

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

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REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 26, 1879,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY,  
1878—1879.

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ALSO

**Communications**

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXI.

BEING No. 3 OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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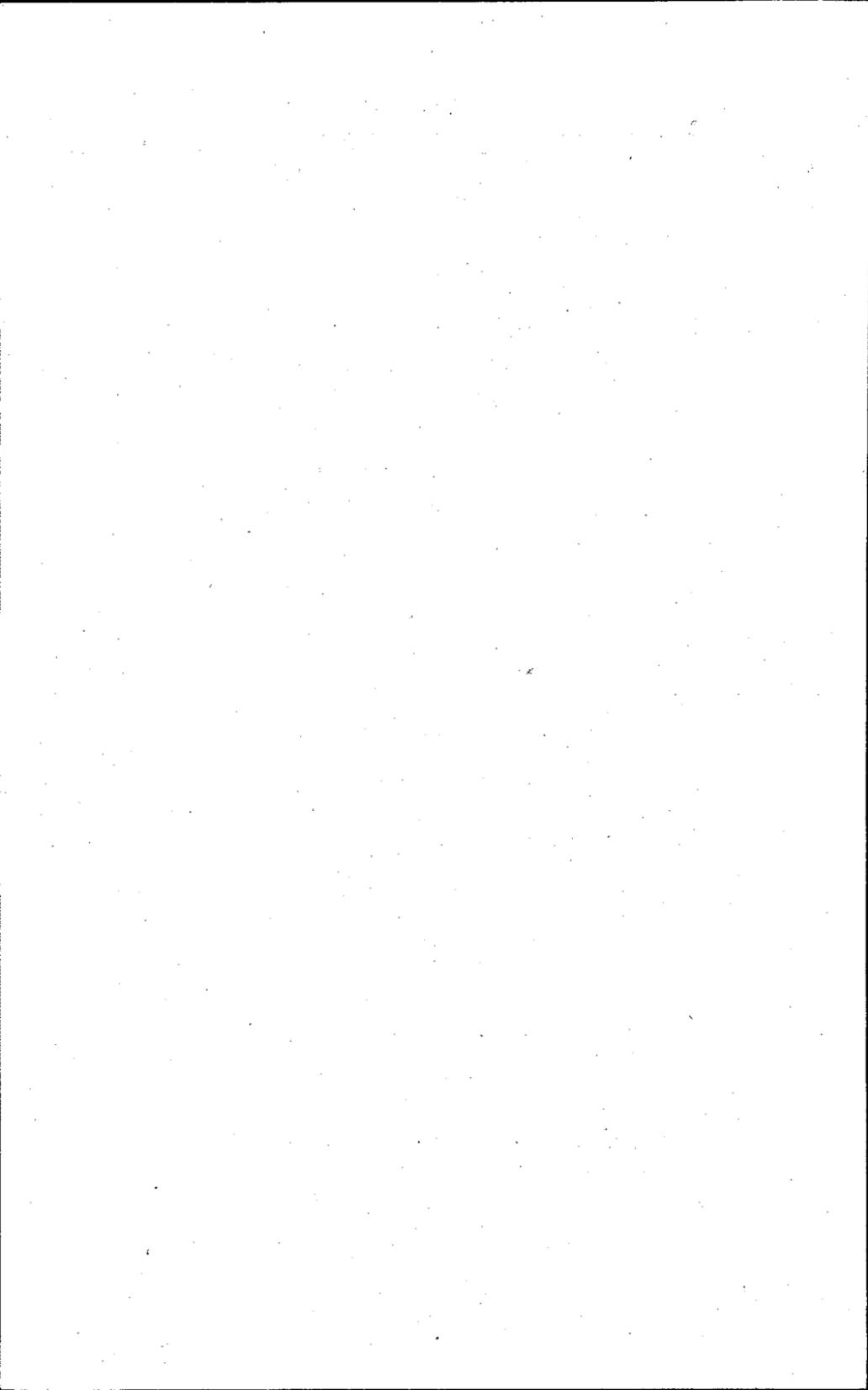
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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
COMMUNICATIONS,

BEING

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS

OF THE

*Cambridge Antiquarian Society.*

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No. XXI.

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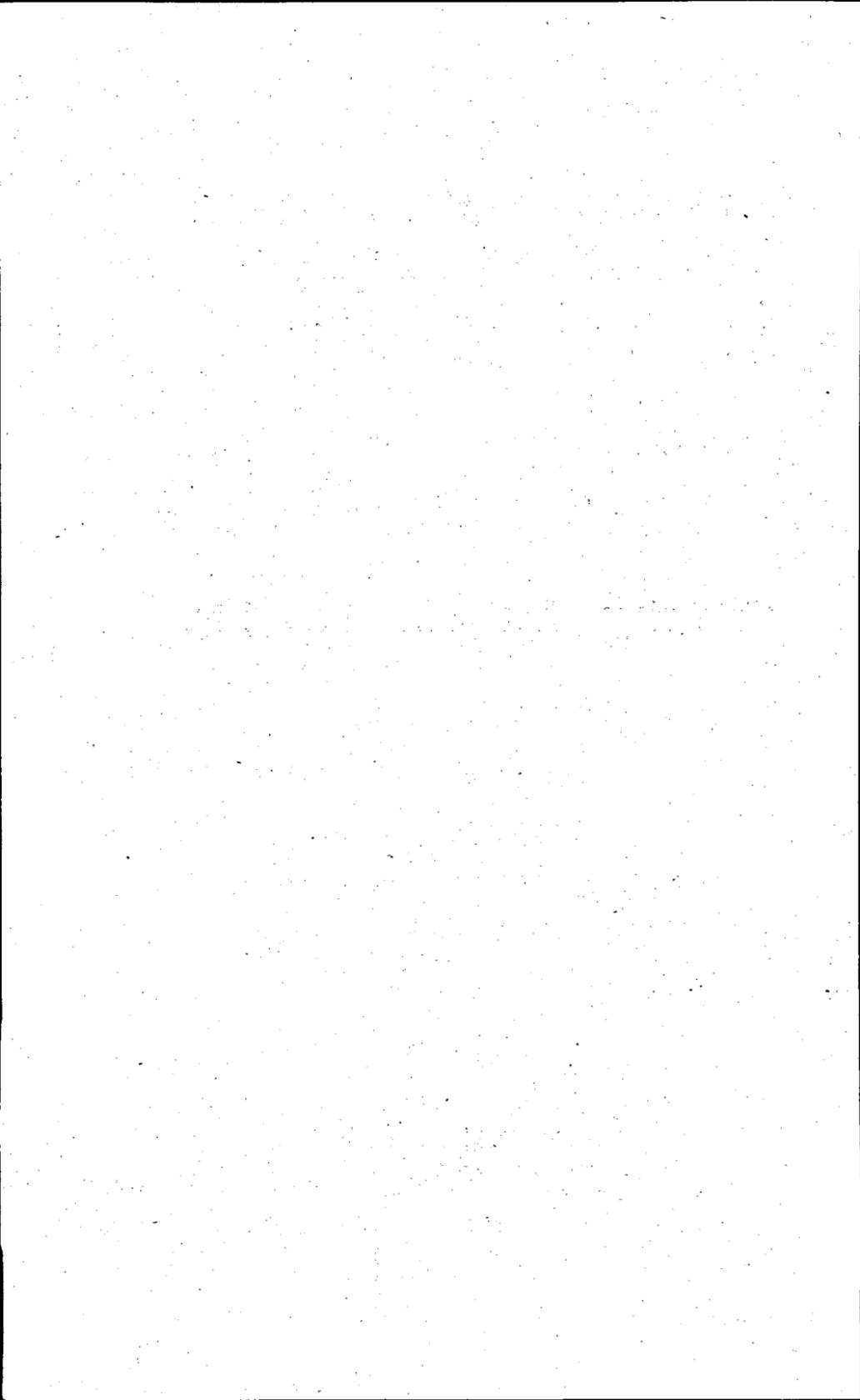
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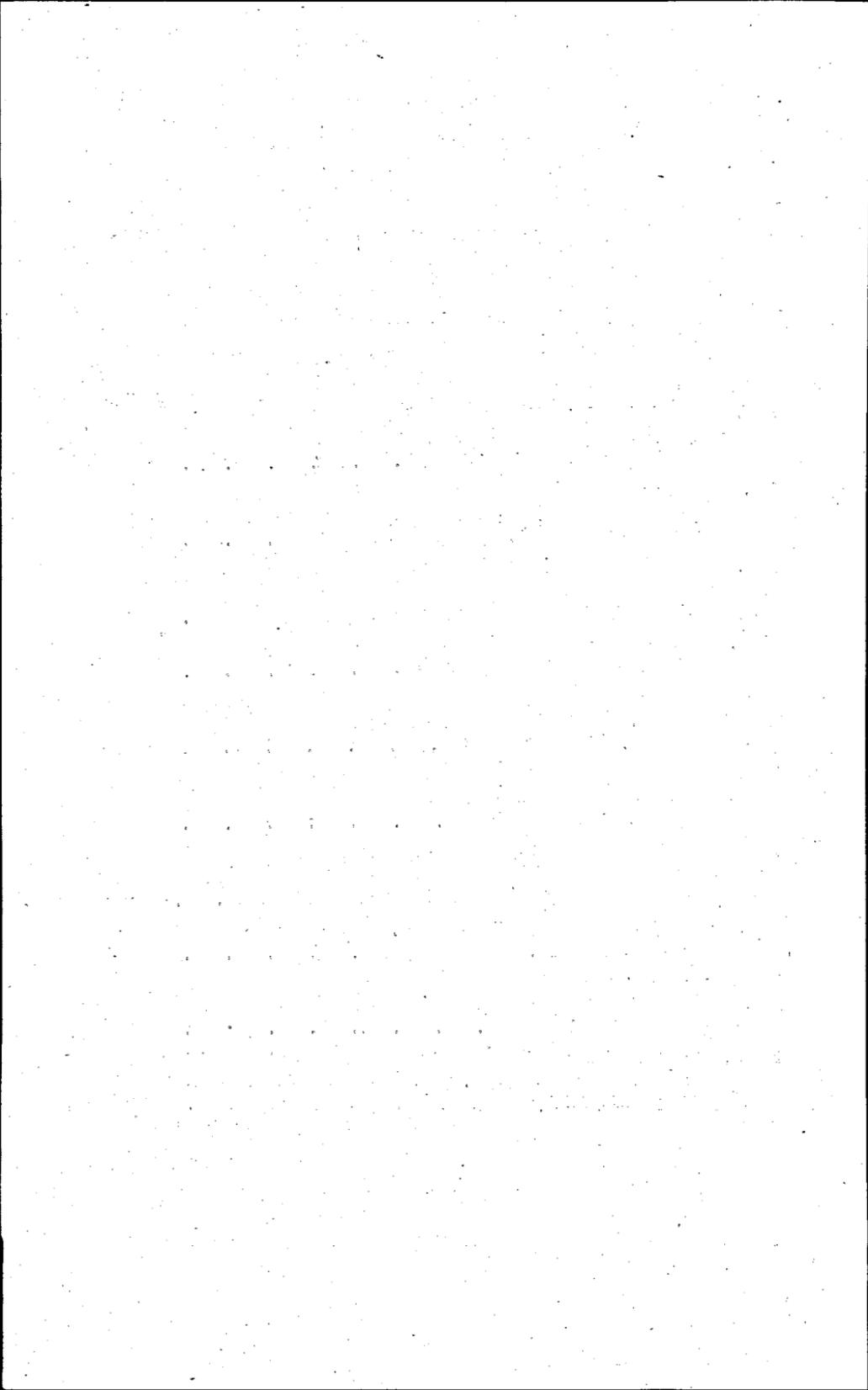
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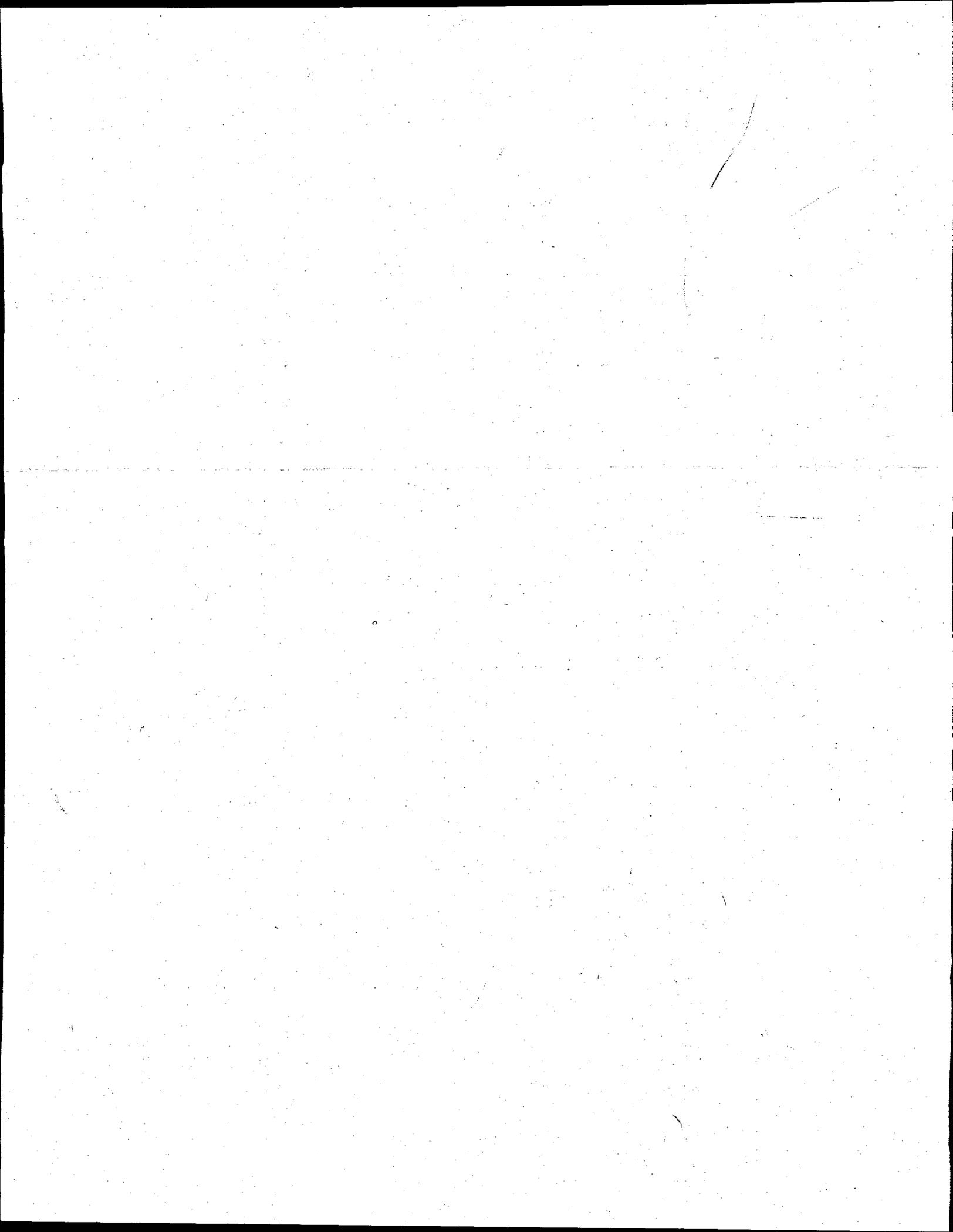
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XVIII. HISTORY OF THE PEAL OF BELLS BELONGING  
TO KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. Communicated by  
J. W. CLARK, M.A., Trinity College.

[March 3, 1879.]

SOME documents respecting the sale of King's College Bells, which took place in the middle of the last century, having lately been discovered in the Muniment-Room of King's College, it has occurred to me that it might be worth while to select from the College account-books, which I have lately been searching for a different purpose, the most important items having reference to the Bells and Belfry, so as to present a continuous history of them.

The position of the Belfry is known from Loggan; it is included in his view of the south side of the Chapel, and a ground plan of it is given in his map of Cambridge<sup>1</sup>. If his scale may be trusted, it was about 30 feet square, and stood about 80 feet west of the Chapel, in such a position that if the south side-wall of the latter were produced westward it would touch the south-west angle of the Belfry at a distance of about 150 feet from the western angle of the south porch. This position would bring the Belfry within the limit assigned by Professor Willis to the Churchyard of S. John the Baptist<sup>2</sup>; and I venture to suggest that this supposition explains the prominent situation given to a temporary and most unsightly structure,

<sup>1</sup> It is also shewn in a small cut in a corner of the frontispiece to the edition of Chrysostom published by Sir Henry Savile at Eton in 1613.

<sup>2</sup> See his History of King's, Chapter III.

which otherwise would have been consigned to some remote corner of the College grounds. It will be observed that the Belfry did not stand symmetrically with reference to the Chapel. This position may have been due to the direction of the wall of the churchyard, or of some lane by which it was approached.

There is a tradition that the Bells were presented to the Founder, King Henry the Sixth, by Pope Calixtus III.<sup>1</sup>; and another that they were taken from a Church in France by King Henry the Fifth, after the battle of Agincourt<sup>2</sup>. There is no authority, so far as I know, for either of these stories. The use of Bells, however, at certain services, is expressly enjoined in the statutes for both King's and Eton<sup>3</sup>; and a lofty tower, doubtless intended for a belfry, forms part of the design for each, as set forth in the document called "The Will of King Henry the Sixth." A peal of Bells was therefore almost a necessity for both Colleges, and we shall find that the Founder took care that neither should be long without one. The works at Eton began 3 July, 1441, and in the course of that year a charge occurs for the purchase of 12 elm-trees "pro le clocher," and for various expenses for bringing the Bells from London. This wooden Belfry, which was intended to be only temporary, is believed to have stood within the Churchyard of the Parish Church of Eton. The first stone of the Old Court of King's had been laid shortly before (2 April, 1441), and, though the building-accounts have for the most part disappeared, and the series of account-books, called in this College "Mundum Books," is extremely imperfect previous to 1500, it happens that the one piece of information essential to our present investigation has been preserved. The carriage of the Bells from London, and the roofing of the belfry, are recorded in the

<sup>1</sup> Carter's Cambridge, p. 157; Lysons' Cambridgeshire, p. 110; Cooper's Annals, i. 259.

<sup>2</sup> "General History of the Science and Practice of Music": by Sir John Hawkins, iv. 154.

<sup>3</sup> Compare the 42nd Statute for King's with the 31st for Eton.

following extracts from a fragment of a building-account lately discovered in the Muniment-Room, which certainly belongs to the period of the construction of the Old Court, from the mention of Reginald Ely and Nicholas Close, who are known to have been employed upon it, and from several payments for fetching stone from the Castle, the Hall of which, being in a ruinous state, was assigned to the College by the King, 14 February 1441, for the sake of the materials<sup>1</sup>. This account is partly for wages, which are paid weekly, on July 6, 13, 20, etc., and judging from the corresponding accounts for Eton it may be presumed that these days were Saturdays. On this assumption the year 1443 is the only one which suits, 1437 being too early, and 1450 being too late.

“xij die Julii. Item for leeddyng of the belfrey and shetyng of ledde to the same, and pro leede nayle empt', etc .....	iiij'
xx die Julii. Item Willelmo Hawke pro panno lineo et aliis necessariis in benedictione magne Campane apud London .....	iiij' iiij <sup>d</sup>
xxvii die Julii. Item pro cariagio ij bigat' a blakley mutuat' de priori de Bernewell pur le-belfrey, le bigat' ad iiij' .....	viiij'
iiij die Augusti. Item Roberto Oliuer et Ricardo Eskham pro cariagio magne Campane a London usque Cantabr' .....	xl'
Item Roberto knyth circa le hengyng eiusdem Campane et circa facturam Rote eiusdem per xiiij dies, in die ad viij <sup>d</sup> , ix <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> . Item pro comun' eiusdem apud Cantabr' vna cum Regard' ex precepto magistri J. L. <sup>2</sup> v <sup>s</sup> x <sup>d</sup> . Item pro cariagio et recariagio necessariorum eiusdem ij vic' a London ad Cantabr' et econtra qualibet vice iij s iiij d; vj s. viij d. ....	xxj' x <sup>d</sup>
Item ij Carpentariis circa predict' belhengyng et facturam Rote eiusdem per vj dies quilibet in die ad vj d ob. ....	vj' vj <sup>d</sup>
Item pro xxxvi li of bellopez et aliis cordulis pro operibus collegii etc. le li ad 1 d ob. ....	iiij' vj <sup>du</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MSS. Baker, xxv. 443. Among the items referring to this are the following :

“xx die Julii.] Item Thome Dich cum ij bigis apud Castellum per iiij dies in die ad iij s; Summa .....	xij'
Item Bennett Mores cum biga sua apud Castellum per v dies in die ad xviiij <sup>d</sup> ; summa. ....	vij' vj
Item pro emendacione vie ante portam castelli. ....	vij d.”

<sup>2</sup> These initials no doubt stand for John Langton.

These entries, if not a record of the first construction of the belfry, certainly relate to a very early period of its history, before the roof was leaded, and before the largest bell of the peal had arrived.

Additional confirmation of the view that Bells were given to King's by the Founder is afforded by the following declaration<sup>1</sup> made 2 May, 1465, by William Millington, first Provost of King's. A question had arisen respecting the debts of Dr John Langton, who had been employed by the Founder to transact most of the necessary business concerning the acquisition of the site and the foundation of the College. Millington's object was to shew that the College was not responsible for any of the property conveyed to the Society by Langton; for it was all a free gift of the King. It will be seen that Bells are mentioned more than once among the royal donations.

For asmoche as by the Provost and Scolers of the Kinges College of our Lady and Saynt Nicholas of Cambrigg I William Millington Clerke Doctor of Diuinitie haue be praied and required to declare the trouthe, and therto to record and shew the very trouthe, in what condicion Maister John Langton late Bisschopp of Saynt Davyes and by whos auctorite commaundement and costes the saide Maister John purveied Bookes Vestementes Belles and other ornamentes to the Kinges College aforesaide;

How be it that I have wryten as hit apperith by my letter wryten at Cambrigg in the Feste of Saynt Brice vnder my seale. the very trouthe in the same that from the bygynnyng of y<sup>e</sup> College and many yers after that certayn ornamentes and belles war sent vnto the College aforesaide of the pure almous of Kyng Henry first Founder vnto the same College accordyngly to my first wrytyng, I certifie alle men that the saide Maister John Langton was never Rector nether Prouost ther, nether Fellow of the College, for he was Maister of Penbroke Halle longe before the bigynnyng of the saide College and so desesed Maister of the forsaide Penbroke Halle, nether was deputed by me nor by y<sup>e</sup> Scolers nor made any purvyour for any ornamentes or belles or any other thyng that longed to the College in alle or in any parcelle but that alle thyng that was purveied was only at the costes and commaundement of Kyng Henry aforesaide; And so the saide Maister John Langton never had entresse by me nor by y<sup>e</sup> College for any maner puruiaunce to be made in any maner wyse; And therfor the College aforesaide was never charged but only to pray for

<sup>1</sup> The original is preserved in the Muniment Room of King's College.

Kyng Henry as ther foundre. And the saide Maister John Langton receyued alle money of the saide Kyng Henry for suche purviaunce to be made.

In wisse wherof I haue putto my Seale. And if my feblenesse wold suffre me; I wolde cumme by fore the Kyng or his Jugges, and alle men that this matter shalle concerne bothe in Juggement and other wyse, to certife the trouthe and to recorde as it is aforesaide.

And uppon this my wryting and my Seale many worshipfulle men haue putto ther Sealez; as Robert Cope at this tyme Mayre of Cambrige; John Belton, John Ashwell, Thomas Heyrman, late Mayrez of the same Towne; John Crofte, John Ereliche, Thomas Walter and John Rasour, at this tyme Baylez of Cambrige aforesaide. And if nede sholde be many other Gentilmen in the Shere, and also in the Town of Cambrige, to this trouthe by me reported as it is aforesaide wolde putto ther Sealez.

Wryten at Cambrige the secunde day of May, the yere of the Regne of our souerayn lord Kyng Edward the .iiij<sup>th</sup> after the conquest of Inglonde the v<sup>th</sup>

The first "Mundum Book"<sup>1</sup> that has been preserved in its entirety—that for the year ending at Michaelmas 28 Henry VI., i.e. Michaelmas 1449—records the following payments for the Bells. It will be observed that these are for ordinary repairs; as though they had been for some time in the possession of the College.

*Custus ecclesie*

"Item Willelmo Smyth pro le bendes campan' vt patet per billam ..... ij<sup>s</sup> vij<sup>d</sup>

Item Willelmo Smyth pro reparacione vnus Claper... [then follow other charges] viij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>. Item pro vno bauderik ad j<sup>am</sup> campanam ij<sup>s</sup>. Et pro alio ad 2<sup>am</sup> campanam xvj<sup>d</sup> empt' erga festum sancti Johannis Baptiste anno precedent' ..... iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

*Soluciones forinsece*

Item in regardis datis ferestar' de Wabriges et pro emendacione campan' vt patet per billam Magistri Wodelark ..... vij<sup>s</sup>"

<sup>1</sup> The following Mundum Books have been preserved for the fifteenth century. They extend from Michaelmas to Michaelmas in each year: 1447—48 (imperfect); 1448—49; 1449—50; 1450—51; 1453—54; 1456—57; 1457—58; 1458—59; 1465—66; 1466—67; 1467—68; 1468—69; 1469—70; 1472—73; 1473—74; 1476—77; 1478—79; 1482—83; 1488—89; 1489—90; 1492—93; 1495—96; 1498—99; 1499—1500.

In the next two years the payments for repairs continue :

*Expense necessarie* (1449—1450)

"Item Stracy pro certis cordis emptis...pro campanis ..... v<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup> ob.

*Soluciones forinsece* (1450—1451)

"Item Johanni Dawes pro labore suo per ij dies et dim' circa emendacionem Campanarum erga festum Natalis Domini ..... iij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>"

The accounts for the next two years are wanting; in that for 1453—54 the Bells are not mentioned; those for 1454—55, 1455—56 are wanting; those for 1456—57, 1457—58 are somewhat imperfect, and contain nothing of interest; but in that for 1458—59 we find evidence that the Bells had got thoroughly out of repair, from the following entry :

Mundum Book, 1458—59. *Feoda et regarda*;

"Item in Regardo dat' Danyell Fonder [*sic*] de Ciuitate london pro labore suo ad superuidend' campanas Collegii, vt patet per quaternum dicti prepositi ..... vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>"

This is explained by the following extracts from a private account-book of Provost Wodelark<sup>1</sup>, part of which extends from 10 June 38 Hen. VI. (1460) to 3 June in the following year. It appears from this that Daniel the Bell-founder<sup>2</sup> is sent for from London on two occasions, 2 March, and 15 April, 1460, to see about repairing them.

"Item sol' ij<sup>do</sup> die marcii pro expensis Daniell Founder venientis ad Cantabr' pro renouacione Campanarum ..... xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

Item sol' .xv. die Aprilis pro expensis Danyell belmaker venientis ad Cantabr' pro renouacione Campanarum ..... vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>"

The result of this visit was the removal of those that needed repair to London in May. We may conjecture that the repair was not successful, for in June John Canterbury, clerk of the

<sup>1</sup> This account and the next are contained in the second volume of a series lettered "College Accounts." In Woodlark's accounts the sums received from the Duchy of Lancaster, and the payments made on account of the College are mixed up with his private expenses.

<sup>2</sup> He also supplied the College with wine, for the same account records:

"Item sol' Danyel Belfounder v<sup>o</sup> die Sept' in partem solucionis de cvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> sibi debitis pro .j. dolio vini..... liij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>"

works at King's, was sent to London "to inquire about the making of Bells:" and in August a present (*regardum*) was made to the Bell-Founder's servant. This, judging from the next account that has been preserved, probably indicates the conclusion of a bargain with him to supply an entirely new peal. The following are the extracts already referred to.

[3 May 1460]. "M <sup>d</sup> de xls solutis Thome Diche london .iiij <sup>ta</sup> die Maii A <sup>o</sup> xxxvij <sup>mo</sup> in parte solucionis maioris summe pro Cariagio .ij. Campanarum a Cantebr <sup>r</sup> vsque london.....	.xl'
[12 May 1460]. "Item sol' Thome Diche et Coke xij <sup>mo</sup> die maii in plenam solucionem pro cariagio .ij. magnarum campanarum...	.xliij' iiij <sup>d</sup>
[21 June 1460]. "Item sol' Johanni Smythe per manus Caunterbury :xxj. die Junii missi london pro inquisicione de factura Campanarum .....	iiij'
[11 Aug. 1460]. "Item in Regardis datis famulo Danyel Bel-founder xj die Augusti .....	xij d."

The new Bells were ready by the following December, when a man named Sturgyn was sent to London (6 December) to fetch them. He had been there already twice in the course of the previous month to get wheels and other fittings, as the College was evidently anxious to have them in use by Christmas. The men designated 'Sturgyn' and 'Martyn' in the accounts, are no doubt John Sturgeon and Martin Prentice, subsequently appointed by Edward the Fourth in Letters patent<sup>1</sup> dated 10 July, 1480, to the duty of providing timber for the works of the College.

The following account records the conveyance, at different times during this month, of the old 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th Bells to London; and the conveyance of the new ones to Cambridge to replace them. The hanging of the new peal was so far complete by 23 December, that Sturgyn was paid for a portion of his work, and the Bells were rung on Christmas-Day 1460, having previously been consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln's suffragan. The total cost of carriage, hanging, etc.,

<sup>1</sup> Patent, 20 Edward IV., p. 1, m. 22.

exclusive of the price of the Bells themselves, which is not given, was £25. 12s. 4d. as recorded in the following account, kept separate from the others<sup>1</sup>, and headed

“Soluciones Facte pro Antiquis et Nouis Campanis Collegii Regalis.

In primis sol' Sturgyn lond' mense Nouembris pro j ligno curvo .....	ii <sup>j</sup> iii <sup>j</sup> <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' eidem Sturgyn pro Rotis et aliis expensis necessariis pro dictis Campanis ad .ij. vices.....	vj <sup>h</sup> vij <sup>h</sup> iii <sup>j</sup> <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Martyn Carpentare et Johanni Ferrour missis lond' circa .vj. <sup>mo</sup> diem decembris pro dictis campanis .....	xij <sup>j</sup> iii <sup>j</sup> <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' pro diuersis expensis factis pro dictis Campanis, vna cum expensis Sturgyn, Martyn Carpentare, Johannis Ferrour et aliorum; vt patet per confessionem dicti Johannis Ferrour de diuersis denariis, per dictum Johannem receptis de Chadworth et de Colby .....	iii <sup>j</sup> <sup>h</sup> iii <sup>j</sup> <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' xv. die decembris Sharnbroke de Ware cum vj <sup>h</sup> sibi solutis per Johannem Ferrour pro cariagio antique prime campane a Cantabrigia vsque london .....	xij <sup>h</sup>
Item sol' Thome Diche eodem die in partem solucionis maioris summe pro cariagio noue prime campane a london vsque cantabrigiam .....	xij <sup>h</sup>
Item sol' Coke eodem die pro cariagio .iiij. campane antique vsque london. Et pro cariagio .iiij. noue campane vsque Cantabrigiam .....	xl <sup>h</sup>
Item sol' xx <sup>mo</sup> die decembris priori de lewz pro cariagio iiiij <sup>h</sup> noue Campane a london cum iiij <sup>h</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup> datis in regardis famulis eiusdem prioris .....	xxvj <sup>h</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item in regardis datis famulis Sturgyn pro labore eorundem circa dict' Campan' .....	ij <sup>h</sup>
Item sol' Coke pro cariagio v <sup>h</sup> noue campane a lond' .....	iiiij <sup>h</sup> xij <sup>h</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Parker pro cariagio .ij. <sup>de</sup> noue Campane .....	xiiiij <sup>h</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Watton . xix <sup>mo</sup> die decembris in partem solucionis de xx <sup>h</sup> pro cariagio ij <sup>de</sup> Campane antique vsque london ...	. vj <sup>h</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item in Regardis datis Suffraganeo Episcopi lyncoln pro consecracione nouarum campanarum, cum .iiij <sup>h</sup> .iiiij <sup>d</sup> datis .ij. famulis eiusdem .....	xxxvj <sup>h</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item in Regardis datis Sturgyn pro labore suo in suspensione nouarum campanarum xxiiij die decembris.....	vj <sup>h</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' eodem die Cartere Carpentare existenti ibidem pro suspensione dictarum Campanarum .....	vj <sup>h</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is bound at the end of College Accounts, Vol. 2.

Item in regardis datis pulsatoribus pro pulsacione dictarum campanarum.....	.xx
Item in regardis eisdem alia vice .....	.iiij <sup>d</sup>
Item in Regardis datis Martyn carpentare pro suspencionem dictarum campanarum .....	.vj <sup>a</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Thome Water in die Sancti Stephani et .xv. die Januarii pro suspencionem dictarum campanarum .....	.iiij <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Item in regardis datis pulsatoribus in die Nativitatis Domini .....	.iiij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Gardynere in die sancti Thome pro suspencionem campanarum .....	.xx <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Watton per manus Thome Dekyn in plenam ( <i>sic</i> ) de .xx <sup>a</sup> pro cariagio .ij <sup>da</sup> campane.....	.xiiij. iiij <sup>d</sup>
Summa totalis .xxv <sup>h</sup> xij <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> ."	

The information obtained up to this point shews that the first peal of Bells was presented to the College not later than 1443, when the Belfry was finished; and that these Bells were changed for new ones in 1460. We have now to trace the history of this second peal.

At this point there is unfortunately a break of six years in the series of Mundum Books, just where we should wish them to be most complete; and when they begin again, at Michaelmas, 1465, we meet with the following very startling entries:

Mundum Book, 1465—66. *Feoda cum Regardis*

"Item in Regardis datis Bryan Sargent pro consilio suo et materia promovenda pro Campanis etc.....	xvj <sup>a</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Willelmo Essex de Scaccario Remembrancer domini Regis in Regardis sibi datis pro materiabus diuersis in Scaccario et pro Campanis .....	xiiij s. iiij d
Item sol' Bryan alia vice in Regardis sibi datis pro consilio habendo circa materiam Campanarum .....	vj <sup>a</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Genney eodem tempore pro consilio .....	vj <sup>a</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Fairfax, Nele, Bryan, Litylton, Fagger, ad ij. vices pro consiliis suis vna vice vt patet per quaternum M. Lemster in Campanis .....	xxxvj <sup>a</sup> viij d
Item sol' alia vice pro materia Campanarum ij <sup>o</sup> Jurisperitis, scilicet Bryan, Nele, Litylton, Genney, Fairfax, cuilibet eorum vj <sup>d</sup> .....	xxxiiij <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>

Item sol' pixidi Baronum vna cum diuersis solutis pro feodis et Regardis Clericorum et Officiariorum in Scaccario domini Regis vt patet per quaternum M. lemster .....	xxij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item sol' Bryan in fine Arbitrii pro labore suo circa materiam Campanarum per mandatum magistri prepositi vna cum Regardis datis Clerico eiusdem pro compositione et scriptura Obligacionum pro eadem materia .....	xvij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
Item in Regardis datis Thome Bettes pro expensis suis venientis ad m. prepositum usque london eodem tempore ....	xx <sup>s</sup>
<i>Expense necessarie</i>	
Item sol' Henrico Jurden in festo sancti Nicholai [6 Dec.] in partem solucionis de xl li pro quadam conuencione facta pro Campanis .....	x <sup>li</sup>
Item sol' Henrico Jurden in partem contentacionis debiti pro le Campanis ij <sup>o</sup> die Julii .....	x <sup>li</sup>

The only explanation of these entries that I can offer is that the peal supplied in 1460 had proved a failure, and that the College had been involved in litigation with the maker. The mention of so large a sum as £40 paid in instalments to Henry Jurden "for bells" in December, 1466, implies the making of an entirely new peal; and as his name has not occurred before, we may conclude that Daniel the Bell-founder, who was employed in 1460, was by this time either dead, or in disgrace. The new peal came to Cambridge in 1466, and was ready for use by 15 August, as the following entry shews, from the same Mundum-Book as the last, under the heading *Custus ecclesie*.

"Item sol' cartare pro suspensione Campanarum erga festum assumptionis beate Marie .....

vj<sup>s</sup>."

The account for the next year (1466—67) contains no reference to the Bells, from which we may conclude that the final payment to Henry Jurden was that recorded in the previous December. The series now becomes fairly continuous for a few years, and various entries shew that the Bells were in constant use. Of these it will be sufficient to quote the following:

Mundum Book, 1467—68. *Expense necessarie*

"Item sol' Roberto Driffele xvij die Marcii pro reparacione de. le. Bawdereke pro iij<sup>ca</sup> Campana .....

xij<sup>d</sup>

Ibid. 1468—69. *Custus novi edificii*

"Item sol' Roberto Smyth de Ely in plenam solucionem pro reparacione .le. Clapers Campanarum Collegii..... xx d.

Ibid. 1472—73. *Custus ecclesie*

"Item sol'...pro cordis emptis pro Campanis Collegii pond' .xxxij. lb. precii libre. j d. q<sup>t</sup> ..... iij s. iij d

*Custus novi Edificii*

"Item sol' pro Sera et Claue pro domo Orilogii in Campanili in vigilia omnium Sanctorum ..... viij d

*Expense necessarie*

"Item sol' per Robertum Driffeld pro oleo pro campanis ... ij<sup>s</sup>. ij d"

The following extracts, from the accounts for 1478—79, shew that the second Bell was "changed," which probably means recast, in that year; and that it was hung up in the Belfry again by Christmas, 1478. It is amusing to notice that then, as now, the work of recasting could not be accomplished without the accompaniment of beer.

Mundum Book, 1478—79. *Custus ecclesie*

"Item sol' Thome harrys de london Belfounder in plenam solucionem de xli. ix s. viij d. pro mutacione secunde Campane vj<sup>ii</sup> ix<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. Et pro vno Claper pro eadem Campana pond' .lx. lb. precii libre iij<sup>d</sup>. xv<sup>s</sup>..... vij<sup>ii</sup> iij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>."

*Custus novi edificii*

"Item sol' Waltero Carpentare et filio Martyn in vigilia Natalis domini laborantibus circa reparacionem stabuli, et circa suspensionem vnus Campana ..... vij<sup>d</sup> ob.

"Item sol' Arnold Fabro pro diuersis ferriis pro Campanili erga pascha ..... xj<sup>d</sup>"

*Expense necessarie*

"Item sol' vni pro suspensione Campana..... ij<sup>s</sup>

"Item sol' pro vino dat' Thome Harrys de london Belfoundre in adduccionem ij<sup>de</sup>. Campana ..... v<sup>s</sup>

"Item in Ceruisia dat' london in fusione secunde Campana... iij<sup>d</sup>

"Item sol' pro reparacione le Bawderekes Campanarum vt patet per billam...Roberti [Driffeld] ..... xxij<sup>s</sup>"

Another bell was recast in 1482—83.

Mundum Book, 1482—83. *Expense necessarie*

“Item sol’ xiiij. die maii Johanni Harrison Belfounder pro commutacione vnus Campane fracte pond’ xxxiiij. lb. vltra pondus, pro ponder’ v’ vj<sup>d</sup>. Et pro vno Claper pro eadem campana x d. Et Johanni Parker pro cariagio eiusdem noue Campana a london vj d ..... vj’ x<sup>d</sup>”

This second Bell was broken in 1500<sup>1</sup>, and was re-cast by Thomas Church, a metal-worker of Bury S. Edmund’s, who, after the manner of those times, did not confine himself to the trade of a Bell-founder, but supplied pots for the kitchen as well:

Mundum Book (1500—1501). *Custus ecclesie*

“Item xij<sup>o</sup> die Februarii Sol’ thome chyrche de bury in partem Solutionis secunde campane de novo fuse ..... x’

Item xvij<sup>o</sup> die aprilis Sol’ thome chyrche de bury in partem solutionis secunde campane de novo fuse ..... x’

Item xij<sup>o</sup> die Septembris sol’ thome chyrche de bury in plenam solutionem secunde campane de novo fuse ..... iiij<sup>ii</sup>”

*Expense necessarie*

Item xv<sup>o</sup> die septembris sol’ thome chyrche de bury pro vna olla pro coquina pond’ ij quart’ of C & v li cum cambio antiqui metalli pond’ j quart’ of C & vj li, et pro ij ladylls ..... xvj’

*Reparaciones*

It’ iiij<sup>o</sup> die novembris sol’ iiij<sup>o</sup> carpentariis per iiij<sup>o</sup> dies v’ iiij<sup>d</sup> et pro le hangyng secunde campane ij<sup>o</sup> ..... vij’ iiij<sup>d</sup>”

From this time until 1598 I find nothing of importance relating to the Bells<sup>2</sup>. It must however be remembered that the accounts for the reign of Henry VIII. are extremely imperfect, and it is therefore quite possible that important repairs

<sup>1</sup> Mundum Book, Mich. 15 Henry VII.—Mich. 16 Hen. VII. (1499—1500). *Reparaciones.*

[Between 3 Sept and 20 Sept.] “Item carpentariis laborantibus circa descensum campane fracte ij s.”

<sup>2</sup> The following extract from the accounts for 1589—90 shews the material of which the ‘baldricks’ were sometimes made.

Mundum Book, 1589—90, Termino Baptiste

“Item solut’ Williamson pro pelle equina ad Campanile ..... vij s

“Item solut’ pro opere opificis cuiusdam laborantis per duos dies in conficiend’ le balricke ex eadem pelle predicta ..... xx d.”

and recastings took place during that period of which no record can now be found. During the early years of the reign of Elizabeth, the Bells are frequently mentioned, but as the entries have reference to unimportant matters, I do not quote them. In 1598 and 1599, considerable repairs to the belfry were executed, and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Bells were re-cast. The following extracts from the accounts have reference to this work. Some entries for subsequent years are appended to them partly on account of the information they convey, partly for the sake of the words contained in them. The purchase of new ropes to enable the coronation of James I. to be properly celebrated is interesting. The payment for lead in 1605—6, shews that the Belfry had still a leaden roof: and the designation of its upper story as a 'soller' in 1603—4 is a very late employment of that word.

1598. Term. Ann. Item solut' pro a new wheele pro prima campana.....	xiiij s
Item solut' pro taking Downe and hanging the third bell and for turning the first bell.....	xxiiij s
Item solut' pro carrying owt and bringing twoe belles .....	vij s
Item pro taking downe and hanging the second bell and for mending the other Bell wheeles.....	xxij s
Item solut' Mro Nicholson pro exchaunging the second and third belles, and 168 <sup>li</sup> of over waight of mettell ad 6 <sup>d</sup> le pownd.....	xvij li x s viij d
1599—1600. Term. Ann. Solut' Magistro Nicholson pro newe casting le fourthe bell .....	xiiij li v s viij d
Solut' eidem pro iiij C di' de bell mettall ad 6 <sup>d</sup> le li: ultra xvij <sup>re</sup> récept. pro an old chaffer .....	xj li xv'
Solut' in regardo cuidam laboranti in casting le said bel.....	v'
Solut' quibusdam laborantibus per 10 dies in taking down, setting vp, carying, recarying, and mending diverse things about y <sup>e</sup> other bells .....	xxxv'
Solut' Peer et 2 famulis pro opere 3 dierum in altering et mending les bells wheels.....	ix'
Term: Bapt. Solut' Peer et duobus operariis pro repaying the wheel of the great bell, et pro setting vp the same	ix s

Solut' pro a newe sole pro le first bell wheel .....	xxj d
Solut' pro one pound di de bell mettal pro le 3: bell .....	xv d
1601—1602. Term. Mich. Solut' Dowsing' pro opere 4 die- rum ad 16 d le day pro making a new wheele for the third bell, pro raising up the great Bell, and mending it, and the rest .....	v' iiij <sup>d</sup> -
Item eidem pro 2 payre of scrues to raise up the greate bell.....	v'
1602—1603. Term. Ann: Solut' pro 86 pond: de ropes pro campanis in coronatione augustissimi Regis.....	xxvj s viij d
Solut' duobus operariis pro opere vnus diei in re- parand' le fourth bell: pro 200 screwes, et pro tim- ber ad idem opus .....	iiij s
1603—4. Term. Ann. Item solut' Peere le carpenter pro mending le belfrey Dore, et making a new Dore pro le bell soller pro opere vnus Diei et Di .....	xviij d.
1605—6. Item solut' Wharton pro one hundred di et 22 li de leade pro le bell leades .....	xv s. x d
Item solut' pro 24 <sup>li</sup> de Soder ad 5 <sup>d</sup> le li circa le bell leades .....	x s
1606—7. Item solut' pro borrowing 2 scruses circa le belfree per 4 dies.....	iiij s
Item solut' pro carrying tymber pro le belfree.....	ij s viij d
Item solut' Atkinson pro tymber circa le belfree et boardes pro camera Doctoris Moundeforde .....	iiij <sup>li</sup> xj <sup>s</sup> xj d.
1610—11. Term. Bapt. Solut' Dowsy pro a new wheel to ye second bell .....	xviij s
Solut' pro .15. new bell ropes weying .4. stone et .12 <sup>l</sup> . ad .3 <sup>d</sup> . le pound .....	xvij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>

The seventeenth century was a period of peace for the bells. They are mentioned in nearly every year, but only for the purpose of recording small repairs to the "straps," "baldriggs," and clappers. Entries in 1658—59 and 1659—60 for painting the wooden beams with which the belfry was shored up, as shewn in Loggan, perhaps mark the period when these supports were added:

*Expense necessarie.*

1658—59. Sol' wisdome pro pingendis postibus circa le Steeple.	2. 0. 0.
1659—60. Sol' wisdome pictori pro pingendis suffulcimentis circa Campanile positis .....	2. 10. 0.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century the Belfry appears to have fallen into decay<sup>1</sup>, and the Bells themselves to have become cracked and useless. The question of selling them was first mooted in 1727, three years after the first stone of the "Fellows' Building" had been laid. A legal opinion was taken, as to the power of the College to alienate a piece of property of such value. The College cited the 47th statute "*De bonis et possessionibus collegii non vendendis seu alienandis*," and the 65th statute "*De visitatione episcopi Lincolnienſis per se aut ejus commissarium in dicto collegio facienda*," and submitted the following case to counsel :

The Provost & Fellows of King's College have 5 large Bells, the 3 biggest are cracked & of no use, & y<sup>e</sup> other 2 They think they have no occasion for. They would willingly sell them and apply y<sup>e</sup> money to y<sup>e</sup> Covering their new Building.

Qu. Can they Justifie doing this of themselves, or are they not obliged by y<sup>e</sup> above written statutes to apply to y<sup>e</sup> Lord Bp<sup>o</sup> of Lincoln for his consent either as Visitor as sett forth in y<sup>e</sup> Statutes, or as ordinary? if they must in w<sup>t</sup> manner ought they to apply?

The answer returned to them, gave full permission for the sale.

In Common cases of Churches & Parsonage houses, the Buildings cannot be pull'd down, or the Bells dispos'd of, or any material alteration be made without a Faculty from the Ordinary.

But in this case relating to the College, It would not I conceive be consistent w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Statutes, to apply to the Bishop of Lincoln as Ordinary for a Faculty, w<sup>ch</sup> cannot be legally granted without a previous Citation & a Judicial Decree, & is y<sup>e</sup> proper business of the Bishops court to w<sup>ch</sup> they are not subjected.

<sup>1</sup> Considerable repairs took place in 1705, as the following extracts shew :

*Reparationes.*

Term. Nat. 1705. Sol' Fowle fabro ferrario pro opere apud Campanile .....	4. 3. 08
Kettell fabro lignario pro opere apud Campanile hoc et præcedente Termino .....	25. 16. 06
Stukes Ærario pro diuersis apud Campanile.....	01. 06. 03
Term. Annunt. 1706. Sol' Fowle fabro ferrario pro opere apud Campanile .....	02. 01. 4

The Bishop as Visitor appears to be restrained by y<sup>e</sup> Statutes & has no other power than what is Expressly appointed him therein & I find nothing in y<sup>e</sup> Statutes requiring his Consent in Cases of this nature, nor anything w<sup>ch</sup> prohibits y<sup>e</sup> Provost & Fellows, but that they may sell their Bells & apply y<sup>e</sup> money in the manner here set forth, without y<sup>e</sup> authority of the Bishop as Visitor It being for the Service of the Colledge & not for their own advantage.

But as the Visitor in his Triennial visitation is the Sole Judge of the Statutes & may Inquire & correct as he pleases without redress, except where y<sup>e</sup> Statutes have Expressly restrain'd him, I think it will be more Secure & adviseable to acquaint him with it, & not to do it without his approbation.

J. ANDREW.

D<sup>m</sup> Commons,  
15 Mar. 1727.

In consequence it was agreed (April 11, 1727)

“To apply to the Visitor for his Consent to sell the Bells towards Covering the Building.”

No action however was taken in consequence of this vote. A similar order was made in 1734, apparently with no better result. It is in the following terms:

“The second Day of January 1734. Att a Congregation held in the parlour, Just before the opening the Common Seal, It was proposed by M<sup>r</sup> Harding, and Unanimously agreed to by all then present, That the Bells in the Chappleyard be sold for as good a price as can be got for them, reserving thereout so much as will pay for a large Bell new cast, to be placed, if it may be with Convenience, in the south west Tower of the Chappell, or where it may be most conveniently heard in the new Erected Building, The money so to be raised to be applied towards the discharge of the building Debts.”

The Bells however still remained unsold. The next step taken was the removal of the Belfry in 1739. It must have been a very ruinous structure by that time, and of no great size, for its destruction occupied only a day and a half; and three more were sufficient to remove the materials and level the ground.

15 Aug. 1739. Agreed that the Bell-house be taken down, and the Bells removed to some convenient place.

1739. *Expense necessariae.*

Laborant' per 1. diem et $\frac{1}{2}$ in diruend' le Bellhouse .....	0. 1. 9
2 <sup>da</sup> laborant' per 3 : dies in amovend' ruderibus circa le Bell house et humo complanand' .....	0. 7. 0

The 'convenient place' to which the Bells were removed was the Antechapel, where they lay for the next fifteen years. Dr William Warren, the historian of Trinity Hall, who saw them lying there in 1743<sup>1</sup>, mentions that most, if not all, of them were cracked. Carter, whose History was published in 1753, says of them (p. 158):

"The least and two largest are cracked; and I have heard say a large sum has been offered the College for them (the Metall being accounted much better than common) tho' I can't say (but do believe) the College cannot sell them without leave from the Crown, and I also believe if his Majesty was informed the harm they do by standing there in sinking the Floor, or the little service they are of, he would readily Consent to their being sold, and the Money arising thereby, laid out about the College repairs, or what other use may be thought more proper."

The project of selling them was not, however, revived until 1746, during the Provostship of William George (Provost 1743—1756). The Visitor was then applied to, and gave his consent in the following letter:

BURY, 15 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1746.

Dear S<sup>r</sup>

I do hereby give my full Consent to the disposing of your useless Bells, and throwing the Money arising from the Sale thereof into a dead Stock for the use of the College, and if there should be occasion for my Permission in Form for your further Security you may at any time upon a

<sup>1</sup> Warren, "Collectanea ad Collegium sive Aulam sanctæ Trinitatis in Universitate Cantabrigiensi præcipue spectantia." Appendix, N<sup>o</sup> 140. "In y<sup>e</sup> late Provosts (D<sup>r</sup> Snape's) time, the 5 Great Bells (most, if not all of y<sup>m</sup> being crack'd) were taken down from their old Decay'd Belfrey, & plac'd in y<sup>e</sup> AntiChapel, where they continue still (A.D. 1743). I don't know what their weight is, but the Tenor or Largest has been reckon'd to weigh about Seventy Hundred weight: but Phelps the Bell Founder told me, He thought it did not weigh near so much." Cooper (Annals, IV. 203) mentions that in 1728 the Bell-ringer, Henry West, was crushed to death by one of the bells. He quotes MSS. Cole, xii. 75; but does not state whether it was by the fall of the bell or not that the accident took place.

Request of the College specifying the number of Bells, their uselessness, and advantage of applying the produce to the College Stock, have a License in form out of my Office without the least Trouble or Expence.

I am Dear Sr

Your very affectionate  
Friend and Brother  
JOHN LINCOLN.

P.S.

My Wife joyus  
with me in our  
Compliments to  
Mrs George.

Notwithstanding this straightforward decision, the sale was not proceeded with for seven years more. At the beginning of 1753, the following order was made :

7 Feb. 1753. Agreed that the Bells be sold for the best price that can be gotten for the same and the money arising by the sale to be applied towards raising the Dead Stock above mentioned.

This order was followed up, before the close of the next year, by an agreement with a Bellfounder in the following terms :

The 16<sup>th</sup> Day of November 1754. Be it remembred that the day and year above written It is agreed on By and between John Smith Edward Betham and Thomas Carter three of the Fellows and also Bursars of King's College in the University of Cambridge for and on the part and behalf of the provost and scholars of the said College of the one part and Thomas Lester of St Mary White Chapple London Bellfounder for and on the part and behalf of himself and Thomas Pack of the same place Bellfounder of the other part as follows.

First that they the said Thomas Lester and Tho. Pack shall have take and carry away all those five Bells now being in the Chapple of the said College they paying for the same to the said John Smith Ed. Betham and Thomas Carter or one of them within the said College for the use of the said provost and scholars and their successors after the rate of Four pounds and four shillings for every hundred weight of metall and so in proportion for any Greater or Lesser quantity the same to be weighed and taken away at the Sole Charge and expences of the said Thomas Lester and Thomas Pack.

Secondly the whole money the said Bells shall amount unto at the rate of Four pounds and four shillings for every hundred weight to be paid within two years from the sixteenth day of December next at four even and equall halfyearly payments by the said Tho. Lester and Thomas pack

to the said John Smith, Edward Betham and Tho. Carter or one of them as aforesaid The first payment to be made upon the sixteenth day of June in the year of our Lord 1755.

Thirdly the said Tho. Lester and Tho. Pack are to give such Security for payment of the said moneys as the said Bells shall amount unto, as shall be approved of by the said John Smith Ed. Betham and Thomas Carter and this agreement to stand good and be in force provided the said Tho. Lester and Tho. Pack do give such Security as aforesaid otherwise to be void and of none effect.

Witness our hands the day and year abovesaid.

Witnesses

J<sup>no</sup> BLAKE.

witnesses

RICHARD CURTIS.

THO<sup>s</sup> LESTER.

J. SMITH.

E. BETHAM.

T. CARTER.

The dimensions and weights of the bells, with a few notes upon their condition, as here printed, have been preserved. The paper is in the handwriting of Mr Betham, Senior Bursar of the College<sup>1</sup>:

	Diameter.	From shoulder to skirt.	Weight.	
	FT. IN. Q.	FT. IN. Q.	CWT. Q.	
Treble.	3 4 2	2 5 0	1200 2 0	Sound cast, not quite a 5 <sup>th</sup> of tin has been often cast.
2 <sup>d</sup> .	3 9 3	2 9 1	1600 0 0	Ditto.
3	4 2 0	3 0 0	2200 0 0	Still lower as to tin, and not so well cast: better metal than y <sup>e</sup> other two.
4	4 8 2	3 3 1	3200 0 0	Right good metal, and properly al-layd: a 5 <sup>th</sup> tin, but not so well cast, never thoroughly milled.
5	5 3 1	3 8 3		Ditto.

[Note appended to the last two.] Worth more than y<sup>e</sup> other three, but from y<sup>e</sup> porousness of y<sup>e</sup> metal there will be greater wast, and perhaps an abatement of metal. Well worth £4 per cw<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> This paper is preserved in King's College Muniment Room.

The following estimate of the weights, which is somewhat different, was arrived at by James Essex, the Builder. It was apparently made during the process of breaking up, and was accepted by the College, and by Messrs Lester and Pack.

“Acc<sup>t</sup> of the Weight of Kings Coll<sup>o</sup> Bells taken Jan<sup>y</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 1755, p<sup>r</sup> James Essex.

	c.	q.	lbs.	
1 <sup>st</sup> )	11	0	24	
	c.	q.	lbs.	
2 <sup>d</sup> )	13	3	7	} 15 : 2 : 19
	1	3	12	
3 <sup>d</sup> )	12	0	14	} 21 : 1 : 2
	9	0	16	
4 <sup>th</sup> )	13	2	14	} 32 : 2 : 23
	13	2	14	
	5	1	23	
5)	10	0	0	} 46 : 2 : 7
	10	0	0	
	10	0	0	
	8	3	0	
	7	3	7	
	<hr/>			Tuns c. q. lb.
	127	1	19	the wh <sup>o</sup> = 6 : 7 : 1 : 19.

The value of this metal, deducting a small quantity for the value of the staples, amounted to £533. 10s. 3d., of which the three first instalments were paid to the College as follows :

	£.	s.	d.
1755, June 16.....	133	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
— Dec. 27.....	133	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1756, June 19.....	133	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

For the payment of the fourth instalment Mr Lester asked for a delay until February 1, 1757. It was decided that the money should be invested in the 3 per cent. Bank Annuities<sup>1</sup>.

The inscriptions on the Bells are copied from a careful drawing which was found in the Muniment Room with the

<sup>1</sup> 24 November 1756. “Agreed that M<sup>r</sup> Betham put out in the three per cent. Bank Annuity for the benefit of the College the Money arising by the Sale of the Bells.”

other papers. The legends have been often printed before, but I am enabled to give for the first time the arms, medallions, and other ornaments that accompanied them. The legend of the first Bell may perhaps be an additional confirmation of the connection that I have suggested between the Bells and the Church of S. John Baptist. The letters I. D. are thought by Blomefield<sup>1</sup> (the earliest antiquary who gives these inscriptions) to stand "for John Dogget, who was Provost here in 1500, when it was new run'd." It is quite true that Dogget was Provost in 1500, but we have seen that the second Bell, and not the first, was new-cast in that year. A copy in pencil accompanies the transcript in ink, in which the horizontal bar across the D is not distinct. It is possible therefore that the letters may be J. O. which occur also on the treble Bell at St Botolph's Church, Cambridge<sup>2</sup>, and are probably those of the founder who cast it; but what his name was we are unable now to discover. If we could satisfy ourselves that the letter was H and not D, we should have the initials of John Harrison who cast one of the Bells in 1482—3. The second Bell had no inscription. That on the fourth Bell is arranged by Blomefield as a rhyme:

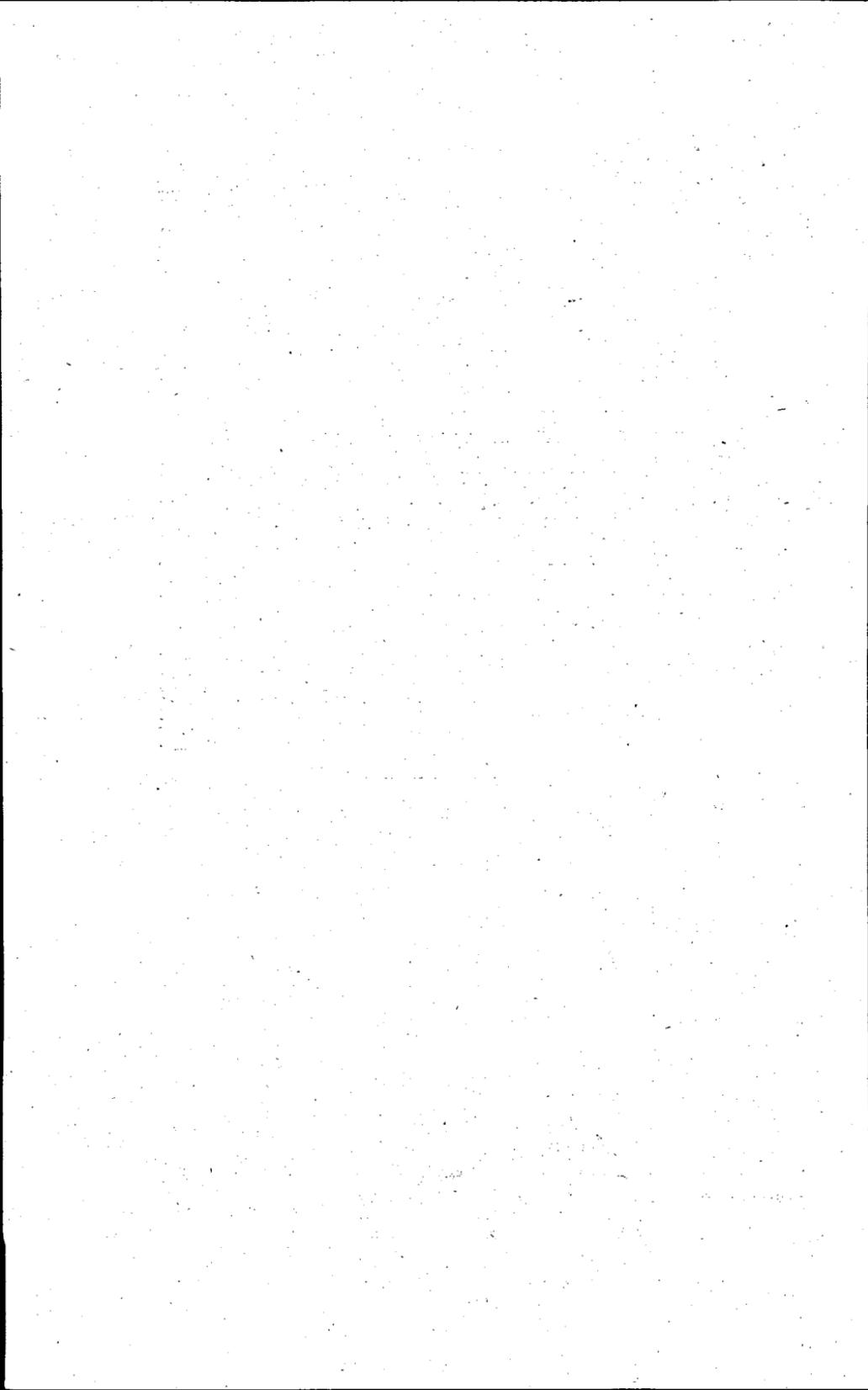
Nomen tuum sanctum per atria cantabo  
Laudes tuas, Domine Laudibus celebrabo.

I have not yet been able to discover who is meant by the initials F. D.

It should be mentioned in conclusion that in very dry weather the outline of the foundations of the Belfry may still be distinguished on the lawn.

<sup>1</sup> *Collectanea Cantabrigiensi*, p. 126.

<sup>2</sup> This suggestion is made by Mr Raven (*Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, 8° Lowestoft, 1869, p. 20). I owe my acquaintance with this excellent work to my friend the Rev. G. F. Browne, M.A., late Fellow of S. Catharine's College. The inscriptions are also given by Essex, Add. MSS. Mus. Brit. 6767. fol. 28.



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