

VII. *Explanation of the Inscription on a Bell at Heworth Chapel, in the County of Durham, in a Letter from WILLIAM HAMPER, Esq. to JOHN ADAMSON, Esq. Secretary.*

Deritend House, Birmingham.

I BEG, through your medium, to lay before the Society a brief explanation of the inscription on the Bell at Heworth Chapel, concerning the import of which, your worthy Co-Secretary confesses himself unable to form the smallest conjecture.* That its characters are unusually rude and obscure must be allowed, but I conceive that it eluded Mr. Hodgson's sagacity, chiefly from the legend having been impressed *in an inverted position*; and that, on viewing Plate V. the contrary way, it may be made out, in black letter, as follows:—

÷ **Ih̄. R. W. + de. M. +**

Now, presuming **R. W.** to be the maker's initials, it will follow that **de. M.** denotes his residence, either at Morpeth, or some other place beginning with the same letter.

Ih̄. is the well-known monogram of **IHESUS**; and, though the "name above all names," was commonly introduced on the sacred utensils, books, and vestments, and may probably have only a general application in the present instance, yet it is far from impossible but that the bell itself was so named in baptism. One of the celebrated peal at Osney Abbey was called **JESUS**; and on a small hand-bell of the year 1545, formerly used in the domestic chapel at Baddesley-Clinton Hall, in Warwickshire, is an inscription to the same effect—**IHESUS. ES. MINEN. NAEM.**

* *Archaeol. Æliana*, vol. i. part i. App. no. 6.