UFFORD.

CHANGE RINGERS.—On Tuesday evening six members of the Ufford Company rang a date touch of 1883 changes of Bob Minor, consisting of 38 bobs and 8 singles, in one hour and three quarters. The ringers were—W. Garrett, treble; A. Headley, 2nd; J. S. Barrell, 3rd; A. Wright, 4th; C. Ward, 5th; W. Ward, tenor. Weight of tenor 16 cwt. The ringing was conducted by Mr. A. Ward.

WOODBRIDGE.

THE RAINFALL.—By the register kept by Mr. W. P. T. Phillips, at the Grange, it appears that the rainfall for the month of January, this year, was 1·97 inches, as against 1·64 inches in the corresponding month last year.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—On Wednesday afternoon, by the kindness of Mr. W. W. Welton, the children of the National School were treated to the afternoon performance of Mr. Skeat's Pantomime Company at the Lecture Hall, and the whole of them, numbering between 200 and 300, received an orange and bun.

ATHLETIC CLUB.—The Challenge Club Cup, value 20 guineas, has been selected by the Committee from a design sent in by Mr. Norris, silversmith, of the Strand. The design was highly approved and admired. This was for the 600 yards handicap, to be won twice before being the absolute property of the winner.

PRESENTATION TO MR. EX-SUPERINTENDENT FREEMAN.—This official, who has been for nearly 40 years in the police force, was presented with a testimonial on Thursday evening, on the occasion of his retirement from of his post from ill-health. The amount collected was £35 16s., from 65 subscribers. Mr. W. P. T. Phillips was called to the chair. In the absence of Mr. Booth (through the gentlemen present were Mr. W. W. Welton (the hon. treasurer), Mr. F. Whistock (the hon. secretary), Mr. J. Hart, Mr. C. Ward, Mr. Geo. Booth, Mr. A. Cooke, Mr. A. Barnes, etc. Mr. Phillips said it was his pleasing duty to present this testimonial, in the absence of the Rector. He was glad to know that Mr. Freeman had given satisfaction in every position he had occupied. He regretted that the low state of the finances did not allow him a larger retiring gift. He was sorry he had the greatest anxiety about Mr. Freeman's services, not only as an officer, but as one who did not push duties obnoxiously in any one direction. He felt that the amount subscribed did not represent the respect in which Mr. Freeman was held, but that, of course, had been influenced by the depressed state of agriculture. Mr. J. Hart corroborated the kind feelings expressed by the Chairman, and Mr. Booth also expressed his sentiments of approval. Mr. Freeman returned thanks in a few brief words (he was not used to make a speech, for he was a plain, blunt man, but what he had seen that day would never be forgotten. (Cheers.) A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

LONGEVITY.—Thursday was the birthday of Samuel Barber, the "mill-man," who has attained the age of 92 years of age. He is the youngest of a family of five, one of whom is said to have died at Sutton on the same day (Thursday) aged 90. Another East Suffolk family is represented by four brothers, the eldest of whom is 94 years of age.

WOODBRIDGE.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—Board-room, Woodbridge, Thursday.—Present, Mr. E. St. Geo. Cobbold (chairman), Mr. W. P. T. Phillips (vice-chairman), Mr. H. B. Newson, Mr. C. Walker, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. F. Wainwright, Rev. J. M. Joslin, Mr. W. J. Andrews, Mr. J. E. Wollon, Mr. H. M. Gobbitt, Mr. G. Snell, Mr. T. Manby, Mr. F. Miller, Mr. H. C. Edwards, Mr. F. Wasge, Mr. T. Hunt, Mr. J. Harris, and Mr. R. Hopson. The Master of the Workhouse complained that the boys at the Workhouse had lately become very disorderly, one of them having struck the schoolmaster, Mr. Bailey, on the head and they had now been caught. He wished the Board to state what punishment should be administered. It was resolved that the visiting committee should investigate the matter, and order what punishment they thought fit.—The numbers in the House were, last week, 107; admitted, 1; remaining, 108. Last year, 124; admitted, 2; remaining, 126. A circular was received from the Assessment Committee of the parish of St. Mary, Kensington, asking the Board to submit to the Woodbridge Local Assessment Committee the view of obtaining their co-operation in the resolution to the following effect, that the Metropolitan Valuation Act, 1869, requiring a gross estimated rent value to be given in the valuation lists, created considerable confusion, and was misleading to ratepayers; and that the President of the Local Government Board should be memorialized for the purpose of obtaining the alteration in the law, adopting one uniform basis on which both imperial and local taxation shall, in future, be raised. The election of Mr. Porter for the Union Workhouse was then proceeded with. Fifteen applications had been received:—George Ambrose, 24, labourer, Sutton; George Bloomfield, 45, labourer, John Bunting, 62, Norwich, formerly gunner in the Royal Artillery; E. Canham, 33, Sutton; William Garr, 22, brickmaker, Hemingstone; Alfred Gibbons, 31, Woodbridge; Miss J. Grout, 29, Perth Street, Ipswich, formerly of the Royal Artillery; John Hart, formerly of the Army Hospital Corps; Frederick Lincoln, 40, porter, Bulcham; J. Nadin, 30, Sussex-street, formerly; J. S. Pearson, Pulham Market; Arthur E. Seaborn, 18, Aldeburgh; Frederick Shuldrake, Woodbridge; Wm. Smith, 45, formerly Royal Artillery, Woodbridge; Wm. with; Albert Trenter, 26, formerly gunner in the Royal Artillery. All except Lincoln, Nadin, Pearson, and Seaborn appeared. Canham had received testimonials, the votes taken. Canham obtained seven votes and Creed five. As, however, there were 14 members of the Board present, Canham had not obtained the majority. The votes were taken again, and seven voted for Canham and seven (including the Chairman) voted for Creed. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favor of Creed. Mr. Bloomfield and there was not now a majority of the Board for Creed. This difficulty was obviated by some of the supporters of Mr. Canham withdrawing.

MR. E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, M.P., AT POOLE.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, speaking at a Conservative banquet at Poole, on Thursday night, referred to the Irish policy of the Government, and said that the Malone election was the deliberate answer of the Irish people to Mr. Gladstone's legislation for that country. The bribes of unjust Land Acts and dishonest Arrears Bills, the repression by two measures of Coercion Bills, even upon the heels of a place of a high law officer of the Crown, supported by all the weight and money of the Government, the quiet and hitherto moderate little town of Malone returned a Conservative with a most extreme and violent type. At the same time the men who were accused of being principals in the foulest murders of modern Ireland were brought to the Bar to the goal itself. This was a terrible evidence of the widespread demoralization which the Irish people had undergone during three years of Liberal administration. It was as impossible for nations to go through a long course of unpunished crime without grave national degeneration as it was for individuals. The sad fruits of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy were as clearly shown in the sympathy of the Dublin masses for men accused of assassination as its political fruits were shown in the Malone election. The Liberal leaders pandered to the Irish revolutionists at the last general election in order to gain the Irish vote. They were warned by the illustrious Conservative chief, and by others who knew Ireland well, what the result of that unnatural alliance must be. They scorned the warnings and spurned the prophecy. But what was the result? Liberal or Conservative, who would now deny that the state of Ireland was "worse than pestilence and famine?" The Government albeit largely repaired, despite every remonstrance, the swelling tide of lawlessness and terror which overspread the whole face of Ireland within nine months after they had taken office. Some Liberals, indeed, sympathized with and encouraged the disloyal agitation which had ruined Ireland. To have stifled that agitation, born of disloyalty and hatred, maintained by outrage and murder, and aimed at the extermination of British influence and the disruption of the empire, would, said Mr. Chamberlain, be a "heroic remedy," and what was that reform which had been secured at the price of the demoralization of an entire people? It was the unjust Land Act of 1881 which the leaders of the Irish party denounced and ridiculed, and which Mr. Parnell had only lately described as remitting only £70,000 of rent in 12 months, at a cost of £400,000 in lawyers' fees, and whose operations would not be concluded for 20 years. It was the dishonest Arrears Bill, by which the long-suffering and law-abiding taxpayers of England and Scotland were made liable for the debts of the seditious revolutionists of Ireland. And what had been the outcome of this immoral bribery? Was it the reform, or repression, or which a Liberal Government, a Ministry of humanitarians, philosophers, and economists, the friends of oppressed nationalities, had sought to counterbalance the results of their own weakness and want of provision? That Ireland could now only be governed by extreme coercion, by thirty battalions of troops, and by thousands upon thousands of armed police, and that the bulk of the Irish people were more than ever disaffected. The Malone election and the clearing of the prisons of assassins were the replies of a demoralized people to the alternate course of bribery and coercion which had been the policy of Mr. Gladstone in Ireland. The impulse of that bribery was given by the author's own confession, was the murder of policemen and the blowing up of quays, its stimulus had been the ringing of the dinner bell, the consequence of that crime, its end, if unchecked, would be the destruction of that splendid fabric of united power which the genius and courage of patriots and statesmen had established. Was it good not spared the fruits of Mr. Gladstone's fatal and blasting administration of Ireland in mere telling words than those applied to the evils wrought by Arthur's faithless queen—

"The children born of thee are fire and sword,
Red rain, and the breaking up of laws."

—And what could be said of their policy abroad? They found the peace of Europe secured for many a year by the arrangement of Berlin. They received the rights of England guaranteed by the almost forgotten treaties of Germany and Austria. That alliance was the last and greatest of Lord Beaconsfield's achievements. Austria was insulted without a cause and the whole European combination threatened, and the balance of power, which had been made certain in favour of British interests and peace, was now turned in favour of disturbance and war. Referring to the present condition of France, he observed that France was going the way of absolutely ruin—disintegration and ruin. They might flourish for a brief space, and in prosperous times; but when the State was menaced by revolution at home, or by danger from abroad, the advantage of an established monarchy was made clear. No nation could long exist great or united without that central and unchanging pivot of a hereditary chief. In conclusion, he said, "Let us judge all the staple elements of order and loyalty might rally. With regard to the late war, he maintained that it might have been avoided with ease by a little foresight and statesmanship on the part of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet at any time between September, 1881, and July, 1882. Such a course was as practicable as any unsuccessful one. One thing the Conservative party were resolved to achieve as far as their influence could guide the course of public events, was that this unjustifiable war should not be fruitless. They were resolved that British influence should be predominant in Egypt. The Conservatives of the Egyptian people for self-government under four heads. First there was persistent neglect and delay in dealing with the growing dangers of the situation. The refusal of the Government to accept the offer of Mr. Gladstone's policy in every quarter of the globe. Now to late in Ireland, too late in the Transvaal, too late in Egypt, too late with the commercial treaty, too late with regard to the Russian advance in Asia, too late in Egypt. The second cause was the contempt for the just claims of the Egyptian people for self-government. They asked for an elective chamber, the right of voting only half their own Budget, and a slight increase in their army. The refusal of these concessions was the beginning of the end. The third cause was the preposterous attempt at joint political intervention with France. British interests were overwhelmingly the most considerable in Egypt. The fourth cause of the war was the systematic and pointless injustice towards the just rights and susceptibilities of the people of Turkey, who were the lawful and recognized rulers of Egypt. (Cheers.)

VISIT OF THE DUKE OF ALBANY TO COLCHESTER.

Yesterday saw the installation of the Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Essex, the Right Hon. Lord Brooke, M.P., D.P.G.M. His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany, K.T., left Windsor with his Royal Highness arriving by special train (about 11.30) from London. The train was in charge of Mr. James Robertson, Traffic Superintendent, and Assistant Traffic Superintendent, of the Great Eastern Railway, and the arrangements at Colchester were well ordered by Mr. Flower, the District Superintendent from Ipswich. Amongst the railway officials present were:—Mr. John stone, district engineer, and Mr. P. Bedingfield, assistant engineer, the police arrangements were admirably arranged by Superintendent Ede, Inspector Round and Sergt. Gurr, of the Great Eastern Railway police, Ipswich. The station was very tastefully decorated with flowers of the season, with flags, the platform being laid with crimson cloth. Unfortunately the wind blew a heavy gale, and the rain came down very heavily, consequently the band of the 2nd Essex Rifle Volunteers were on the platform, under Mr. D. Damant, bandmaster, and played "God save the Queen" on the arrival of the train. Lieutenant-Colonel Lyons, acted as guard of honour on the platform, Major and Adjutant Bannister was in command, with Capt. Howard, and Lieuts. Walford-Gosnold and Morten. On the platform were also Mr. Ewing, Mr. Hedley, General White, commanding Eastern District, *aide de camp* Capt. Molyneux, Brigade-Major Capt. Morrison, Col. Dunsterville, R.E., Lieut. Col. Fox, R.A., etc. Lord Brooke met his Royal Highness at the Station, and drove thence to the Essex Hall Idiot Asylum, of which the Duke's Royal Highness is Patron. By the time the Duke's Royal Highness reached the Asylum, his Royal Highness went on to the Lodge-room at the Soldiers' Home, escorted by a detachment of the 7th Hussars, the Mayor and Corporation, with mottoes of "Welcome," and Masonic emblems. The whole of North Hill and High Street was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, and Mr. Street was profusely decorated with flags and bunting, and the Corn Hall. The guard of honour in the street was composed of the 7th (City of London) Fusiliers, and the 4th Battalion Essex Rifle Volunteers, under Lieut. Col. Lyons, who drove thence to the Essex Hall Idiot Asylum, of which the Duke's Royal Highness is Patron. By the time the Duke's Royal Highness reached the Asylum, his Royal Highness went on to the Lodge-room at the Soldiers' Home, escorted by a detachment of the 7th Hussars, the Mayor and Corporation, with mottoes of "Welcome," and Masonic emblems. The whole of North Hill and High