



The Church Bells of Berkshire.

No. 5.

DENCHWORTH.

The small tower of Denchworth Church contains four equally small bells. None of the three mentioned in the "Church Goods" in 1552, now exist.

- 1st. This bell was made 1627 (2cwt. 3qrs. weight), F.
2nd. ¹Henry Bagley made me, 1733, William Belcher, C.W.
(3cwt. weight), E.

- 3rd. To the glory of God, Amen, 1868 (3cwt. 1qr. 23lbs.), D.
T. S. F. Rawlins, Vicar.
T. Walker }
J. Jefferies } Churchwardens.

Mears & Stainbank, Founders, London.

- 4th. Recast by Mears & Stainbank, 1869 (4cwt. 3qrs. 3lbs.),
C., at the cost of the Rev. T. S. F. Rawlins, late
Vicar.

Thomas Walker }
James Jefferies } Wardens.

Glory be to God on high.

The small bell is plain.

W. H. HALLAM,

East Lockinge.

HURLEY CHURCH.

On August 1, 1552, Thomas Hares and Thomas Davie, Churchwardens of Hurley, made a return to the Commissioners of Edward VI., in which they included "iij belles" as amongst the goods of S. Mary's Church, Hurley, Berks. There are at the present time three bells in the Hurley bell turret, as follows :—

(1) Of Chipping Norton.

1. Treble—diameter 28 inches. "T. Mears, of London, fecit, 1829" is inscribed on it; and on the waist "The Rev^d. Dr. Mavor, Vicar.

William Gardiner }
Henry Micklem } Churchwardens."

On the waist of this bell is painted in white "4cwt. 2qrs. 9lbs."

2. Second—diameter 31 inches. No date or maker's name or initials occur, but on the bell is the following, viz. :—*Scte Sebastiae*. The lettering of this epigraph is freely interspersed with S-like stops. There is a stop-S between the second 'a' and the second 'e' in *Sebastiae*. The second 's' was at first accidentally left out by the founder, but an embossment above the stop-S which immediately follows the letters 'ba' was afterwards inserted (by the founder, clearly) to represent the previously omitted letter. The epigraph on this remarkable old bell is preceded by the episcopal arms of the See of Winchester.
3. Tenor—diameter 35 inches. It is inscribed with the words "This bell was made in 1602." The initials I.C. (for Joseph Carter, of Reading) occur on it, with a device between these two initials. On the waist, four times repeated, is a device consisting of a crown and orb surmounting two crossed olive branches, on one side of which is an E and on the other side an R—standing for *Elizabetha Regina*. The whole of the device is a reversed shield.

[In a Deed of Grant made by Henry IV., on May 16th, 1401 (Patent Roll 2 Henry IV., p. 3 m. 16), special licence is given to the Prior and Convent of Hurley to cut, sell, and take possession of wood for their own use—for timber and other wood out of their own Wood within the Royal forest of Windsor, to the value of a hundred marks, for the repair of Hurley Church, the "Campanile" and the House of the Priory of Hurley.]

F. T. WETHERED.

June, 1897.

(*To be continued.*)