

THE CHURCH AND OTHER BELLS OF ABERDEENSHIRE

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PART III

Parts I and II of this paper, which is here concluded, appeared in Volumes XC (1956-7) and XCI (1957-8) respectively. Figs. 1 and 2 and Pls. XVI-XX will be found in Part I.

ABERDEEN, OLD. The Cathedral Church of St Machar. I

The south-western tower contains a single bell, $40\frac{5}{16}$ inches diameter, hung for swing chiming and inscribed:

CATHEDRAL OLD ABERDEEN 1823. (fig. 2, 6) T MEARS OF LONDON
FECIT. (fig. 2, 6)

On the waist is a shield bearing the Arms and motto of the Burgh of Old Aberdeen. The canons and argent remain and the bell is hung with wooden fittings. The crown staple has been renewed but the bell has not been turned. The clock which is above the bell in the base of the spire was made by John Gartly of Aberdeen in 1799.

There was formerly a great central tower built by Bishop Elphinstone and completed *c.* 1512. He is said to have furnished it with three bells which had been brought from England, weighing 12,000 lb.¹ However at the Reformation the tower is said to have contained fourteen tuneable and costly bells, the gift of Bishop Elphinstone, and these with other moveable objects were taken away from Aberdeen by sea. The record is that the ship was lost in a storm half a mile off Girdleness.² It is therefore probable that the three bells were subsequently augmented to fourteen and this would make the bells comparable in number with the twelve bells in the tower of King's College in 1542.

Bishop Patrick Forbes presented three bells, one of these at least survived till 1756 when the Kirk Session records state that a bell with the following inscription was removed from the steeple:

SOLI DEO GLORIA MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS ME FECIT
AD SACROS CÆTUS CONVOCANDOS IN SVMMA ARCE
ÆDIS DIVI MACARIJ LOCANDAM CURARUNT D. PAT.
FORBESIRIS EPISCOPVS ABERDONENSIS SENATVSQVE
ECCLESIASTICVS VETERIS ABERDONÆ CALEND JANVAR
1622³

¹ Wilson, *An Historical Account and Delineation of Aberdeen* (1822), p. 78.

² Mitchell, *Destruction of Churches and Religious Houses in Aberdeen* (1899), p. 14.

³ Munro, *Records of Old Aberdeen*, Vol. II, p. 134.

In 1688 the central tower fell down and caused considerable damage to the remainder of the fabric. An account published in 1791 records the inscriptions on the three bells as¹:

Treble: MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS FECIT ME 1618 SOLI DEO GLORIA.

Second: The inscription, with slight variations, appearing on the bell now in Ballater Established Church, cast by Patrick Kilgour in 1688.

Tenor: The inscription given above, dated 1622, on the bell removed in 1756, cast by Michael Burgerhuys.

The tenor was noted as being cracked, and the treble was hung in the SW. tower by the clock.

The Kirk Session records² show that it was not until 23rd June 1689 that Patrick Kilgour was instructed to recast a cracked bell and it seems that he was a year out in his date on the Ballater bell (*q.v.*).

The present bell of 1823 would then be the successor of the much smaller treble of 1618.

The Burgh records contain a number of entries relating to the ringing of these bells; in 1647 John Kilgour³ was to be paid two shillings annually by every 'ricking' house for ringing at 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. By 1672 the arrangement⁴ was that each householder had to pay twelve pence scots yearly for this service.

ABERDEEN. St Nicholas. 48

The central tower now contains a carillon of 48 bells covering four octaves. This carillon is the heaviest in Great Britain, and is the property of the Corporation of the City of Aberdeen. In 1874 the tower was seriously damaged by fire and the bells in use prior to that date were largely destroyed. In 1885 Severin van Aerschodt of Louvain, Belgium, cast a carillon of 37 bells with a Bourdon of 54 cwt. in the key of C, covering slightly over three octaves. This carillon was never a success, as the bells were practically inaudible; this was due to the tin content of the bell-metal being lower than usual and to poor mechanical action and tuning defects.

The above carillon was entirely recast by Messrs Gillett and Johnston Ltd. of Croydon in 1952, and in 1954 the same firm added 11 new bells to complete the four octave range. The inscriptions on the 1885 bells were reproduced on their successors and each bell bears its number in the carillon starting with the one with the highest note.

Nos. 1 to 5 inclusive, being very small, bear no inscription, but were first cast in 1954. Nos. 6 to 40 inclusive and No. 42 and No. 48 were all recast from the 1885 carillon. Each bears:

CITY OF ABERDEEN / CAST BY SEVERIN VAN AERSCHODT, /
LOUVAIN, BELGIUM, 1885 / RECAST 1952 BY /
GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON

¹ Orem, *A Description of the Chanantry, Cathedral and Kings College of Old Aberdeen*, p. 130.

² Munro, *Records of Old Aberdeen*, Vol. II, p. 89.

³ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 78.

⁴ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 122.

Most of these bells bear special inscriptions relating to the donors of the 1885 bells. On the smaller bells the inscription is incised and on the larger ones it is raised. On some of the smaller bells the Christian name of the Belgian founder is abbreviated to the initial only.

Nos. 41, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 47 were first cast in 1954 and are inscribed:

CITY OF ABERDEEN / CAST 1954 BY /
GILLET & JOHNSTON / FOUNDERS / CROYDON

The weights, hum notes, and special inscriptions are:

Bell	Note	Weight		lb.	
		cwt.	qrs.		
1	G#	0	0	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>no inscription</i>
2	G	0	0	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>ditto</i>
3	F#	0	0	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>ditto</i>
4	F	0	0	24 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>ditto</i>
5	E	0	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>ditto</i>
6	D#	0	1	5	THE GIFT OF ALEXANDER URQUHART / MERCHANT
7	D	0	1	9	FROM A. G. WARRINGTON
8	C#	0	1	13	PRESENTED BY / MEMBERS OF THE NORTH PARISH KIRK
9	C	0	1	15	<i>as No. 8</i>
10	B	0	1	17	<i>as No. 8</i>
11	A#	0	2	0	IN MEMORY OF BAILLIE CHARLES SMITH
12	A	0	2	7	THE GIFT OF COUNCILLOR LYON / CONVENOR, BELLS COMMITTEE
13	G#	0	2	2	THE GIFT OF ALEXANDER EDMOND OF GARTHDEE
14	G	0	2	14	ME DONAVIT GULIELMUS CADENHEAD HARMONIAE AMATOR
15	F#	0	2	21	IN MEMORY OF HUGH SNOWIE GUNSMITH INVERNESS
16	F	0	3	9	THE GIFT OF COUNCILLOR LINDLAY
17	E	0	3	21	PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH PARISH CHURCH
18	D#	1	0	5	<i>as No. 17</i>
19	D	1	1	0	IN MEMORIAM / ISABELLAE OB: JAN: 1882
20	C#	1	1	2	IN MEMORY OF JAMES MITCHELL / PRESENTED BY HIS PARTNER, GEORGE / JAMIESON
21	C	1	1	10	C. BARCLAY - HOLLAND / BROADFORD, LINEN WORKS
22	B	1	2	24	PRESENTED BY / MEMBERS OF THE CITY CLUB
23	A#	1	2	27	THE GIFT OF JOHN REID / OF SHANNABURN
24	A	1	3	12	PRESENTED BY THE DRAPERS
25	G#	1	3	22	THE GIFT OF / JAMES MATTHEWS OF SPRINGHILL / LORD PROVOST
26	G	2	1	26	THE GIFT OF THE PRECENTORS / OF ABERDEEN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

Bell	Note	Weight			
		cwt.	qrs.	lb.	
27	F#	2	2	18	PRESENTED BY / MEMBERS OF ST. CLEMENT'S KIRK
28	F	3	0	23	(<i>Facsimile reproduction of Masonic Symbol</i>) / PRESENTED BY THE FREEMASONS
29	E	3	2	4	(<i>Facsimile reproduction of Bisset Bell shield</i>)
30	D#	4	0	6	(<i>No special inscription</i>)
31	D	4	2	5	THE GIFT OF / COUNCILLOR GEORGE WASHINGTON WILSON
32	C#	4	3	1	(<i>Facsimile reproduction of Chalmers shield</i>) / IN MEMORY OF CHARLES CHALMERS / BORN 6 JULY 1790 DIED 27 NOV. 1877 / AND MARY CHALMERS / BORN 6 AUG. 1796 DIED 23 JULY 1869 / PRESENTED BY M.D.C., C.D.C., P.H.C.
33	C	6	0	4	PRESENTED BY / MEMBERS OF THE EAST KIRK
34	B	6	3	18	(<i>No special inscription</i>)
35	A#	7	2	10	<i>ditto</i>
36	A	9	1	12	PRESENTED BY / THE WORKING CLASSES
37	G#	10	3	14	DEDICATED TO / THE GLORY OF GOD / BY MEMBERS OF / THE WEST KIRK
38	G	12	2	20	THE GIFT OF / ELISABETH CROMBIE DUTHIE / OF RUTHRIESTON
39	F#	15	1	6	(<i>No special inscription</i>)
40	F	18	2	18	<i>ditto</i>
41	E	22	1	0	(<i>No special inscription</i>)
42	D#	27	0	20	(<i>ornamental border</i>) / DONALDSON ROSE / NAT = MDCCLXXX / OB = MDCCCLIII / ME DONAVIT GULIELMUS ROSE FILIUS
43	D	32	3	0	(<i>No special inscription</i>)
44	C#	38	2	14	<i>ditto</i>
45	C	47	0	7	<i>ditto</i>
46	B	55	1	14	<i>ditto</i>
47	A#	63	0	11	<i>ditto</i>
48	G#	89	3	26	(<i>Three lines of ornamental border, two on soundbow and one on inscription band</i>) (11 in. high coat of arms of City of Aberdeen)

In addition Nos. 28 to 38 inclusive bear a small foundry shield, and Nos. 39, 40, 42 and 48 bear a larger foundry shield of Messrs Gillett and Johnston Ltd.

Plate XXII, 1 shows a view of the carillon in the foundry in 1952 before the later bells were added. It will be seen that the Bourdon, or bass bell, is hung for swinging and this is performed using an electric motor. The bell is hung from a welded steel headstock in such a manner that it and the top half of the bell largely counterbalance the lower half of the bell. This reduces the thrust on the tower when the bell swings and gives a longer interval between blows of the clapper producing a more majestic effect.

The carillon is arranged differently from continental practice in that the light bells are below the heavy ones. Each bell is provided with a cast iron clapper, and the fourteen larger bells have two, the extra one being for electro-pneumatic opera-

tion. The larger clappers are provided with counter weights or springs to assist striking but the clappers of the smaller bells have pull-off springs to assist rebound. The illustration shows how the clapper action is tracked on both sides by means of wiring, rollers, and cranks to the clavier on the right hand side and to the electro-pneumatic playing apparatus on the other.

The four-octave clavier is provided with wooden key manuals for all the bells and with foot pedals similar to those of an organ console for the bottom twenty-four bells. These are connected to the manuals in tandem so that these bells may be played by either hand or foot thus enabling the carillonneur to play the melody if he wishes with his feet on the big bells while playing a decorative accompaniment on the trebles with his hands. All the wires are provided with turn-buckles so that the carillonneur may adjust the clapper stroke exactly to his liking before or during a recital.

The electro-pneumatic apparatus enables simple arrangements of tunes to be played with robust strength thus making them easily heard above the sound of city noises. This apparatus is connected to the bottom twelve diatonic, i.e. 'white', notes with in addition Nos. 39 and 43, making fourteen bells in all. The operation of a particular key on the keyboard completes an electric circuit, this energises a solenoid which opens a valve allowing compressed air at 30 lb./square inch to reach a piston. This is pushed sharply down and causes the clapper to strike; the weight of the clapper restores the piston position as soon as the electrical circuit is broken.

As well as being operated from a keyboard the electro-pneumatic system can be operated automatically using tune-playing barrels. These operate on the principle of the musical box; a gun-metal barrel with gun-metal pegs suitably arranged round the outer surface is caused to rotate. The pegs engage on copper strips so making an electrical circuit and this causes the compressed air to move the pistons as noted above. The pegs can be moved round the surface of the barrel so that the tunes can be varied.

The clock chimes are also operated electro-pneumatically using a special pegged barrel which is set in motion by electrical impulses from the clock itself.

In 1351 William Leyth, Provost of Aberdeen, presented the church with two large bells; one was dedicated to St Lawrence and the other to St Mary. There was in addition another bell dedicated to St Nicholas.

In 1592 the accounts show:

Item for ij faldowme of ane tow to the gryt bell xxj d.

And in 1595-6 the same bell was in need of rehousing as it appears that the bell fell out of the bearings:

The xxvj of Merche agreit with David Anderson plumber for raising and settin agane of the grytt bell In hir awin place, and for the castyn of hir roddis new again in breiss and for four pund veycht efter thai var new cassin for X lib in all

On 8th February 1632 the Council of the Burgh ordained:

Lykeas they appoint ane of the great bellis in the kirk steipill, with the commoun bell, and the bell of the gray frier kirk, to be rung euerie day in tyme comeing, the spaice of halff ane hour, at fyve houris in the morning, and nyne houris at ewin.

On 2nd April 1634 the Council ruled:

Ordinance that a letter be sent to Middelburgh to Herman de Pitt, merchant there, for recasting the prayer bell.

It is unfortunately not clear which bell is referred to here. Both Lawrence and Maria were cracked within a short time but we know that Lawrence was recast by Michael Burgerhuys of Middelbourg in 1634. This latter bell, called Old Lowrie remained in use till the fire of 1874 when it was broken in pieces. A number of the pieces bearing part of the inscription remain and from them and documentary evidence we can reconstruct the whole as:

[*Fig. of a phoenix twice*] SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · MICHAEL ·
BVRGERHVYS · ME · FECIT · ANNO · DOMINI · 1634 / [*Fig.*
of a phoenix]

EN · EGO · CAMPANA · SONITV · NON · LAVDO · PROPHANA · *LAVDO* · CREATOR ·
 EM · TONTRVS · DEPELLO · TIMOREM · DEFUNCTOS · PLANGO · SONITV · SOLENNIA ·
 PANGO / LAVRENS · ECCE · VOCOR · IVBILANTI · CVM · MOVEO · COR · ANNO ·
 DOMINI · 1351 · WILHILMVS · LEYTH · PREF · ABEREDONENSIS · HANG · CAMPANAM
 SANCTI NICOLAI · ECCLESIAE · ABRED / DONAVIT · EIVSDEMQUE · CAMPANÆ ·
 RIMA · FISSA · COMMVNITATIS · SYMPTIBVS · REPARATA · FVIT · ANNO · 1634 ·
 DO · PAVLO MENEZIO · A · KINMVNDI · MILITE · PRAÆPOSITO

The sections in italics are those for which the present writer has not seen either the original piece or a rubbing. The above may be translated¹ as: 'To the only God be glory. Michael Burgerhuys made me in the year of our Lord 1634. Lo. I, the bell, do not proclaim the praise of that which is unholy. I glorify the Creator, I draw away the fear of thunder, I mourn in solemn tones the departed, I tell of the recurrent rites of faith, I move the heart of man that is joyful; behold me, I am Laurence. In 1351 William Leyth, Provost of Aberdeen, presented this Bell to the church of St Nicholas of Aberdeen. Thereafter a cleft having been made in it, at the expense of the Community it was recast in the year 1634 while Sir Paul Menzies of Kinmundy, Knight, was Provost.'

Above the inscription is a border all round the bell (Pl. XXI). Five pieces of the inscription are in the ownership of the Corporation, one is in Duthie Park and the other four are in Provost Skene's House. A total of eight pieces were on view² at the Glasgow Exhibition of 1911 on loan from John Blaikie and Sons, the bell-founders, but these did not cover more than about two-thirds of the total inscription.

The metal from Old Lowrie was used to cast a number of bells. One at the West Church, Cults, (*q.v.*), though now recast, was cast in 1883 from this material. Certainly the larger, and most probably also the smaller bell at Craigiebuckler Church, Aberdeen (*q.v.*), were cast in 1882 from this metal. The sanctus bell in

¹ Monro, *Memorials of the Aldermen, Provosts and Lord Provosts of Aberdeen, 1272-1895*, p. 8.

² *Palace of History*, Catalogue of Glasgow Exhibition 1911, Vol. II, pp. 1095 ff.

the Episcopal Chapel of St Mary within Cowie House, Kincardineshire,¹ cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1896, has an inscription showing that the metal is from Old Lowrie.

The bell in the Episcopal Church of St Devenick, Bielside, weighing 275 lb, is inscribed²:

SOLI DEO GLORIA 1351 LAURENTIO NOMINE FACTAM:
1634 REPARTAM: 1874 ECCL. S. NICOLAI ABERD. USTO
FRACTAM. BLAIKIE ME REFECIT ECCL S. DEVINICI
DE BIELDSIDE NAT. DOM. 1909

Some more of the metal was used to cast a lectern for the East Church to the design of the late William Kelly.³

In 1692 Patrick Kilgour⁴ agreed to modify the clock and to rehang the great bell. This involved the provision of new bearings and new gudgeon pins to run in them. At the same time he was to make the other two bells easier to ring.

In 1739 the second bell became cracked and was sent to London to be recast.⁵ The Kirk Work Accounts for the period Michaelmas 1739-Michaelmas 1740 contain the charge of £284 13s. od. Scots for this, but give no record of who the founder was. At the same time a new clapper was procured for the tenor, Old Lowrie, and some rehangng work was undertaken.

In 1758 the Council ordered⁶ that the bells should be rung with wheels, presumably before then the ropes were either tied to levers or to half or quarter wheels. Hugh Gordon, 'ruler of the Town's clocks', and John Mowat, founder, were instructed to carry the decision into effect.

In 1765 Hugh Gordon was instructed to make a new clock and was paid £120. Thomas Taylor, wright, was paid £22 14s. for new dials and for fitting up a room to hold the clock. The old clock, which weighed 886 lb., was sold for £8 4s. 7d. An earlier clock⁷ was provided by John Kay of Crail in 1584 for which he was paid 200 merks.

By 1794 one of the bells had become cracked and was sent to London for recasting, and the founder, Thomas Mears I, was instructed to cast a new additional bell to make a ring of four. The charges in connection with this appear in the Kirk and Bridge Works Accounts, and are:

1794-5.	Paid for Porterage and Lighterage of one of the Kirk Bells sent to London to be recast	10s.	od.
	Paid Freight of said Bell	£1	16s. od.
1795-6.	Paid Thomas Mears of London for recasting one of the Kirk Bells and for a new additional one	£114	6s. od.
	Freight from London	£2	19s. 9d.
	Insurance	£10	os. od.
	Porterage		16s. 9d.
	Postages		4s. od.

¹ Eeles, *Church and other Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 29.

² *Aberdeen Journal Notes and Queries*, Vol. III, p. 5.

⁴ *Extracts from the Council Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen*, Vol. II, p. 313.

⁵ Rettie, *Aberdeen Fifty Years Ago*, p. 46.

⁶ *ibid.*, p. 48.

³ *ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 334.

⁷ *ibid.*, p. 37.

Some five years later another bell was cracked and the charges in the same accounts read:

1801-2.	Paid for removing One of the Church Bells sent to London to be recast	£1	3s.	od.
1802-3.	Paid Thomas Mears of London for a new Bell for the Churches And for recasting One of the other Bells which had been split p Accot	£124	os.	2d.
	Paid Freight of both Bells from London	£1	6s.	3d.
	Paid Porterage of both Bells from London	£1	2s.	6d.
	Paid incidental Expense do.	£1	18s.	11d.
	Paid Wm. Littlejohn, Wright, do.	£14	11s.	8d.

Thus by 1803 the tower contained a ring of five bells and of these the only old one was the largest of 1634, Old Lowrie.¹

In January² 1857 the Town's Superintendent of Works reported that the bell frame support beams were decayed and recommended the replacement of the affected beams at a probable cost of £35-£40. This was approved and the work was completed that month.

On 25th February 1857 a meeting³ was called of those interested in providing St Nicholas with a complete ring of bells with the Provost in the chair. Mr Boswell of Messrs John Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate, London, bell-founders, was present and said that four of the five bells were superior in tone and the largest (Old Lowrie) was remarkably fine. He put forward two schemes to complete the octave. The first was to recast the A flat bell to A natural and add three lighter bells at a cost of £269; and the other was to leave the existing bells as they were and add two lighter bells and a heavier one at a cost of £465. The five existing bells had the notes C, B flat, A flat, G and F and thus formed a minor five.

A subscription list was opened on 25th February and by the following April it was noted⁴ that as the money was coming in so well the more expensive scheme should be put in hand, involving the addition of a larger bell in E flat, and two trebles, E flat and D.

The undertaking was superintended by E. B. Denison Esq., later Lord Grimthorpe, and in addition a semitone bell, D flat, was cast and hung. This latter bell was paid for by public subscription and was used for tune playing.

Warners cast the new bells and they were hoisted up the steeple⁵ on 3rd April 1858. The tenor was slightly over 32 cwt. and the treble over 7 cwt. This latter bell was the gift of John Smith, a Leeds banker, and through his generosity members of the St Peter's Company of Ringers of Leeds, with some others, came to Aberdeen in the following August to try out the bells.

They first rang them on Saturday, 28th August and on the following Monday rang a quarter peal of 1,260 changes of Grandsire Triples. The same day they issued the following notice:

¹ *Aberdeen Journal Notes and Queries*, Vol. iv, p. 334.

² *Council Minutes*, 5th Jan. 1857.

³ *ibid.*, 2nd March 1857.

⁴ *ibid.*, 6th April 1857.

⁵ Cubitt, *The Ringing World*, Vol. LIV, p. 516, 8th August 1958.

Aberdeen 30th August 1858

The St Peter's Company of change-ringers, Leeds, do hereby certify that the peal of eight bells in St Nicholas' Church, Aberdeen, are for power and richness of tone, the finest peal of bells, of their weight, in the United Kingdom. They also consider them in perfect tune. Should a company of young men from eighteen to twenty-five years of age come forward and place themselves under the tuition of Mr Hubbard, there is no doubt of Aberdeen being put in the possession of as good a set of change-ringers as any other town in the Kingdom can boast of. William Gawkroder, President of the Company.

Hubbard was retained by the Town Council to act as a tutor to those wanting to learn change ringing but he does not seem to have stayed there long, as shortly afterwards another of the band, a Mr Healey from Wakefield, became instructor and remained in Aberdeen $5\frac{1}{2}$ years. No complete peal seems ever to have been rung on the bells.

In 1874 the steeple was gutted by fire and the bells fell to the ground. By 1882 consideration was being given to the problem of reinstalling bells and how they should be sounded. Messrs Gillett Bland and Co. confirmed in a letter dated 6th July 1882¹ that the clock they had recently installed in the steeple could be used to let off a bell chiming machine. They noted that they also cast bells suitable for change ringing or tune playing.

Messrs Warners in a letter dated 10th February 1882 quoted £1,325 for a ring of ten bells, with a tenor of 30 cwt. in C, hung with full fittings for change ringing with an extra semitone bell hung stationary for tune playing. The price also covered a chiming apparatus by which one man could play tunes on all eleven bells. The price was to be reduced if the 5 tons of old bell metal which the Town Council had was to be made available to Warners. This metal would seem to be that which was salvaged from the fire less that from Old Lowrie which was preserved or was used by John Blaikie and Sons.

Severin van Aerschodt of Louvain in Belgium in a letter dated 27th February 1882 gave quotations for four carillons each covering 3 or more octaves. These carillons each included six of the larger bells to be hung for swinging, but not through a full circle. This would have made change ringing impracticable. The price for the carillon of 36 bells with the largest $58\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. in D was £2,294; this seems to exclude the fittings and certain expenses in Aberdeen.

Despite the price advantage of a ring of bells of the type installed before the fire the decision was made to go forward with a carillon scheme. On 11th August 1882 van Aerschodt is pleased to note that the Council has decided to order a carillon from him; this is done in March 1884 but not before it is apparent that economies will have to be made. As ordered only the largest bell is to be swung and a practice keyboard is not to be supplied; the cost to the Council is not to exceed £2,690. The adviser on this occasion² was the Rev. H. R. Haweis, a great exponent of the carillon.

Unfortunately the bells cast by van Aerschodt were not very satisfactory, due mainly to poor tone, and the Council contacted Lord Grimthorpe again for advice and decided to inspect carillons and chimes in England. But it was too late to change

¹ This and other letters noted below are in the City Records.

² *Scottish Notes and Queries*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 33, 34.

the founder and the carillon was installed and very little use was made of it from its opening in 1887 to its recasting in 1952. Messrs Gillett and Johnston Ltd. made a report on its state to the Corporation dated 25th June 1938 which shows that musically some of the bells were quite unsuitable and records that the bourdon, or largest bell, required four men to swing it.

ABERDEEN. Craigiebuckler Church. 2

In an open double arch belfry hang two bells, about 12 in. and 14 in. diameter. The smaller bears no inscription, but incised on the larger is:

*OLD LOWRIE HUNG IN ST NICHOLAS STEEPLE 1351 |
AND DESTROYED BY FIRE A.D. 1874. | YOUNG LOWRIE |
CAST FROM THE | METAL OF | OLD LOWRIE | 1882*

The smaller bell has no moulding wires, the larger has one on each side of the inscription band and three on the soundbow. The bells are shank-headed and the fittings include wooden headstocks and iron side frames and wheels. The bells were cast by John Blaikie and Sons, of Aberdeen.

An earlier bell,¹ dated 1873, and said to have been cast by Francis Morton, went from here to St Margaret's, Dundee, and later to Hoselaw Church in the Border Country.

ABERDEEN. Greyfriars Church. 0

The present church has no bell. An earlier fabric had a tower with spire and a bell which latterly was used to call the students of Marischal College (*q.v.*), to their classes.² The inscription on the Gely bell of 1701 states that the earlier bell was formerly the property of the Franciscans or Grey Friars.

ABERDEEN. Holburn Central Church. 1

The tower contains a single bell, 40 $\frac{11}{16}$ in. diameter, weighing 12 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb., inscribed:

CAST BY GILLETT & CO CROYDON. /
(waist) HOLBURN PARISH CHURCH, ABERDEEN. / THIS BELL
WAS PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER, / THE REVEREND
J. McClymont. / ON THE ERECTION OF THE TOWER. /
A.D. 1891.

The bell bears the number 1325 on the crown and is Denison headed with four canons instead of the more usual six. The fittings include wooden wheel and headstock.

ABERDEEN. Mannofield Church. 1

The single bell bears no inscription, but was cast by James Barwell and Co. of Birmingham in 1882. The particulars are 32 in. diameter, weight 7 cwt., note C#. F.C.E.

¹ *Proceedings of Berwick Naturalists' Club*, Presidential Address, 1911, p. 11.

² Milne, *Aberdeen*, p. 85.

ABERDEEN. Nigg Church. 2

The tower contains a bell, 25 in. diameter, inscribed:

IOHN BLAIKIE & SONS ABERDEEN 1833 FECIT

The bell is hung for swing chiming with a wheel. The cast-in crown staple and six canons are retained.

In the church is preserved the bell from the older church of St Fiachra, 17½ in. diameter, inscribed:

IOHN † MOWAT OLD ABD † ME FE 1759 IN U UM
ECCLESIAE · DE NIGG / SABATA PANGO FUNERA
PLANGO

The fleur-de-lys border, Pl. XVI, appears all round the bell above the inscription, and the border, Pl. XVII (a), all round below. The latter also appears, pointing upwards, after PLANGO and also fragments of it are denoted by †. The S of USUM has been omitted but the space has been left.

Until 1960 this bell hung in the belfry of the ruined church but as the fittings were unsafe and the bell was in danger of falling the decision was taken to remove it to the present parish church.

ABERDEEN. Rubislaw Church. 1

A single bell, 39 in. diameter, weighing 9 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb., inscribed:

CAST BY GILLETT BLAND & CO CLOCK
MANUFACTURERS CROYDON 1880

The bell has Denison type canons, i.e. four instead of the usual six.

F.C.E.

ABERDEEN. St Clements East. 1

The western tower contains a single bell, 33 in. in diameter, inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1830

An earlier bell, probably cast by John Mowat of Old Aberdeen, is said to have been sent to Cookney, Kincardineshire.¹ In 1885, when the latter church was rebuilt, the bell was sold and was subsequently melted down by John Blaikie and Sons, Aberdeen. Another account suggests that before 1830 St Clements had no bell.²

ABERDEEN. West Church of St Nicholas, Church Hall. 1

The tower contains a single bell, 37½ in. diameter, inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1831. / (on waist) PRESENTED BY / JOHN
LEITH / TO THE TEN MANAGERS / AND CONGREGATION OF
SOUTH CHURCH ABDN / 1831

Cast by Thomas Mears the younger, of Whitechapel.

¹ Eeles, *Church and other Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 29.

² Wilson, *An Historical Account and Delineation of Aberdeen*, p. 79.

ABERDEEN. Woodside Church South. 1

The tower contains a bell, 39 $\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter, weighing 10 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb. inscribed:

(waist) J. TAYLOR & CO, BELL FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH. /
WOODSIDE PARISH BELL / SUBSCRIBED FOR / BY
CONGREGATION OF PARISH CHURCH AND OTHERS, /
A: D. 1867. / REV WILLIAM MURRAY KEAY A: M. /
PARISH MINISTER.

The bell is hung with full fittings for ringing in a complete circle. The stay is broken and the slider is of peculiar design. The clock strikes on this bell.

ABERDEEN. St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. 9

The lofty tower with spire contains a chime of nine bells, tenor 56 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter, in D.

All bells bear on the inscription band:

J: TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE
1877.

The word LEICESTERSHIRE is omitted on the treble and third. In addition the bells bear on the waists:

Treble: S. PATRITIUS. / COLLAUDABO TE DEUM SALVATOREM MEUM.
Second: S. JOANNES B. / ECO VOX CLAMANTIS IN DESERTO.
Third: S. NICHOLAUS. / ONOFITEBOR TIBI DOMINI REX.
Fourth: S. MARGARITA. / RADICAVI IN POPULO HONORIFICATO.
Fifth: S. JOSEPHUS. / JUSTUS GERMINABIT SICUT LILIUM.
Sixth: S. ANDREAS. / CHRISTO CONFIXUS SUM CRUCI.
Seventh: S. PAULUS. / GRATIAS AGO DEO MEO. / GULIELMO STOPANI
SACERDOTE.
Eighth: S. PETRUS. / DOMINE TU SCIS QUIA AMO TE. / JOANNE NICOP:
EPISCOPO.
Tenor: S. MARIA. / MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA DOMINUM. / PIO IX PAPA
MDCCCCLXXVII.

The weights and notes are:

Treble	D	8 cwt. 0 qr. 8 lb.	6	G	14 cwt. 2 qr. 10 lb.
2	C#	8 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.	7	F#	17 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lb.
3	C	8 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lb.	8	E	22 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lb.
4	B	9 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lb.	9	D	29 cwt. 3 qrs. 0 lb.
5	A	12 cwt. 0 qr. 6 lb.			

The bells hang in a two tier timber frame, the six lighter bells being in the upper level. The fifth, sixth and tenor bells are hung for ringing in full circles, and though the other bells are hung in bearings there is no room to allow them to swing. The tenor has a flat crown and the others retain canons and argents. The clappers are all connected to a plucking manual and the clock strikes on the seventh and tenor.

ABERDEEN, OLD. Town House. I

The closed turret contains a single bell, 20 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter, hung for swing chiming with a lever but now only used for the clock to strike on. The inscription reads:

IOHN MOWAT (4a) OLD ABD (3a) MEFECIT (6a) ANNO
(2b) DOM 1754 (6a) / AD (6a) SACRA (6a) ET (3b)
IURA (6a) VOCAMUS (15b)

The symbol (4a) means four leaves of the acanthus leaf border, Pl. XVII (a), and (3b) is three fleurs-de-lys, Pl. XVI. Above the inscription is a border of the latter and below a border of the former. The first N of ANNO is reversed. The bell retains canons and argent and the original crown staple is still in use. The tone is poor.

The records show that Gely cast an earlier bell; at a meeting¹ of the Council on 23rd February 1712 two members were instructed to see him about recasting the tolbooth bell and on 1st March it was reported that Mr Gely had quoted £70 Scots plus 20 shillings Scots for every pound that the new bell is heavier than the old and vice versa.

The new bell was said to be inscribed²:

AD SACRA ET CONCILIA VOCAMVS ALBERTVS GELLIE FECIT ANNO 1713

The Town Crier's bell of Old Aberdeen cast by John Mowat in 1741 is now in the Town House, Aberdeen, and is described under that heading.

ABERDEEN. Tolbooth Steeple. I

The tower with spire contains a single bell, 37 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter, inscribed:

T. MEARS LONDINI CAMPANAM HANC REFUDIT ANNO SALUTIS
HUMANAE: 1799 THOMA LEYS DE GLASGOW (*Border*) / FOREST
URBIS ABREDONIAE CONSULE GEORGIO SIM JUSDEM URBIS
AERARII PRAEFECTO / (*on the waist the arms of the City*).

The border is fig. 2, 6. The bell was cast by Thomas Mears the elder of White-chapel and has been quarter turned. The cast-in crown staple has been drilled out and an independent one fitted, the canons have been retained, and the fittings include a wooden headstock and wheel. No rope is provided and as the clock does not now strike the bell is disused.

The Tolbooth³ was built in accordance with the Royal Charter of 1393 but by 1589 it was in poor order and a storm in November of that year destroyed its steeple.

On 18th February 1629 an ordinance⁴ was passed by the Council for the 'bigging of the Tolbuith Steipill'. On 8th February 1632 it was ordered⁵ that the common bell along with those in the kirk steeple and the Greyfriars kirk should be rung daily

¹ Munro, *Records of Old Aberdeen*, Vol. 1, p. 177 ff.

² Orem, *A Description of the Chanonry, Cathedral, and Kings College of Old Aberdeen*, p. 112.

³ Taylor, *Aberdeen Council Letters*, Vol. 1, p. xix ff.

⁴ *Extracts from the Council Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen*, Vol. 1, p. 24.

⁵ *ibid.*, Vol. 1, p. 40.

for half an hour at 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. Soon afterwards¹ one Wilcox was appointed keeper of the clock and ringer of the common bell, he was succeeded² in 1645 by Robert Melvill, and in 1651 the task³ was taken on jointly by Patrick Wanhagan and William Cook.

A new clock was provided in 1726, having been made by Andrew Dunlop of London, and it was succeeded by one made by John Gartly of Aberdeen in 1817.

Thomas Mears was paid £35 13s. 8d. for recasting the old bell in 1799; this included a new wheel and freight to London of the old bell.⁴

ABERDEEN. Town House Steeple. 2

This tower with spire contains a clock chime of two bells, inscribed:

Treble: 42½ in. diameter, about 14½ cwt.

BRYSONS EDINBURGH. A.D. 1870. / G

Tenor: 50¼ in. diameter, about 23 cwt.

BRYSONS. EDINBURGH. A.D. 1869. / E

The bells are used for the quarter chimes for the clock and the tenor is also the hour bell. They have canons, but no clappers, and are hung dead. Their design suggests that they were cast in Scotland, but almost certainly not by Brysons, the clock-makers. There are eight canons instead of the more normal six, and a profusion of moulding wires; the bells have not been tuned. Messrs John C. Wilson and Co. Ltd. of Glasgow claim to have cast the hour and quarter bells in the Aberdeen Municipal Buildings and these must be the ones.

The Town House contains two hand-bells, the Old Aberdeen Town Crier's Bell, and that of the Master of Kirk Works. The former, 7 in. diameter, is inscribed:

JOHN. MOWAT. FE (*flower and stalk*) THE CRYER OF OLD
(*stalk*) / ABD^s BEL 1741

See Pl. XXII, 2. On the waist are the arms of Old Aberdeen four times and the flower and stalk stop is that shown on Pl. XVI between the words of the inscription. The crown terminates in an ordinary hand-bell type argent to which is fitted a stirrup shaped handle with a wooden grip.

The bell is a very fine casting and has an excellent appearance but unfortunately the tone is inferior. The original cast-in crown staple is retained and the clapper also appears to be coeval. The bell has never been tuned.

The bell of the Master of Kirk Works, 6⅓ in. diameter, is inscribed:

(*an indistinct round mark*) AL. TROVP. MR. KIRK WORK.
ABD. 1697. PK F.

See Pl. XXII, 3, a rather roughly cast bell by Patrick Kilgour of Old Aberdeen but with a much better tone than the above Mowat bell. The handle is screwed into the crown of the bell and with the clapper is modern. The cast-in crown staple remains.

¹ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 51.

² *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 49.

³ *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 121.

⁴ *Burgh Accounts. Michaelmas 1798 to Michaelmas 1799.*

ABERDEEN, OLD. Kings College. 4

The tower, which is surmounted by an open crown, contains two bells. The smaller is hung for swing chiming with a lever and the larger though hung for swing chiming with a wheel is now sounded in naval fashion.

The treble, $14\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter, is inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1869.

The tenor, $29\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter, bears the inscription:

(*a border*) / CAMPANAM □ HANC □ DE □ NOVO □
 VNVDENDAM □ CVRARVNT □ MODERATORES □
 VNIVERSITATIS (*a border*) / ABERDONENSIS □ ANNO
 □ DOMINI □ MDCCII □ ALBERTVS □ GELY □ ME
 □ FECIT □ VET □ ABD (*a border*) / (*a border*)

Immediately below the word GELY is a plaque bearing a cock and what appears to be a sheaf between two of the stops used between the words. On the waist appears the arms of Bishop Elphinstone twice, each flanked by the arms of the University.

The tenor retains the cast-in crown staple; the design is unusual as the outside of the soundbow is not curved to the lip and is straight for some inches. The inside surface from the lip is also straight. The tone is very inferior; the pitches of the five main frequencies are 1,060, 820, 628, 575, and 255 cycles per second, and these show that the trouble is mainly due to the fact that the Fundamental (575 c/s), which should be an octave below the Nominal (1,060 c/s), is some $1\frac{1}{2}$ semitones too sharp.

The lettering, the plaque, and the border between the words and below the inscription are the same as on the Marischal College bell, Pl. XXIII, 1. The border above the inscription is of a running floral type $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. high.

In the Library two bells are preserved. The larger, called Clatter Vengeance, is $16\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter and is inscribed:

· IOHANNES · BVRGERHVYS · ME · FECIT · ANNO · 1660 /
 (*waist*) COLLEGIVM · REGIVM · ABERDONENSIS

From the Middelburg foundry. The lettering, which is in two sizes, is similar in design to that on the Logie Coldstone bell from the same foundry, Pl. XVII (b). There is no ornamental border and the two Ns in the last word are reversed.

The bell is a good casting though the surface has been corroded; all six canons remain but the original cast-in crown staple has broken off and two holes have been drilled through the crown to hold a false staple.

The bell is cracked in the soundbow near where the clapper used to strike, and as the metal here is only slightly indented its present state could not have been due to fair wear.

Also in the Library is a smaller bell, 10 in. diameter inscribed:

IOHNMOWAT □ FECIT (*rose*) OLD (*rose*) ABD
 (*floral border*) 1741 □ / (*acanthus leaf border all round*)

This bell was formerly in Marischal College. See Pl. XXII, 4.

The inventory of 1541 gives the inscriptions on the five great bells which were then hanging in the tower.¹ These are:

- Treble: Raphael [illegible; ? ecce] cantate domino canticum novum bene psallite ei in vociferatione per me Georgium Waghevans anno / dni MDXIX
 Second: Vocor Gabriel cantate domino canticum novum bene psallite ei in vociferatione per me Georgium Waghevans anno dni MDXIX
 Third: Michael Ecce anuntio vobis gaudium quod erit omni populo per me Georgium Waghevans MDXIX
 Fourth: Protege prece pia quos convoco sancta maria.
 Tenor: Fiat haec campana beata trinitate sacra Trinitate sacra fiat haec campana beata.

They show quite clearly that the three lighter bells were cast by George Waghevans of Mechlin in 1519, some years after the death of Bishop Elphinstone. This would suggest that the two larger bells were somewhat older and their inscriptions suggest that they were English; that on the tenor was common on bells cast at the Nottingham foundry and that on the fourth at the Exeter foundry.²

Boece records that the largest bell was named Trinitas and it is stated that the diameter was 5 ft. 5 in.³ This would give a weight of some 48 cwt., rather less than that of the medieval clock-bell in Gloucester Cathedral which is the largest pre-Reformation bell now remaining in England.

The inventory of 1542 records that there were other bells⁴:

Campanile

12 Campanae in Campanili

Item quinque campane magne, Trinitas, Maria, Michael, Gabriel, et Raphael.

Quinque parve campane pro media hora signanda cum totidem ferreis malleis requisitis.

Due campane ad quotidianum usum.

So in addition to the five named large bells there were five small bells for marking the middles of the hours, with as many iron clappers. There were also two further bells for daily use, bringing the total up the tower to twelve.

There were three small bells in the church, one was at the principal altar, one at the altar of St Germain and the third at the altar of the Blessed Virgin.

In the tower there was a great iron clock with an iron mallet for marking the hours, and as Boece records that there were thirteen bells in the tower it is possible that the clock struck on a further one.⁵

As has been noted under Tough the bell there is one of the seven smaller bells given in the Inventory of 1542, being the work of William Culverden of London in the period 1508 to 1522. It would seem that he cast most, if not all, of these seven.

It is recorded that the tenor called Trinitas was hung for swinging with a rope and wheel and was rung every night at eight o'clock to call all students, resident and non-resident, to supper. The five smaller bells were used for chiming the half-hours and were struck by hand hammers by as many ringers.⁶

In 1619 repairs were needed to the top of the steeple and in 1633 the top fell

¹ Eeles, *Kings College Chapel, Aberdeen*, 5.

² Milne, *Aberdeen*, 209.

³ Milne, *Aberdeen*, 209.

² Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, 325.

⁴ Eeles, *Kings College Chapel, Aberdeen*, 22, 45.

⁶ *ibid.*, 209.

down, being rebuilt soon afterwards. In 1642 the great bells in both St Machar's and the College were rung to call the people of Old Aberdeen to hear Dr Guild preach in the chapel. He was Principal of Kings College, and is recorded in 1640 as having temporarily borrowed the Grammar School bell.¹

The College accounts record the following payments in the period 1652-61.²

To mending the tongue of the great bell	6s.	od.
Eight fathoms of tows to the great bell	£1	os. od.
To Smith Forsyth for ordering and rectifying the little bells	18s.	od.
For twelve fathoms of tows to the little musical bells	18s.	od.

Despite the provision of twelve bells of various sizes in 1660 a further bell was procured from the Middelburg foundry of Jan Burgerhuys II and this bell, 'Clatter Vengeance', was hung in Cromwell's tower recently completed.³

In 1700 it was realised that something ought to be done about the bells in the steeple, and Albert Danel Geli, a French bell-founder, having come up to Aberdeen from Ayrshire, entered into an agreement with the College as follows⁴:

At the King's Colledge, 2d September, 1700, convened the Principal and remanent Masters.

Monsr. Gelly, a French founder, made the following propositions for recasting the bells of the steeple:— 1st, That the Colledge, upon their proper charges, shall break down the said bells and deliver to him the metall. 2d, The said Mr Gelly engages out of two parts of the said metall to cast for the Colledge use five or six good and sufficient musical bells according to the proportions and dimensions that he shall give into the Masters before breaking down the said bells.

3d, For his own proper charges and expenses, he demands the remaining third part of the metall, for which he engageth to be at the whole charge and expense of founding, and to deliver back to the Masters of the said Colledge a good and sufficient chime or peal of five or six musical bells; and if, when they are finished, they be not sufficient or do not answer, then is he to ask nothing for his pains.

4th, He requires that the Masters should furnish him, upon their own expenses, a convenient house wherein he may found these said bells; which proposals being ripely advised and considered by the Masters, and they having sufficient information of the said Mr Gelly, his capacity and skill in the art, and that it were not possible to get the said bells recasten so easily elsewhere, it was unanimously resolved that, for a tryall, the two bells hanging next to the eight hour bell be broken, and that out of them he be allowed to cast one, and that as quickly as may be; and, if this answer our expectation, then may we proceed to the terms forgoing by piecemeal to break down the rest, and give the said Mr Gelly suitable encouragement.

As a result Albert Gely cast the present tenor bell in 1702. The weight of this bell is some $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and allowing for some wastage in recasting and the fact that he was to keep a third of the broken metal it would seem that the two old bells weighed in total some $8\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The Tough bell weighs about $1\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. so that all three could have formed with two others the set of five musical bells. One would have expected the Waghevens bells with the two larger bells to have formed a major scale in the key of about C, and this would have given weights for these bells of about 11 cwt., 16 cwt., 19 cwt., 30 cwt. and 48 cwt. So Gely is unlikely to have recast any of these.

The process of recasting was not accomplished without some damage as is shown by the following note⁵:

¹ *Extracts from the Council Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen 1625-1642*, 1, 243.

² Turreff, *Antiquarian Gleanings from Aberdeenshire Records*, p. 298.

³ Milne, *Aberdeen*, p. 209.

⁴ Turreff, *Antiquarian Gleanings from Aberdeenshire Records*, p. 299.

⁵ *ibid.*, p. 300.

3d August 1702.

Representation being made of the damage which Baillie Knight's house had sustained by founding the bells in it, it was unanimously agreed that the Colledge give twenty merks to Mr Gelly, the founder for repairing the said damages.

It seems that Gely cast other bells in Baillie Knight's house and these could have been for other towers. The writer feels that it is unlikely that the trial casting of the present bell would have been considered successful in view of the very inferior tone and that the proposal to recast any of the others was not proceeded with.

By 1734 Gely's successor at the Old Aberdeen foundry, John Mowat, had acquired at least one of the music bells, and as recorded under Tough he supplied that parish with one. Unfortunately the Procuration Accounts for the period 1731-3 are missing, but there are numerous mentions of John Mowat in connection with repairing the lead roofs about that time. In the accounts for Crop 1736 there is a credit entry:

The price of 72 lb of Bell Metal at 12 sh per lib is £43 4s. od.

There is a further credit entry under Crop 1738:

With the Price of two Oaken Beams taken out of ye Steeple £15 os. od.

The Procuration Accounts 1797-1800, Edilis Accounts for Crop 1800 give:

Casual

To the price of Four Bells sold to John Leith, weighing lb 5566 at 9½d pr lb Dutch weight, after deducting allowances for taking them down, for iron work, weighing & c

£	s	d
208	-	-

And so what must have been quite a fine set of bells was disposed of mainly as scrap.

'Clatter Vengeance' was transferred to the steeple in 1825¹ and on becoming cracked was replaced by the present treble cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1869.

ABERDEEN. Marischal College. 2

The Mitchell Tower contains a clock bell, weighing about 31 cwt., which was cast by Charles Carr of Smethwick. The bell is hung dead and bears no inscription. The date of casting was 1895.²

In a turret on the south side of the quadrangle is a bell, 27½ in. diameter, inscribed:

CAMPANAM □ HANC □ PRO □ FRANCISCANORVM □
 OLIM □ FANO □ DE □ NOVO □ FVNDENDAM / CVRAVIT
 □ SENATVS □ ABREDONENSIS □ ANNO □ DOM □ MCCI
 □ ALBERTVS □ GELY □ FVDV □ ABREDONIE

Below the founder's name is a plaque containing a cock, a flower and what appears to be a sheaf, see Pl. XXIII, I. There is a fleur-de-lys border all round above the inscription and the stops are from the border which is found all round the bell

¹ Milne, *Aberdeen*, p. 209.

² Eeles, *Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 50.

below the inscription except where the plaque is. The date has been blundered, it should be 1701.

One account¹ suggests that this bell was cast out of the metal of two old bells belonging to the College, but it would seem from the above inscription that only one bell was recast and that the latter belonged to the Greyfriars church.

As with this founder's bell in King's College the tone leaves much to be desired. The pitches are 1,125, 810, 661, 611 and 261 cycles per second, and here again the Fundamental (611 c/s) is too sharp, it should be an octave below the Nominal (1,125 c/s), i.e. 562 c/s.

ABERDEEN. Grammar School. 1

The old bell, 12½ in. diameter, is preserved in the School, and is inscribed:

DENUO F. ME JO: MOWAT. VET. ABD MDCCXXXIII /
DONUM RO: FERGUSON M.D.XXVII / (*on waist a merchant's
mark*)

Of the six canons on the crown the two single ones are broken off and the bell is cracked in the soundbow. The cast-in crown staple remains. Unlike most of Mowat's bells there is no ornamentation.

Robert Ferguson, burgess, offered his bell to the Town Council on 16th February 1625² and not in 1527 as appears on the bell. It was transferred to new buildings in 1757 and became cracked by the abuse of stone throwing. Certainly the crack now visible in the soundbow is not where the clapper used to strike. It did service in a later building from 1863 for some years and is now disused.³

The bell at present in use is 16½ inches in diameter and bears no inscription. A hand-bell type argent with no canons is recessed into the timber headstock. This bell would seem to have been cast about the time the older one was disused.

Best thanks to the present Rector, Mr J. V. Skinner, M.A., B.LITT., and the school Janitor for this information.

ABERDEEN, OLD. Mitchell's Hospital. 1

The open belfry contains a bell, 14 in. diameter, hung for swing chiming and bearing the incised inscription:

MITCHELLS HOSPITAL OLD ABERDEEN 1801

From the general design of the bell it is clearly a product of the Whitechapel Foundry, London. The bell has been painted at one time and has quite a good tone, but is no longer used.

ABERDEEN. Friendville. 1

In the grounds of this house, which is the residence of William S. Bell Esq., is preserved a bell, 12⅞ in. diameter, inscribed:

ANDREW LAWSON OLD ABD FE 1784

¹ Rettie, *Aberdeen Fifty Years Ago*, p. 82.

² Simpson, *Bon Accord* (1906), p. 110. Photograph of bell.

³ *Scottish Notes and Queries*, Vol. III, No. 1, June 1889, p. 16. Also gives photograph of bell.

Beneath the inscription is a band of fleur-de-lys. A clapper of the same date hangs from the cast-in iron staple. See Pl. XXIII, 2. Best thanks to Mr Bell for his kindness in allowing the writer to examine this bell from the Old Aberdeen foundry.

ABERDEEN, OLD. Lemon Tree Inn

In the Glasgow Exhibition of 1911 there was on show a hand-bell, 5 in. diameter, inscribed:

MICHAEL BURGERHVYS M F

This bell was formerly used at the Lemon Tree Inn and was in 1911 lent by David McHardy for the Exhibition.¹ Recent enquires have so far failed to trace its present whereabouts.

Michael Burgerhuys of Middelburg commenced work about 1617 and died in 1651 so the bell is of this period. The 'M F' stands for 'Me Fecit'.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

ABOYNE. Parish Church

The full inscription on this bell is:

HÆC CAMPANA. A. GUL. FARQUHARSON EJUSQUE. /
 UXORE. ANNA. GILLENDERS ANNO 1729 ECCLESIAE /
 GLENTANNERIÆ DONATA SUMPTU CONJUNCTARUM /
 PAROCHIAARUM GLENTANNERIÆ ET ABOYNIÆ DENUO /
 CONFLATA ET AUCTA EST ANNO 1843

Best thanks to the Minister, the Rev. Andrew Gardiner, for having it recorded when work was in progress on the fabric of the church.

CRUDEN. St Olaf

The cracked bell of 1519 is now preserved inside the church. A new bell, weighing 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 lb., now hangs in the belfry and bears the inscription:

(waist) J TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH
 WOMAN'S GUILD, CRUDEN OLD PARISH CHURCH, 1957.

This bell is hung with metal fittings in ball bearings. The stop is fig. 5 in *P.S.A.S.* LXXXII, 149. Diameter 21 in.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BELL-FOUNDERS WHOSE WORK IS FOUND IN ABERDEENSHIRE

Pre-Reformation Bells

Only three bells cast before 1560 remain in the county. The disused bell at Cruden dated 1519 is clearly from the Continent though the meaning of the inscription is obscure. Of about the same age is the bell at Tough cast by William Culverden of London who was working in the period 1506 to 1522 and whose will

¹ *Palace of History*, Catalogue of Glasgow Exhibition 1911, Vol. II, p. 1095 ff.

is dated 1522. This was one of a number of bells which originally hung in the tower of King's College, Aberdeen. The bell at Turriff, dated 1556, just falls into this category and is most probably a local product.

Continental Bells

The Cruden bell of 1519 has already been noticed. Bearing this same date were the three lighter bells of the ring of five in the tower of King's College, Aberdeen, now alas destroyed. These latter were cast by George Waghevens¹ of Malines or Mechlin in Belgium; no other bells have as yet been discovered in Scotland bearing his name, but his brother Peter did some notable work for St John's, Perth, in the period 1506 to 1526. Another relative, Jacop, cast the very fine bell, dated 1554, in the People's Palace, Glasgow.²

Also working in Mechlin was the van den Ghein family; though the first founder of this name began working in 1506 it is more than a hundred years later when the Kinellar and Culsalmond bells were cast. The former bears the name of Peter III, who also cast bells at Cessnock Castle, Galston, Ayrshire; Inverarity, Angus; Craig parish church, Fife; and another, now recast, at East Kilbride. The Culsalmond bell, now at Keithhall church, has been recast, and was the work of Jan III. The writer has no note of any other bell in Scotland by him. This foundry continued to trade till recent years when with the death of Felix van Aerschodt in Leuven (Louvain) it was closed. From the hand of Sévérin van Aerschodt comes the single bell at Stoneywood, dated 1879, and the carillon of 37 bells, largest 54 cwt., in 1885 for St Nicholas, Aberdeen. These latter bells have now been recast.

By far the largest number of bells in this category were cast at the Middelburg foundry on Walcheren Island in Holland by the Burgerhuys family. The Fyvie bell of 1609 is by Jan I, the first founder of the family, and the writer has a note of nine other of his bells in Scotland. Surprisingly his work seems to be rare in Holland.

On his death in 1617 the foundry was carried on by his son Michael. This latter founder did a very large amount of work in the county; his largest bell was almost certainly Old Lowrie, 1634, which was broken in the fire in St Nicholas' tower, Aberdeen in 1874. However he did also cast two bells for St Machar's Cathedral and the larger of these could well have been of some size. Another of his bells lost was that at Dyce, 1642, which was blown up in recent times. The remaining ones are at Logie Coldstone, 1619; Rhynie, 1620; New Machar, 1635; Coull, Leslie, Peterhead, 1642; and the Lemon Tree Inn, Old Aberdeen, hand-bell, undated, which the writer has been unable to trace. The writer has a note of 28 other bells cast by him remaining in Scotland.

Jan Burgerhuys II, the son of Michael, carried on the foundry, and even in Michael's lifetime cast the Glass bell, 1642, which has been subsequently recast, and in 1660 'Clatter Vengeance' for King's College, Aberdeen. At least another eight of his bells are to be found in Scotland. With his death in 1679 the foundry closed.

From the Deventer foundry we have the two very similar bells of the same date,

¹ Raven, *The Church Bells of Suffolk*, p. 76, gives some of the family history.

² *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXII, Pl. XXXVI.

1633, from the hand of Henrick ter Horst at Belhelvie and Strichen. Other bells by him are at Wigtown, 1633; and Dunfermline Tolbooth, 1654.

From the Amsterdam foundry we have the bell at Tyrie, 1773, cast by Peter Seest. Another of his bells, dated 1760, is at Pen-y-gau Farm, St Ishmael, Carmarthenshire, S. Wales. Both are poorly cast and well below the very high standard set by the Hemony brothers more than a century earlier.

The Ruthven bell of 1643 is certainly Dutch, and may be an early work of Cornelis Ouderogge of Rotterdam. However bells bearing this founder's name are usually so neat in appearance with fine, well stamped lettering that this explanation may not be right. So far the borders have not been found on any other bell in Scotland and there are six bells by Ouderogge which have been examined.

Peter Jansen is a founder with a very Continental name but whose work in Scotland is so far limited to the years 1642-3-4. The bells in the county are at Midmar, 1642; Rathen, Glenbuchat, 1643; Auchterless, 1644. The only other known is at Alvah, Banff, 1643. Three of these bear the words BONI-TWN. The founder is not known in Holland, and in any case his products are in every way inferior to the Dutch bells of the time so it is possible he came from elsewhere on the Continent. The conclusion seems to be that he was an itinerant founder who seems to have done work in the NE. of Scotland for a very short time.

In more recent times we have the four small bells from the Munich foundry of Vdalric Kortner at Crathie dated 1894.

Scottish Foundries

The Old Aberdeen Foundry

The earliest bell so far discovered from this foundry is that at Lynturk Church, Leochel and Cushnie, cast by Patrick Kilgour in 1686.

There are numerous references to the Kilgour family in the records of the Burgh of Old Aberdeen and of the kirk session. In 1630 one John Kilgour¹ was appointed to look after the clock and bells in St Machar's and in 1643 John and Henry Kilgour² were ordered to prevent people going up the church steeple on the Sabbath day. John Kilgour³ is again mentioned in 1647 when he was to be paid two shillings by every 'ricking' house for ringing the 5 hours and 9 hours bell for a year.

The first reference to Patrick Kilgour⁴ is dated 1664 when he was charged with taking church lead and was remitted to the sheriff, and in the following year⁵ he was ordered to stop work until he was admitted a freeman. He had been admitted to the Guild of Hammermen⁶ as a wheelwright in 1662.

In 1666 John Kilgour⁷ was to have collections at marriages and baptisms, and in 1678 a further member of the family, George Kilgour,⁸ was deposed as church officer.

¹ Munro, *Records of Old Aberdeen*, Vol. II, p. 8.

² *ibid.*, p. 18.

⁴ *ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 60.

⁶ Eeles, *Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 16.

⁷ Munro, *Records of Old Aberdeen*, Vol. II, p. 63.

⁸ *ibid.*, p. 70.

³ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 78.

⁵ *ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 106.

In the following year Patrick Kilgour,¹ watchmaker, was elected a member of session, and some months later was made treasurer² of the Burgh for the next three years, a position not without responsibility.

Only five bells known to have been cast by Patrick Kilgour have yet been discovered and they are all in Aberdeenshire. The earliest being the Leochel and Cushnie bell of 1686, followed by Ballater, 1688; Monquhitter and Kennethmont, 1689; and the Aberdeen, Master of Kirk Works hand-bell, 1697. In general his bells are not objects of beauty, *vide* Pl. XX, b, and apart from the hand-bell have a poor tone.

Patrick Kilgour was succeeded by Albert Danel Géli, who was a Frenchman, and so described himself on a bell in Maybole³ Town Hall, Ayrshire, dated 1696. A year later Géli⁴ was working in Irvine in the same county and cast a bell for Kilmarnock, and by 1701 he had started work in Old Aberdeen. Of his work here six bells are known to remain now and a further four have been recast. They are Marischal College, Aberdeen, 1701; Portlethen, Kincardine, 1702; Fordyce, Banff, 1702; Banff Tolbooth, 1702, recast; Kintore, Aberdeenshire, 1702; King's College, Aberdeen, 1702; Inch, Aberdeenshire, 1706; Banff School, 1712, recast; Elgin, St Giles, 1712, recast; Old Aberdeen Tolbooth, 1713, recast.

His bells are based on Low Country designs and are much neater and better cast than Kilgour's. On a number he uses a sheaf of corn placed horizontally as a founder's mark, sometimes with a cock. His foundry was at the head of Baillie Forsyth's Close.⁵ The account of his work and proposals at King's College, Aberdeen, are of interest.

John Mowat is the next founder in Old Aberdeen; his bells are far more numerous than his predecessors. He applied to be made a freeman of the trade of blacksmith on 14th August 1717 and an essay of an iron lock and key was set him. On 31st October 1717 the essay was submitted and Mowat was admitted a member of the incorporation, being 'sufficiently qualified to serve the king's lieges in his trade'.

He was nominated and chosen Deacon on 26th October 1724 for the ensuing year by a majority of votes. He was master of the Guild of Hammermen 1730 to 1733, boxmaster and master, 1738 to 1743 and master again from 1744 to 1746.⁶ During the next few years he became involved in reference to some guild money, and he does not seem to have come out with very clean hands. He died in 1771. His will dated 16th December 1769 makes his youngest daughter, Christian Mowat, his sole beneficiary. Two married daughters are mentioned, Margaret, wife of Alexander Machray, merchant in Peterhead, and Mary, wife of John Gill Mason of Aberdeen. A son, George, is mentioned, 'who is but a watch Maker to Trade'. He was to have the chance of buying his father's working tools at such value as any two tradesmen to be named by him and his father's executor shall put upon them.

John Mowat's bells range in date from 1733 to 1765. His bells are copiously ornamented and are inscribed with quite good lettering, but the whole is clumsily

¹ *ibid.*, p. 71.

² *ibid.*, Vol. 1, p. 134.

³ *Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society Collections*, second series, Vol. 1, p. 238.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 254.

⁵ *Ecles, Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 16.

⁶ *Ecles, Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 16.

arranged and the bells do not have the fine artistic effect of many of the continental products of a century earlier. The musical properties are poor.

All his bells so far discovered are in Aberdeenshire or nearby counties so the full list will be of interest:

Aberdeen, Grammar School, 1733; Skene, 1735; Arbuthnott, Kincardineshire, 1736, recast; Aberdeen, King's College Library, 1741; Old Aberdeen Town Crier's bell, 1741; Kincardine O'Neil, 1744; Udney, 1744, recast; Cluny, 1746; Monymusk, 1748; Fintray, 1751; Daviot, 1753, recast; Inverkeithney, Banff, 1753; Botriphnie Banff, 1753, and also a hand-bell; Aboyne, 1753; Leochel, 1754; Ordiquhill, Banff, 1754; Glass hand-bell, 1754; Old Aberdeen Town House, 1754; Keith, Banff, 1755, recast; King Edward, 1755; Gartly, 1758; Aberdeen, Nigg Church, 1759; Foveran, 1760, recast; Kildrummy, 1760; Bourtie, 1760; Alford, 1761; Speymouth, Moray, 1762; Cairney, 1763; Haughton House, 1764; Durris, Kincardineshire, 1765; and bells since recast at Cookney and Drumlithie, Kincardineshire, and Huntly.

The next founder in Old Aberdeen was Andrew Lawson. He was admitted into the Burgess Guild of Old Aberdeen and also into the Incorporation of Hammermen in 1765,¹ and was deacon of the latter in 1773. He was Mowat's apprentice and certainly succeeded to his bell founding equipment as both used the same models, lettering and fleur-de-lys. He appears to have married Mowat's daughter Christian mentioned earlier and this would account for his succession to the business. Lawson died in 1810.

His bells are very similar to Mowat's but are comparatively rare. His list so far known is: Deskford, Banff, 1781; Dunnottar, Kincardine, 1783; Aberdeen, Friendville, 1784; Duff House, Banff, 1785; Kemnay, 1788. A former bell of his at Calbrach, Banff, has subsequently been recast.

So the Kemnay bell of 1788 is thought to be the last one cast at the Old Aberdeen foundry.

Later Aberdeen Founders

Before the closing of the Old Aberdeen Foundry the firm of Hugh Gordon and Co. comes into prominence. Their bells are based on English designs and are not noteworthy. Their list is: Boyndie, Banff, 1770; Oyne, 1771; Tarland, 1772; Macduff, Banff, 1772, recast; Birse, 1813; Gamrie, Banff, 1841; Gartly, about 1844.

The firm of James Abernethy and Co. Ltd., of the Ferryhill Foundry, cast bells but their name has yet to be found on any in Aberdeenshire churches. They cast the uninscribed bell at New Aberdour in 1859, and would appear to be the founders of the blank bells at Drumblade, Forgue, St Fergus, and Lonmay. Their main work was in the marine field and the firm ceased trading about 1956. Their records were considerably damaged by fire in 1910.

The names Baird and Ellis appear on the Ellon bell of 1828 and were on the bell of 1817 at Longside, now recast. So far these are the only bells known to have come from their foundry in Aberdeen.

John Blaikie and Sons, brass and general founders, cast a number of bells around

¹ *ibid.*, p. 17.

Aberdeen. After the fire in St Nicholas' church tower, Aberdeen, in 1874 they bought up metal from Old Lowrie and cast a number of bells from it. Their list is: Nigg, 1833; Drumoak, 1836; Craigiebuckler church, Aberdeen, two bells, 1882; Cults, 1883, recast; Cove Mission church, Kincardineshire, 1887; Torry, 1890; Drumtochty Castle, Kincardineshire, about 1897; Kingswells, undated. In 1877 their works was in Littlejohn Street and the firm ceased to trade about 1925.

The bell at Blairdaff bears the name John Duffus and Company as founders and the date 1839. The same firm cast a bell for Marykirk, Kincardineshire, in 1830, which has been considered to be one of the two worst bells in that county.¹

The small bell in the Established church at Woodhead, formerly Fyvie Free church, bears the name of J. Stephen of Aberdeen as the founder. No other bells by him are known to the author.

A series of bells bearing no founder's name but which were probably cast in Aberdeen are those at: Peterculter, 1860; Lumphanan, 1851; Inch Free Church, now Buchan Poultry Products Ltd., 1852; Banchory Ternan, Kincardineshire, 1851; Kinneff former free church, Kincardineshire, 1851.

There remain also in this category the bells at Aboyne, 1843, and Glass, no date, which are most probably Aberdeen products.

Other Scottish Bells

As has been noted the 1556 bell at Turriff was probably cast locally. There is a reference to two bells having been sent from Elgin to be recast at Turriff late in the sixteenth century.² The Kinnoir Mission Church bell of 1605 would also seem to be a local product.

The activities of Peter Jansen have already been noticed under the Continental bells, and it seems probable that his bells now in the area were cast on Scottish soil.

Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh cast two bells in the county, Peterhead, 1725; and Logie Buchan, 1728. His work has been described elsewhere.³

The bell in the Episcopal church, New Pitsligo, bears the name John Easton, the date 1725, and the fact that he was founding at Fraserburgh. There is another of his bells at Edzell, Angus, dated 1726, which shows that the founding work was done at Slatford in the woods close by Edzell. So obviously Easton was an itinerant. Other bells by him have not come to light.

The hand-bells at Cruden, 1737, and Pitsligo, 1742, also appear to be local, but being small they would not present difficult problems to local smiths.

In more modern times the firm of John C. Wilson and Co. Ltd. of the Gorbals Foundry, Glasgow, has done quite a bit of business in Aberdeenshire. Their history has also been noted elsewhere.⁴ Their work includes: Inverurie Town Hall, 1862; Huntly, Strathbogie church, 1864; Huntly, 1869; Aberdeen, Town House Steeple, 2 bells, 1869 and 1870; Braemar, 1871; Roseheart old Free Church, 1874; Fraserburgh, 1876; Roseheart church, 1882; Huntly, 1886; Sandhaven, former U.F.

¹ Eeles, *Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 18.

² Eeles, 'Banffshire Church Bells', in *Banffshire Journal* for 30th June 1914.

³ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIV, 102.

⁴ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXII, 152.

church, 1888; Rhynie, 1889. The firm also cast bells for the Free Churches at Ballater and Fraserburgh and a Mission Church at Braemar. The firm ceased to trade in 1928 when the goodwill and plant was acquired by Messrs Steven and Struthers Ltd., also of Glasgow. This latter firm cast the bell now in use in the Episcopal church at Cuminestown.

The disused church at Pitcaple has a bell cast by Westwood and Son of Perth, dated 1893.

English Bells

The Whitechapel Foundry

This London foundry, which has been operating continuously from 1567, cast a large number of bells for Aberdeenshire. The earliest in the county is James Bartlet's old town bell of Huntly dated 1656. Richard Phelps cast the disused bell at Crathie in 1736 and his successor Thomas Lester cast the Towie bell in 1743.

The Newhills bell of 1778 and the Clatt one of 1779 were cast by Pack and Chapman, and then we come to Thomas Mears I who with his son did the majority of the work in the county in their period. From Thomas Mears I we have: Drumoak, 1790; Old Meldrum, 1791; Woodhead Episcopal Church, Fyvie, 1794; Aberdeen, St Nicholas, recast one bell and add a new one, *c.* 1795; Keithhall and Kinkell, 1798; Aberdeen Tolbooth, 1799; Old Aberdeen, Mitchell's Hospital, 1801; Aberdeen, St Nicholas, recast one bell and add a new one, *c.* 1802; most probably Fyvie, St George Episcopal church, Folla Rule, about 1800.

Thomas Mears and Son cast bells for Fraserburgh, 1807; and Fyvie, 1809. On the death of his father T. Mears II carried on the business till 1844. His list includes: Strichen, Crimond, 1818; possibly Strathdon, 1819; Udny, 1821; Aberdeen, St Machar's Cathedral, 1823; Methlick, 1827-8; Aberdeen, St Clements, 1830; Deer, 1830; Aberdeen, South Church, 1831; Huntly, St Margaret R.C., 1834; Huntly, Gordon Schools, 1840; Braemar, St Andrew R.C., 1843.

Charles and George Mears cast a bell for Peterhead, 1850; Deer, Episcopal church, 1851; and George alone another bell for Peterhead, 1858; Cairney, 1859. George Mears and Co. appears on the bell at Ardallie church, Deer, and Longside Episcopal church, 1862; Old Meldrum Episcopal church, 1863.

The firm has been called Mears & Stainbank since 1865 though the *Echt Bell*, 1868, bears only Robert Stainbank's name. Later bells are at Aberdeen, King's College, 1869; Lonmay Episcopal church, 2 bells, 1869; Cults, East, 1872; Strichen Episcopal church, 1874; Newburgh, 1890; Auchterless, 1894; Foveran, 1905; Kennethmont, 1910; Longside, 1914. They also recast the Daviot bell for Warners in 1924.

The Loughborough Foundry

The firm of Messrs John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough have over the years cast some notable bells in Scotland and their work is well represented in Aberdeenshire. To a list of rings of bells hung to be rung in the English manner given else-

where¹ can be added the recently cast ring of five bells at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

The oldest Loughborough bell in Aberdeenshire seems to be that in the Turriff Episcopal church, dated 1862 and weighing 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 26 lb. The next few years were good for orders and we have Cruden Episcopal church, 1864; Aberdeen, Woodside South church, 1867; Tarland, 1871; Forgue Episcopal church, 1872; Wells of Ythan, 1873; Bartholchapel, 1874; Turriff, 1875; Tullynessle, 1876; Aberdeen, St Mary's R.C. Cathedral, a chime of nine bells, 1877; Hatton of Cruden, School, 1886; Braemar, Episcopal church, 1889; Cruden, West church, 1895; Rathen, 1897; Whiterashes, Episcopal church, 1900; Port Errol, Congregational church, 1903; New Aberdour, Village Hall, 1910; Ballater, old U.F. church, 1921; Cruden, old church, 1957. The firm also cast a bell weighing 2 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. for Esslemont Castle and another for New Aberdour U.F. church.

John Warner and Sons Ltd., London

One Jacob Warner, a Quaker, was in 1740 ordered by the Founders Company to cease foundry work on the ground that he was only free of the Tin-plate Workers.² His elder son, John Warner, was in business as a bell and brass founder in 1763 at a house known as the 3 bells and a star, in Wood Street, Cheapside, where he was joined by Tomson Warner, his brother. Afterwards they moved to Fore Street, Cripplegate, and dissolved partnership in 1780. Tomson remained in Fore Street, while John went to Fleet Street, where as John Warner and Son he cast bells, one of which is in Irvine Old Church, Ayrshire, dated 1797.³

The bells in Aberdeenshire to be noted were cast by Tomson Warner's branch of the family in Jewin Street, Cripplegate. Before 1850 only small bells were cast but by 1856 they had the order for casting Big Ben and the four quarter bells for the Palace of Westminster. The original Big Ben, cast in 1856, weighed 16½ tons and was at that time the largest bell cast in England. The quarter bells are quite substantial, weighing 1, 1¼, 1¾ and nearly 4 tons. Unfortunately the first Big Ben was not a success and was cracked; normally Warners would have recast the bell but in this case they asked for a price per cwt. for recasting much in excess of that contained for this work in their original tender and on economic grounds the work of casting the present Big Ben was entrusted with George Mears of Whitechapel. The four quarter bells are still those cast by Warners who were for many years Bell and Brass Founders by appointment to Queen Victoria, the Royal Warrant being issued for their work at Balmoral Castle.

In Aberdeenshire the firm cast bells for: New Blyth, about 1851; New Pitligo, 1853; Tarves, 1855; Balmoral Castle, a clock chime of three bells, 1856; Aberdeen, St Nicholas, where they added four bells to give a ring of eight and a semitone bell, 1858; Aberdeen, St John's Schools, 1862; Rathen, 1873; Ellon, Episcopal church, 1876; Dinnet church, 1877; Keithhall, 1879; Premnay, 1880; Bucksburn, about 1885; Udney, 1895; Aboyne, Episcopal church, 2 bells, 1909; Dunecht House, a chime of eight bells, 1911; Daviot, 1924.

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXIV, 106.

² *Stahlschmidt, Church Bells of Kent*, pp. 114 ff.

³ *Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Collections*, second series, Vol. 1, p. 227.

The firm ceased to cast bells after the 1914-18 War, and though the bell at Daviot bears Warner's name the founders were Mears & Stainbank of White-chapel.

Other bells were also cast for the Episcopal churches at Cuminestown and Glentanner.

The Croydon Foundry

The firm of Messrs Gillett and Johnston Ltd. was originated by William Gillett, a clockmaker, of Hadlow, Kent. The firm moved to Croydon in 1844 and traded under the names of Gillett and Bland, Gillett, Bland and Co., Gillett and Co., and latterly Gillett and Johnston Ltd. The firm ceased to cast bells in 1957.

The earliest work for the county was a clock chime of three bells for the Earl of Aberdeen in 1879. Their list includes: Aberdeen, Rubislaw church, 1880; Braemar, former parish church, chime of 5 bells, 1883; Inch, 1884; Lumsden Village, 1890; Aberdeen, Holburn church, 1891; Turriff, a bell of 36 in. diameter weighing 8 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb., 1900; Aberdeen, New Poor House, 2 cwt. 0 qr. 0 lb., 1906; Methlick, 1908; Kincardine O'Neil, 3 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb., 1908, most probably in closed wooden steeple of Episcopal church; Fraserburgh, West church, clock chime of 5 bells, 1929; Cults, West church, 1951; Aberdeen, St Nicholas, the old carillon of 37 bells recast, 1952; Aberdeen, St Nicholas, 11 bells added to the carillon to give 48 bells, and making it the heaviest carillon in Great Britain, 1954.

The closing of this foundry now leaves only two principal bell-founders in England.

Miscellaneous Foundries

BARRETT, ALFRED AND OSBORNE, C. S. LONDON

Cuminestown Episcopal church, 1853, recast.

BARWELL, JAMES, LTD. BIRMINGHAM. 1870¹ to date

Aberdeen, Mannofield, 1882. Belhelvie. Cuminestown old U.F. church, now a school.

BLEWS, WILLIAM. BIRMINGHAM. 1852-86²

Fraserburgh, South church, 1873.

CARR, CHARLES. SMETHWICK. 1887³ to date

Aberdeen, Marischal College, Mitchell Tower, 1895.

MURPHY, JOHN. DUBLIN

Fetternear R.C. church.

NAYLOR, VICKERS AND CO. SHEFFIELD. 1857-74⁴

Glengairn; New Maud; Culsalmond, 1874.

OSBORNE, C. S. LONDON

Fintray House stables, 1858.

¹ Walters, *Church Bells of England*, p. 368.

² *ibid.*, p. 369.

³ *ibid.*, p. 370.

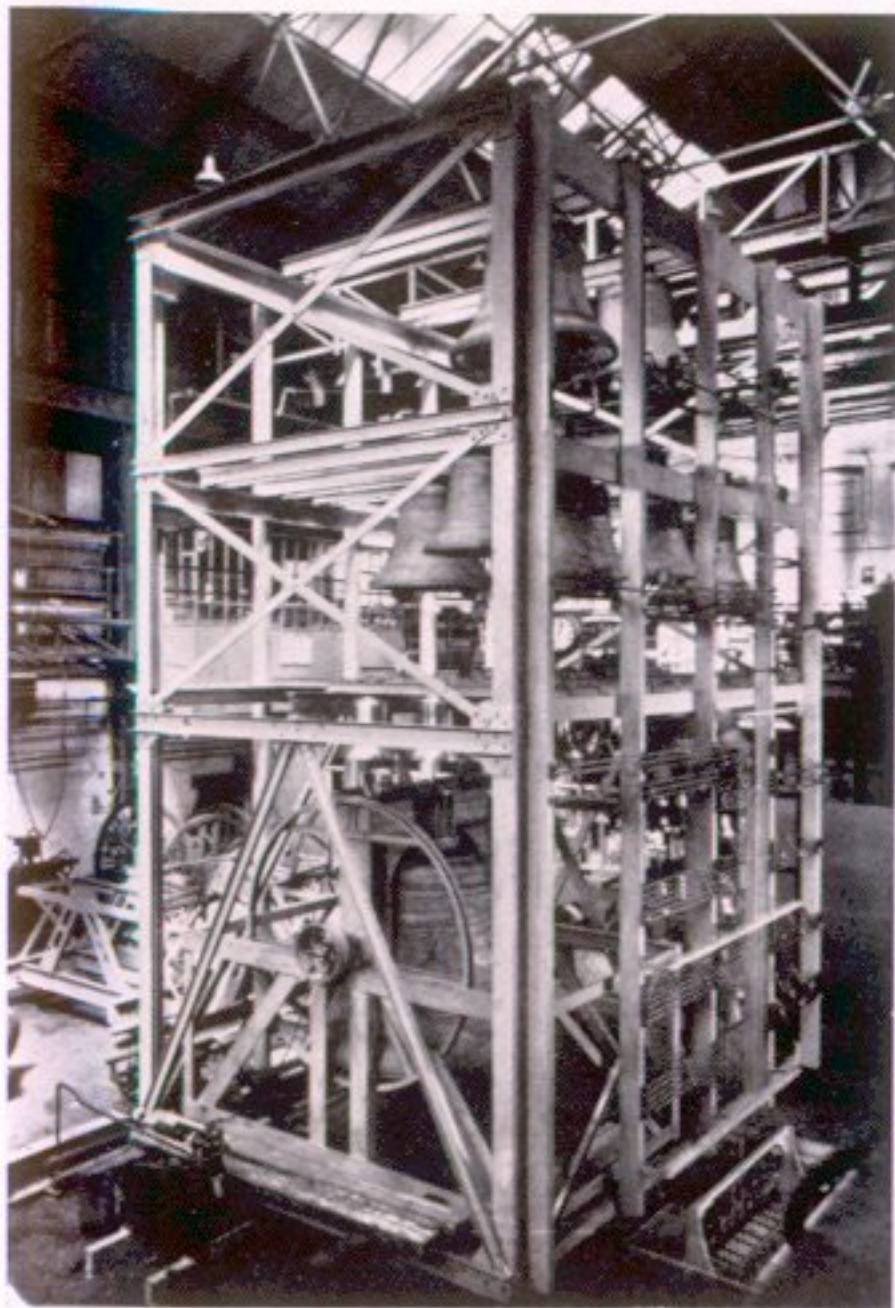
⁴ *ibid.*, p. 377.

The present writer must not close without making acknowledgment to the considerable help he has received when gleaning information for this survey. Apart from those mentioned in Part I and under the notes on particular bells thanks are additionally due to Miss Margaret P. Rust and Mr Dargie of the Aberdeen Town Clerk's Department; Charles Carter Esq., M.Sc., F.S.A. SCOT., Director of the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Industrial Museum; George Angus Mitchell Esq., F.R.I.B.A. F.R.I.C.S.; E. J. P. Raven Esq.; Fenton Wyness Esq., O.ST.J., F.R.I.B.A.; the Aberdeen City Librarian, Mr Milne; and Messrs Jackson-Stops and Staff.

Concluded



Part of the inscription band of Old Lowrie, cast by Michael Burgerhuys in 1634 and preserved in Provost Skene's house. The larger lettering is $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches high



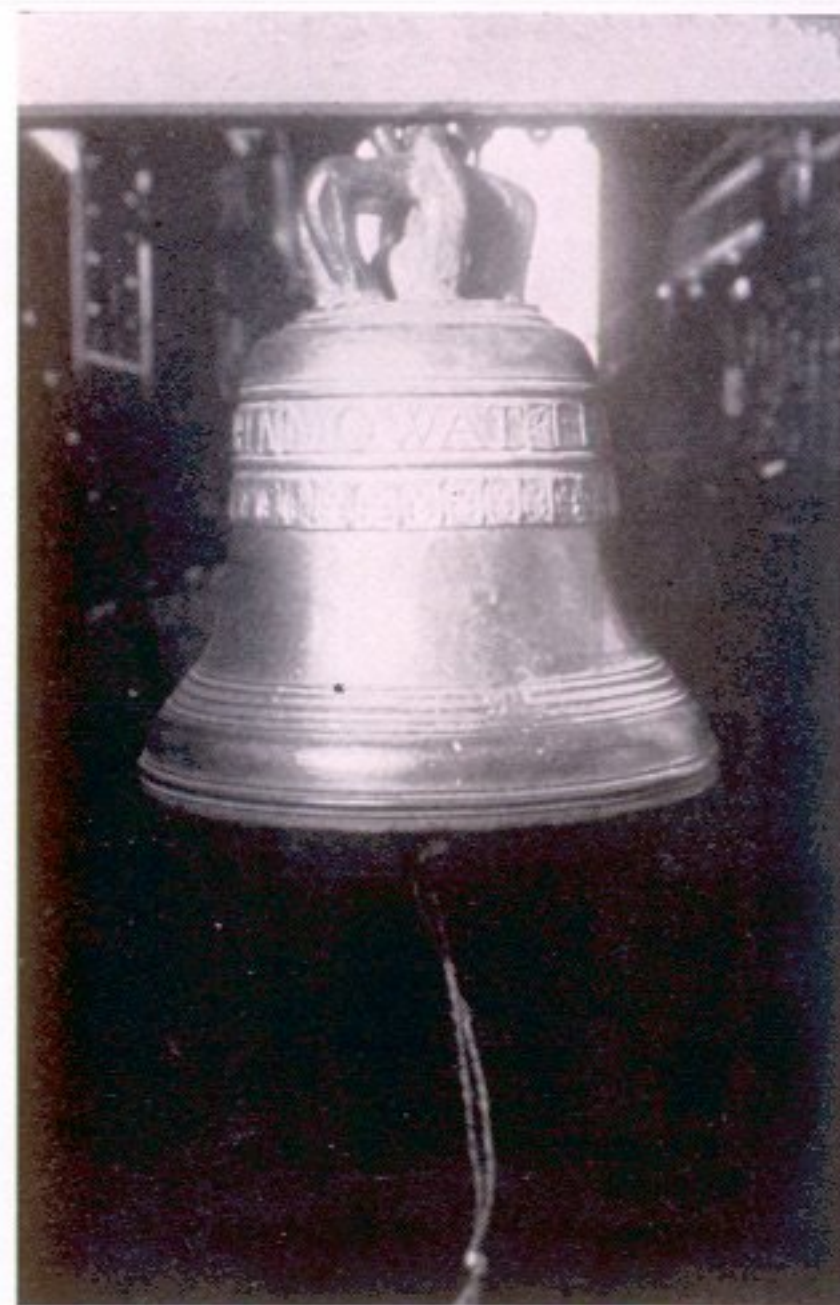
1. The Aberdeen St Nicholas carillon recast and erected for test in the works of Messrs Gillett & Johnston Ltd in 1952. Note the space in the framework for bells which were subsequently supplied



2. Old Aberdeen Town Crier's Bell



3. Aberdeen Town House. Bell of Master of Kirk Works



4. King's College, Aberdeen, Library. John Mowat, 1741



1. Marischal College, Aberdeen, bell of 1701. The surface has been painted



2. 'Friendville', Aberdeen. Andrew Lawson, 1784