

ART. XVII.—*Church Bells in Leath Ward, No. III.* By the REV. H. WHITEHEAD.

[For previous papers on Cumberland Church Bells see *ante*, vi, 417; vii, 221; viii, 135 and 505; ix, 240 and 475; and xi, 127.]

### GREAT SALKELD.

JEFFERSON, in his *History of Leath Ward*, in a footnote to his account of Great Salkeld, says:—

Dr. Todd states that in his time it was reported that Sir Richard Whittington, knight, thrice Lord Mayor of London, was born of poor parents within this parish; that he built the church and tower from its foundation; and that he intended presenting three large bells to the parish, which by some mischance stopped at Kirkby Stephen on their way to Salkeld. A similar tradition is still current in this neighbourhood (*Leath Ward*, p. 268).

The church, being “of Norman date” (*ante*, ii, 53), was certainly not built by Whittington, who was born *circa* 1358 and died in 1423. He was, however, contemporary with the period, “about the close of the 14th century”, within which the remarkable fortress tower was probably added to the church (*ib*, p. 56).

The tradition about the bells is still current at Kirkby Stephen as well as at Great Salkeld. Mr. Robert Godfrey, in a paper on *Westmorland Bells*, speaking of Kirkby Stephen, says:—

It is a local tradition that the original peal was intended for Great Salkeld, as a gift from Whittington of immortal fame; but that from some cause or other (probably seized for stowage) they were delayed in transit at Kirkby Stephen, and never got forward to their destination (*ante*, vi, 83).

“And

“And there,” viz, at Kirkby Stephen, says another writer, “if tradition be truthful, they still remain” (White’s *Northumberland and the Border*, p. 31). Tradition has a way of not verifying its references. Nicolson and Burn (i, 540) say that in their time (A.D. 1777) there were four bells at Kirkby Stephen. These four bells, three of which were re-cast in 1877, are known to have been dated 1631, 1658, 1693, and 1749 (*ante* iv, 239), and were therefore cast from two to three centuries after the time of Whittington. They may, however, have had predecessors dating from that time. Whether those predecessors were the gift of Whittington, and by him intended for Great Salkeld, I do not undertake to decide; nor whether he built the Salkeld tower. But I may remark that his alleged benefactions to Great Salkeld must not be attributed to regard for his native parish, seeing that he was born at Pauntley in Gloucestershire. If, for whatever reason, he proposed to present a ring of bells to Great Salkeld, let us hope he never knew that they failed to reach their destination.

What bells, then, did find their way into Salkeld church tower? Edward VI’s Inventory, Great Salkeld being among the missing names, gives no help in this inquiry. Nor does Bishop Nicolson, though he was rector here for twenty years. The terrier of 1749 mentions

Two Bells with their Frames the first thought  
to weigh about one hundred and a half;

which may have been identical with those taken in 1882 as part payment for the present ring, cast at the Loughborough foundry by Messrs. Taylor; who, in answer to inquiry, write: “We have no particulars of the two old bells except their weights, viz, 3 qr. 15 lbs. and 1 cwt. 0 qr. 13 lbs.” I am indebted to Messrs. Taylor for the following description of the bells now in the tower:—

Treble

	NOTE	DIAMETER	WEIGHT
Treble	F	2ft. 3 in.	4½ cwt.
No. 2	E♭	2ft. 5 in.	5½ cwt.
No. 3	D♭	2ft. 7½ in.	6¾ cwt.
No. 4	C	2ft. 8½ in.	7½ cwt.
No. 5	B♭	2ft. 11½ in.	9¼ cwt.
Tenor	A♭	3ft. 3½ in.	12 cwt.

A report of "the ceremony of opening the new bells placed in the battlemented tower of Great Salkeld church" contains the following particulars:—

Of late years the church has undergone great alterations, commenced under the late rector, and followed up by the Rev. Canon Butler, who originated the undertaking of furnishing a set of bells, at a cost of about £400, of which some £350 resulted from a bazaar held at Penrith. The treble bell was presented by Mr. C. R. Saunders, of Nunwick, and bears the inscription: *Laus Deo*. Upon the second bell is inscribed the name of the maker, Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough. Bell No. 3 bears the inscription *Gloria in Excelsis*; and the motto *Agimus tibi gratias Omnipotens Deus* is appropriately inscribed upon the fifth. On the sixth is inscribed: *These bells were placed here by money collected by the Rector and his family*. Upon the remaining bell are the names of the rector and churchwardens.—*Carlisle Journal*, Sept. 19, 1882.

On the opening day "a sermon was preached by Dean Oakley from Zechariah xiv, 20; and on the conclusion of the sermon the office for the dedication of church bells was gone through" (*ib*). This office is a revival with considerable modifications of a very ancient ceremony; for an account of which see Ellacombe's *Devonshire Bells* (p. 272). The same office was used three weeks later at Crosthwaite, Keswick. An earlier instance of a religious service on the occasion of the first use of a new bell in this diocese, *viz*, in 1828 at Cumwhitton, is recorded in vol vi, p 427, of these Transactions.

The tenor is rung at Great Salkeld on Sunday at 9 a.m.

HESKET

## HESKET IN THE FOREST.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The terriers of 1749 and 1777 mention

Two bells each weighing about one Hundred weight.

There are still two bells here, in a cot on the west gable :

Treble :  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches diam., weight about 1 cwt.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  qr.

Tenor :  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches diam., weight about 1 cwt.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  qrs.

The treble, a long bell, but not after the fashion of mediæval long-waisted bells, is inscribed

WM. MASON 1736.

A bell at Corsenside, Northumberland, is inscribed WM 1747 F (fecit ?).—*Newcastle Antiquarian Proc.*, iii, 228. The tenor bears only a date : 1826. It has a “helmet shaped crown”, which points to the Cockpit Smithy, Carlisle, then in the hands of Burgess and Insall, as the foundry where it was cast (*ante* viii, pp 528-9).

The bells here have no “peculiar usages”.

## HUTTON-IN-THE-FOREST.

Hutton church, dedicated to St. James, had in 1552

ij prche belles ij litill belles.

Bishop Nicolson, who was at Hutton on August 14, 1703, says (p 58):—

They have a Couple of Bells ; ill hung in a Crazy wooden Frame.

The church, which was re-built in 1714, still retains the bells seen by the bishop in 1703, now very well hung in a double cot on the west gable. They are

Treble : diameter 18 inches, dated 1588.

Tenor : diameter  $18\frac{3}{4}$  inches, dated 1653.

For their dimensions and inscriptions I am indebted to the Rev. W. F. Gilbanks, rector of Great Orton.

The

The treble has, on its shoulder, in Roman capitals, with a crown and clipped arrows (fig. 32) as intervening stop, this inscription :

THOMAS - DRAPER - MADE ME - 1588 -

The figure 5 in the date is, as I have represented it, upside down. The arrows and crown of St. Edmund, king and martyr, are the town mark of Bury St. Edmund's ;



FIG. 32.

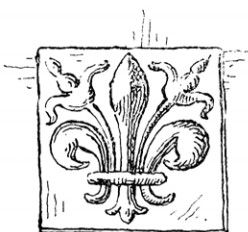


FIG. 33.

and Dr. Raven, speaking of Thomas Draper, says that "the arrows in his stamp are cut short, as though to signify a past connection with Bury St. Edmund's" (*Cambridgeshire Bells*, p 66). His initials occur, in con-



FIG. 34.

junction with the name in full of Stephen Tonnie, a Bury founder, on the second bell at Whatfield in Norfolk, dated 1575. "Thomas Draper's foundry, which thus seems to have originated from Bury, was finally established at Thetford. He was apparently a man of substance and character, and mayor of the town in 1592, on which occasion he presented a treble to St. Cuthbert's church" (*ib*).

The

The tenor has, round its shoulder, the following initials and date, with a fleur-de-lis (fig 33) as intervening stop, and two rectangular oblong stamps, one of conventional foliage (fig 34), and the other containing four segments of circles, surmounted by fleurs-de-lis at their connected points (fig. 35):

□ AR - AS - IH 1653 - WS □ LA IL WM.

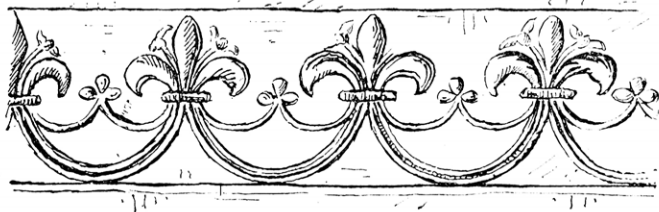


FIG. 35.

It is not unlikely, as Hutton is only nine miles from Penrith, that this bell was cast by Thomas Stafford of Penrith, who in 1630 re-cast the Cartmel tenor (*Annales Caermoelesenses*, p 61), in 1631 cast the old Kirkby Stephen treble (*ante* iv, 239), and in 1639 or thereabouts cast a bell for Penrith (Bp N's *Miscellany Accounts*, p. 152.)

There is in the parish chest a book of accounts, relating to the "church stock", beginning at 1646, which contains, subjoined to the account for 1653, this memorandum :

Pd in as appeares by the 16 men

		£	s.	d.
Pd in by Antho: Robinson	.....	2	10	0
pd in more by Will. Willson	.....	1	10	0
More by Hugh Barker	.....	0	10	0
More by Tho: Goodbourne	.....	0	10	0
More by Widdow Jackson	.....	0	05	0
More by Jo: Jackson.....	.....	0	10	0
		<hr/>		
	totill	5	15	0

This money wch appeares taken out and disbd was for a bell.

The

The "sixteen men", it seems from this memorandum, having "taken out" the purchase money for the bell from the capital of the "stock", refunded it by means of a private subscription. The names of the sixteen men in 1653 are not recorded. But in 1652 they were :

William Sanderson	William Willson
Anthony Sanderson	Anthony Robinson
Richard Stevenson	John Howson
Lancote Allisson	Edward Hutton
Robt. Becke	John Henderson
Robt. Watt	Francis Nellson
Hugh Barker	William Stantton
Nicholas Barker	Thomas Goodburne

By the help of this list we may identify Anthony Robinson, Anthony Sanderson, John Henderson (or Howson?), William Sanderson, and Lancelot Allisson, as five of the seven men whose initials are on the bell. W M may stand for William Murthwaite, who, though not one of the "sixteen", occurs in 1653 as one of the borrowers of the stock. The remaining initials, I L, must rest unappropriated. Anthony Robinson, it will be seen, is the only collector of subscriptions whose initials are on the bell, though three of the other collectors, William Willson, Hugh Barker, and Thomas Goodburne were among the "sixteen men". The last name in the list of collectors, John Jackson, is that of the minister who had superseded the rector Thomas Todd. The date of Todd's ejection is not given by the county historians, nor by Walker. It must, however, have been before August 6, 1651, on which day Charles II, on his way to Worcester, passed through Hutton, when

Mr. Todd, the rector, had the honour to wait on his Majesty, and informed Charles that he had been ejected from his living and imprisoned at Carlisle for his allegiance to his Majesty and for the private exercise of the functions of his sacred office.—Jefferson's *Leath Ward*, p 424).

In

In a footnote Jefferson states that he quotes this story from Dr Todd's MS *History of the Diocese*. Whellan (p 565), referring to the same incident, erroneously says it took place when Charles was "on his journey to Scotland", and makes the further mistake of representing Dr Todd as himself the person who "had the honour to wait on his Majesty", whose visit to Hutton, as a matter of fact, occurred nine years before Dr Hugh Todd, vicar of Penrith, and historian of the diocese was born. Unfortunately Dr. Todd's history of the diocese, which was seen and largely used by Jefferson in 1840 (Preface to *Leath Ward*, p vii), cannot now be found. He (Dr. Todd) "assisted Walker in his 'Sufferings of the Clergy'" (*Leath Ward*, p 481), and is therefore doubtless responsible for the statement that Jackson was "a brawling illiterate fellow, who held this and another parish during the whole of the Usurpation" (Walker, p. 375). The omission of his initials from the numerous company of initials on the church bell, for which he, and perhaps his mother (Widow Jackson), collected subscriptions, seems to imply that he was not held in much account by the parishioners.

The purchase of this bell in the first year of the Protectorate may to some persons be a matter for surprise. Thus a church newspaper, in a notice of Chiswick old church, says :

There are six bells, five of them dated 1656, which is very remarkable, as that is the time of the Commonwealth, when churches were losing rather than increasing their property.—*Church Bells*, May 9, 1890.

Mr. Daniel Tyssen-Amherst, referring to church bells cast during the Commonwealth, says :

During the civil war few bells could be recast. Between 1642 and 1648 there is only one bell in the county, *viz*, at Shipley, 1646. So that all bells which broke during those years must have waited to be recast until peace was restored. Accordingly during the Commonwealth



wealth more business was done than might have been expected considering the disrepute in which bells were held by the Puritans (*Sussex Church Bells*, pp 21-2).

It is worth while here to notice that the treble of Carlisle cathedral is dated 1657, the tenor 1659; and No 4, recast in 1845, was originally dated 1658 (*ante*, viii. 147).

The death knell was formerly tolled at Hutton, but has been discontinued for many years. One of the bells is tolled after, as well as before, an interment, but not slowly, so that it may be more correctly said to be rung. There was formerly here the usage of the early Sunday morning bell, at nine o'clock; but this has of late years been discontinued.

### KIRKLAND.

The terrier of 1749 has this item:

Two Bells with their frames the less  
thought to weigh about one Hundred and  
the Bigger about a Hundred and a half.

That of 1777 has no inventory of church goods.

There are still two bells here, in a double cot on the west gable:

Treble, diam.  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches, weight about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt.

Tenor, diam.  $21\frac{1}{2}$  inches, weight about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt.

I am indebted for the diameters to the present vicar, the Rev A. Edwards, who reports both the bells as blank, except that on the tenor is scratched with a nail

Q T 1779.

Whatever the letters Q T may be supposed to mean, the figures probably signify the date of the hanging of the tenor; the weight of which seems to show that it was not one of the bells described in the terrier of 1749.

I

I observed, when our archæological society visited Kirkland in 1884, that the treble, as seen from the ground, appears to be the older of the two; and, judging from its weight, we may identify it with "the bigger" of the two bells in 1749. It is long-waisted, and may therefore be ancient.

### KIRKOSWALD.

The list of "Kirkozewold" church goods in Edward VI's Inventory is partly worn off on the right hand side, and among the missing items are the parish bells. But the following items remain:

One Santus bell vi litill belles.

The number (vi) of little bells, an unusual number for Cumberland, may be attributed to the church having been made collegiate in 1526; a misfortune, as matters turned out, since it thereby came to pass that

about the year 1545 the King, Henry VIII, seized upon the property of the collegiate body, and also upon the rectory, allowing only £8 a year for the performance of the parish duties (Whellan, p 571).

The patronage of the living thus became vested in the crown, and continued so for more than 300 years. Nor until 1725 was there any endowment of the vicarage besides the £8 above mentioned.

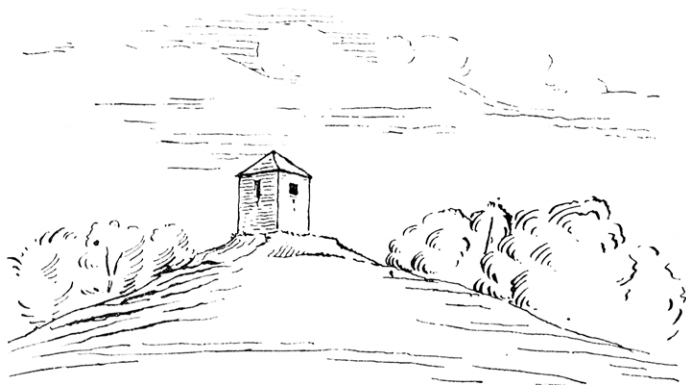
Bishop Nicolson, who visited Kirkoswald on February 25, 1704, says, speaking of the church:

The situation is inconvenient; being in such a hole that their Belfry (with three pretty good Bells in it) stands at a distance, on the Top of a neighbouring Hill.

Of the "three pretty good bells" seen by the bishop two, as presently will be shown, were destined not to survive for another quarter of a century; and one of their successors has recently been recast.

The

The belfry, which is the only example of a campanile in this county, was rebuilt in 1893. The accompanying sketch of the old belfry has been made from a photograph



sent to me by the late vicar, Canon Ransome. A newspaper report of the opening of the new belfry says :

It is believed that the tower was built in the time of Henry VIII, and it was badly repaired in 1742. As a memorial to the late Canon Ransome, a committee of parishioners decided to restore it, and if possible to bring it back to the original design. They collected subscriptions amounting to about £300, and from designs prepared by Mr. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., Carlisle, Mr. A. Watson, Kirkoswald, carried out the necessary building work. The whole of the upper storey is new, and the tower is now a battlement with a small turret. A new base has also been built, and a spiral staircase placed inside the tower. All the whitewash on the outside has been carefully removed, and the tower now looks almost like new. It contains three ancient bells, one of which was cracked and broken. This bell has been re-cast and, together with one of the others, re-hung. The work in connection with the bells has been carried out by Messrs. John Taylor & Son, Loughborough (*Carlisle Journal*, November 14, 1893).

I am indebted to Messrs. Taylor for the following particulars concerning the three bells :

Smallest

	DIAMETER.	WEIGHT.
Smallest (old)	1ft. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.	1cwt. 2qr. 3lb.
Middle (old)	1ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	2cwt. 1qr. 9lb.
Largest (new)	2ft. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	3cwt. 3qr. 9lb.

They also state that "the new bell is F; but the old ones are of such bad tone that it is impossible to say what they really are, and no attempt was made to put the bells in tune together. Each is an odd bell apart from the others; the smallest is retained only for its associations, and is not hung for ringing".

I will now describe the trio as I saw them before the rebuilding of the tower and the recasting of the tenor :

	DIAMETER.	DATE.	FOUNDER.
Treble	19 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches	1729	A. Pecver
No. 2	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	1619	W. Land
Tenor	24 inches	1729	A. Peever

The terrier of 1749, signed by "John Mandeville, vicar", describes them as

Three bells with their frames and wheels, the least thought to weigh about one hundred and half, the second about two hundred and one quarter, the greatest about three hundred.

Which estimate is nearer the mark than is usually the case with terrier weights.

The treble has, in Roman capitals, with a cross as intervening stop, this inscription :

G + PARKER + I + LOWRANC + I + BROWN +  
C + WARDINGS + 1729.

The traditional number of churchwardens at Kirkoswald  
is

is four; and it appears from the transcripts in the bishop's registry that the fourth churchwarden in 1729 was Christopher Hudson. The warden described on the treble as I LOWRANC was John Lowrance, whose name occurs nine times as a churchwarden during the period 1696-1729. But there may have been two, if not three, of this name, grandfather, father, and son, as the transcripts at Carlisle have these entries:

1706	Sept 30	John Lowrance buried
1726	May 26	John Lowrance young man and Hannah Wilson widow married.

The Kirkoswald transcripts begin with the year 1663. But there is only one other transcript (1666) extant until 1673; after which year they continue with greater regularity. It would be well if they were to be mounted and bound, as recommended by the Diocesan Conference committee in 1887, since transcripts often contain information not to be found elsewhere. Thus there is preserved among these transcripts the following letter:

Mr. Gibson.—These are to lett you know that there are severall neglects of presentments by the churchwardens of the parish of Kirkoswald which they ought to present in this court that transgressors be punished according to Law but more especially within this 2 or 3 years past therefore it is but proper that the churchwardens should be examined that the truth be discovered that Justice may be done.

I told the churchwardens I wold writ to you of these neglects for they are insufferable So I hope you take notice.

May 20  
1729

I remain Sr  
Your most Humble Servte  
John Scott.

The letter is endorsed

ffor Mr Petter Gibson of Carlisle at the Chapter Court there.

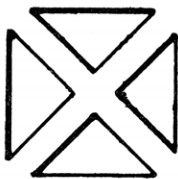
Mr Scott evidently did not regard the zeal of the churchwardens for the bells in that year (1729) as any palliation  
of

of their "neglects of presentments". Whether Mr. Gibson "took notice" and stirred them to greater severity with "transgressors", there is nothing to show.

The tenor, with lettering and cross (illustrated below) identical with those on the treble, was inscribed :

+ JOHN + RVMNEY + VICK  
+ AARON + PEEVER + KIRKOSWALD + FA 1729.

The canons had been broken off, and it was fastened to the headstock by four iron bolts passing through its crown. It was cracked about thirty years ago, and a piece broken off from the rim, by a boy striking the death knell. The letters FA are of course a contraction of FACIT; and the inscription seems to show that the founder, Aaron Peever, lived at Kirkoswald. But there is no tradition of any bell foundry there; nor does the name of Peever occur in the parish register. In 1724 he cast two bells for Caldbeck, and one for Kirklington, which is now at Blackford (*ante*, vii, 226); each of which bears no cross, and has a double semi-colon as intervening stop. In 1728 he cast a bell for Addingham (*ante*, ix, 476), and one for Corbridge in Northumberland (*Newcastle Anti-quarian Proceedings*, iii, 142); on each of which, as at Kirkoswald, he placed his cross as intervening stop. It



would seem that it was in 1729 that he first learned how to spell his christian name, which occurs in 1724 as Aron at Caldbeck and Blackford, but in 1729 as Aron at Addingham and Aaron at Kirkoswald and Corbridge. The above inscription has been placed on the new tenor.

Mr.

Mr. John Rumney, vicar of Kirkoswald in 1729, is thus commended in 1704 by Bp Nicolson :

The Register-Book begins at 1577, and is carefully enough preserv'd by Mr. *Rumney*, the honest Curate.

He was also curate of Renwick in 1704. Complaining of certain persons who had "the chief of the prescriptions for Corn-Tithe", and yet neglected to repair the chancel of Renwick church, the bishop says :

Perhaps the Curate Mr *Rumney*, haveing a share of ye said prescriptions, would not (poor as he is) decline the throwing in his Mite, tho' twere barbarous in the others to exact it from him.

It was not at all uncommon in those days for a Cumberland clergyman to be a pluralist, and yet a very poor man. The living of Renwick, owing to the impropriation of its tithes, was so impoverished that, prior to its augmentation in 1748, it was difficult to find a clergyman to serve the church (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 436). Nor was this difficulty any less at Kirkoswald (*ib*, p 428). Mr. Rumney died in 1739. He signed the transcripts as "minister" as far back as 1688 ; in which year he presented 24 persons as "dissenters". In the same year he writes :

We doe present the chancell as insufficiently repaired though lately repaired yet in some rpt ready to fall unless speedy care prevent it.

In subsequent years he often repeats this presentment, and in 1705, doubtless encouraged by Bp Nicolson's animadversions on the impropiators, he says :

We doe present Timothy Featherstonehaugh Esq and George Lowry Gent for neglecting to repair the chancell.

In that year the churchwardens describe themselves as "church masters".

The second bell has this inscription, in Roman capitals, with the two middle strokes of the letter W bisecting each other :

WILLIAM

WILLIAM LAND □ MADE □ ME 1619 W B.

The stamp before and after the word "made" is worn away and unrecognizable. William Land, whose exact place of residence has not been ascertained, is supposed by Dr. Raven (*Cambridgeshire Bells*, p 62) to have hailed from the eastern counties. "At Wattisfield, Suffolk, and at Halstead, Essex, his initials occur in connection with T D for Thomas Draper" (*ib*, p 24). The Halstead tenor, bearing the initials W L and T D, is dated 1578 (C. Deedes' *Church Bells of Halstead*, p 6). It is worth while, by the way, to notice that, besides W. Land's Kirkoswald bell, the only other ancient Cumberland bell as yet known to have been cast by a distant founder, *i.e.* more distant than York, is the treble at Hutton-in-the-Forest, cast by Thomas Draper in 1588. William Land's initials occur in conjunction with the name in full of Stephen Tonnie on the fourth bell at St. Edward's, Cambridge, dated 1576 (Raven, p 127); on the Landbeach third, dated 1577 (*ib*, p 155); and on the Wicken fourth, dated 1582 (*ib*, p 177); from which Dr. Raven infers that for several years he was perhaps a foreman of Tonnie, whose foundry was at Bury St. Edmund's (*ib*, p 62). At some time before 1613 he seems to have begun casting bells on his own account, as his initials occur alone on the Fetcham tenor, dated 1613 (Stahlschmidt's *Surrey Bells*, p 158). His name in full and alone is found on the Barnes treble, dated 1616 (*ib*, p 129); on the silver bell, dated 1624, which hangs in the south-west turret of the principal gateway of St. John's College, Cambridge (Raven, p 131), and on the tenor at Dulwich College chapel, dated 1633 (*Surrey Bells*, p 152). Mr. Stahlschmidt, noticing the long period covered by W. Land's work, was of opinion that there were two of the name, father and son (*ib*, p 96). Mr. Deedes says that "there seem to have been three William Lands at different times" (*Halstead Bells*, p 5). The initials W B, found in connection with this name at  
Kirkoswald



Kirkoswald, may be those of a foreman who cast the bell. The only known founder in the earlier years of the seventeenth century whom they fit was William Brend of Norwich, who died in 1634 (North's *Lincolnshire Bells*, p 101); but he was unlikely to be a foreman of William Land. W B, whoever he was, may have been sent by Land to Kirkoswald in 1619 to cast the three bells seen there nearly a century later by Bishop Nicolson, two of which were supplanted by Aaron Peever's bells in 1729.

There are here the usages of death-knell without "tellers", after-burial bell, and eight a.m. Sunday bell.

### LANGWATHBY.

Two bells hang in a double cot on the west gable of the nave :

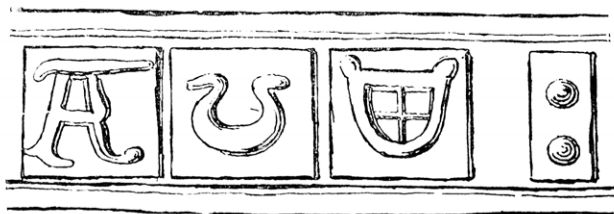
Treble : diam.  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches, weight about 70lbs.

Tenor : diam.  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches, weight about 100lbs.

A vestry and porch were added to the west end of the church in 1836; and the bells, which were formerly rung from the floor of the nave, are now rung from inside the vestry.

The treble is blank, and I pronounce no opinion as to its probable age.

The tenor has round its shoulder a Lombardic inscription; no initial cross or maker's stamp; two roundlets as



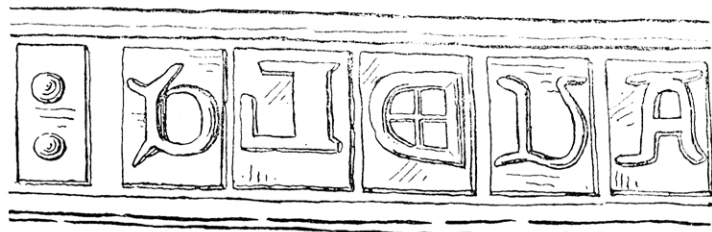
intervening stop throughout; the letters A and L reversed; M, N, P, and R, upside down; and E once (in AVE) placed

placed sideways on its back. The accompanying illustrations of the words AVE and PLENA show the character of the lettering. The inscription runs thus :

AVE | : | MARIA | : | GRACIA | : | PLENA | : |  
IN | : | HONORE | : | S | : | IOHAS.

The letter H is Roman ; on which point Mr. Stahlschmidt said in a letter to me :

The Roman H is of course an earlier form than the Lombardic, and is found in MSS as late as A.D. 500. But I have never found it used in fourteenth century Lombardics on a bell ; and I am inclined to be suspicious that the use of it points to the bell being of early sixteenth century.



Still, even so, the bell will be of respectable antiquity, the oldest possession of the church to which it belongs, older by two or more centuries than the church itself, which was rebuilt in 1718 (Whellan, p 574).

The church is stated in Bacon's *Liber Regis* and Ecton's *Thesaurus* to be dedicated to St. Peter. But Whellan (p 574) says it is "dedicated to the Blessed Virgin"; apparently assuming that, because not otherwise mentioned in Henry VIII's *Ecclesiastical Survey*, it must be identical with what is therein described as "the chantry of St. Mary in Edenhall" (Hutchinson, I, 257). Does the bell inscription help us to decide between these authorities? Well, the angelic salutation, even when standing alone, occurs too frequently on ancient bells to be accepted as evidence

evidence in favour of the dedication of a church to St. Mary; and it is here followed by words which, if bearing at all on the point in question, would rather lead us to infer that the patron saint of the church was St. John. But it must not be assumed that a bell inscription does necessarily bear on the point in question.

The churches of Langwathby and Edenhall have long been held, as now, by one and the same vicar; which circumstance, together with the fact that Langwathby is not mentioned in either of the valuations of Pope Nicolas, Edward II, and Henry VIII, has led to the inference that "Langwathby was anciently a part of the parish of Edenhall" (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 448); and it has been conjectured that "the church or chapel here was probably first erected for want of a bridge over Eden, whereby the inhabitants were often hindered from repairing to divine service; but by length of time it hath gained parochial rights" (*ib*). If, however, as Dr. Todd is reported by Whellan (p 574) to have said, "the parishes of Edenhall and Langwathby were united in 1380 by Bishop Appleby", they must originally have been separate. An old MS document, preserved in the parish chest, says:

Item wee doe present that we have a Church in our parishe and that it is no chapell but hath been allwaies a church without memorye of man and is a parishe of itselfe as appeares by record 24 Elizabeth.

October 1  
1650

By us  
Lancelot Hodgson clerke  
John Steele  
Thomas Carlton, Mr.

What the ecclesiastical arrangements of these parishes may have been in such an exceptional time as 1650 there is no knowing. But this would not affect the contention of the above document, which is that Langwathby was no more a chapelry of Edenhall than Edenhall was of Langwathby.

The

The old church, as already mentioned, was rebuilt in 1718; and of its goods there remain only the register, which begins at 1576, the parish chest, and the "Maria" bell.

This bell is tolled for a death, but without "tellers." It is rung quickly after a burial whilst the mourners are leaving the churchyard.

### MELMERBY.

Edward VI's commissioners found at "Melmorby"

ij prche belles.

"Melmorby was the habitation of *Melmor*, a Dane, who first improved and cultivated the country, about the ninth or tenth century" (N. & B. ii, p 441).

The church, dedicated to St. John Baptist, has now two bells, easily accessible, in a turret. Each of them is 16½ inches in diameter, therefore weighing about 1½ cwt., and has on its waist, in a rectangular oblong stamp, with a fleur-de-lis fringe, the word *Wiggan*, preceded by a bell in outline; three birds above in oblong stamp; and the date 1715.

A bell in outline between initials RA is found on the Dalston treble, dated 1704 (*ante*, x, p 243), and on the Kirkbampton tenor dated 1705, for an illustration of which see *ante*, ix, p 249. The same initials with bell between, accompanied by the word *Wiggan*, are on a bell at Skelton, dated 1717. The Caldbeck treble, dated 1726, is inscribed *Luke Ashton Fecet Wigan*. It follows from these data that the Melmerby bells were cast by R. Ashton of Wigan.

The Rev. Theodore Owen, rector of Wood Walton, Peterborough, informs me in a letter that he "found RA with bell between, dated 1703, at Llanfernien, Denbighshire", and that "Luke Ashton made the undated tenor of Urswick, Lancashire, somewhere after 1714". Mr. J. S. Remington

S. Remington, of Ulverston, supplies these other instances of bells cast by the Ashtons: "Pennington 1st RA 1719; Claughton 2nd LA 1727; Rushen Castle, Isle of Man, one bell, LA 1728; Gersingham (one bell) LA 1740". In an account of Wigan assessments for the relief of the poor in 1720 he has found "in the division of the Scoles the names of Ralph Ashton and Luke Ashton". RA then is Ralph Ashton, probably the father of Luke. In a document written the "2 October in the sixteenth year of Lord (*sic*) George second", *i.e.* 1742, Mr. Remington finds that "the two serjeants of the Corporation of Wigan were William Rogerson and Luke Ashton". Mr. Owen also says that "the second bell of Bolton-le-Sands was cast at Wigan in 1694". It may not, however, have been cast by the Ashtons, since Mr. Remington says: "The Scott family were bell-founders at Wigan for many years. The original firm was that of James and John Scott, who were bailiffs in 1627; and in 1653, 1688, and 1701, members of the family were mayors of Wigan. The Wigan parish church accounts have these items:

Paid Mr. Scott the Bell founder for casting the Bell aforesaide, and for one hundred and twelve pounds of mettle, £18.

1677.—Paid unto William Scott for kasting the first bell £10 10s.

The Scotts never gave their names in full on their bells, but only their initials".

The Melmerby bells are rung by levers. There is here the usage of death knell without "tellers".

### MUNGRISDALE.

The church, dedicated to St. Mungo, and rebuilt in 1756, has in a cot on its west gable one bell, 12½ inches in diameter, with no inscription but the figures (Arabic) 1490, supposed to have been the date of a former bell, which when cracked about thirty years ago was sent to Sheffield to be recast.

NEWTON

### NEWTON REIGNY.

The earliest mention of the bells of this church occurs in the terrier of 1729 :

Two Bells with their frames thought  
to weigh about nine stone each.

There are still two bells here, in a double cot in the west gable, viz :

Treble : diam.  $29\frac{1}{2}$  inches, weight about 88 lbs.

Tenor : diam. 29 inches, weight about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cwt.

They are rung by levers, the ropes descending inside to the floor of the church.

The treble, which is blank, must be of later date than 1749, as it could never have been supposed to be of the same weight as the tenor ; which, though about a stone heavier than the weight assigned to it in the terrier, was undoubtedly here in 1749.

The tenor has round its shoulder, in small black letter, with plain initial cross, this inscription :

✠ s'c'a m'ria magdalena ora pro nobis.

There is no intervening stop. The cross and first word are here illustrated full size. The date of the bell, while



not later than the Reformation, is not earlier than the fifteenth century, at the beginning of which black letter first appeared in bell inscriptions. It

It may occasion some surprise that, notwithstanding Puritan zeal for the destruction of "monuments of superstition", so many ancient bells retain their invocation to saints; and indeed in some places such inscriptions have been defaced. Mr. L'Estrange, in his book on *Norfolk Church Bells* (p 6), mentions "more than a dozen old bells the inscriptions on which have been either entirely or in part cut off". That such defacement was exceptional is probably due to ignorance of what the inscriptions were. In Cumberland, where most of the church bells are in gable cots, and therefore difficult of access, I have sometimes found that church authorities did not so much as know whether their bells bore any inscriptions at all. Elizabethan and later iconoclasts, then, may often not have known that the gable bells were inscribed. Still, the fact remains that, even where they might have known, as in the towers of Cumrew, Burgh-by-Sands, Scaleby, Dacre, Edenhall, Greystock, and other Cumberland churches, the inscriptions are not defaced.

Newton Reigny church is said by Ecton to be dedicated to St. John; but whether to the Baptist or the Evangelist he does not state. Canon Venables, in his paper on *Church Dedications in Cumberland* (*ante*, vii, p 144) leaves the Newton dedication blank; nor is it noticed by Bacon, Browne Willis, or the county historians.

The death knell is tolled here, but without "tellers"; and there is the usage of the after-burial bell rung quickly. The tenor, when under the influence of a strong west wind, has the peculiar usage of tolling itself; which when heard for the first time at dead of night, as by myself when rector of Newton, is somewhat startling.

#### OUSBY.

Edward VI's commissioners in their report of "Ullisbie" church goods mention

ij prche belles.

The

The name of the parish is variously spelt: "Ulnesbie" on the communion cup; "Ulnesby" in the will of Sir Richard de Ulnesby, rector in 1361 (*Testamenta Karleolensia*, p 40). Denton (pp 120-1) says:

Vlnesby *als.* Ousby but rightly Vlfisby, *Habitatio Vlfī vel Olavi Dani*, was the seat and mansion of one Olave (whom the people commonly called Vlf), a Dane or Norwegian, that after the spoil of the country by the Danes (before the conquest of England by the Normans) seated himself there under the edge of the east mountains. He was one of the three sons of Haldan, the other two were Thorquel and Melmor: Melmor and this Vlf were placed in this part of the country, and Thorquell at Thorquellby near Keswick.

In the name, as now written, "Ousby", the spelling has followed the local pronunciation.

There are two bells here, in a double cot on the west gable, both blank, as reported by a friend who examined them for me, but forgot to measure their diameters. The terrier of 1749 mentions

two bells with their frames the least thought to weigh  
about six stone and a half and the bigger about eight stone.

The bells now in the cot, which I saw when at Ousby with our Archæological Society in 1884, seem of somewhat larger dimensions than would accord with these weights. Either then the terrier is inaccurate, which is not at all unlikely, or the present bells have been put up since 1749.

The dedication of the church is doubtful. The county histories give it as St. Luke; but in Bacon's *Liber Regis* and in Ecton's *Thesaurus* it is given as St. Patrick. Sir Richard de Ulnesby's will does not help to decide this point, as he was buried at Carlisle.