

Christ Church, Spitalfields, St. George's-in-the-East, St. James', Clerkenwell, and St. Mary's, Islington. St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, was for nearly a century the headquarters of the Society of Cumberland Youths and the place where many peals were rung by all the leading London companies.

II

The Hornsey Bells

BY F. W. M. DRAPER

THE old parish church of St. Mary's, Hornsey, is said to have been built about 1500 and was possibly the second church on this site. It was pulled down and rebuilt in 1832 and finally dismantled in 1927. But through all these vicissitudes the tower with its bells remained erect and is still standing.

These bells date from 1775, but there exist a few references to their predecessors. In his unpublished *London Ringers and Ringing* the late J. Armiger Trollope quotes from the Edwardian inventories (Edward VI) the record that there were at Hornsey "iiij bells and the saunce bell." There are a few allusions in the scattered sheets of churchwardens' accounts preserved in the church chest.

1665. "For ringing on the Kings restauration day," 5s.—
1674. "Expended on the Ringers May the 29th," 12s.
"Expended more for ringers on the Kings Coronation Day,"
7s.—1675. "For Ringing on Saint Georges Day," 6s. "Church,
making a new Bell wheel," £1 10s. "Pd to Seaton for repairs
of the Bells," 6s.

In 1749 William Cole, who was Rector of Hornsey for about a year, speaks of the six "tunable bells" hanging in the belfry, and finally we read that on 6th November, 1773, the sum of £4 was "Paid for ringing 8 days" and £2 1s. "Paid for Bell ropes and Graves Ropes and Beer."

What is strange is that in 1775, when the new bells were installed, the vestry minutes contain no resolution to hang new bells, nor any reference to their acquisition. The churchwardens' accounts are equally silent. But in this year a great deal of work was undertaken in the church. It looks as though some restless and vigorous personality were forcing the church officers into action. This personality may have been that of the new rector, Francis Haultain, who was instituted in 1775. Extensive repairs were begun, necessitating a church rate of 8d.

On 31st August, 1775, it was "Order'd that Mr Marshall the Carpenter do make a new floor to the Clock Room in the Tower and repair the upper floor with such part of the old clock floor as can be used." *It may be that these activities were all connected with the installation of the six new bells in the bell-chamber above the clock room.*

I have been taken over the bell-chamber by the rector, the Rev. E. S. Duval and his son, the Rev. Philip Duval, who was kind enough to supply me with the following facts.

(1) The bell frame bears, carved on the west face, the inscription: "Made by Joseph Whittaker August 1775." This date and the name John Bo—l are also inscribed in the frame on the beam alongside the Tenor bell. (Whittaker was a local carpenter.)

(2) The bells—(a) Treble, 2, 3, 4, 5, are inscribed round the crown: "Thomas Janaway fecit 1775." (b) The 3rd also bears the inscription:

*The Ringers art our gratefull note prolong.
Appollo listens and approves the song.*

(c) The Tenor is inscribed: "St. Marys Hornsey. Xmas 1880. This bell was recast and the other five bells"—because the clapper had worn a groove—"turned by John Warner and Sons.—James Jeakes, M.A., Rector. Gilbert Robins, John Martin, Churchwardens."

Trollope wrote as follows about Janaway: "Thomas Janaway's foundry was at Chelsea. His most important rings in London were the octaves at All Saints, Chelsea, 1762, St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, 1772, and St. Mary, Battersea, 1777. . . . Janaway also cast the six at Edgware and there are a number of his bells in towers in the home counties. His bells are rather poor in quality and the rhyming couplet he was fond of using"—as above—"is perhaps the most unsuitable and in the worst taste." The firm of John Warner and Sons was started by Jacob Warner about 1740 in Wood Street. John Warner and his brother Tomson Warner carried on the business at The Three Bells in Cripplegate, afterwards moving to Jewin Crescent.

From 1790 onwards there are several commonplace references to the ringers in the vestry minutes. In 1836 comes the first mention of a society of ringers. They were paid £4 for ringing eight times. The word "society" is not used again, but the ringers were paid by the year—£4 13s. in 1837, £4 12s. in 1839, £4 11s. in 1840—with special payments for great occasions.

The last of these was in 1843, when they were paid £1 10s. "for ringing a Dumb peal on the burial of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex 6 men @ 5s. each (commenced at 8 o'clock morning, finished 2 o'clock afternoon)."

III

Whitechapel Bell Foundry

BY WILLIAM WHEATLEY, M.A.

ON 11th April, 1949, a party of members visited the bell foundry of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, 32-34, Whitechapel Road. This foundry was first established in 1570 on the north side of the road opposite the church of St. Mary Matfelon and was moved in 1728 to its present site, where formerly stood the Artichoke Inn.

Bells, in one form or another, have been used from time immemorial, both for religious and domestic purposes. The earliest bells were made by riveting together shaped pieces of iron which were afterwards braced with strips of brass till the metals intermingled. These were gradually superseded by bells cast in one piece, but of a shape longer in body than the present-day pattern. This work was practised largely by the monks, but later by the artificer, who would be described as a *brasiarius*, i.e. a coppersmith, or *ollarius*, i.e. a tinker or potter in metals. When the trade became more specialised, the term *campanarius* was used or, later still, *bellyetere*. Thus between the years 1236 and 1464 we have documentary evidence of at least 19 bell-workers who had acquired this surname by virtue of their occupation. In London the bellyeteres congregated between St Andrew Undershaft and St Botolph, Aldgate, which, as is evident from various wills, were pre-eminently the bell-founders' churches. This is the origin of the name of Billeter Street.

The trade diminished after the Reformation, but revived in Elizabethan times. It flourished until the Civil War and again from 1660 to 1750, when there were over 30 bell-founders in England. By 1800 the number had diminished to about 15 and during the nineteenth century only three or four names are worthy of note. The Whitechapel bell foundry is probably the oldest established firm in England and was founded by Robert Mot in 1570. It was developed by Richard Phelps, who acquired the present site in 1728, and has traded under the name of Mears and Stainbank from 1865 to the present day.