# SOME BELL INSCRIPTIONS.

## NORTHOLT, MIDDLESEX (St. Mary).

THIS ancient parish, mentioned in Doomsday as 'Northala,' is situated about three miles from Harrow, and ten from London. The parish church dates from the thirteenth century, the chancel being considered somewhat later in date; it is built in the Perpendicular and Decorated styles, and consists of chancel, nave, south porch, and small wooden western turret, with dwarfed spire, similar to the one at the neighbouring village of Ickenham. There are several brasses in the chancel, amongst them one to the memory of Isaiah Reeves or Bures, M.A., Vicar, 1592–1610, died 1610, and Katherine, his wife; also memorial to William Brabourne, D.D., Vicar 1662–1684, and Samuel Nicholls, Vicar 1749–1763. On the south wall of the nave hangs a complete list of Vicars, from John at Shaw, instituted in 1329, till the present Vicar, George Edmundson, instituted in 1880, and who had the title of Rector conferred upon him July 5th, 1895. There are four bells inscribed as follows:—

Sanctus.—T: B. Diameter, 10¾ inches.

NOTE.—Although this bell is not dated, the initials T. B. are undoubtedly those of Thomas Bartlet, who cast the tenor bell. He was proprietor of the well-known Whitechapel Bell Foundry from 1619 till 1647.

Treble.—WILLIAM KIZG AZD THOMAS LEWES, 1656, w.
Diameter, 26½ inches.

NOTE.—The letters 'N' in the word 'king' and 'and' are placed sideways. There was probably another letter after the date 1656 besides 'w' but it is quite obliterated. This bell may have been cast by John Hodson, a London founder, and if so, the other letter would have been another 'w,' and those letters would stand for William Whitmore, who was John Hodson's foreman. The tenor bell at Hertingfordbury is inscribed—Icepe Dulce Seqvar. W. Whitmore for John Hodson, 1656, and the second at Bovingdon, Herts, has the churchwarden's names, the date, 1654, and the letters 'W. W.' after the date, and this latter bell is attributed to John Hodson. As the date on the Northolt treble is 1656, and the letter 'w' comes after, there is strong evidence that this bell was from John Hodson's foundry.

Robert Malthus was Vicar of Northolt when this bell was cast. He was instituted in 1642, and continued vicar till 1662.

2nd.—William Land made me 1617.
Diameter, 30½ inches.

NOTE.—Dr. Raven considers William Land was an Eastern Counties founder, and perhaps for some time foreman for Stephen Tonne of Bury St. Edmunds. There was a William Land, bell-founder, at Houndsditch in 1636; perhaps this bell was cast by him.

William Pierse was vicar in 1617. He was instituted in 1611, and remained vicar till 1632.

Tenor.—Thomas Bartlet made me 1624 [firm's stamp].
M : H : I : H : CIVRCH WARDENS.
(This lettering is on the waist of the bell, and is very thin.)
Diameter, 34 inches.

## NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX (Holy Trinity).

NORTHWOOD is a hamlet of Ruislip, and is situated about five miles from the town of Watford. The parish has grown rapidly during the last few years. An ecclesiastial parish was formed in 1854, and Holy Trinity Church was consecrated on the 5th of January in that year by Charles James Blomfield, Bishop of London. The building consists of chancel, nave with south-west porch, and tower with shingle spire at the north side. A few years ago a north aisle was added to afford extra accommodation for the worshippers. Another church will shortly be erected at the other end of the village, towards which the sum of £3000 has been promised. There are two bells in the tower inscribed as follows:—

1st.—Taylor & Son, Founders, Loughborough, 1853.
Diameter, 18½ inches.

NOTE.—This bell is used for assembling people to worship.

Clock Bell.—G. Mears & Co., Founders, London, 1865.
Diameter, 24 inches.

NOTE.—The Rev. Henry Bethune Sands, M.A, was vicar when this bell was cast. He was instituted in 1854, and was the first vicar, having been appointed when the parish was formed. This bell has no clapper, and is only used for striking the hours.

## DENHAM, BUCKS (St. Mary).

DENHAM church is a stone building in the Perpendicular style of architecture, and consists of chancel, clerestoried nave of three bays, aisle, and an embattled western tower, containing a clock and eight bells. There are several monuments to the Peckhams, including one with recumbent figures, dated 1564, to Sir Edmund Peckham, cofferer in the King's house, knighted 18th Oct., 1537, and Anne his wife. There are also some fine brasses, amongst them one of the fifteenth century to Thomas Deyrdent, his two wives, and twenty-one children. The bells are inscribed as follows:—

Treble.—C. & G. Mears, Founders, London. Edward Nash, Richard Cain, Church Wardens, 1846.
Diameter, 30¼ inches.

2nd.—Same as the treble.
Diameter, 31 inches.

3rd.—John Fountain, Frans Bowry, Church Wardens, 1772. Pack & Chapman, Fecit. Diameter, 33¼ inches.

NOTE.—Pack & Chapman were proprietors of the Whitechapel foundry from 1770 till 1782.

4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th.—James Bartlet made me, 1683.
Diameters, 34¾, 38¾, 41¼, 46¾ inches.

NOTE.—James Bartlet was the sixth proprietor of the Whitechapel foundry. He succeeded his father Anthony Bartlet in the business in 1676, and carried it on till his death in January, 1701.

Tenor.—Recast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1875.
Diameter, 51¾ inches.

NOTE.—The inscription on the old tenor was as under:—Richard Nicholas, Daniel Winchester, Ch. Ws. James Bartlet made me. Diameter 52 inches. The original ring of eight were cast by James Bartlett in 1683.

The following are the approximate weights and notes of the bells:—

| | cwt. | qrs. | Note. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Treble .. .. | 5 | 3 .. .. | E flat. |
| II. .. .. | 6 | 1 .. .. | D. |
| III. .. .. | 7 | 0 .. .. | C. |
| IV. .. .. | 8 | 2 .. .. | B flat. |
| V. .. .. | 10 | 2 .. .. | A flat. |
| VI. .. .. | 12 | 2 .. .. | G. |
| VII. .. .. | 16 | 2 .. .. | F. |
| Tenor .. .. | 24 | 0 .. .. | E flat. |

## ELLESBOROUGH, BUCKS (SS. Peter and Paul).

ELLESBOROUGH church is situated on a lofty position of the Chiltern Hills, from whence a splendid view of the Vale of Aylesbury can be obtained. It is an embattled structure of the late Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture, with chancel, nave of four bays, south aisle, south-west porch, and lofty tower containing six bells. The chancel was restored in 1871 at the cost of Mrs. Frankland Russell Astley, in memory of her husband. Below are the inscriptions, &c., of the bells.

Treble.—Mears & Stainbank, Founders, London, 1870.
'O ye Mountains and Hills
Bless ye the Lord: Praise Him
And magnify Him for ever:'
(Old English lettering.)
Diameter, 26¼ inches.

2nd, 3rd, 4th.—T. Mears of London, fecit 1823.
Diameters, 28¼, 30¼, and 32 inches.

5th.—G. Mears & Co., founders, London, 1863.
Diameter, 34 inches.

Tenor.—T. Mears of London, fecit.
Robert Grenhill Russell, Esq., Patron.
Revd. John Levison Hamilton, Rector.
Joseph Allen, Thos. Gurney, } Church Wardens.
1823.
Diameter, 37¾ inches.

NOTE.—Thomas Mears the younger, who was the proprietor of the Whitechapel Foundry from 1810 till 1844, supplied the original ring of 6 bells in 1823; four of them remain, namely the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and Tenor.

A framed account of the weights and notes of the bells hangs in the ringing chamber.

| | approx. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tenor .. .. | 9 cwt. | .. | A flat. |
| V .. .. | 7 „ | .. | B flat. |
| IV .. .. | 5½ „ | .. | C |
| III .. .. | 5 „ | .. | D flat. |
| II .. .. | 4½ „ | .. | E flat. |
| Treble .. .. | 4 „ | .. | F |
| | 35 | | |

Cast by T. Mears, Treble 1870, Mears & Stainbank, } Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London.

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# BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

### The St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers, Rugby.

THE Annual Dinner of the Society took place on Thursday evening, December 11th, at Mrs. Hobley's Restaurant, 16 High Street, Rugby. The Rector, the Rev. A. V. Baillie, President of the Society, presided, and Mr. George E. Over, Churchwarden, occupied the vice-chair. Thirty members and friends were present, including the Ringing Master, Mr. James George, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur Coleman. Letters of apology were read from Mr. W. Brooke, Churchwarden (the members regretting his absence in consequence of a serious illness), also Messrs Lawrence, Thompson, Cooke, Rover, Coales, and Mr. W. H. Godden of Birmingham.

After dinner the Chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts, 'The Church,' 'The King,' and 'The Royal Family,' and next gave 'Success to the St. Andrew's Society of Change-ringers,' and in doing so, thanked them for the pains they had taken to promote first-class change-ringing in the parish, and pointed out the pleasure it is to many to listen to such fine bells so well rung, and concluded by coupling with the toast the names of Mr. George and Mr. Coleman.

Mr. George, in replying, said he hoped that many more such societies would be established, as they would not only conduce to improving the art of change-ringing, but to belfries being kept in better order. He had been in many belfries in many parts of Great Britain, and found numerous instances where they were kept in disorder, this being no credit to the authorities of such churches.

The Vice-Chairman, in proposing 'The Visitors,' coupled this with the name of Mr. H. Rushby of Leicester, who very suitably responded. Mr. Coleman next proposed 'The Musicians,' and Mr. A. White humorously responded.

Songs by Messrs A. White, G. A. Wood, and W. M. Parsons, the latter acting as accompanist, were much appreciated, as were Mr. A. Seymour's selections on the phonograph.

During the evening the Ringing Master and Hon. Secretary gave an account of the work of the Society during the year, which was very satisfactory. Previous to the dinner a touch of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES was rung on the church bells, and after dinner the hand-bells were also brought into use by members of the Society.

The final toast, 'The Chairman,' brought a most successful and enjoyable evening in the history of this Society to a close.

## CHANGE-RINGING.

### The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.

AT the Parish Church, Swindon, Wilts, on December 16th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 51 mins. Tenor, 13¼ cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| John Thomas | 1 | Charles J. Gardiner | 5 |
| Thomas Rickets | 2 | Ernest Bishop (condr.) | 6 |
| Alfred Lawrence | 3 | James H. Shepherd | 7 |
| Sidney Palmer | 4 | Oliver Norman | 8 |

First peal in the method on the bells. The peal was rung to celebrate the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lawrence.

### The Sussex County Association.

AT the Parish Church, Henfield, on Tuesday evening, December 9th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 4 mins. Tenor, 16 cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albert E. Lish | 1 | Charles Tyler | 5 |
| Samuel Burt | 2 | Albert Heasman* | 6 |
| James Lish | 3 | George Payne (condr.) | 7 |
| Lazarus Payne | 4 | Arthur Hodges | 8 |

[* First peal with a bob-bell.]

### The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

AT the Cathedral Church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on December 10th, a peal of TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5120 changes, in the Oxford Variation, in 3 hrs. 55 mins. Tenor, 37¾ cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Robert S. Story | 1 | William Holmes | 6 |
| Charles L. Routledge | 2 | S. Octavius Ferry | 7 |
| Robert C. Hudson | 3 | Joseph E. R. Keen | 8 |
| Thomas T. Gofton | 4 | Hugh D. Dall | 9 |
| William T. Robson | 5 | Robert Richards | 10 |

Composed by W. Holmes and conducted by C. L. Routledge. First peal of OXFORD TREBLE BOB ROYAL by the Association, and by all the band.

### The Hertfordshire Association.

AT St. Matthew's, Oxhey, Herts, on December 10th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 changes, in 3 hrs. 10 mins. Tenor, 9½ cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hubert Eden | 1 | Frederick T. C. Nevett | 5 |
| Frank A. Smith | 2 | Harry A. Horrex | 6 |
| Frederick W. Brinklow | 3 | Ernest E. Huntley | 7 |
| Henry Hodgetts | 4 | George N. Price | 8 |

Composed by Henry Dains, and conducted by George N. Price.

ALSO at St. James's, Bushey, Herts, on December 11th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 2 hrs. 59 mins. Tenor, 13 cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph J. Allen | 1 | W. H. L. Buckingham | 5 |
| Hubert Eden | 2 | Bertram Prewett | 6 |
| George N. Price | 3 | William G. Whitehead | 7 |
| Frederick T. C. Nevett | 4 | Ernest E. Huntley | 8 |

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff, and conducted by Ernest E. Huntley. First peal of SUPERLATIVE on the bells.

### The Middlesex County Association.

AT St. Clement Danes', Strand, on December 13th, a peal of STEDMAN CATERS, 5043 changes, in 3 hrs. 17 mins. Tenor, 24 cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| William J. Nudds | 1 | John Basden | 6 |
| Bertram Prewett | 2 | Albert Coles | 7 |
| Frederick T. C. Nevett | 3 | Ernest Pye | 8 |
| William Pye | 4 | Charles H. Martin | 9 |
| Isaac G. Shade | 5 | John R. Sharman | 10 |

Composed by Arthur Knights, and conducted by William Pye.

### The Midland Counties Association.

AT All Saints', Duffield, Derbyshire, on December 13th, a peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. Tenor, 17 cwt.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Maskrey | 1 | George Hingley | 5 |
| Charles Draper | 2 | John Flower | 6 |
| William Hickling, sen. | 3 | Benjamin Sugden | 7 |
| Fred Hickling | 4 | William Bates | 8 |

Composed by Sir Arthur Heywood, Bart., and conducted by Benjamin Sugden.

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REDENHALL, NORFOLK.—On December 13th, at St. Mary's Church, 1008 BOB MAJOR, by members of the Norwich Diocesan Association. J. Betts (conductor), 1; E. Lincoln, 2; W. Barrett, 3; W. Mobbs, 4; O. Brock, 5; E. Poppy, 6; F. R. Borrett, 7; J. Souter, 8. This touch was rung muffled as a mark of respect to the memory of John Bentley, whose death took place at Topcroft, on the 2nd inst., and who had been a ringer at this church for many years, having taken part in eighteen Association peals in various methods.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, IPSWICH.—An interesting service has been held in this church, when the bells, which have been hung for chiming, were re-dedicated to the service of God, after a period of silence extending over twenty years. One bell, which was found to be cracked, has been recast, and now bears the inscription, 'Holiness to the Lord,' with the date. The work has been satisfactorily carried out by Messrs. Bowell & Son, of Ipswich. The sermon was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence from Zech. viii. 21.

HORNSEY GUILD. — On Sunday, December 13th, after evening service, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB MINOR, in 27 mins. A. Jacob (conductor), 1; H. Stubbs, 2; A. Armstrong, 3; W. Pickworth, 4; W. Dixon (first 720 in the method), 5; T. Langdon, 6.

STANSTEAD, ESSEX.—In celebration of the Coronation the parishioners have added two bells to the ring of six at the Parish Church. During the past few weeks bell-hangers have been adapting the old oak framework to receive the additional bells. The old fourth bell which was cast by 'Johannes Tonne,' in 1540, marred the effect of the peal, and it was decided to have it recast. Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, who recast the tenor bell in 1823, were entrusted with the work. They have copied the old bell in *facsimile*. The bells have been tested with satisfactory results.

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