

ART. XXXVII.—*Church Bells in Leath Ward*, No. I.

By the Rev. H. WHITEHEAD.

Communicated at Ulverston, September 13th, 1887.

THE bells of the parishes which formerly constituted Eskdale and Cumberland wards have already been described (*ante*, VI, 417—443; VII, 221—236; VIII, 135—165, and 505—531; IX, 240—268).

In Leath ward, which still retains its ancient boundaries, there are 34 churches and chapels, with 69 bells, of which as many as 14 are of pre-Reformation date.

ADDINGHAM.

The terrier of 1749, signed by “John Christopherson, Vicar”, has this item :

Two bells with their Frames
their weight not known.

Mr. Christopherson is well spoken of by Bishop Nicolson (*Visitation*, p. 122), who had himself, whilst archdeacon of Carlisle, been vicar of Addingham from 1692 to 1702. The bishop, by the way, whilst often noticing the bells of other parishes, never mentions those of either of the parishes, viz., Great Salkeld, Torpenhow, and Addingham, where he had himself been vicar, doubtless because his memoranda were for his own use, and he did not anticipate their future antiquarian interest. Thus, in his notes on Addingham, which he visited on Feb. 25, 1704, he says :

Having been remov'd from this Vicarage to the Episcopal Cure, I needed not to look into ye Church; being thoroughly acquainted with its condition in every particular (*ib.* p. 121).

Mr. Christopherson was vicar of Addingham from 1702 to 1758, and also of Kirkland from 1717 to 1720, where in

1720

1720 he was succeeded by Edward Birkett, who also succeeded him at Addingham in 1758, retaining Kirkland as well until his death in 1768.*

Addingham church, like most Cumberland country churches, has a double cot on its west gable; which now now contains only one bell, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, inscribed

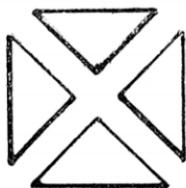
I ROBINSON PENRITH 1787.

About 250 years ago there was a foundry at Penrith, held by Thos. Stafford, who cast bells for Great Salkeld (*ante* IV, 239), Penrith (Bp. N's *Visitation*, p. 153), and Cartmel (*Annales Caermoelesens*, p. 61); since which time we have no trace of a Penrith bell foundry except that which is supplied by this inscription, and by an entry in the chapel-wardens' accounts at Garrigill (*infra*, p. 481).

A bell which formerly hung in the other opening of the cot fell down about eight years ago, and still lies broken in the churchyard. It is 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter,† and has round its shoulder the following inscription:

DEO + & + ECCLESIAE
ARON PEEVER
1729.

The cross is here engraved full size. The name of the founder, Aron Peever, occurs on a bell, dated 1724, origin-



ally cast for Kirklington, but now in the tower of Blackford church; which bell has a double semicolon, instead of a cross, as intervening stop (*ante*, VII, 226). We shall

*The many instances in former times of a Cumberland benefice held for fifty years and more by the same clergyman, and the once prevalent system of pluralities, would form an interesting subject for a paper in these Transactions.

†The diameter being known, reference to the following list of the average meet

meet with Mr. Peever again in this ward at Kirkoswald, which was probably the place of his foundry.

There is here the usage of the after-burial bell.

AINSTABLE.

St. Michael's church, Ainstable, was visited by Bishop Nicolson in 1702, who says (p. 110) :

They have two pretty good Bells.

The terrier of 1749 has this entry :

Two bells with their frames each thought to weigh about two hundred weight.

There are still two bells here, viz :

	Note	Diameter.
Treble	C	16 inches
Tenor	A	16 inches

They hang in a tower, and are rung by levers. Each of

weights and sizes of bells cast at the three principal foundries will give the approximate weight of any bell :—

Inches.	Mears.	Taylor.	Warner.
	cwt. qrs. lbs.	cwt. qrs. lbs.	cwt. qrs. lbs.
12	0 1 12	0 1 20	0 1 16
13	0 1 22	0 2 6	0 2 0
14	0 2 10	0 2 20	0 2 12
15	0 2 20	0 3 16	0 3 8
16	0 3 16	1 0 0	1 0 12
17	1 0 0	1 1 0	1 1 4
18	1 1 7	1 2 0	1 2 0
19	1 2 0	1 3 0	1 2 14
20	1 3 0	2 0 0	1 3 0
21	2 0 0	2 1 0	2 0 0
22	2 2 0	2 2 0	2 2 0
23	2 3 0	2 3 0	2 3 0
24	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 4
25	3 2 0	3 2 0	3 2 0
26	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
27	4 1 0	4 2 0	4 1 14
28	4 2 0	5 0 0	4 3 0
29	5 0 0	5 2 0	5 1 0
30	5 1 0	6 0 0	5 3 0

them

them has no mark or inscription but the date

1668.

They are therefore the bells which were seen by Bishop Nicolson and described in the terrier of 1749, though their weight, according to diameter, should be only half the weight ascribed to them in the terrier.

The late vicar of Ainstable, the Rev. J. F. Morton, now vicar of Summers Town, Tooting, to whom I am indebted for the particulars of these bells, writes :

If the notes are not an exact *third* they are very nearly so. When therefore the man whom I sent to measure them told me the diameters were the same I could not believe him till I went up myself and verified it. Moreover the perpendicular height of both is the same, and is (like the diameters) 16 inches.

The difference of a tone and a half between these two bells, both measuring alike, is certainly curious. One of them has perhaps been heavily tuned. Either the sound-bow has been scored inside with a chisel, or the edge has been chipped off. In the latter case the true diameter would be more than 16 inches. The scoring of the sound-bow inside makes the tone of a bell flatter; the chipping off of the edge or lip makes it sharper.

There are here the usages* of death knell without "tellers", after-burial bell, and early Sunday morning bell, formerly at 9 o'clock, but now at 8.

Ecton, in his "Thesaurus", following Browne Willis, who got most of his information about Cumberland churches from Dr. Todd, says that the church is dedicated to St. Andrew. Unfortunately Dr. Todd's MS. history of the diocese of Carlisle is now missing. The local historians, following Bacon's "Liber Regis", all assign the dedication to St. Michael.

*The usages noticed in these papers are only such as are peculiar. The death knell, however, and after-burial bell, seldom heard nearer the border, are not exceptional in Leath ward.

ALSTON.

ALSTON.

(By the Rev. W. Nall, Curate of Alston).

The Alston church bells are three in number, one in the parish church at Alston, one in the chapel at Garrigill, and one in the district church at Nenthead.

The history of the bell in the parish church takes us back to the year 1714, and to the mansion of the earls of Derwentwater, at Dilston. Those earls were lords of the manor of Alston, and owners of a considerable property in that parish. When James, the third earl, succeeded to the estates of his ancestors, he made some addition to Dilston Hall. Among the fittings of the new portion of the hall was a bell, which bore the date 1714. In the year 1715 he took up arms against George I, the reigning sovereign, and on the 24th February, 1716, he suffered the penalty of death for his rebellion. The Derwentwater estates were declared forfeited, and in 1749 they were settled upon Greenwich Hospital, to which the Alston portion of them still belongs. Dilston Hall forthwith fell into a state of ruin, and in 1768 it was dismantled by the orders of Smeaton, the engineer who designed the Eddystone lighthouse, and who was a member of the commission appointed to manage the Greenwich Hospital estates. Gibson, in his "Memorials of Dilston Hall" says (p. 261):—

The clock and bell were given to the church of St Augustine at Aldstone. The former bore the date of 1714, and therefore had not long been in possession of the earl. The board minute of the commissioners, for the donation of the bell and clock to Aldstone church, is dated 28 August, 1767. The church was rebuilt about 1769.

The bell now in use at Alston church is inscribed :

1714 RECAST 1845

The first of these dates coincides with that given by Gibson. Smeaton, the commissioner by whose authority
Dilston

Dilston Hall was dismantled, was the architect for the church, which was built in 1769-1770. He was also the chief mining engineer in Alston. The Nent Force Level, a work which cost upwards of £90,000, was designed by him. It seems probable, then, that he induced the Board to give the Dilston Hall bell to the new church at Alston. Nothing is heard of the bell between the years 1770 and 1844. The 20th of June in the latter year was the wedding day of William Ewart, surgeon, of Wigton, Cumberland, and Hannah Bainbridge, daughter of Robert Bainbridge, solicitor, of the Loaning House, Alston. There were great rejoicings. The church bell was not only rung vigorously, but was struck with a hammer, or hammers, until it was cracked. In 1845 it was sent by Mr. Jacob Wilson, of Alston House, to Newcastle, where it was recast by the late Mr. Robert Watson, of the High Bridges Works. It is 23 inches in diameter at mouth, and weighs 17 stone. It is rung at 8-30 on Sunday mornings, and tolled for deaths, age indicated by the number of tolls, sex by knells quickly repeated after the tolls, nine for a man, six for a woman, and three for a child. The church was again rebuilt in 1870, but the tower was not completed until 1886.

The Garrigill chapel bell is 16 inches in diameter, and bears the date 1764. It is hung in a cot on the west gable, and used for the same purposes as the Alston bell. Garrigill is situated in the highest part of Upper Tynedale, where the dale is narrow and deep. Under favourable atmospherical conditions the sound of the chapel bell is borne on the breeze to a considerable distance, having been frequently heard by the shepherds on Tynehead Fell. Whellan, in his account of Garrigill chapel, says (p. 516):

The bell is said to have been formerly the dinner bell at Dilston Hall in the time of the Earl of Derwentwater.

Clearly

Clearly a mistake, as is shewn by what has been already said concerning Alston parish church bell. Moreover the Garrigill chapel-wardens' accounts record that their bell was brought from Penrith* in 1764.

Nenthead district church was built in 1745. Its bell has not been examined.

ARMATHWAITE.

The chapel of Armathwaite, situated in the parish of Hesketh-in-the-Forest, and said to be dedicated to Christ and St. Mary, was thus described by Bishop Nicolson, who visited it on August 30th, 1703:—

A neat Fabric, built and endowed by old Mr. *Richard Skelton* soon after the Restoration of K. *Charles the Second*. There is a good Bell; and *Giles Symson*, the present Clerk, keeps the Communion Plate in Safety (Bp. N's *Visitation*, p. 94).

One of the vessels kept by *Giles Symson*, the communion cup, which still remains, must have been in existence half a century before the Restoration, as it bears the London date letter for 1609-10. Its shape, however, and the initials C S scratched on its side, shew that it was "no doubt a secular vessel originally, the breaker or ale cup of Catherine Skelton of Armathwaite Hall" (*Church Plate in Carlisle Diocese*, p. 36). It may therefore have been given by her grandson, Richard, when he built the chapel "soon after the Restoration", or when he endowed it with £100 by his will dated 1668. Not that there was no chapel here before the Restoration. Burn and Nicolson (II, 342) say:—

One Christopher Rickerby, who was curate at this chapel soon after the said endowment, in a kind of poem intitled "An elegy upon the death of that virtuous old gentleman Richard Skelton esquire late of the castle of Armathwaite in the county of Cumberland," says:

He did rebuild a chapel which will be
A monument of his fidelity.

* Probably cast by J. Robinson of Penrith (*ante*, p. 476).

I heard this worthy person often say
 He walk'd into his chapel on a day,
 And beasts were lying in't (ere he begun)
 To shade them from the scorching of the sun.
 This prick'd his tender heart, that when, Oh! when
 He saw the temple of the Lord a den,
 Then he in haste considered where to find
 Workmen to build according to his mind.
 His purse cried plenty, when he thought upon
 The building up again of Mount Sion;
 &c.

If, as may be inferred from the “&c.”, Burn and Nicol-son have not quoted the whole of this “kind of poem”, posterity has suffered no great loss, and will say with Jefferson :

We think Mr. Rickerby's readers must have “cried plenty” before they arrived any further (*Leath Ward*, p. 224).

But those of his lines which have come down to us are valuable, if not for their poetic merit, at all events as affording conclusive evidence that there was a chapel at Armathwaite before Mr. Skelton's time, and that “he only rebuilt it” (B, & N., II, 342). Mr. Richard Skelton was himself a poet, and of a more ambitious order than Mr. Rickerby; for he essayed Latin elegiacs, considerably appending an English translation for the benefit of unlearned readers. Among Chancellor Ferguson's multifarious MSS “collectanea” is a memorandum that at Armathwaite Castle, on a carved wooden chimney piece, with the arms of Skelton impaling Burdett, are the following lines :—

GERMINAT INTER AGROS DVLCS LACTVCA PER HORTOS
 GERMINAT IN CÆLIS LETTISA TECTA VELIS.

This lettuce grows amongst the fields
 This lettuce buds within the garden
 This Lettis rests within the heavens

The

The Lord of Life Jehovah serveing.
 Skelton
 Richard Lettis
 1640.

Mr. Skelton's wife, Lettice Burdett, probably died in 1640. In that year, according to Jefferson, he "built a mansion on his father's estate at Southwaite" (*Leath Ward*, p. 224); which may be identified with the oldest part of the house at Barrock, the "centre" of which house is said by Whellan (p. 560) to have been "erected by one Skelton". But why was the elegy on his wife's death not put up in his own house? Perhaps it was placed in the ancestral home of the Skeltons in anticipation of the time when he would have to take up his abode there; or, as Mr. Ferguson suggests, it may at first have been put up at Barrock, and was transferred to Armathwaite Castle on the death of Rd. Skelton's father in 1652. At what time Armathwaite Castle came into the possession of the ancient Cumberland family of the Skeltons is not known. A later Richard, grandson of the aforesaid Richard, sold it in 1712 to William Sanderson; after the death of whose brother Robert it was held by three generations of Milbournes, sold in 1846 to Lord Lonsdale, and rented by Mr. Thomlinson, the donor of the present chapel bell, on which is inscribed

J TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LONDON.
 DEO ET ECCLESIAE
 FRATRIS DILECTI MEMORIA
 ME EREXIT IOHANNES THOMLINSON
 A D 1873
 CHRISTI NOMEN LATE RESONO.

This bell, which hangs in a cot on the west gable, is 21 inches in diameter.

The old chapel bell, 12 inches in diameter, is stowed away

away behind the organ. Its weight, about 48lbs, identifies it with the bell described in the terrier of 1749 as

one bell about fifty pounds weight.

It is blank ; but seems, from its shape, to be old enough, not only to have been the "good bell" seen by Bp. Nicolsan in 1703, but also to have belonged to the chapel before it was rebuilt by Richard Skelton.

The death knell is tolled at Armathwaite for about ten minutes ; less time for a child.

CASTLE SOWERBY.

Edward VI's Inventory mentions as belonging to "Castil Sowerbye" in 1552

ij prche belles ij litill belles.

One of the "ij prche belles" still remains ; the other, we shall find, must have disappeared at least fourteen years before the end of the 16th century.

Mr. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., in a MS. report on the architectural history of the church, which is dedicated to St. Kentigern, says :

We find that at the latter end of that century (the 16th) an aisle and porch were added on the south side. . . . They seem also at this time to have re-roofed the nave, and to have built a more substantial belfry for two bells. . . . Sometime in the 18th century the church was again restored. . . . The belfry seems to have either fallen into disrepair or to have been destroyed ; for the upper part of it was then rebuilt, or rather an insignificant little erection was placed on the ancient stump of the belfry.

This erection, which is a double cot on the west gable, contains two bells, viz :

	NOTE	DIAMETER
Treble	C \sharp	20 inches
Tenor	F \sharp	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches

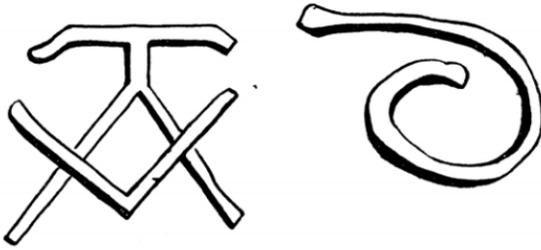
They

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

The treble bears the following letters and date :

W D W F C S A D 1586 R O

The letters WD, WF, and CS, are probably the initials of the churchwardens for the year 1586; whose names cannot be recovered, as the parish register only begins at 1621. The number of the wardens is still three. The letters AD are here engraved full size:—



All the other letters, except the D in WD, which is similar to that in AD, are Roman. The figure 6 in the date is reversed. The letters RO are doubtless the initials of the founder, who may have been one of the Oldfields of York. These initials, no matter for whom they may stand, occurring on a dated bell, are interesting in connection with a famous inscription on the Keswick town clock bell, an account of which will be given in the next volume of these Transactions.

The tenor has round its shoulder, in Lombardic letters,

+ IHESVS : M + MVN : GOW.

The cross (flory), the intervening stop (three roundlets), and the character of the lettering,* seem identical with the

* I am sorry I cannot give illustrations of the cross, stop, and lettering, a gable bell being awkwardly situated for taking casts. The letters AD on the treble, which are not floriated, have been engraved from a rubbing. But a rubbing of floriated letters, like these on the tenor, does not suffice to engrave from. For some future paper I may get the desired illustrations from the Scaleby tenor, which hangs in a tower.

cross, stop, and lettering on the Scaleby tenor; the date of which is probably not later than the 14th century (*ante* VII, 232). The intrusion of the letter H into our Lord's name, common in ancient inscriptions, is of course due to mediæval scribes mistaking the capital *eta* in IHΣΟΥΣ for Roman H. The solitary letter M probably stands for "Maria." The superfluous W, at the end of St. Kentigern's alternative name, as here spelt, MVNGOW, has its two middle strokes bisecting each other. This name, originally Munghu, signifying "dear friend", is said to have been given to Kentigern by his guardian and instructor St. Servanus. For interesting remarks on Kentigern dedications, of which there are eight in Cumberland, and none elsewhere in England, see papers by the Rev. T. Lees and Canon Venables (*ante* VI, 328-338; VII, 124-8).

CROGLIN.

Bishop Nicolson, who on Feb. 25, 1704, seems to have visited Lazonby, Kirkoswald, Croglin, Renwick, Melmerby, Addingham, and Great Salkeld, says of Croglin, (*Visitation*, p, 119) :

They have a pair of good little Bells ;
which are rung on ye outside.

The terrier of 1749 mentions

two small bells.

There are still two bells here, in a double cot on the west gable, but rung from the inside. They are

Treble, diameter 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Tenor, diameter 17 inches.

The treble has only a date ; 1772. The tenor has

H NOBLE RECTOR
JOHN HODGSON & PHILIP HALL
CHURCHWARDENS

1772.

Mr,

Mr. Noble was rector of Croglin from 1724 to 1780. Hodgson and Hall were the churchwardens for the year ending at Easter, 1771. If they gave the order for the bells, the founder seems to have been somewhat dilatory.

Usages : Death knell without "tellers," and after-burial bell.

CULGAITH.

The chapel here, dedicated to All Saints, was rebuilt in 1758.

The terrier of 1749 contains this item :

One Bel computed to weigh
about one Hundred and a half.

This bell is only inscribed with the date 1670. Its diameter, of which I find that I have no memorandum, should be, if the weight given in the terrier is at all near the mark, about 18 inches.

Usages : Death knell without "tellers," and after-burial bell.

DACRE.

Bishop Nicolson, when at Dacre on Feb. 28, 1703 (*Visitation*, p 128), found

three pretty good bells in a strong Tower.

The tower, "strong" as it may then have seemed, had to be rebuilt in 1817 (Whellan, p. 528). The "three pretty good bells" still remain, perhaps none the worse for nearly two centuries more of active service. They are thus described in the terrier of 1749:—

Item three Bels with their frames ye least thought to weigh about eighteen stone the second about twenty-five stone and the largest about thirty four stone.

Looking to the diameters, however, we form a very different estimate of the weights, which according to the rule given in Taylor's *Bell Catalogue* must be nearly as in the following table :—

The

	NOTE.	DIAMETER	cwt. qr.
Treble	E	26 inches	4 0
No. 2	D	29 inches	5 0
Tenor	C	31 inches	6 2

The bishop seems only to have heard these bells. Had he seen them he would have found much to say about them. He relates that he saw the arms of the Dacre family "frequent in the windows here and in the Body of Church, both single and quartered with those of Clifford or Vipont, especially in the little Windows over the Middle Isle, where there are so many Legends under the several Coats"; which, however, were "so high and at so great a distance from the eye" that he "could not read the Remains of 'em"; but having been "told that they were in the hands of Mr. Mawson, the late Curate", he was "encouraged to hope for a Transcript of them from his Widow". His time would have been spent to better purpose in the belfry; where, whilst acting as his own transcriber, he would have been highly interested in speculating on the meaning of the "legend" on the treble and endeavouring to identify the "coats" on the tenor.

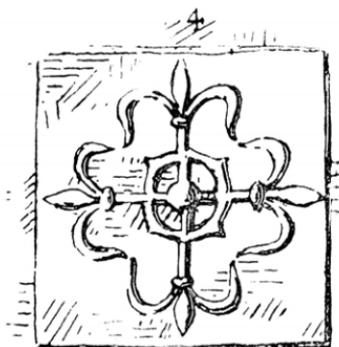
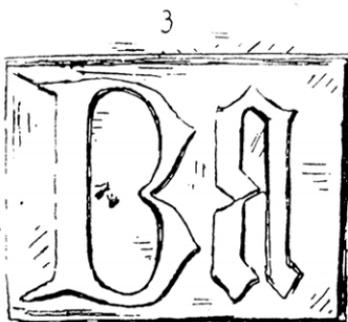
The treble has a badly arranged inscription, in Roman capitals, which when reduced to order is found to consist of the following elegiacs, preceded by founder's marks and initials, and followed by donor's initials with date:—

W  O +

NON FORMAM SPECTES DNO SED SVPLICE FLECTAS
 CLAMITO TE TEMPLV QVOD VENERE DEV
 TER MALE DISSONVI TV QVOTIDIE CECIDISTI
 SVM PRECE TV FIAS CORRIGE SANA VIAS

H F 1606

The



The

The founder's first mark, as shewn in figure I of the accompanying illustrations,* is a bell, separating his initials; which, from a paper on "Yorkshire Parish Registers" by Dr. Collins (*Antiquary* VIII, 248), may be recognised as those of "William Oldfeild, bellfounder, of York". His second mark is a Greek cross within a circle (fig. 2). The initials H F are probably those of the donor; but as yet we have come upon no trace of anyone connected with Dacre in 1606 to whom they may be assigned. Was he, one would like to know, or was the founder, or neither of them, the author of the elegiacs on the bell? And what did the author, whoever he was, mean by them? The bell, no doubt, is to be regarded as the speaker. But whom does she address, and to what purpose? She seems to lead off with a warning, perhaps to the nation at large, against formalism in religion; but, as she proceeds, she becomes enigmatical, at all events to us who are unacquainted with the circumstances which called for her rebukes. We may think we see our way clearly through the first two lines, and the fourth is not unintelligible on hypothesis of the word SANA having been dislocated from its rightful conjunction with FIAS to suit the exigencies of the metre. But the meaning of the third line is a mystery which the following translation makes no attempt to unravel:—

Low to the Lord, form disregarding, bend :
 Thee to the church to worship God I call.
 Ill sounds the thrice told tale of daily fall :
 I pray thou may'st have sense thy ways to mend.

It is evident that among the "ways" that in 1606 stood in need of amendment was our author's way of dealing with the Latin language. But the Latin of this inscription,

* For the casts from which these illustrations have been sketched I am indebted to Mr. W. C. Parker, of Carlisle.

bad as it originally was, seems to have got worse by repetition. A writer in the "Bell News" (vol. I, p. 406), quoting from "Gent's History of Yorkshire", published in 1733, mentions a bell, dated 1620, at Bolton Percy, in the East Riding, inscribed—

NON FORMAN SPECTAS DOMINI SED SVPLICE FLECTAS &c.

We might infer from the "&c" that other lines follow, which are omitted by Gent.* But in Green's "Churches of Yorkshire", published in 1843, the "&c" is omitted from this inscription (*Bell News*, II. 460).

The tenor has a black letter† inscription, preceded by a cross, and followed by a shield, with a Lombardic initial to each of the first three words, and two lions passant placed one over the other between the second and third :

+ Sancte Bartholomee  Ora pro nobis 

The cross (fig. 4) is the same as is found on two bells at Great Musgrave, Westmorland; the lettering on which bells, except for the absence of Lombardic initials, is also identical in character with that of this Dacre inscription (fig. 3). The same cross, engraved as figure 64 in North's "Lincolnshire Bells" (p. 78), occurs in Lincolnshire at Bonby, Horkstow, and Rothwell; but no founder's name in connection with it is mentioned by Mr. North. The two lions passant (fig. 6) are to sinister; doubtless an error in making the stamp. Two lions passant to dexter, placed as here one over the other, occur on a monumental

* The Rev. Theodore Owen, vicar of Rhodes, Manchester, informs me that the tenor of Arncliffe, Yorkshire, dated 1616, is inscribed with a single line, thus: CLAMITO TE TEMPLVM QVOD MENERERE DEVM. The word "Menerere" is of course a mistake for "Venerere." The founder's stamp is a cross, the upper arm of which separates the initials W O, and from each of the horizontal arms hangs a bell; the whole surmounted by the legend SOLI DEO GLORIA.

† Ordinary black letter type, as used for the inscription in the text, does not accurately represent the type on the bell; nor do black letter capitals accurately represent the Lombardic initials; for which see illustration (fig 3).

brass

brass in Crosthwaite (Keswick) church, the legend on which runs thus :

Of your charitie pray for the soule of Sir John Ratclif Knyght and for the state of Dame Alice his wyfe which Sir John dyed ye 11 day of February A D 1527 on whose soule Jesu have mercy.

Dame Alice, who survived her husband until 1554, was a daughter of Sir Edmund Sutton de Dudley, lord of Dudley in Warwickshire, whose arms were two lions passant. Her brother, Thomas Dudley, by his marriage with one of the co-heiresses of Sir Lancelot Threlkeld, became possessed of Yanwath Hall, which is about 3 miles from Dacre church. The shield (fig. 5), on which is the Adoration of the Magi, may be one of the bell-founder's stamps, and, if so, should lead to his identification. There is an inscription round the border, which is illegible in the cast from which our illustration was sketched, but might perhaps be deciphered on the bell itself, which however is so hung as to make it difficult to examine the shield. As to the probable age of the bell we can as yet only say that, whilst its invocation of a saint points to pre-Reformation times, its lettering suggests a date not earlier than the beginning of the 15th century. Mr. Stahlschmidt speaks of 1420 as the year

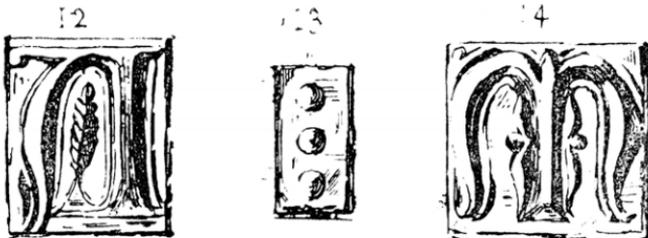
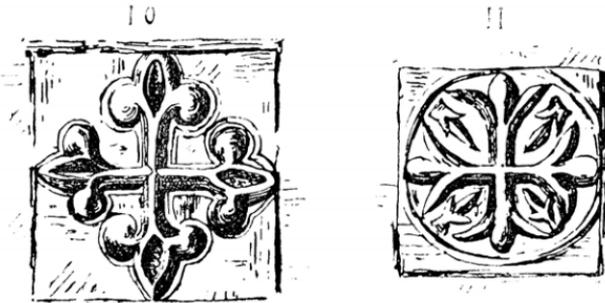
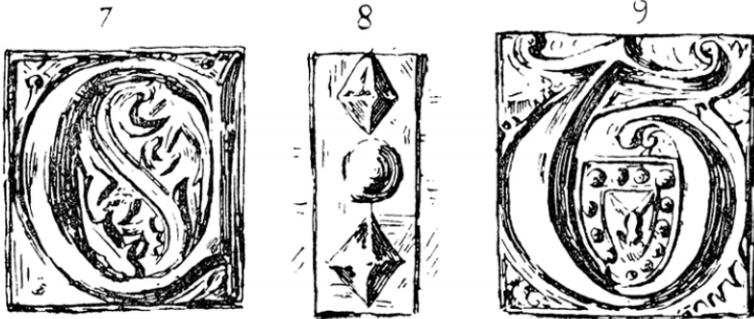
which, in conference with Mr. North, we decided was approximately the time when black-letter finally superseded Lombardic for inscriptions, the previous twenty years or so being the period when the two styles overlapped, or existed side by side (*Surrey Church Bells*, p. x).

Pending further evidence both as to donor and founder, which by help of the stamps ought sooner or later to be forthcoming, the date of this bell must for the present remain uncertain. It may be remarked, however, that the period within which its date must be sought does not preclude the possibility of its having been presented by Lady Ratcliffe, unless the occurrence of Lombardic initials in a black-letter inscription is to be regarded as indicative of the transition period ending with the year 1420.

The

The middle (second) bell has round its shoulder in stately floriated Lombardic letters

+ CAMPPANA : BEATE : MARIE.



The

The initial cross (fig. 10), intervening stop (fig. 8), and lettering (figs. 7 and 9), would not of themselves enable us to identify the founder. But this bell has fortunately a second inscription, immediately under the first, in smaller Lombardic letters, viz :

+ IOHANNES ÷ DEKVRKAM ÷ MEFECIT.

The initial cross (fig. 11), intervening stop (fig. 13), and lettering (figs. 12 and 14), differ not only in size but also in character from those in the first inscription, as is shewn by the illustrations. The cross and lettering, however, are identical with the cross and lettering on one of the Cumrew bells (*ante*, VI, 424), as well as on the treble at Threlkeld in this (Leath) ward. The identity of the lettering extends to the reversing of the letter *n* in all three of these inscriptions. But at Cumrew and Threlkeld the intervening stop is a fleur-de-lis. In a long list of entries, headed "Expensæ Facta per Magistrum Campanis", extracted from the "Fabric Rolls of York Minster" for the year 1371, and printed by the Surtees Society in Vol. XXXV (pp. 9, 10) of their publications, occur the two following items:—

Et in	mxijlb de ere et stagno			
	emptis de Johanne de			
	Kirkham dando pro C 26s. 8d.	19	9	8
Et in	permutacione facta cum			
	Johanne de Kirkham pro alia			
	magna campana pro le klok			
	et habuit in emendacione cum			
	campana ecclesie	20	0	0

Mr. Stahlshmidt, to whom I am indebted for this information, and who has kindly sent me a transcript of the whole of the abovementioned list of entries, writes :

I take it that the first of the two items relating to John de Kirkham proves that he was a citizen of York. The quantity of metal bought of him shews clearly, I think, that he was at home.

It

It is at least certain, then, that IOHANNES DE KVRKAM cast this Dacre bell in the latter part of the 14th century, and highly probable that his foundry was at York. The Cumrew and Threlkeld bells, if of somewhat later date, as is not unlikely from the substitution of a fleur-de-lis for the roundlets as intervening stop, and if not cast by John de Kirkham, may be the work of a successor at the same foundry.

The Dacre treble, as we have already seen, is a York bell. Perhaps the tenor, and other ancient Cumberland bells, also came from York or were cast by peripatetic York founders. But, as Dr. Raven said, "everything has yet to be done for northern campanology" (*ante* viii, 507); and valuable aid towards the doing of it will be contributed by any York antiquary who will produce, with illustrations of crosses and stamps, a complete account of the bell founders of his city.

We might have expected to find one of the two pre-Reformation bells at Dacre bearing the name of the patron saint of the church, St. Andrew, as is found at the churches of St. Andrew at Aikton (*ante*, VIII, 506), Greystoke, and Crosby Garratt (Westmorland). There may, however, have once been a bell at Dacre dedicated to St. Andrew, which has perhaps given place to the present treble. Unfortunately Dacre is one of the parishes the names of which have been torn off from the Cumberland portion of Edward VI's Inventory, so that we cannot know for certain how many bells were here in 1552: and, what is still more provoking, though we can probably identify the list of Dacre church goods in the mutilated inventory, the rent, whilst leaving the words "gret belles" intact, has torn off their number. The reader will better understand this by referring to the paper on "Church Goods in Cumberland in 1552" (*ante*, VIII, 201).

It is worth while, by the way, to notice how small, with few exceptions, the church bells of Cumberland must have been

been in 1552, as indeed they still are ; for, as in only eight Cumberland churches did Edward VI's commissioners find what they reported as "gret" bells, it follows that in the 103 other churches which they visited in the county they did not find a single bell as large as John de Kirkham's Dacre bell, the weight of which is only about 5 cwt.

At Sproatley church, Yorkshire, formerly St. Swithin's, now All Saints, there are two bells, the legends on which are thus given in the Yorkshire Archæological Journal (II, 85) :

- 1 + CAMPANA BEATI SUUITHUNI
- 2 + CAMPANA BEATE MARIE

I K.

It is stated, moreover, that the letter N is reversed throughout. No information is given as to character of cross or lettering. Nor is it expressly stated whether or no there is any intervening stop. But, looking to the initials I K, the legends, and the reversal of N throughout, I think that these bells must have been cast by John de Kirkham, using his smaller Lombardic type ; and, if so, it is the more probable that he originally cast a treble for Dacre, on which, as on the treble at Sproatly, may have been the name of the patron saint of the church, but which has succumbed to one of the numerous ills to which bell-metal is heir.

It only remains to account for the presence in Dacre tower of a bell of St. Bartholomew, to whom not a single church in Cumberland or Westmcrland is dedicated. The reason may be the same as at Greystoke for a bell of St. Katherine, to whom a chantry in Greystoke church was dedicated. So at Dacre there may have been a chantry of St. Bartholomew. But of the history of Dacre church, concerning which "the tradition goes that it was erected by the Dacres instead of a very mean one about half a mile distant" (B. & N. II, 382), little or nothing is known.

ART. XXXVIII.