

THE



TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

For the Year ending Lady-day, 1895.

EXETER :

PRINTED AT THE "DAILY GAZETTE" OFFICE, HIGH STREET.

1895.

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OFFICE BEFORE RINGING.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals, praise Him upon the
loud symbols. Glory be to the Father, etc.

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, and further us with
thy continual help, that in all works begun, continued, and ended
in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally, by Thy mercy,
attain unto everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE PEAL.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all and for evermore. Amen.

THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

Patron:

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF EXETER.

President:

C. A. W. TROYTE, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF EXETER.
THE VEN. THE ARCHDEACONS OF EXETER, BARNSTAPLE, & TOTNES.
W. BANNISTER, Esq. REV. J. A. KEMPE.
L. MACKENZIE, Esq., M.D. J. SYMONS, Esq. R. B. WEST, Esq.
C. PEARSON, Esq.

Secretary and Treasurer:

REV. MAITLAND KELLY, Ottery St. Mary Vicarage.

Assistant Secretaries:

REV. W. S. WILLETT, Monkleigh.
FERRIS SHEPHERD, Longbrook Terrace, Exeter.

Committee:

All the above Officers are Members of the Committee, also

Representative Members from the Bands in Union.

Axminster	Monkleigh	Silverton
Bradinch	Ottery St. Mary	Tiverton
Clyst St. George	Penzance	Thorverton
Clyst Hydon	Plymouth & Devonport	Whitstone
Gulval	St. Davids, Exeter	Witcombe Raleigh
Huntsham	St. Edmund's, Exeter	Colyton
Ilfracombe	St. Sidwell's, Exeter	Halberton
Kenn		

RULES

OF THE

Devonshire Guild of Ringers.

I.—That this Society be called "THE GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS," and that it have for its objects the promotion of a reverent feeling among Church Bell-ringers for their sacred office, Belfry Reform, and the cultivation of Change-ringing.

II.—That it shall consist of Honorary and Performing Members and Associates, and that the Bishop of the Diocese, being a Member, shall always be Patron.

III.—That Members duly qualified shall be admitted at any meeting of the Guild, if proposed by a Member and approved by the Committee. That the Committee have also power to elect Members at any Committee meeting.

IV.—That any person subscribing not less than 5s. annually shall be an Honorary Member. Each Performing Member who is attached to a band in union shall contribute annually the sum of 1s., and each unattached Performing Member shall contribute annually the sum of 2s. to the funds of the Guild. But no one shall receive the Certificate of the Guild as a Performing Member until the Committee are satisfied that he has rung a changing tower bell in a peal of 120 changes. Associates in connection with any Belfry paying 5s. subscription annually shall have the privilege of being taught Change-ringing by competent Instructors appointed from the Guild; but shall not have the power of voting until they become Members. Such Instructor's expenses to be paid by the Associates or a proportion thereof as determined by the Secretary.

V.—That Honorary Members may become Life Members on payment of £5, and Performing Members who do not reside in the Counties of Devon or Cornwall may become Life Members on payment of 2s. 6d. No Life Member will receive any pecuniary assistance or notices from the Guild unless he is specially employed.

VI.—That at the Annual Meeting in each year the Members present shall elect from either the Honorary Members or Performing Members a President, not less than four Vice-Presidents (besides the Archdeacons, who, being Members, shall be ex-officio Vice-Presi-

dents), a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary for each Archdeaconry, who, together with five persons elected from the Honorary Members, and one representative from each band in union, shall form the General Committee of Management; of whom three shall form a quorum; the Committee having power to add to their number from time to time. If a representative Member of the Committee find himself unable to attend a Committee Meeting, he may select a deputy (who must belong to his own band and be a member.)

VII.—That the Committee shall fix the time and place of the Annual Meetings, which shall always be held between Easter Day and the first of June in each year; and shall also arrange from time to time for united practices of the Guild.

VIII.—That all Subscriptions shall become due at Lady-day.

IX.—That the expenses incurred by Members (not being Life Performing Members) in attending Ringing Meetings arranged by the Committee may, when the funds in the hands of the Committee admit, be paid by the Guild, and that no Member shall draw from the Guild any amount towards expenses unless he can ring a changing tower bell in a peal of 120 changes, the foreman or representative of each band to certify the same; but on such an occasion each band shall be allowed to claim the expenses of one tenor man even though he may not be able to ring a changing bell.

X.—That the ordinary times of practice of each band in union be stated in the Annual Report.

XI.—That bands in union with the Guild undertake to ring on the great Church Festivals if required to do so by the Incumbent of the parish.

XII.—That no Member shall take part in any ringing match for prizes; should he do so, he will be liable to immediate expulsion from the Guild.

XIII.—That no Member shall forward any communication to the public press reflecting upon any band in union with the Guild or upon any Member thereof, without first obtaining permission of the Secretary, who shall, as early as possible, bring the matter before the Committee, either at an ordinary or special meeting.

XIV.—That any alteration in or addition to the above Rules shall only be made at an annual or special meeting convened for the purpose.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee is proud to congratulate the Guild on the attainment of its majority, and of its present encouraging position. The twenty-one years which have elapsed since its foundation have wrought many and important changes in the ringing world. The science of change-ringing has advanced with rapid strides, and we read now of performances being accomplished on the Church bells (notably the peal of Treble Bob Royal on the bells of the Cathedral Church at Wells in 3 hours 57 minutes, tenor 56cwt., rung single-handed), which twenty-one years ago would have been deemed impossible.

The progress made in scientific change-ringing in the counties of Devon and Cornwall has not been so rapid as in other parts of England, but still it has been considerable, as the present position of the Guild testifies, the number of performing members and associates being now over 200, whereas in 1874 the whole Guild only numbered 160. Each year, too, brings us fresh recruits, thereby showing that the interest in half-pull ringing is spreading.

During this period, also, a great reform has been brought about both in our belfries and ringers. The disgraceful scenes at prize-ringing contests and on other occasions which were only too common are, we hope, now things of the past, never to return. A large sum of money, too, must have been expended during this time in putting the bells themselves in proper ringing order.

The Guild may therefore fairly claim that the object for which it was founded, namely, belfry reform and the cultivation of change-ringing, has been considerably forwarded during these twenty-one years.

Two fresh Bands have joined this year, and the reports of those in Union show that they have kept well together, and have made some advance in the art of change-ringing. The Committee note with pleasure that two peals have been rung by the Tiverton Band, one of Stedman Triples, which is believed to be the first peal in this beautiful and difficult method by Devon men alone; the other of Grandsire Triples by eight members of the family of Grater, namely,

two brothers and their six sons, all of whom reside in Tiverton, and are members of the Guild. This also is a record peal as regards the counties of Devon and Cornwall.

Two very well attended meetings have been held, one at Ottery St. Mary, at which 120 members were present, the other at Exeter during the Church Congress week, at which representatives from Ringers' Associations in other parts of England, namely, Oxford, Salisbury, Wells, Essex, were entertained by the Guild; during the week arrangements were made so that visitors who were change-ringers might have a pull on the Exeter bells.

The Committee publish in the report this year an office of Prayer which is used in other Associations at the commencement of a peal, and it is hoped that the members will use it, so that God's blessing may be asked upon a work which is, or should always be, undertaken for His Honour and Glory.



LIST OF MEMBERS ATTACHED TO BANDS IN UNION.

BRADNINCH	P Gibbs	ST. EDMUND'S, EXETER.
P Heal (r), Comfort Cottage, Bradninch, Cullompton	J T Thomas	Rev H. Panton
J Webb	F Reed	H Swift (r), 16, Little Silver, St. David's
W R Owen	Practice Night, Tuesday.	S Herbert
R Greenslade	KENN.	W C Marsh
W Force	A Truman (r), Balford House, Kennford, Exeter	T Townsend
Practice Nights, Friday and Saturday.	E Truman	W Goss
CLYST ST. GEORGE.	W Wollacott	W Webber
F Smith (r), Clyst St. George, Topsham	R J Hamilton	W Richardson
J L Steer	T Cleal	C Baker
H Steer	W Bedford	G Gibbons
G Glass	T Tapson	ST. SIDWELL'S, EXETER.
J Potter	P Raddenbury	*F Davey
R Beavis	C Beer	H Hems
E Beavis	F Harding	*S Herbert
T Pyle	MONKLEIGH.	*F Shepherd
J Rickard	Rev W Saltern Willett (r), Monkleigh Vicarage, Torrington	E Shepherd
G Start	Practice Night, Monday.	B Mundy (r), 88, Sandford-street
PLYMOUTH & DEVONPORT.	OTTERY ST. MARY.	T Mudge
Rev R Clarkson	Rev M Kelly (r)	W Drake
E Taylor (r), 2, Buckwell St Plymouth	G Godfrey	W Carnell
W Peard	J Godfrey	E Sargant
W Marsh	A Pyke	*C Carter
W Ford	G White	*J Moss
C Legge	J Baker	A C Bird
R Ford	S Godfrey	J H Newman
J Channing	650 F Godfrey	J Martin
E Manning	634 J Lovering	T J Lake
W Dennis	Practice Night, Thursday.	Practice Night, Tuesday.
G Richards	PENZANCE	SILVERTON.
E Hendy	J Symons, M.R.C.S. (r), Penzance	P E Puddicombe, Esq., M.D.
H Myers	J H Hodder	J Fallon (r), Silvertown, Cullompton
H Chowin	T C Boase	T Brice
Practice Night, Saturday.	T N Hicks	F Jennings
HUNTSHAM.	P T Hitchens	H Fox Strangways
H Payne (r), Huntsham Gardens, Bampton	C J Tonkin	S Tremlett
J Norrish	E Boase	W Palmer
C Broomfield	H Mitchell	J Ridler
J Redwood	Practice Nights, Mondays and Thursdays.	F Marley
W Herod	ST. DAVID'S, EXETER.	Practice Nights, Mondays and Tuesdays.
R Scutt	R Jerman	TIVERTON.
W Goff	T Roberts	E Munday (r), Waverley Cottage, Tiverton
676 H J Hill	E Searle (r), 7 North Bridge, St. David's	F Clarke
680	*St David's	J Babbage
ILFRACOMBE.	T Templeman	B Grater
633 Rev Prebendary Martin	J Vanstone	R Grater, senr.
G Bowen (r), 17, Vicarage Road, Ilfracombe	*J Moss	R Grater, junr.
R Dadds	*F Shepherd	John Grater, senr.
G Reed	*C Carter	John Grater, junr.
A Dadds	*F Davey	S Grater
	E Squire	James Grater
	Practice Night, Wednesday.	W Grater
		T Harvey

ACCOUNTS FROM LADY-DAY, 1894, TO LADY-DAY, 1895.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand	14	3	0
Honorary Members	12	12	0
Bands in Union	7	19	0
Unattached Ringing Members	8	0	0
Lady Associates	15	0	0
Withecombe Band for Instruction	1	10	0
Thorverton Band for Instruction	1	18	0

£39 5 0

Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Printing Reports		3	12	6
Pollard for Certificates		1	5	0
Cost of Tea at Annual Meeting		2	4	0
Conveyances		1	10	0
Instruction at Withecombe		3	0	0
do. at Thorverton		3	0	0
Grants to Bands attending				
	Annual Meeting	£	s.	d.
		£	s.	d.
Clyst St. George	6	0	2	0
St. David's	2	0		
St. Edmund's	6	0		
Whitstone	10	0		
Kenn	6	0		
Tiverton	1	12	15	0
Huntsham	14	0	6	0
Withecombe	11	0	12	0
St. Sidwell's	16	0		
St. Thomas	2	0		
Clyst Hydon			7	0
Ottery St. Mary			4	0
	£5 5 0	£2 6 0	7 11 0	
St. Sidwell's Band opening Thorverton Bells			10	6
Expenses of Mixed Band opening Holsworthy Bells			2	10
Cost of Tea at District Meeting			2	7
Subscription to Central Council			5	0
Stationery and Postage			12	10
Balance in hand			10	17

£39 5 0

REPORTS FROM THE BANDS IN UNION.

ST. SIDWELL'S.—This band still continues to hold its own, both as regards its number of members and also the science of change-ringing. For although it has not accomplished "A Peal" as a band, yet several members have rung peals with other bands of well-known ringers outside the county. Good progress has been made in the Stedman ringing, and especially in Stedman Cators, and we hope soon to hear of a peal being accomplished in this method on this fine ring of 10 bells. Many long touches have been well brought round, notably 2 quarter of peal Grandsire Cators, 1 quarter of peal Stedman Triples, 1 Date Touch of Grandsire Triples. The following towers have been visited :—Withycombe, Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Axminster, Stockleigh, and Taunton.

PLYMOUTH AND DEVONPORT.—We are very glad to receive a favourable report of this band in the West. Although somewhat reduced in numbers, they have done some excellent work during the year. Two attempts of a peal of Grandsire Triples have been made, and more than half the number of changes rung on both occasions. One quarter of a peal, two touches of 600 and many of 500 have been successfully brought round. Touches of 800 and 1,400 Bob Major have been rung also ; three 720's of Treble Bob Minor, and 6 scores of Stedman, Dream, S. Dunstons, and April Day Doubles.

THORVERTON.—This band has been rather short-handed, having only 8 members, and so unless all are present Triples cannot be rung. This has prevented much advance having been made, but we hope before another year to be able to send a better report.

CLYST HYDON.—This band is making most praiseworthy efforts to learn the method, and have paid many visits to Ottery so as to have a ring in with the band there, and there is no doubt now that they will soon be proficient in Grandsire Doubles.

COLYTON.—A new band this year. A great interest in change-ringing is shown by this band, and they can ring Grandsire Doubles on the hand bells well. Their progress on the tower is somewhat hindered by the bad hanging of the bells.

HALBERTON.—Also a new band. It is hoped that their neighbours at Tiverton will lend an helping hand to this band.

CLYST ST. GEORGE.—This band holds well together, and can ring Grandsire Doubles well, and it is hoped that before another year there will be once more a Stedman party in this tower.

WHITSTONE.—There have been some changes during the year, but the old ringers still form an efficient band for Grandsire Doubles, and the probationers are much improved. Before Christmas an attempt was made at Bob Minor, which will probably be renewed before long.

OTTERY ST. MARY.—Notwithstanding many hindrances, this band has made some real progress during the year. Three attempts have been made at Holt's Ten Part Peal, and on each occasion the half-way single was passed correctly, and on two attempts the end of the 9th part was almost reached. One quarter of a peal, one 1,018, and many 500 of Grandsire Triples have been well struck through. Six scores of Stedman Doubles have been frequently rung, and a beginning has been made at Bob Minor. Withycombe, Feniton, Peyhembury, Kenn, St. Thomas and St David's, Exeter, have been visited.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH.—This band has made decided progress in Grandsire Triples, and if the same perseverance and regularity in attendance at practice is shown during the coming year there is every reason to hope that they will have some long lengths to report another year. The attendance for ringing for service has been very good. St. Sidwell's, Exeter, Exminster, East Budleigh, Kenton, and Powderham have been visited.

TIVERTON.—The past year's work has been most satisfactory. There have been rung the following touches :—Grandsire Triples, six 500's, three quarter peals, one half peal, one peal by Grater family, and a non-conducted quarter peal, the first ever rung here, and it is believed by the Guild ; Stedman Triples, four 500's, five 840's eight quarter peals, one half peal, and one peal, the first on the bells, and by any local band of the Guild. The ringing for both services on Sundays has also been continued. It is very pleasing to publish such reports, and we hope that the influence of this band will extend to some of the neighbouring parishes, and induce the ringers in them to learn the science of change-ringing.

ILFRACOMBE.—Good progress has been made in Grandsire Triples. The first quarter peal was rung on New Year's Eve, and we hope soon to hear of the full peal being accomplished. The towers of Atherington, Yarnscombe, and High Bickington have been visited, and some good Grandsire and Stedman have been rung.

PENZANCE AND GULVAL.—These two bands, the sole representative of change-ringing in the far West, still do some good work in Grandsire Triples and Doubles, and in Plain Bob Minor and S. Simons Double. It is much to be regretted that the long distance between them and the rest of the Guild prevents their attendance at the meetings. Helston was visited during the year, and some creditable work done.

AXMINSTER.—We have not received any report, but we know there have been special difficulties which have hindered the progress of this band during the year, and we hope soon to be able to report progress.

KENN.—Through the loss of members this band was completely broken up for a time, but they have pluckily been bringing on fresh hands, and will soon, we have no doubt, regain their former efficiency in change-ringing. They have also lost their much-loved Rector, the Rev. R. Porter, a loss which is felt deeply, not only by the ringers of Kenn, but also by many another. The hearty and generous hospitality and welcome which was offered to all who visited Kenn Belfry is, we are sure, not likely to be forgotten by any who had the good fortune to do so. It is hoped that the much-needed rest which his retirement has given him will be the means of prolonging his most valued life.

BELLS REHUNG, &c., BY MR. HARRY STOKES, WOODBURY,
from Lady-day, 1894, to Lady-day, 1895.

BRIXTON.—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frame for six bells, and hanging the present five bells with all new fittings.

MARTINHOE.—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frames and fittings for two bells.

THORVERTON.—Hanging two new Trebles, to make the peal into eight.

SOUTH BRENT.—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frame for six bells, and hanging the six bells with all new fittings.

ST. CLEER (Cornwall).—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frame for six bells, and hanging the six bells with all new fittings.

ST. ENODER (Cornwall).—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frame for five bells, and hanging the five bells with all new fittings.

COFFINSWELL.—Putting in new oak beams and floor, and new frame for five bells, and hanging the present four bells with all new fittings.

DIPTFORD.—Bolting and repairing the frame, and rehang- ing the third, fifth, and sixth, and repairs to the first, second, and fourth.

BROADHEMBURY.—Bolting and repairing the frame, and re- hanging the five bells with all new fittings.

*The following Peals of 5,000 Changes and upwards
have been rung by Members of the Guild during the year.*

DECEMBER 19th, 1894.

In 3 hours and 4 minutes at the Church of St. Peter, Tiverton

A Peal of Grandsire Triples, 5,040 Changes, Holt's Ten Part.

Tenor 28cwt. in D.

†Richard Grater.....	Treble	*William Grater.....	5th
†Richard Grater, Junr.	2nd	John Grater	6th
John Grater, Junr....	3rd	*James Grater	7th
*Ben Grater	4th	*Samuel Grater.....	Tenor

Conducted by Richard Grater, jun. † First peal as conductor.

* First peal. Rung by two brothers and their six sons.

FEBRUARY 13th, 1895.

In 3 hours and 6 minutes at the Church of St. Peter, Tiverton.

A Peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 Changes, Brook's Variation.

Richard Grater, Junr.	Treble	*William Clements ...	5th
John Grater, Junr....	2nd	Thomas Harvey	6th
William Grater	3rd	James Babbage	7th
Edwin Munday	4th	*John Hart	Tenor

Tenor 28cwt. in D.

* First peal. This is the first peal of Stedman on the bells and by all the band.

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