandsire Triples on November 29, 1873, composed by J. Aspinwall, conducted by T. Beacall.

Oldham

Oldham has long been noted for its keen and enterprising band of ringers, and in the old days the local Society scored many peals of record length. Here are a few of the more important. On September 30, 1783, in the old tower of S. Paul's Church, 10,980 Bob Major in five and a half hours, and on January 4 the following year 14,480 in eight hours twenty-four minutes, both being composed and conducted by Thomas
Kay. On October 24, 1809, the Society rang 15,120 Bob Major in eight hours forty-six minutes:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAMES TAYLOR</td>
<td>Jeffrey Lomax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Cooper</td>
<td>Joshua Kershaw</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Newton</td>
<td>William Rigby</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Newton</td>
<td>John Whitehead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Composed & Conducted by Joseph Newton.

On February 12, 1821, they rang Mr. Eversfield's peal of 14,016 Kent T.B. Major in seven hours twenty-six minutes, conducted by J. Newton, rung by:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Newton</td>
<td>James Rigby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Mills</td>
<td>Thos. Chadderton</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Brierley</td>
<td>John Whitehead</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Taylor</td>
<td>James Jackson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. Newton later—on February 15, 1825—composed and called the unusual peal of 9999 Grandsire Major in five hours twenty-two minutes.

All the above were rung in the old tower. S. Mary's Church was built on the site where St. Paul's stood, and the old tablets therein were repainted.

The new ring of twelve bells was opened on September 2, 1830, and on Christmas Day of that year, the ringers rang their first peal on them—5126 Grandsire Cinques, in three hours twenty-eight minutes:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th></th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Newton (Cond.)</td>
<td>Moses Stoppard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jackson</td>
<td>James Mills</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Newton</td>
<td>William Rigby</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Lomax</td>
<td>John Brierley</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saml. Siddall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Norwich Mercury gives an account of the “Oldham College Youths” ringing 7392 Treble Bob Maximus, on March 6, 1832, in five hours fourteen minutes, “which beats the Birmingham peal by 192 changes or four treble leads.” It was rung by practically the same band as the 1830 peal.

A number of peals have since been rung here by both local and visiting ringers.

Ashton-under-Lyne

The following appears in J. A. Parnell's MSS. :—

"On Monday July 12th 1819 the transposed peal of ten bells from the key of F down to E flat, being in the new and Gothic built
Tower of St Michael’s Church at Ashton under line in the county of Lancashire, were opened by Ashton Undline College Youths who ascended their New Tower and boldly rang a touch of Grandsire Caters composed of 719 musical changes and nobly brought round, conductor Mr. Samuel Mofs.

The visiting bands ascended the New Tower in the following order:

First: Liverpool College Youths rung 1,024 Stedman Caters and then got out, they started for 5,076 peal.

Second: S. John’s Youths of Halifax rung 2960 New Treble Bob Royal, knocked up with sore hands.

Third: A Miscellaneous band started for 5076 G Caters Rung 1 hour 57 minutes, changed courses and got round.

Fourth: Manchester Old Church Collegiate Youths rung 1746 Grandsire Caters and jumped round.

Fifth: Band was Oldham College Youths entered for 5,147 Grandsire Caters rung 4,68o Tenor man knocked up.

Sixth: Mottram S. Mary’s Youths entered for 5040 Grandsire Caters Rang 3,336 changes courses and got round.

Seventh: Huddersfield rang 1246 and got out.

Eighth: Chester Youths entered for 5120 New Treble Bob on 8 hind bells and lost their peal in 28 minutes.

Ninth: Rochdale for 5040 G Tripples got out in 49 minutes.

Tenth: Manchester S. John’s Youths rung 1,204 and came round.

Eleventh: Middleton 5040 Grandsire Tripples got out in 2 hours and 50 minutes, on eight hind bells.

Twelfth: Bolton Youths rung 9 courses out of ten John Holts ten course peal Grandsire and came round.

Thirteenth: Stockport entered for 2120 Grandsire Tripples and Nobly brought it round in 1 hour 23½ minutes. They rang past 12 o’clock on Tuesday night.

Fourteenth: Saddleworth 6 bell band rang 720 peal in a Treble Bob method on 6 hind bells.

Wednesday Morning, July 14th 1819 The miscellaneous band rung 5076 GRANDSIRE CATERS in 3 hours and 2 minutes.

Conductor, Mr. Joseph Tebbs.

Treble: Mr. Stephen Hill from Liversage.
2 Mr. Joseph Riley from Gloucester City.
3 Mr. Joseph Priestley from Wakefield in Yorkshire.
4 Mr. Samuel Lawrence from Shifnall in Shropshire.
5 Mr. William Doyle from Chester City.
6 Mr. Thomas Hurry from Norwich City in Norfolk.
7 Mr. Joseph Tebbs from Leeds in Yorkshire.
8 Mr. John Andrews from Chester City.
9 Mr. William Woodhead from Wakefield in Yorkshire.

Tenor: Mr. Thomas Walsh from Wakefield &
6 Mr. George Woodwins from Chester City.
Liverpool College Youths ascended the tower again and rung 1600 Stedman Caters and out. Also a mixed band rung a short touch of Grandsire Caters and brought it round.

On Thursday morning at 7 o'clock July 15th 1819 the Ashton Underline College Youths ascended the Tower of St Michael's at Ashton and rung a peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS of 5116 musical changes which was finely struck and Nobly brought round in the lofty time of 3 hours 30 minutes, which was able conducted by Mr. Samuel Mofs, and the Artists were Stationed in the following order:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>Mr. Abraham Ogden</th>
<th>2 Mr. James Turner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mr. Samuel Mofs</td>
<td>4 Mr. Robert Stanfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. Samuel Mofs, Jun.</td>
<td>6 Mr. Thomas Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mr. Joseph Burges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mr. Aaron Walker</td>
<td>9 Mr. James Mofs, and rope-end assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tenor. Mr. Jacob Ogden, being in his 61st year and nobly rung it without assistance which weighs 27 cwt. 3 qr. 21 lb. nett bell metal in the key of E flat.

This peal finally closed the opening of Ashton Underline, Thursday A.M. July 15th 1819.

This opening merrily lasted 4 days says John Alfred Parnell, at Sheffield July 21st 1819.

John Powell Powell Esqr. of Quex House, Birchinton, Isle of Thanet, Kent, paid a visit to this grand opening & J. A. Parnell.”

After such a “glorious” opening, it is only natural to suppose that Ashton would have a local Society with high ambitions. This they certainly had, and their record of peals is worthy of the emulation of any progressive company. The writer had the pleasure of looking through their very fine peal books, wherein are recorded in finely executed designs all peals of 5000 changes and over rung by this Society. On another visit a splendid effort to ring a 5000 Treble Bob Maximus was ended after two hours owing to the clapper of the tenor bell breaking. It was conducted by G. Lindoff, and the band included such veterans as J. W. Washbrook (and his son); H. Chapman; S. Wood; B. Thorp; A. Adams and others. This personal note is merely inserted to show the writer’s admiration of this famous company, whose members have done so much to advance the art by their fine performances. At St. Peter’s,
Ashton-under-Lyne, many good peals have been rung; we mention one:

"Feb 21 - 1874, 8864 KENT T.B. MAJOR in 5 hrs. 27 mins.:

THOMAS MOSS ... Treble | BENJN. BROADBENT ... 5
JOSEPH BOCOCK ... 2 | JOSEPH GILLOTT ... 6
THOMAS STOPFORD ... 3 | CHARLES THORP ... 7
DANIEL HEAP ... 4 | JOHN THORP ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by J. THORP, being (then) the longest yet composed with tenors together."

Manchester

An old Manchester record occurs in a leaflet issued in 1830 to celebrate a peal at the Cathedral. The tower before 1706 had five bells, but received an additional three that year. In 1825 two more were added, making ten.

"CHANGE RINGING.

On the evening of Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 1830, a select band of the Society of Change Ringers of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, ascended the tower and rang a true and complete peal of TREBLE BOB ROYAL, in the Kent variation, consisting of 8,000 harmonious changes, which was brought round in excellent style in five hours and twenty-five minutes, being the longest peal in the above name ever rung in the North of England. The ringers were stationed as follows:

Treble..........MR. JOSEPH KAY.
Second.......MR. RICHARD PALIN | Sixth.......MR. WALTER WORALL
Third.........MR. JEREMIAH LORD | Seventh.......MR. JOSEPH LLOYD
Fourth........MR. ROBERT NAYLOR | Eighth........MR. WILLIAM BOYER
Fifth..........MR. NELSON WORALL | Ninth..........MR. JAMES SHELMERDINE
Tenor.........MR. ROBERT KERSHAW.

This peal, composed and conducted by MR. ROBERT NAYLOR, was rung by the above ten persons only. Weight of the tenor 25 cwt. in the key of E."

These bells were recently restored by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston.

Yorkshire, that county which covers more acres than there are letters in the Bible, has produced some of the foremost ringers of their day, and one has only to trace the records of some of these great ones—supported, as they of course were, by bands of competent men—to know how much the "exercise" owes to their energy and keenness. There is the most famous of all "ringing-historians," Jasper W. Snowdon, of Ilkley, and his brother William; the fine old English gentleman,
Charles Henry Hattersley, of Sheffield, and his illustrious ancestors; there are Wm. Booth, William Hudson, and others; while later on we find Sam Thomas, John Lomas, T. Hattersley, the profuse Wm. Sottanstall, of Sowerby, Wm. Woodhead, of Wakefield, and a host of others too numerous to mention individually.

Although not the earliest in taking up the “art and science” of change ringing, Yorkshire soon became foremost, and especially so in Treble Bob methods, notably the Kent variation, which has been described as “Yorkshire Glory” on more than one occasion. The six-bell towers, too, progressed most rapidly, and multi-method peals were no new thing. One cannot pass over the fine example of the late Geo. Bolland, of Tong, and the companies of many towers who assiduously followed the art, though possessed of six bells only.

The Ancient Society of College Youths of London visited York Minster in 1787, when they rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, and were received with marked distinction by the Archbishop of York. This, and a peal of Treble Bob at Halifax two days previously, they record as the first peals in Yorkshire; a statement not quite correct, as at Sheffield Parish Church (now the Cathedral) is a tablet which shows that on March 8, 1785, 5120 Union Treble Bob (Eight In) was rung there “without a false stroke in 3 hrs. 52 mins.” by:

```
JOSEPH TRICKETT .. Treble | JOHN HILL .. 5
GEORGE WILDE .. 2 | CHARLES FLETCHER .. 6
WILLIAM LEE .. 3 | SAMUEL DUTTON .. 7
RICHARD OWEN .. 4 | THOMAS BABB .. Tenor.
```

No mention is made of the conductor, but they must have been a good company even in those early days. The same band, with the exception that the name of Sam Wiley appears in place of J. Trickett, rang 6018 “Cambridge Surprize” in four hours eighteen minutes on November 30, 1787, at the time a unique performance, although afterwards found to be false in composition.

Sheffield Independent St. Peter’s Youths

The band also record that on May 20, 1799, they rang 5039 Grandsire Caters in three hours thirty-three minutes:

```
```
In 1804 some of the bells were recast by T. Mears, and the tenor was augmented to 41 cwt., note C. Although it is stated that a peal of 1811 is the first on the bells ¹ the Norwich Mercury records an earlier one:

"May 4th 1809 was rung at S. Peter's Church [Sheffield, Yorks] a fine peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal composed of 540c harmonious changes, which was nobly brought round in three hours 59 minutes on the grand new peal of ten bells cast by Messr. Thomas Mears & Sons of Whitechapel, London, in the deep key of C, weight of the Tenor 41 cwt and 5 lb net. metal. This Society also rang the same bells in the Summer of 1807 at various times to 11177 changes in the intricate methods of Bob Royal, Stedmans Principle and Oxford Treble Bob Royal to represent 11177 free holders who polled that year for Lord Milton at York."

The 1811 peal referred to was 5040 "Bob Major Royal" on November 27, in three hours thirty-six minutes, by the following:

"GEORGE BEET ... Treble | WILLIAM WRAGG ... 6
JAMES TAYLOR ... 2 | JNO. WOODHEAD ... 7
ROBT. WALTON ... 3 | RICHD. LAWTON ... 8
JOHN HEALD ... 4 | ROBERT D'AFF ... 9
JOHN TAYLOR ... 5 | WM. HEALD and assistant puller ... Tenor

Conducted by JOHN WOODHEAD."

There have been periods in the history of ringing when the men of Sheffield took front rank, and at the dawn of the nineteenth century they were unquestionably of no mean skill. With only one peal of bells, there were two sets of ringers—the "ins" and the "outs": "St. Peter's Youths" were the "ins," "St. Peter's Independent Youths" the "outs." Changes occurred, however, at various times; we find the "outs" ringing with the "ins," and it is a difficult matter to

¹ Ringing World, September 15, 1916. In S. Lawrence's MSS, it is also stated: "The ring was opened on Nov. 29th, 1804, when 5039 Grandsire Caters were Rung in 3 hrs. 37 mins., conducted by Mr. Joseph Grayson, Silver Plater of that town; also 5040 Oxford T.B. Royal, May 4th, 1808, conducted by William Booth, Table Knife Cutter."
draw the line between the two. While the "ins" satisfied themselves on the tower bells, the "outs" turned their attention to hand-bells, and it is probable that the rivalry between the two sets provided those wonderful hand-bell performances of that time (see p. 440).

Other records of their peals include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Piece</th>
<th>Conductor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>5004</td>
<td>W. HUDSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>5080</td>
<td>W. BOOTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>6120</td>
<td>W. HUDSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1832</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>W. BOOTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1842</td>
<td>5003</td>
<td>W. HUDSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1859</td>
<td>5080</td>
<td>W. HUDSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>5001</td>
<td>J. LOMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1859</td>
<td>5093</td>
<td>J. LOMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>5040</td>
<td>W. WOODHEAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1871</td>
<td>5016</td>
<td>W. WOODHEAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With twelve bells at their disposal, the Sheffield Society rang numbers of peals in all the standard methods, details of which may be seen throughout the reports of the Yorkshire Association.

**Wakefield Society**

This Society holds a high place in ringing history, especially as being the first company to ring both Cambridge and Superlative Surprise on ten bells. An early record of their performances occurs in 1820:

"On Monday 16th October 1820 was rung by the Society of Ringers a complete peal of **GRANDSIRE CATERS**, comprising 6,030 changes of 60 nine six eights and 60 eight nines composed and conducted by Wm. WOODHEAD and was performed in 3 hours and 44 minutes.

The Society as stationed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>Tenor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WM. WOODHEAD</td>
<td>JOHN WILSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 JOSEPH SUGDEN</td>
<td>THOS. WALSH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 JOSEPH PRIESTLEY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 GEO. PICKERING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 RICHARD WILKINSON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Peal

- 1st course end 357462
- 2nd do 542763
- 3rd do 473265
- 4th do 725364
- 5th do 234567
On the 27th August 1814 the above named Wm. Woodhead rung the 7th bell in the church of Ottley through a peal of treble bob consisting of 12,320 changes in 7 hours 15 minutes, being the longest peal in this method ever rung in England.

This board is placed here by order of the churchwardens in consequence of the attention and good conduct of the ringers.

On October 10, 1821, they rang a peal of 5079 Stedman Caters in three hours eleven minutes; and on October 26 of the next year record:

"On Saturday 26th October 1822 nine of the Society of Ringers at this Church with Joseph Tebbs of Leeds succeeded in accomplishing a peal of CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE ROYAL, comprising 5400 changes in 3 hours 35 minutes, being the first peal ever attempted in the above difficult method by any set of men in the Kingdom, which will be a standing laurel for the Society for ages to come. The above peals were composed and conducted by WM. WOODHEAD. The Band as stationed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>James Gill.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Joseph Gill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thos. Netherwood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>WM. Woodhead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
<td>Robert Collett.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Peal
54632
36245
42563
65324
1st part end 42356
2nd do 34256
3rd do 23456"

This was a fine achievement, as also was the following, which is copied from a parchment record, topped with an etching of the church (now the cathedral):

"On Monday March 27th 1826 the Company of All Saints Ringers, Wakefield, ascended the Tower of the Parish Church, and had the honour of Ringing, in a Masterly style, a true and complete peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE ROYAL, consisting of 5400 changes, in three hours and Twenty-six minutes, by Ten men only [Tenor weighing 31 cwt].

The great superiority of this Peal over any other is, it being the only true Peal ever rung in the Kingdom in so intricate a method,
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

and will be a standing laurel for the Society for ages to come. The peal was composed by Mr. Joseph Tebb's of Leeds, and was by him presented to this Society, and rung by them at the first attempt. The peal was nobly conducted by Mr. Wm. Woodhead and rung by the following Persons:

The first treble lead of Superlative Surprise Royal.

[then follows the figures of same].

The Band as Stationed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>The Peal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WM. FAWCETT</td>
<td>45236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH SUGDEN</td>
<td>62534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARK BLACKBURN</td>
<td>56234 First part End.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE PICKERING</td>
<td>56234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN HALL</td>
<td>34562 Second do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMES GILL</td>
<td>34562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH GILL</td>
<td>34562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOS. NETHERWOOD</td>
<td>62345 Third do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WM. WOODHEAD</td>
<td>45623 Fourth do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBT. COLLETT</td>
<td>23456 Fifth do</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hurst, Printer—Wakefield.

Very little other news is discoverable of the Wakefield Society, except that at St. John's Church, on November 12, 1821, 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung, conducted by W. Hewitt, and at the Cathedral on November 18, 1852, 5280 Kent T.B. Royal in three hours forty minutes, conducted by Wm. Scott, the composition of Wm. Hudson, of Sheffield. The present oldest ringer in Wakefield is Mr. A. Scott, a grandson of Wm. Scott. There are now twelve bells at Wakefield, but little peal ringing is done on them.

Halifax

Another twelve-bell tower of Yorkshire is that of Halifax, but not much of outstanding merit has been achieved there. In the tower a tablet records a peal of 5040 Bob Major on March 25, 1811, "by the Junr. ringers," in three hours fifteen minutes, "the youngest ringer being 18 years of age and the oldest 22 years":-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARK NICHOLL</td>
<td>John Firth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSEPH FLEMING</td>
<td>Elias Balme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAM HOLROYD</td>
<td>John Holdsworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAM AKROYD</td>
<td>William Hardcastle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Composed & Conducted by Wm. Hardcastle.
Most of these "youths" made good, and their names are known as ringers and composers of repute. On December 10, 1821, they rang 6000 Kent T.B. Royal in three hours fifty-nine and a half minutes:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Josh. Fleming</th>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>John Holdsworth</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rich. Jenkinson</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wm. Hardcastle (Cond.)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Heap</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elias Balme</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Crabtree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mark Nicholl</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Bradley</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>John Brassey</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On December 20, 1824, they rang 5293 "of that intricate method of Fabian Stedman Cators" in three hours twelve minutes.

York Minster Society

The late W. H. Howard,¹ in a "History of the Bells of York," says:—

"I have been able to find very little of the doings of the ringers between the years 1753 and 1786 except the Notices of two or three peals in the city on the bells of St. Martin-le-Grand in Coney Street,² till the year 1785, when they report the first time of their ringing the Minster bells on Xmas eve as follows:—1785 On Xmas Eve the ringers rang 1008 Grandsire Triples, and a young man 18 years of age did the notable performance of ringing the tenor single handed."

York Minster has the distinction, unique in its way, of having had two rings of twelve bells and one of ten all within a period of seventy-nine years. As early as 1371 we find mention of bells, and in the sixteenth century there were four in the north-west tower and eight in the south-west. In 1655 the four were removed and put to the eight, and there is reason to believe that this formed the earliest ring of twelve in England. Subsequently recast in 1681, and hung in two tiers, they were never perfect in tune. In 1733 they were rehung on one level, and it is stated that at the opening the new Society of YORK SCHOLARS rang several "peals" of Triples, Bob Minor and Caters, and intended to ring Bob Major, Cinques and Maximus.

In spite of the rehanging, the bells were not satisfactory, so a new peal of ten was ordered from Lester and Pack, of White-

¹ W. H. Howard was 68 years a ringer at York Minster. Born August 28, 1821, died August 1, 1907.
² It would be interesting to know if these were complete peals of 5000, in view of the statement of the College Youths on their visit in 1787 reported elsewhere!
Fig. 47.—Testing York Minster New Tenor Bell.
chapel, to be “as nearly like St. Mary-le-Bow as maybe”; these bells the same firm cast in 1762. They were to take thirteen old bells, presumably the back seven of the twelve, the old hour bell, and two quarter bells of the clock, and three formerly hanging at St. Michael, Spurriergate—whither the front five of the old minster bells were removed and still exist, a treble being added to make six. In 1765 this arrangement was carried out, and the ten came to York with a tenor of 53 cwt. 25 lb., or 3 lb. heavier than Bow tenor. These bells escaped the fire of 1829, but were utterly destroyed by a terrible fire on May 20, 1840, which attacked the south-west tower, where they hung. When the minster was restored a second time, a magnificent ring of twelve was presented by Stephen Beckwith, M.D., with a tenor about half a hundredweight heavier than the last, in the key of C. These bells were rung for the first time on July 4, 1844. They were rehung in 1913. In 1926 a great restoration was undertaken by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co., to whom was entrusted the important task of recasting and rehanging the whole ring; together with “Great Peter,” the 10½-ton bourdon, adding a new semitone to the twelve. This great scheme was successfully achieved, and now York Minster has one of the finest ringing peals in the world, and the third heaviest; the others being Exeter, with a tenor 72½ cwt.; and St. Paul’s, London, 62 cwt. York, 60 cwt. Tenor, with a note B♭, is actually the deepest toned tenor of any ringing peal. With the addition of the new semitone, York, like Exeter, has now four rings of six, a minor and two major eights, a minor and major ten, as well as the ring of twelve. These bells are hung on the latest principles, in ball-bearings, several of the heavier bells having “balanced-clappers,” and all in a massive iron and steel framework (this latter as Fig. 14).

The first “touch” on the new bells was of Grandsire Cinques rung by: T. Haigh (1), C. F. White (2), G. Worth (3), P. Firth (4), H. Imeson (5), G. Horner (6), E. Rickett (7), J. Thompson (8), A. C. Fearnley (9), T. Hodgson (10), A. Haigh

---

1 The author was stationed in York for two years during the Great War, serving as Staff-Sergeant on the Area Administrative of the Forage Department, R.A.S.C. Attaching himself to the York Minster Society he had the pleasure of conducting most of the Sunday Service ringing in 1917–18, and on being transferred to Cheltenham, was the recipient of a pair of water-colours and a signed address from the Society.
A cutting from a local paper dated September 30, 1808, among the MSS. of S. Lawrence, relating to various rings of bells in England, gives the following interesting item on York Minster bells, after stating that they were opened on the Prince of Wales’s Birthday, August 12, 1765, by ringers from St. Peter’s, Norwich, with 1600 Bob Royal:—

“The College Youths rang the first peal on these bells, being 5183 of Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 47 minutes, composed and conducted by Mr. Thomas Blakemore—Stationer & Bookseller, London.

S. Peter’s Youths at York rang the next peal on them, 5003 Grandsire Caters in 3 hours and 42 minutes, conducted by Mr. Richard Beeforth, Pattern Maker of that City.

The S. Michaels Youths of Ashton under line afterwards Rang 5021 changes in 3 hours and 27 minutes conducted by Mr. Thomas Ogden, warehouseman of Ashton under line, Being the Last long peal on the Minster bells (up to this date).”

**St. Peter’s Society, Leeds**

The Leeds Society have long held their own among Northern ringers, and at St. Peter’s, whose ten bells were first completed and rung February 5, 1798, the ringers soon accomplished a peal, for on December 25 that year they rang 5040 Grandsire Caters in three hours thirty-seven minutes:—

| WILLIAM ELLBECK  | Treble | RICHARD WILLCOCK | 7 |
| THOS. WIGGLESWORTH | 2 | WILLIAM PRESTON | 8 |
| JOSEPH WHITAKER | 3 | (Conductor) | |
| JAMES SAVER | 4 | THOMAS NORMINGTON | 9 |
| WILLIAM SHAW | 5 | BENJN. SKIRROW | Tenor |
| BNJN. STOCKS | 6 | JAMES BLACKBURN | Assistant |

On October 25, 1800, practically the same band, with Joseph Tebbs as Conductor, rang 5040 “New Treble Bob Royal ten in.” In 1816 Tebbs composed a “curious production of 5579 Grandsire Caters,” which really is the short course plan as opposed to the old long course— or single call— plan; and they rang it on October 25 of that year. In 1818 Joseph Tebbs, their then foremost leader, called 5079 Stedman Caters, and on April 23, 1828, they rang—

“Tebb’s Peal of New Treble Bob Royal in Shipway’s Book of 5040 changes in three parts. It was rung in the tittum position and brought home again at each part end.”
The Peal

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& M. & W. & H. \\
\times 563427089 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\
\times 423567890 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\
\end{array}
\]

On February 3, 1838, the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the ring of ten which formerly occupied the old tower, the Society rang 5040 Grandsire Caters, composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage. In 1841 the bells were augmented to thirteen, and on May 1 of that year the Society rang 5148 Grandsire Cinques “in the tittums” in three hours forty-three minutes nine seconds, viz.:

“Sam. Smallpage Treble 5 Benj. Ely
Jno. Robinson 2 Chriss. Isles 6 Wm. Gawrodger 20
Jno. Groves 3 Jons. Baldwin 7 Wm. Groves 11
Jno. Hudson 4 Jno. Mortimer 8 Wm. Pulleine 21

The above Gentlemen had the honour of Completing the first peal of Cinques in the County of York.”

Samuel Smallpage was conductor, and on the light eight—on July 7, 1842—he conducted 5056 Kent T.B. Major. On January 8, 1846, 5040 Stedman Triples was rung on these light bells (or G. peal) composed and conducted by James Lockwood. Since then many peals in various methods have been accomplished here.

Sowerby Society

The fame of William Sottanstall gave to Sowerby a unique place in the art, and from an early time the society of ringers grew proficient, especially so in the Treble Bob methods. Thus on May 29, 1832, they rang J. Reeve’s 8448 Kent T.B. Major in four hours fifty-two minutes, performed by the following:

The peal by J. Reeves

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& M. & W. & H. \\
23456 & 35264 & 1 & 2 \\
& 35642 & 1 & 2 \\
& 53246 & 1 & 2 \\
& 53492 & 1 & 2 \\
& 20435 & 1 & 2 \\
& 32654 & 1 & 2 \\
& 30524 & 1 & 2 \\
& 62534 & 1 & 2 \\
& 23645 & 1 & 2 \\
& 34256 & 1 & 2 \\
\end{array}
\]

Twice Repeat.
Again on November 5, 1832, they rang 5664 of the same, composed and conducted by Wm. Sottanstall, and on April 14, 1872, 6016 of the composition of Sottanstall, conducted by J. Clegg. They rang many other compositions of Treble Bob and its variations.

**Keighley Change Ringers**

From an early date, Keighley has possessed a fine company of ringers; even as far back as August 18, 1811, they accomplished 5376 "Cambridge Surprise eight in," one of the earliest rung in that method. Although there is some doubt as to the composition being true, it does not detract from the merit of the company who rang it, whose members were stationed as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
  \text{Composer} & \text{Treble} & \text{Tenor}
  \\
  \hline
  "\text{JEREMIAH Foulds}" & \text{JOSHUA CAWOOD} & \text{SAML. CLAPHAM}
  \\
  \text{GEORGE HATTERSLEY} & \text{THOMAS IvesON} & \text{GEORGE HATTERSLEY}
  \\
  \text{JAMES BALDWIN} & \text{THOMAS MIDGLEY} & \text{JAMES INMAN}
  \\
  \text{DAVID SMITH} & \text{JAMES INMAN} & \text{DAVID SMITH}
  \\
  \hline
  \text{Composed by JOSEPH TEBBS.} & \text{Conducted by DAVID SMITH.}
\end{array}
\]

In 1813 a long peal of 11,080 New Treble Bob (i.e., Kent) was rung here on June 21. "The bells were struck into changes at 9 minutes past 9 in the morning, and brought round in a masterly style 12 minutes past 3 in the afternoon by:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
  \text{Composer} & \text{Treble} & \text{Tenor}
  \\
  \hline
  \text{THOMAS MIDGLEY} & \text{JOS. BLAKLEY, Jun.} & \text{JAMES INMAN}
  \\
  \text{GEORGE HATTERSLEY} & \text{JOS. BRADLEY} & \text{JAMES INMAN}
  \\
  \text{THOS. FOX} & \text{SAML. CLAPHAM} & \text{DAVID SMITH}
  \\
  \text{JNO. BLAKLEY} & \text{JAMES INMAN} & \text{DAVID SMITH}
  \\
  \hline
  \text{Conducted by JOSEPH TEBBS.} & \text{Conductor} & \text{Assistant}
  \\
  \text{JOSEPH TEBBS.} & \text{Geo. Hattersley} & \text{DAVID SMITH.}
\end{array}
\]

The English under Wellington beat the French at Vittoria in Spain, and slew 10,000 men while this Peal was ringing.

In 1814 this Society rang the first peal of London T.B. Major, which is referred to elsewhere, as is also their achievement of ringing the first of Cumberland Exercise.

On April 17, 1836, "5040 Steadman's Tripples" was rung here, composed by Chas. Mason, of Otley, conducted by Joseph Murgatroyd. This Society has rung many other peals, and on one occasion the writer had the pleasure of taking part in a peal of Bob Major here.

There are, of course, other notable rings of bells in Yorkshire of which only passing notice can be given; Beverley Minster, for instance, with its magnificent ring of ten bells, and St. Mary's close by with another ten. These are modern, and
peals rung here and in many of the other noble towers can be found in the reports of the Yorkshire Association. Hull has several peals, made historical by the late Chas. Jackson, who conducted nearly every peal composed of Grandsire Triples. In the north, around Stockton, and in the Cleveland district, the good work is carried on by the Cleveland and North Yorks Association, and in and around Sheffield, Barnsley, Halifax and elsewhere numerous small Societies are doing active work in the belfries of their districts. In closing this portion of county history, it will be interesting to give the following three extracts from the note-book of J. A. Parnell, of Sheffield:

"On Tuesday, September 3rd 1811, the Sheffield St. Peter's Independent Youths paid a visit to the opening of the two new trebles added to the peal of 8 bells, and made them a ring of 10 bells at S. Mary's Church in Shrewsbury, the County Town of Shropshire, to the great satisfaction of the public and Change ringers of that Town they brought round in a Fine style of ringing in 3 hours & 37 minutes, a musical 12 course peal of **OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL**, composed of 5400 changes by the following band of Travelling Change Ringing Artists, viz.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mr. Stephen Hill</td>
<td>Kidderminster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Richard Cross</td>
<td>Shrewsbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Henry Grayson</td>
<td>Sheffield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>William Hudson</td>
<td>Shrewsbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Joseph Grayson</td>
<td>Shrewsbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mr. William Booth</td>
<td>Sheffield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Samuel Shirt</td>
<td>Stourbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>James Doyey</td>
<td>Ashton-under-Lyne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Samuel Moss</td>
<td>Lyne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conducted by Mr. William Booth.

Tenor—26 cwt. nett. bell metal.

N.B. The Sheffield Youths gave good Specimens on Hand bells, Oxford treble bob 12 in, and Stedman Cinque change ringing at Shrewsbury this Visit."

"Mr. William Booth, a table knife cutter, Sheffield paid a visit to London in June 1816, & with a joint London band rung a complete peal of **OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL**, composed of 5280 musical changes with the 6th bell twelve times wrong and twelve times right, the Artists were stationed as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mr. George Cross</td>
<td>London College Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>William Shipway</td>
<td>Cumberland Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>William Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>William Makey</td>
<td>College Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>William Booth</td>
<td>Cumberland Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thomas Freith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thomas Michael</td>
<td>College Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>James Nash</td>
<td>Cumberland Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thomas Grainger</td>
<td>College Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenor</td>
<td>Edward Bartell, Junr.</td>
<td>College Youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C.R.
The peal was Composed and Conducted by Mr. George Cross at
S Leonard’s Church, Jane Shore Ditch, London
on Tuesday June the 16th 1816.
The Time 3 Hours and 35 minutes.
Weight of the Tenor 30 cwt. nett bell metal.”

“On Easter Monday April 6th 1817 a party of Independent St.
Peter’s Youths of the Cutlery Town of Sheffield, paid a friendly visits
to their Brother change ringers at the Woollen manufacturing town
of Wakefield in Yorkshire, and a selected ten of both companies
ascended the Gothic Tower and Spire of All Saints Church in
Wakefield, and on the new peal of ten bells they rung a Complete
peal of 5000 changes in the intricate method of Oxford New
Treble Bob Royal which was nobly brought round in 3 hours
and 35 minutes. The Tenor weighing 32 cwt. in the Key of D —

Treble  Mr. John Woodhead. 6 Mr. William Rowin.
2 Mr. William Hudson. 7 Hall.
3 Mr. William Booth. 8 Gill.
4 Mr. George Hudson. 9 William Woodhead.
5 Mr. James Gill. Tenor Robert Daft.

Conductor of the peal, Mr. John Woodhead. N.B. This is the
first long peal of 5000 rung on these new bells in any method. They
were opened in January 1817.”

Union Society of Newcastle and Gateshead

From very early times we read of bells at St. Nicholas, New-
castle; originally a ring of five, the tenor being cast in 1593,
and subsequently recast several times. The ring was increased
to six in 1658, eight in 1717, later on to ten, then twelve, and
now a semitone has been added, making thirteen bells, exclusive
of the “Major,” or Bourdon, of nearly 6 tons weight. Gates-
head—on the other side of the Tyne—had a peal of eight as
early as 1788, all by W. & T. Mears, of London. A ringing
society under the above title was formed, and on May 10, 1790,
the members rang at Gateshead Mr. John Holt’s 5040 Grand-
sire Triples in three hours twenty minutes. The ringers
were:

1 The author had the pleasure of ringing a peal of Stedman Caters on the
ten at Newcastle before augmentation—August 5, 1912—but at Gateshead
had the misfortune to lose the peal (Stedman Triples) after ringing 5000
changes owing to a rope breaking.
Nov. 18th 1791, 5040 changes was rung by the aforesaid Society in 3 hours and 15 minutes.


Another tablet at Gateshead, having a scroll with a bell between the inscriptions:

"LAUO DEUM VERUM PLEBEM CONGREGO CLERUM" and "DEFUNCTAS PLORO FESTA DECORD,"

giving the Rector and Churchwardens' names, is inscribed:—

"1829. Jan 29 the anniversary of His Majesty King George the Fourth’s accession to the Throne. A Complete peal of Holts' GRANDSIRE TRIPLES consisting of 5040 changes was rang on these bells by the UNION SOCIETY OF CHANGE-RINGERS in 3 hrs. and 17 mins. Tenor 15 cwt. The names of those who rang the peal:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Fifth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Stephenson</td>
<td>George Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Stephenson b.c.</td>
<td>Joseph Stephenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Elliott</td>
<td>George James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Elliott</td>
<td>Edward James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Shipley</td>
<td>Steward, D. Preston, Secretary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At St. Nicholas, Newcastle, on November 15, 1808, they rang the same peal, stating:—

"this peal was never rang before on these bells. The bobs were called by John Stephenson Junr. who rang the observation bell, the tenor which weighed 36 cwt., was rang single-handed."

Again they rang this peal on October 25, 1809, in three hours twenty minutes:—

"being the only peal rang in England in commemoration of His Majesty King George the Third entering into his 50th year of his reign over a free and loyal people."

On March 27 (Easter Sunday), 1842, this Society had a visit from J. Cox and J. Freeman, of St. James'. Youths, London, when the former conducted 5040 Grandsire Triples. The record states:—

"they rang it in the unprecedented time of 2 hours and 59 minutes, weight of tenor 36 cwt. The harmony produced by the skill and talent employed on this occasion displayed to the Science unequalled specimen of the Sublime beautiful and intricate Art of Change Ringing."

x 2
The local society beat this on December 8, 1848, when "7 of the ringers of this church and Allen Stephenson of S. Andrews" rang Thurstan’s peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in two hours forty-five minutes.

Another tablet at Gateshead commemorates a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples on January 15, 1850, in which five of the ringers were under twenty-one years of age. It is headed:—

"ARS NON HABET INIMICUM NISI IGNORANUM."

Newcastle and district has now a number of rings of eight and ten bells, and some most energetic ringers who have rung hundreds of peals in all the Standard and Surprise methods to Maximus inclusive; their records will be found in the reports of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association. The names of Robert Spencer Story, Charles L. Routledge, Wm. H. Barber, E. E. Ferry and others are too well known to be commented upon.

Kendal, Westmorland

In this old-world town, it is natural to find mention of bells at an early date in the interesting records of the ancient parish church. It is not within the province of this book to give "bell-history," so we pass on to the earliest mention of actual change ringing. Like some of the cathedrals and collegiate churches, Kendal possessed a "Bell-house," which contained five bells, increased to six in 1695. These remained in the "Bell-house," which was at the north-west corner of the church, until demolished in 1790. A record commemorates the first peal:—

"The first Peal of 120 half pull changes rung in this Belfry on the heavy peal of 6 was rung in the month of February 1765, by

WM. BROUGH
JAS. WILSON
RICH. CARTER
WM. SIMPSON
WM. TEASDALE
PAUL HOLME."

Soon after the removal of their bells to the tower of the church, and the augmentation to eight, the Kendal ringers succeeded in ringing a complete peal, thus recorded:—
FIG. 48.—KENDAL RINGERS OF 1828.

[To face p. 309.]
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

"On Friday 12 August 1796 was rung for the first time upon this peal 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPPLES Complete in 3 Hrs. 20 M.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAMES WILSON</td>
<td>Treble</td>
<td>WILLIAM SALISBY</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICHOLAS WILSON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WILLIAM SIMPSON</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDWARD NICHOLSON</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GERRARD HUCK</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERT WARRINER</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>JOHN JENNINGS</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Kendal bells were made into ten in 1816, and there have always been energetic ringers connected with the church. Descendants of John Jennings mentioned in the above peal have been prominent throughout the intervening years, and the present leader is Edwin Jennings. Other records by the Kendal ringers include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 22nd 1819</td>
<td>Grandsire Caters 3 hrs. 29 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7th 1821</td>
<td>Triples 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2nd 1849</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 23rd 1864</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20th 1857</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 27th 1869</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3rd 1876</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other peals here by visiting bands are recorded, in higher methods. A long and curious set of "Ringers' Rules" is preserved, but worthy of particular notice is the quaint old signboard of the Ring O' Bells Inn, painted by Wm. Fothergill in 1828, showing the ringers of Holy Trinity, who rang the peal of 5147 Grandsire Caters on February 22, 1819:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOSHUA ATKIN</td>
<td>Treble</td>
<td>ROBERT DENNISON</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICHOLAS WILSON</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>THOMAS SCOTT</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBERT BRAITHWAITE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>THOMAS ATKINSON</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS PRESTON</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>JAMES TYSON</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS BEST</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>JONATHAN CHORLEY</td>
<td>Tenor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No mention is made of a conductor, but he is doubtless the second ringer, who conducted the 1796 peal. Failing him, it would be the seventh ringer, who conducted the 1821 peal.

Scotland

Scientific change ringing is not practised at many places in Scotland, but we may mention Paisley, St. James' (8); Edinburgh, St. Mary's Cathedral (10), with tenor 42½ cwt; Edinburgh, St. Cuthbert's (8); and Leith, St. James' (8). There are, of course, other rings, chiefly where "call changes" are
in vogue, viz. : Inverness, St. Andrew's Cathedral (8), Dundee, St. Paul's Cathedral (8), Dundee Old Steeple (8), Alloa, St. John's (8), Glasgow, St. Mary's Cathedral (10), and at Aberdeen, St. Nicholas, there is a carillon of thirty-seven bells, and at the Roman Catholic Church (9) not hung for ringing. There are also eight bells at Edinburgh, St. Andrew’s, out of repair.

Only two change-ringing Societies are found in Scotland, St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, dating from 1879, and St. Cuthbert's Society, Edinburgh, from 1902. The oldest ring of bells is that of St. Andrew’s, Edinburgh, and an interesting condition attached to their installation states that they were “to be rung in the English manner.” They were placed in position on June 3, 1789, and still hang there.

Unfortunately they are only chimed, and are now unringable, and it is doubtful if a full peal was rung on them. Tradition has it that they were rung by a band of visiting ringers from Leeds, but what they did is not known.

The first record of a peal in Scotland is one of Grandsire Triples at the Old Steeple, Dundee, by the College Youths on May 21, 1873, conducted by M. A. Wood. The third peal rung there was one in the same method, January 4, 1908, conducted by C. Cleveland Ellis, by members of the St. Mary’s Cathedral Society, Edinburgh.

The first peal of Kent T.B. Major in Scotland was at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, on September 27, 1877, in three and a quarter hours, by the Ancient Society of College Youths.

The first hand-bell peals rung in Scotland were at the residence of C. Cleveland Ellis, Esq., viz.: November 20, 1903, Bob Major, conducted by W. H. Barber, and November 15, 1904, Grandsire Triples, conducted by C. C. Ellis. The only ten-bell peal by a local society was Grandsire Caters at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Edinburgh, July 2, 1904, conducted by W. H. Barber.

The first peal of Stedman Triples was at the Old Steeple, Dundee, January 2, 1905, conducted by W. H. Barber.

The first in Scotland in which a lady took part was at St.
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, July 24, 1909, conducted by Dr. T. Eustace Harwood.

At this church also was rung the first "Surprise" peal in Scotland, when members of the Durham and Newcastle Association rang a peal of London on September 27, 1924. Several other peals have been rung by visiting bands, which include Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich, etc.

Ireland

The first complete peal rung in Ireland was at Waterford Cathedral on July 27, 1872, by the College Youths, after the opening of the bells the previous day, 5040 Grandsire Triples in three hours four minutes:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>C. Lee</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Pettitt</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M. A. Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. R. Haworth</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A. Hayward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Muskett</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W. Greenleaf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Holt's Original," conducted by J. Pettitt.

The first by a company of Irish ringers was at the same place on December 9, 1873—all being members of the College Youths—Holt’s ten-part Grandsire Triples in two hours fifty minutes:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>C. Lee</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. W. Roy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>G. J. Mackesy, M.B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. R. Cherry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>T. Atherton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. S. Blee, V.S.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>W. G. D. Goff, B.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conducted by Chas. Lee.

Ireland possesses several rings of bells, and since the advent of the Irish Association of Change Ringers the art has spread and many "local" bands exist. The greatest influence was inspired at Arklow when the late J. W. Washbrook and his family resided there. It was here that Mr. Washbrook did his marvellous double-handed ringing, taking part in a number of peals in several methods. Then came the great advance at Dublin, with the arrival of Gabriel Lindoff, the celebrated ringer and composer. Many tours have been made by visiting bands from England, and peals in all methods have been rung. The wonderful ring of bells at St. Patrick's
Cathedral, Dublin (tenor 45 cwt., 1 qr. 18 lb. in C), was erected in 1897 by Lord Iveagh (eleven bells). Two trebles were added by R. R. Cherry, Esq., K.C., M.P.—who afterwards became the Lord Chief Justice—in 1909. Mr. Cherry was a ringer there, and took part in many peals. Another bell was added in 1925 by Lady Seers Kaye, and so a combination of peals of various weights and notes can be obtained greater than at any other tower where bells are hung for ringing. Other rings in Dublin are at Christchurch Cathedral (ten, tenor 39 cwt.), St. John the Baptist (ten, tenor 25 cwt.), St. Paul’s (eight, tenor 15 cwt.), and St. George (eight, tenor 20 cwt.). There are rings of bells at Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Wexford, Armagh, Drogheda, Derry, Sligo, Bray, Bangor, Shandon and other places.

Peals Abroad

Several attempts have been made at various times to cultivate the art of change ringing in the Colonies and in America, but with very little success. Always an English art, it has failed to appeal to the peoples of other countries, and although many peals of bells are hung for scientific ringing in various parts of the world, little headway has been made. The first peal rung in America was at Christ Church, Philadelphia, on Sunday, June 9, 1850, by the following, who comprised a hand-bell band touring the States with P. T. Barnum's "Greatest Show on Earth." The peal was Holt's ten-part of Grandsire Triples, in three hours fifteen minutes, conducted by Henry W. Haley, and the ringers were:

THOS. LE-SAGE Treble JAMES HEWETT 5
CHAS. RAHILL ... 2 WILLIAM LOBB ... 6
FREDERICK WADE ... 3 E. W. SAWYER ... 7
HENRY W. HALEY ... 4 RICHARD DODD } Tenor

JOHN DAVEY ... .

These bells were cast at Whitechapel, London, in 1754. Tenor 18 cwt.

In the United States there are peals hung for scientific

These bells—all cast by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co.—have the following range of notes:

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
C, D, E, F, G, A, Bb, B, C, D, E, & F & G & A \\
1897 & 1909 & 1925
\end{array}
\]
ringing, but most of these are simply "chimed." Among them may be mentioned the Mitchell Tower, Chicago University (10), Christ Church, Boston (8), Christ Church, Philadelphia (8), St. Peter’s and St. Mark’s, Philadelphia (8 each), Holy Trinity, New York (8), Advent, Boston (8), Groton School (8), St. Michael, Charleston, S.C. (8), Memorial Tower, Hingham (10), Perkins Institute for the Blind, Watertown (8).

Ringers in and around Boston valiantly try to keep change ringing alive, and meet on occasions at the different towers. They include Mrs. Shurtleff (daughter of the late Dr. Nichols); Richard Newton, late of Manchester Town Hall; R. Henson, late of Doncaster, Yorks; and Mr. S. Warren Sturgis, who teaches the boys at Groton School how to ring.

In addition to the above rings, recently in various towers some very fine carillons have been placed by Messrs. J. Taylor & Co. and Messrs. Gillett & Johnston, and almost every church has its "chime"—simply a set of varying numbers hung "dead."

The only peal rung in South Africa was at St. Mary’s Church, Woodstock, and is recorded on a tablet in the tower:

"Praise Him upon the loud Cymbals.
In this tower
on Thursday Dec. 15th 1904
in 3 Hours & 7 minutes
a peal of
GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
5040 changes
Taylor’s Six-Part.

G. A. Davies  Treble  L. Green  5
J. F. Priest  2  J. Murray  6
H. G. Cock  3  F. P. Powell  7
E. F. Behan  4  H. Montgomery  Tenor

Conducted by F. P. Powell.

This is the first peal on the bells & the first in Africa."

There are peals of bells in various parts of Africa—Grahams-town Cathedral (8), Cape Town Cathedral (8), Durban, St. Paul’s (8), St. Mary’s (10); but as yet little actual change ringing has been done, although the Rev. Canon G. H. Ridout has helped considerably.
In Australasia we find several rings of bells, and in some places bands of change ringers. The towers, however, are far apart and ringers very scattered, consequently meetings for practice or peals are difficult to arrange; ringers have to travel many miles, often at great inconvenience, to keep an appointment. In 1890, Holt’s ten-part 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Philip’s (R.C.), Sydney, conducted by James Murray, of Melbourne, he being the first Colonial ringer to conduct a peal. The company called themselves the “Victorian Society.” The same year, at St. Paul’s, Melbourne, this composition was again rung, conducted by M. Guest, a Staffordshire ringer. On February 1, 1897, at St. Peter’s, Ballarat, a seven-method peal of Minor was rung in two hours fifty-six minutes, conducted by T. Biddle; a feat worth recording, for while this peal was in progress the thermometer registered 101° in the shade all day!

Holt’s Original was rung at St. Paul’s, Melbourne, in 1904, conducted by the late Mr. A. E. Barnes, of Devon, who composed some peals of Grandsire Triples, several of which were rung at Melbourne, Derbyshire. Before this date, however, a peal was rung at St. Paul’s Cathedral, Melbourne, in 1898, which is recorded on a marble tablet thus:—

“THE VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.
In commemoration of the first peal on the heavy bells of this Cathedral. On Saturday, September the tenth 1898, this Association rang a true and complete peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES
5040 changes in three hours and eighteen minutes:—

SYLVESTER J. HALLISSY... Treble | JAMES L. MURRAY... 5
MATTHEW O’SHEA... 2 | ARTHUR E. BAMES... 6
JAMES P. NOLAN... 3 | JOSEPH FREEMAN... 7
JOHN C. NOLAN... 4 | WALTER WOLLARD & ISAAC DAVIS... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR E. BAMES.
Referees:—W. SHENTON and E. O’SHEA.”

On July 31, 1890, on the light six at Christchurch Cathedral, N.Z., a peal of 5040 Grandsire Doubles was rung, conducted by T. Biddle.

1 We are indebted for this information to Mr. James S. Wilde, of Ophoo, Dunedin, N.Z.; a noted composer and ringer, relative of the family of Wilde, of Lancs and Cheshire; also Mr. W. R. Madgwick, who spent a considerable time in the Colonies.
Reproduced by permission of Caspar & Co., London.

Fig. 49.—Marblette Peal Tablet, Vancouver.
ANCIENT RINGING SOCIETIES

A peal board here records the following:—

"CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL SOCIETY OF RINGERS.
A peal of BOB TRIPLES
Hubbard’s 10-part. Tenor 17 cwt 1 qr 9 lb
Was rung by the following members
(of the above Society)
On Jan 31st 1903 in 2 hrs. 58 minutes.

J. ANDREWS .......... Treble J. E. BIDDLE .......... 5
A. D. DUNKLEY ....... 2 J. MAPLES ........... 6
W. H. WRAIGHT ....... 3 T. W. BIDDLE .......... 7
W. F. SAUNDERS ....... 4 W. JONES ........... Tenor

T. W. BIDDLE—Conductor.
W. F. SAUNDERS, Sec. Rev. W. DUNKLEY, Pres."

Another tablet commemorates 5040 Grandsire Triples rung on November 9, 1903, in three hours, by the same band, composed by A. E. Baines.

Three peals of Grandsire Triples have been rung at Hobart, Tasmania, the first two on December 29 and 31, 1890, respectively. Reeves’ Variation was rung at Melbourne Cathedral in 1925, conducted by A. J. Fitzgerald, of Dunedin, N.Z.¹

There are rings of bells hung for change ringing at Ballarat Memorial Tower (8), St. Peter (8), Geelong (8), Sandhurst (8), Camden (8), Sydney, St. Mary’s R.C. Cathedral (8), St. Philip’s (10), Randwick (8), Maryborough (8), Perth Cathedral (8), Auckland, N.Z. (8), Wellington, N.Z. (8), and others, including a number of rings of six bells.

The first peal rung in Canada was at the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Vancouver, B.C., on Dominion Day, July 1, 1911, viz. : Holt’s Original 5040 Grandsire Triples in two hours fifty-nine minutes. A handsome peal tablet was unveiled on July 1, 1914, recording this performance, which was rung by:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alfred C. Limbus (Windsor)</th>
<th>Treble</th>
<th>William R. Warner (South Weald)</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George W. Foster (Borden)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Matthew G. Bennett (Burbage)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank M. Bressey (Worstead)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reginald J. Carrier (Bedford)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert Pearce (Bristol)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Farrington Jones (Wolverhampton) Tenor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conducted by George W. Foster.

¹ In this peal, one of the author’s former pupils took part—J. W. Spencer, late of Ratby, Leicester.