

NOTES BY MEMBERS.

THE DATE OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHAGE, LONDON WALL.

Obviously this could not have been earlier than the date of the canonization of St. Aelfheah (*Elphege*), called *Calvers*, the Monk of Deerhurst who became Bishop of Winchester and in 1006 attained to the Archiepiscopal Chair of Canterbury. Five years after his elevation that city was captured by the Danes, who set fire to the cathedral—the Archbishop himself being seized and held at ransom. Their price not forthcoming, he was murdered by his captors at Greenwich on April 19th, 1012. His body was taken thence, brought to London and interred in St. Paul's Cathedral, where, according to the chronicles, miracles were wrought at his shrine. After the battle of Assandun (*Ashingdon*) and the death of Edmund Ironside (1016) all England fell into the hands of Cnut the Dane, who was crowned in 1017. Cnut soon showed himself anxious to expiate the ravages perpetrated by himself and his predecessors in the restoration of the religious Houses which had suffered, notably those of Ramsey and Ely. Among these good deeds figures largely the translation of the remains of the martyred Aelfheah from St. Paul's to Christchurch, Canterbury, which was effected in June, 1023, with much pageantry of ritual, being attended by King Cnut and his Queen Emma (*Aelfgifu-Emma*). The relics of the martyr were enshrined north-westwards of the high altar, those of St. Dunstan (d. 988) occupying a similar position on the south. The King laid upon the high altar his crown of gold and also the Queen presented a golden chalice as offerings of expiation.

When St. Aelfheah received canonization is not recorded, but the translation may be assumed to have taken place shortly after that event, if indeed it had not been the

instigating cause, and the foundation of this church to his commemoration to have consequently followed. The statement therefore that this church was erected to his memory in 1013 may be considered apocryphal. It may be remembered that St. Aelfheah was among the saints to whom Becket commended himself when faced, in like case, by his murderers. The advowson of the church is presumed to have been in possession of the Dean and Canons of St. Martin le Grand in 1068, the date of the charter of confirmation granted by William (the Conqueror) to that foundation, although St. Alphage's is not mentioned in that document. This was the only church dedicated to St. Alphege in mediæval London.

W. A. CATER.

ON THE ANCIENT BELL AT GROCERS' HALL.

When the members of the Middlesex Archæological Society paid a visit to Grocers' Hall in 1919, they saw there a Flemish bell, which had formerly hung in the tower of All Hallows Staining Church, Mark Lane. It was not very well placed for inspection, but I have since made a rubbing of its inscription, which may be seen at the office of the Society.* It runs as follows:—

× **martine : es : miuen : name : miin :**
ghelunt : sy : gode : bequame : ghemaect :
int : iaer : m : cccc : lviii · † ·

The presence of this bell in London is a puzzle. There were certainly two good bell-foundries here in 1453. One was worked by a lady named Johanna (possibly Joan) Sturdy, either with her husband, John Sturdy, or as his

* Dr. Tyssen has kindly presented the rubbing to this Society.
 —Ed.

widow. The other was in the hands of the principal pre-Reformation bell-founder, whose name is not known; but he has left quite a hundred specimens of his workmanship, marked with his emblems, one of which is a shield bearing two keys in saltire, with a charge in each division. He may be spoken of as the cross-key man. Some chance must have brought this Flemish bell to London.

The inscription may be translated: "Martin is my name; may my sound be pleasing to God; made in the year 1458."

On looking through my notes of foreign bells I have not found any with the same letters or stops as this bell; but the



inscription shows that the maker of it was connected with the general line of eminent Flemish bell-founders. We find John and William Hoerken, 1459 and 1461; Andriaen Heiilaert, 1464; Henry Wagheuens, 1480; Symon Wagheuens, 1498; George Wagheuens, 1515; Cornelis Wagheuens, 1530.

At the Museum of Antiquities at Brussels there is, or rather there was in September, 1913, a bell, about 20 inches in diameter, inscribed in Gothic miniscules:

× ihelus - es - min - naem - ghemaect - int
- aer - m - cccc - lx.

At Malines Cathedral, in August, 1861, there was a bell, 49 inches in diameter, inscribed :

**maria es minen soeten name — myn
gheluyt sy gode bequame — meester symon
wagheuens ghaf myn acoort — m — cccc
— xcviij — screefmen voort**

There is a fleurs de lis at each spot indicated by the mark — and a dragon and a cross of four fleurs de lis at the end; and beneath the rims are the words

meer denx dan ghelux

This may be translated : “ Mary is my sweet name. May my sound be pleasing to God. Master Symon Wagheuens gave my note. M.CCCC.XCVIII. one writes thus.” And the words below mean, “ More sad than happy.” Probably the Flemish pronunciation of the date would give the proper rhythm. The date is 1498.

The inscription on the bell in London is clearly in conformity with the custom of other Flemish bell-founders.

There are a good many Flemish bells in Scotland, and some information concerning them may be found in “ The Bells of Kincardineshire,” by F. C. Eeles.

AMHERST D. TYSEN.

IRONMONGERS' HALL.

The City of London has lost one of its most satisfactory street features by the destruction of Ironmongers' Hall, Fenchurch Street, in the autumn of 1919. Its frontage was well known, if only from the old prints showing it in company with its neighbour, the Elephant Tavern, of Hogarthian fame.

Damaged in an air-raid, its repair raised a financial question and incidentally revived a proposal, of some years ago, to secure an increased revenue for the Company by the

sale of the very extensive and valuable site of the Hall and other buildings.

The front elevation in the Palladian style was a restful composition built in Portland stone from the best beds and was in perfect condition; it was, and might have remained, a lasting memorial to Thomas Holden, whose signature, dated 1745, it bore.

The large severely plain entrance hall, with groined roof into which the staircase opened, and was adjoined by a fully equipped kitchen in active service, opened on to a courtyard in which the residence of the Clerk to the Company stood.

The livery hall on the first floor, with its panelled walls bearing the shields of arms of a long succession of masters, was a handsome centre for hospitality, served on the long mahogany tables, on which were shown from time to time the unique literary treasures of the Company by Past-Master E. Hadham Nicholl, a Vice-President of our Society.

So the same financial temptation that prevailed in the case of Crosby Hall has deprived us of another of the City's historic treasures.

C. H. HOPWOOD.