

IV.

THE CHURCH AND OTHER BELLS OF STIRLINGSHIRE. WITH
SOME NOTES ON KINROSS-SHIRE BELLS. BY RANALD W. M.
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This paper is intended to be a supplement to the author's earlier account of the church bells of Renfrewshire and Dunbartonshire which appeared in Volume LXXXII of these *Proceedings*, and wherever possible any repetition of information has been avoided.

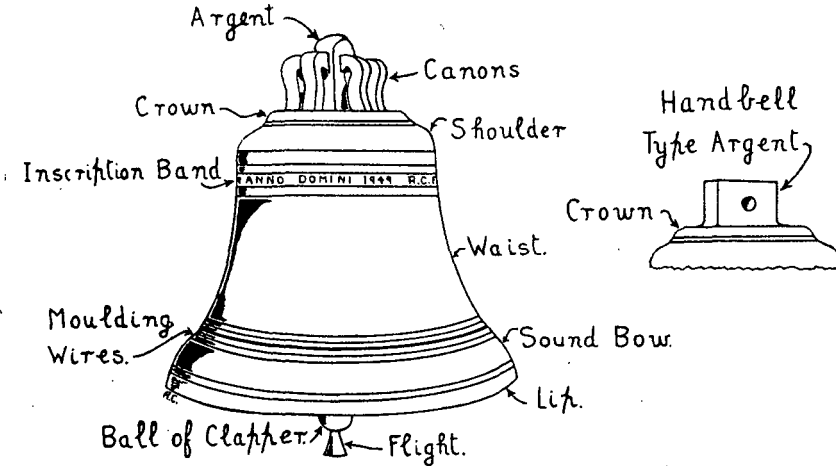
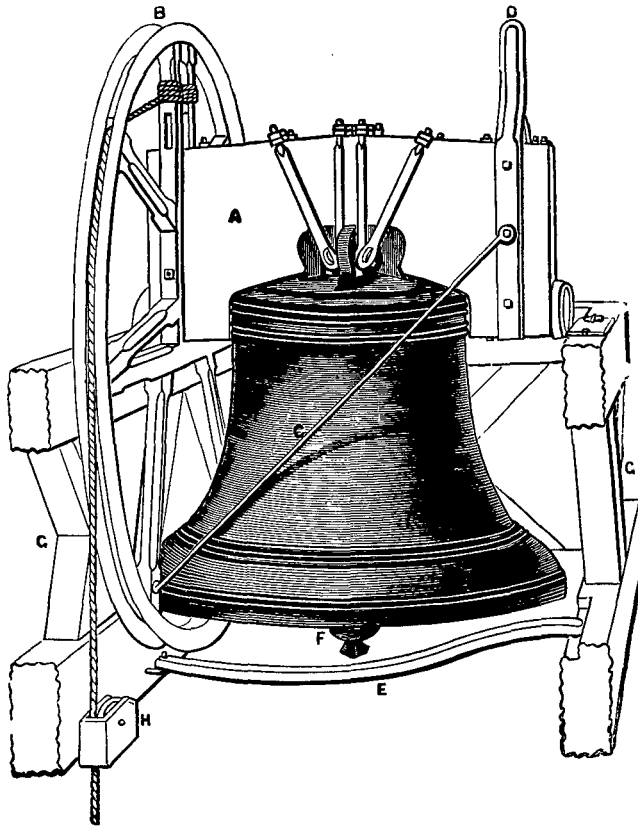


Fig. A(i). Names of parts of a bell.

This survey was made in the summer of 1949 when the author was resident in the Glasgow area, and though he has done his best to keep it up to date it may be that there are a few subsequent changes that are not noted. In making similar surveys in Scotland the author found that, in

general, churches established since the Disruption have bells of little antiquarian interest and these have been omitted, except in the case where a church has a number of bells or one of interest.

The bells are, in general, of the design shown on fig. A(i), either with canons and argent or with a hand-bell type argent only. The inscription,



- A. Headstock.
- B. Wheel.
- D. Stay.
- E. Slider.
- F. Clapper.
- G. Frame.
- H. Ground pulley.

Fig. A(ii). Single bell hung as for change ringing.

unless otherwise stated, starts on the inscription band, and the end of each line is denoted by an oblique stroke; the next line starting lower down on the waist.

Some of the bells hang in turrets which are accessible only with great difficulty, and in these cases the author has done his best to obtain a long enough ladder, but where one was lacking he has had to rely on observations made through a telescope. In these cases it is seldom possible to see the complete inscription from the ground due to the masonry obscuring the view, and only an approximate mouth diameter can be given.

Most of the bells are hung in a manner similar to that shown in fig. A(ii),

except that it is unusual to have a stay and slider fitted. Sometimes the wheel and headstock are of wood, sometimes of cast iron, depending on the circumstances.

No really accurate conversion table can be compiled for obtaining the weight of a bell from the lip diameter as so much depends on the thickness of the metal, which varies considerably. A rough table may be given as—

Diameter (inches)	30	34	38	42	45	47	49
Approximate weight (cwt.)	5	7	9	12	15	18	20

With only one exception all the bells noted have been personally inspected by the author, and in doing this work he has had every assistance from the ministers of the churches visited, and he would like to express his appreciation to them, especially mentioning Rev. W. B. McLaren, of Bothkennar.

The author's thanks are due to the Burgh Authorities of Stirling and Falkirk, who have readily granted him permission to see the municipal bells in their respective burghs; also to the Burgh Librarian of Stirling, Mr Robertson, for acquainting the author with a number of books relating to local history.

In the work of correlating the results of this survey with information gleaned from other sources the author must acknowledge his indebtedness to Dr F. C. Eeles, O.B.E., F.S.A.Scot., who has already done so much in this particular field; and to Mijneer Jan Arts of Tilburg, who has been so helpful in obtaining information in Belgium and Holland about continental founders.

The author is grateful to the Ayrshire Archæological and Natural History Society for the loan of a block, fig. A(i), which appeared in his survey of Ayrshire for the *Transactions* of that Society.

The bell-founding firms of Messrs John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, Gillett & Johnston, Ltd., of Croydon, Steven & Struthers, Ltd., of Glasgow, M'Shane Bell Foundry Co., Inc., of Baltimore, and Mears & Stainbank, of London, have been most helpful in supplying information incorporated in this survey. The author's thanks are due to them, and especially to Messrs Mears & Stainbank for the loan of one block.

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Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. These contain a number of references to bells. Among the more important are: Vol iii. p. 196; vol. viii. p. 265; vol. xiv. p. 102; vol. xviii. p. 94; vol. xxv. p. 174; vol. xxviii. p. 90; vol. xxx. p. 338; vol. xxxix. p. 54; vol. xlvi. p. 137.

PALACE OF HISTORY. *Catalogue of the Glasgow Exhibition, 1911.* Vol. II. p. 1095. Much information, with illustrations of Celtic and later hand-bells and others. By Dr F. C. Eeles.

AIRTH. St Peter. 1.

The tower contains one bell, 28 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1824 ◆◆◆◆◆

This bell was cast in the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, by Thomas Mears, Junior, and is of his usual design. The fittings, a wooden wheel and headstock, are original.

The present church was opened in February 1820,¹ and under the date 10 October 1820 in the minutes of the Larbert Heritors there is a record of a request made by Mr Graham of Airth for the old Larbert bell, which had been disused after Thomas Mears, Junior, had cast the parish a new one in 1819. The old bell was given free, and it is probable that the metal is the same that is in this tower at the present time.

The Airth Heritors' Accounts contain the following ²:—

London Aug 5th 1824

T. Stainton, Esq. for the Parish of Airth, N.B.

Dr to Thomas Mears.

For 1 Church Bell, 4 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs @ 16d per lb.	£35	0	0
Clapper fitted	0	18	0
Wharfage and Cartage	0	5	6
Wharfage and Cartage on Old Bell	0	5	6
	£36	9	0

¹ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 280.

² Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. pp. 266, 267.

Cr

By Old Bell, 4 cwts. 3 qrs	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4 \text{ cwts. 3 qrs 12} \\ \text{lbs. @ 10d per} \\ \text{lb} \end{array} \right\}$	22	3	4
16 lbs.				
Deduct Iron	4 lbs.			
		<hr/>		
		£14	5	8
June 14th.	Frts. to London per <i>Prosperine</i> of the Old Bell,	0	7	6
Aug. 16th.	Frts. from London per <i>Minerva</i> of the New Bell,	0	10	0
		<hr/>		
		£15	3	2

Falkirk, 26th Sept, 1824.

The Heritors of the Parish of Airth.

Dr to Michael Muir, Junior.

To taking down the Old Bell and putting up the New Bell per agreement with Mr Graham, Stirling,	£8	8	0
To a block for New Bell, wood and iron,	2	4	0
To iron work and ballisters for ditto,	2	18	0
To extra expenses of getting Old Bell weighed,	0	5	0
To carriage of the Old Bell to Grangemouth and the New Bell from Grangemouth to Airth,	0	10	0
		<hr/>	
Nov. 25th. By cash remitted per Mr Wm Espie	£14	5	0

(Signed) THOMAS GRAHAM, Stirling.

BALDERNOCK. 1.

In an open turret mounted midway along the south wall hangs a bell, about 10 inches diameter, bearing the inscription:

EX DONO/IACOBI COUPER/
1796

The lettering is placed on the waist, the figures in the third row being smaller than the remainder. The bell is flower-pot shaped, with straight sides and no moulding wires by the inscription band. A chain and lever is attached to a wooden headstock and the bell is rung from outside the building.

The present church was built in 1795 during the ministry of Rev.

Dr James Couper, and his name appears as the donor of the bell. He was the son of a minister of Lochwinnoch, and after graduating at Glasgow University in 1775 was ordained and became minister of this parish in 1783.¹ In 1800 the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Glasgow University, and he was Dean of Faculties there from that year till 1812. He demitted this charge in November 1803 on his appointment as Professor of Practical Astronomy at Glasgow University.

BALFRON. 2.

The tower contains a bell, $43\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

PRESENTED BY THE REVEREND ALEXANDER SLESSOR.
A.D. 1888./ JOHN C. WILSON & C^o, FOUNDERS. GLASGOW./
(*Soundbow*) VOCO, "VENITE IN DOMINI TEMPLUM."

The bell has the usual cast-iron fittings as supplied by this foundry. In the church is preserved the earlier bell, $17\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

Gifted/by/ROBERT ∴ DUNMORE./of/
Ballindalloch/1791/ (*Inside the crown*) J W & C^o/
F/G

The shape of this bell is much like that at Baldernock and is illustrated on Pl. VI, 1. It is unusual to find lower-case letters used on church bells; one of the few other founders who did was Luke Ashton of Wigan, in the period 1720 to 1750. It is, however, rarer to find an inscription placed inside the bell, as in this case.

The present church was rebuilt in 1832 and there was formerly a bell tree at the churchyard gate.

The bell is probably the work of John Wilson & Co., of 73 Trongate, Glasgow.

BOTHKENNAR. St Kinnera?. 1.

The tower contains a bell, $30\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter, weighing 5 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lb., in D, inscribed:

BOTHKENNAR PARISH CHURCH./TO THE GLORY OF
GOD AND IN PIOUS MEMORY/OF DINAH MARGARET
DAWSON. A.D. 1911./(*Soundbow*) JOHN C. WILSON & C^o,
IT^D FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.

The bell is hung with the usual cast-iron fittings supplied by the Gorbals Bell-foundry. In error an I has been stamped for an L in the title of the firm. The present church was built in 1789.²

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesie Scotianice*, vol. iii. p. 328.

² *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii, p. 204.

The earlier bell, in use till 1911, now hangs in a turret above the church at Fallin. The diameter is about 14 inches, and the inscription, so far as is legible from the ground using a telescope, reads:

**GIFTED · BY · THE · PAROCHENERS · OF · BOTHKEN ······/ROBERT ·
MAXWELL · & · COMPANY · FECIT ·/EDINBU ······ 1729 ·**

The lettering is the same as that used by John Meikle on the bell at Gargunnoch dated 1702. The design of the bell is also similar to that of this latter bell, which is illustrated on Pl. VI, 4.

BUCHANAN. St Mary. 1.

In an open turret hangs a single bell, 19 inches diameter, inscribed:

**IACOBVS MONTIS ROSARVM DVx DONO DEDIT DIE SExTO MAII/
1725**

This may be translated as "James, Duke of Montrose gave me on the sixth day of May 1725." The lettering, which is illustrated as fig. G, is about half an inch high and is plain Roman with the exception of the letter x, which is taken from the lower case. The letter S has a strong resemblance to a normal figure 5.

The bell itself is a poor casting, having a large number of blow-holes in the soundbow. The moulding wires are numerous and are located as follows: on the crown two, two immediately above the inscription, one below, three above the soundbow and two by the lip. The crown rises towards the centre and it is likely that there are canons and an argent, but at the moment these are completely recessed into the wooden headstock.

The lettering in this bell is identical with that used on the bell at Kippen, hanging in the ruined church, and both bells were cast by the same founder, probably John Waylett of London.

The Duke of Montrose decided to build the present church in 1763, and before this date the bell probably hung in a bell tree, close to the Milton of Buchanan, on which the iron supports were still to be seen in 1896.¹ The tree was pointed out to the author but he could not see any iron supports.

CAMPSIE. High Church. 1.

In the tower of this church, which is in Lennoxton, hangs a bell, 41½ inches diameter, inscribed:

STEPHEN MILLER & Co. MAKERS. GLASGOW. 1828

The bell is hung with wooden fittings consisting of a headstock and a large wooden wheel. At the end of the inscription there are three raised

¹ Smith, *Strathendrick*, p. 117.

surfaces, probably designed to bear the weight of the bell in hundredweight, quarters and pounds, but it has not been recorded there.

The present church is of the same age as the bell. The previous church was at the Clachan, and the bell which formerly hung there is now in the open turret of Milton Church at Milton of Campsie. It is about 16 inches diameter, and on being viewed through a telescope the inscription was found to be:

**FOR · THE · PA—OCH · OF · CAMPSIE · R · M · — · COMPY · /FECIT · EDR ·
1729 ·**

Part of the inscription is not visible from the ground, but when compared with the inscriptions on similar bells at Beith and Fenwick, Ayrshire, the third word may be taken to be PAROCH and the style of the firm as R · M · & · COMPY · The bell is the work of Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh.

DENNY. 2.

The tower contains one bell, $39\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, which is inscribed:

**ERECTED BY THE CONGREGATION, THE HERITORS, AND
THE PEOPLE OF DENNY./DENNY PARISH CHURCH. JULY
1908./ALEX: MACARA, MINISTER./(Soundbow) JOHN C.
WILSON & C^o, LTD FOUNDERS GLASGOW.**

The bell has cast-iron fittings. In addition there is a loud-speaker system connected to the clock which plays a recording of the Cambridge Quarter chimes every fifteen minutes. This mechanism is not used for services.

In the vestibule is preserved the earlier bell, $15\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

1631 × IM [Fig. C]

The bell is illustrated on Pl. VI, 2. The canons have never numbered more than four, and of these one has been broken off. They are of a peculiar shape and very much on the thin side. Only three moulding wires have been made, being positioned above and below the inscription and above the soundbow. The tone is fair.

The parish of Denny was formed in 1601, being disjoined from Falkirk, and the present church was built in 1813.¹

DRYMEN. St Columba or St Kessog. 1.

In a western open turret hangs a single bell, about 10 inches diameter, bearing no visible inscription. The crown of the bell is bolted to a wooden headstock which is rotated by a lever and a wire. In shape the bell is not

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scotticae*, vol. iv. p. 303; *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 115.

unlike a flower-pot, having straight sides and no moulding wires where the inscription band is usually placed. This suggests that the mould was made using a solid pattern instead of the usual templet or sweep which is rotated about an axle. The head of the bell probably terminates in a handbell-type argent but the wooden headstock completely shrouds it. The present church was built in 1771¹ and it is probable that the bell is of the same age.

There was formerly a large ash-tree that grew in the churchyard. The bell hung in this tree till 1840 when the present turret was built for it. The ash-tree was blown down in a gale in 1892.²

DUNIPACE. 1.

A western tower contains one bell, about 36 inches diameter, inscribed:

MAKERS/JOHN WATT & SON/GLASGOW 1845

The bell is suspended from two horizontal beams at a height of about 20 feet above the floor. A fixed ladder runs up to the beams; but the author found it impossible to place a measuring tape across the mouth of the bell. The headstock is of cast iron, and the large wooden wheel has spokes which slot into a cast-iron hub.

In the *Glasgow Post Office Directory for 1845-46* the firm is noted as having a foundry in Saracen's Lane, and Mr John Watt is stated to be of Stephen Miller & Co. and John Watt & Son, so it is likely that one succeeded the other.

The parishes of Larbert and Dunipace were united in 1617 but each continued to have its own church.³ This building was opened in 1834 and it is stated that it had a very good bell.⁴

FALKIRK. St Modan. 13.

The tower contains a chime of thirteen bells, tenor 52 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter weighing 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.

Bell.	Note.	Inscription.	Weight. Pounds.
Treble.	G	THANK GOD FOR ALL HIS BENEFITS TO US.	475
Second.	F \sharp	HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANNOINTED.	500
Third.	E	THE LORD REIGNETH, LET THE EARTH REJOICE.	550
Fourth.	D	MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE.	625
Fifth.	C \sharp	REJOICE IN THE LORD ALL YE RIGHTEOUS.	650
Sixth.	C	MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD.	700

¹ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 99.

² Smith, *Strathendrick*, p. 92.

³ Scott, *Fasts Ecclesie Scoticanæ*, vol. iv. p. 310.

⁴ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 389.

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Note.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Weight. Pounds.</i>
Seventh.	B	PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.	725
Eighth.	A	GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.	900
Ninth.	G [#]	DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS.	1000
Tenth.	G	SING PRAISES UNTO OUR GOD.	1200
Eleventh.	F [#]	PUBLISH GLAD TIDINGS.	1500
Twelfth.	E	THIS IS MY OWN MY NATIVE LAND.	2000
Tenor.	D	PRESENTED TO/THE AULD KIRK,/ FAL- KIRK,/BY/MR. AND MRS. ROBERT DOLLAR,/ SAN FRANCISCO,/1926.	3000

On the waist of each bell:

(*an oval medallion containing a bell*)
MC SHANE BELL FOUNDRY CO./BALTIMORE.
MD./1926.

The bells hang stationary in two tiers, the lighter seven being above. The crowns terminate in conical pegs which are bolted to the wooden frame. The clappers are connected by chains and metal tubes to a clavier from which the bells are chimed.

On the ground floor is preserved the earlier bell, 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

(*a thistle with leaves*) (*a rose*) (*a thistle*) (*a rose*) (*a thistle with leaves*)
FOR THE CHURCH OF FALKIRK 1740/ (*a thistle*)
(*a rose*) (*a thistle*) **ORMISTON AND CUNNINGHAM EDINI**
FECERUNT

The bell is similar in shape to the old Falkirk Steeple bell, now in the Museum, cast by John Meikle, and it shows that the foundry patterns were handed down to these two founders. The lettering is much larger than Meikle's and more ornaments are used. The tone of this bell is poor.

In 1633 the bigger bell was in a bad state and a new one was obtained from Holland weighing 248 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.¹ This "great bell" was cracked in 1695, and £6, 13s. 4d. was paid for taking it down and for putting up the smaller bell. The new large bell was cast by John Meikle of Edinburgh, and did service till 1739, when it was decided by the Kirk Session to have the two bells cast into one. The bells were sent to Edinburgh to John Meikle's successors at the Castlehill Foundry, and the above-mentioned bell is the result of their labours.

¹ Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. p. 259 ff.

In the accounts are the following entries:

November 1740

To Re-casting the Bell	£214	2s.	0d.
To Thomas Black carrying in the old Bell to Edinburgh	3	0	0
For bring home the new bell	6	0	0
Carriages of the Bell Stock	1	0	0
To a Bell Tow	1	6	0
	<hr/>		
(Scots)	£225	8	0

At a meeting of the Kirk Session in 1830 Mr William Horn presented to the Minister a pre-Reformation hand-bell, which he stipulated should be the property of all successors to that office.

About fifty years ago the bell was kept in the church hall, and was considered by Dr F. C. Eeles, F.S.A.Scot., to have been cast some time before the Reformation, though perhaps not earlier than the sixteenth century. The tongue was noted as not being original.¹

Through the kindness of Mr R. S. Taylor, of Falkirk, a photo of this bell was made available, and is reproduced on Pl. VII, 1.

FALKIRK. St Andrew.

This church has a bell weighing 16 cwt. inscribed ²:

FALKIRK FREE CHURCH, 1895 J. MURPHY, FOUNDER,
DUBLIN.

Bells by this Irish founder are comparatively rare in Scotland; others are in Maybole Town Hall, Ayrshire, 1895; Prestonkirk, 1884; St John's (R.C.), Fauldhouse, 1882; and Crieff, 1882.³

FALKIRK. The Town Steeple. 2.

In the fine tower with spire, 140 feet high, hang two bells, which are inscribed:

Smaller. 25 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter.

PRESENTED BY L. FENTON LIVINGSTONE TO REPLACE
THE BELL GIFTED BY HIS./ANCESTOR JAMES EARL OF
LINLITHGOW AND CALLANDER IN THE YEAR 1697./
JOHN C. WILSON & CO. L^{TD} FOUNDERS. GLASGOW. 1897.

¹ Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. p. 262.

² *Ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 267.

³ F. C. Eeles, *The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 48.

Larger.

44 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter.

MAY FALKIRK FLOURISH 1815 (*a border*) T. MEARS OF
LONDON FECIT (*a border*)

The smaller bell hangs well above the other, and has all metal fittings as usually supplied by the Gorbals Bell-foundry.

The larger bell is the hour bell for the clock and has a fine tone. A wooden wheel and headstock are fitted and the bell has been quarter turned, probably when the new bell was presented. The border on the inscription band is made up of a series of ornamental crosses placed diagonally.

The London bell was purchased by public subscription and cost £155, 2s. 0d., but the carriage by Carron boat from London and the cost of erection brought the cost up to near £200.¹

The predecessor of the smaller bell is now in the Burgh Museum.

FALKIRK. The Burgh Museum. 1.

In the museum is the old steeple bell, 26 inches diameter, inscribed:

**JAMES · EARLE · OF · LINLITHGOW · AND · CALLANDER · JOHN · MEIKLE ·
FECIT · EDINBURGI · / · 1697 · FOR · FALKIRK ·**

The lettering is as used in the Gargunnock bell, fig. D, cast by the same founder. The canons are similar, and the clapper is hung from the crown staple by a leather strap or baldrick.

The bell is a most unusual shape, very squat, being only 17 inches high from lip to base of canons for a diameter of 26 inches.

This poor shape, which resembles a frustrum of a cone with a crown put on, must have produced a very poor tone, and the bell is at the present time considered to be cracked. It was replaced in 1897 by the smaller bell now hanging in the town steeple.

FINTRY. St Modan. 1.

On top of the roof of the tower is hung a small bell, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, which is inscribed:

(*a cock*) ❀ W · MAINE ❀ (*a cock*) ❀ 1626

FINTRIE ❀ / (*on the waist*) GA

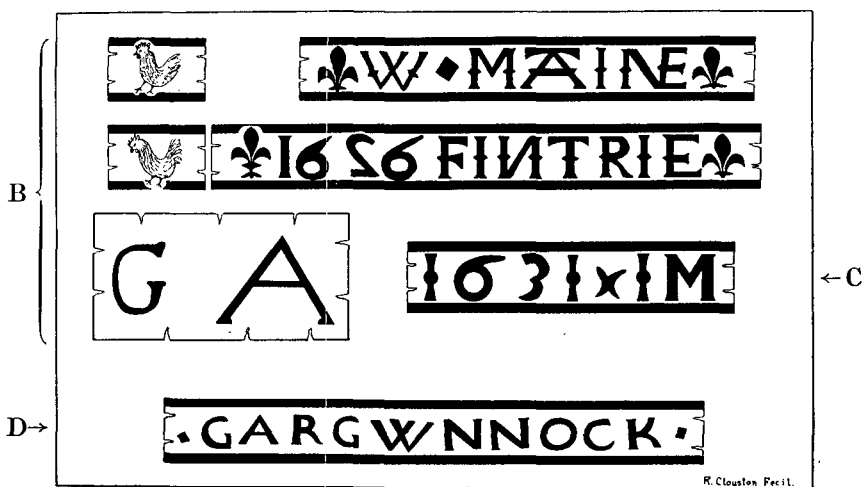
The bell is illustrated in Pl. VI, 3, and fig. B shows a scale drawing of the inscription. The canons only number four; the two that are normally on the plane of the argent have, in this case, not been cast. The bell is well cast, but due to the small size the sound is not very lasting;

¹ Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. p. 114.

this is partly allowed for by hanging it in the open air. A new crown staple has been fitted and the bell was at the same time quarter turned.

The initials on the waist presumably stand for George Auld, who was reader here from 1574 to 1585 and minister from 1586. He is known to have still been minister in March 1625, and this bell shows evidence that he was here at least till 1626.¹ The initials were not stamped in the mould, only scratched, and as a result they present a rough appearance.

One William Mayne, a potter, was admitted a member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow on 5th May 1624, when he was an apprentice.² It is probable that he was the founder of this bell.



Figs. B-D. Details of inscription on bell at Fintry; inscription on disused bell at Denny; part of inscription on disused bell at Grangemouth. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.)

GARGUNNOCK. 2.

In an open turret of this church, rebuilt in 1774, hangs one bell, about 20 inches diameter, inscribed:

1892

Attached to the headstock is a cast-iron plate bearing the inscription:

PRESENTED/TO THE/PARISH CHURCH OF GARGUNNOCK/
BY/M^R ROBERT MITCHELL/JANUARY 1892

The bell has rectangular section canons, and from its shape and the position of the moulding wires it would seem to have been cast in England.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vol. iii. p. 345.

² Lumsden and Aitken, *History of the Hammermen of Glasgow*, p. 286.

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In the Manse garden is preserved the earlier bell, $14\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, which is inscribed:

· FOR THE · CHWRCH · OF · GARGWNOCK · BOWGHT/BY · THE ·
MINISTER · AND · SESION · IOHN · MEIKLE · FECIT · /ED^R : 1702 ·

The bell is illustrated on Pl. VI, 4, and part of the inscription has been reproduced as fig. D. The lettering is of the usual design used by John Meikle and his successor Robert Maxwell, and appears on a number of bells in the county which are not readily accessible, such as Slamannan, Milton of Campsie, and Muiravonside. All these bells are of the same general design as the one illustrated.

The bell in use prior to 1702 was smaller and could not be heard at a distance, so it was recast and enlarged by the "Official bell founder of St Giles", as Meikle is called in the church records.¹ This was probably because in the years 1698 and 1699 he had cast a carillon of 23 bells for that church in Edinburgh.

GRANGEMOUTH. Old Church. 1.

The tower contains a single bell, $37\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, and hung with cast-iron fittings. The inscription is:

JOHN C. WILSON & . CO, FOUNDERS, GLASGOW.
A.D. 1881./(two impressions of a coin)

The first church in Grangemouth was built in 1837 by the Earl of Zetland and stood near Kerse House.² A new church was built in 1866, and the present church was built on a different site about 1900. The bell therefore came from the second church.

INVERSNAID.³ St Kentigerna. 1.

This modern church has a bell, about 16 inches diameter, hanging in a wooden structure consisting of two vertical posts braced together and buttressed at the ground with a small roof on top. The two bearings are set into the posts, and the bell is rung from the ground by a wire and lever. The inscription reads:

THIGIBH GU H-URNUIGH/CAST BY FELIX VAN AERSCHODT/
LOUVANI BELGIUM 1909

The Gaelic part of the inscription may be translated as "come ye to prayer." On the inscription band there is a running floral border, and below this there is another border of overlapping ferns as found on a bell cast by

¹ *Transactions of the Stirling Natural History and Archaeological Society*, vol. lii. p. 93.

² *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 29.

³ In Buchanan Parish.

François Hemony of Amsterdam in 1661 at Dalry, in Ayrshire. The bell is a perfect casting and has a fine tone. The canons are of the usual type.

Inside the church there is a plate inscribed:

THE BELL BEARING THIS INSCRIPTION/THIGIBH GU
H-URNUIGH/& GIFTED BY W. H. WOODS, ALDERMAN &/
JAMES A. CRERAR/IN MEMORY OF DONALD FERGUSON/
WAS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD/APRIL 30th 1910

KILLEARN. The Church of Our Lord. 1.

In the tower with spire of the new church hangs a bell, 40 inches diameter, inscribed:

KILLEARN CHURCH./ERECTED BY ARCHIBALD ORR
EWING, OF BALLIKINRAIN, M.P. 1881./JOHN C. WILSON.
& C^o, FOUNDERS. GLASGOW.

This bell, from the Gorbals Foundry, is hung with metal fittings consisting of a wheel and headstock, and is used as the hour bell for the clock.

KILSYTH.

In the tower hangs a bell, 36 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

STEPHEN . MILLER, & C^o . GLASGOW : : 1824 : 10 : 1 : 18

The bell has canons and argent and is hung with wooden fittings consisting of a headstock and wheel. The figures at the end of the inscription are raised and were therefore stamped in the mould before casting; they suggest a weight of 10 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb., but it is doubtful if this is accurate to the nearest pound.

The present church was built in 1816, and Sir Charles Edmonstone, Bart., presented an excellent bell from London, which was unfortunately broken in 1823, it is supposed, from the bellman having made an undue addition to the tongue, with the ambitious design of outpealing the neighbouring bell of Kirkintilloch.¹ The present bell is the result of the recasting.

The bell from the earlier church is now preserved in Colzium House. The diameter is 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches and the inscription reads:

Geo III Rex/Kilsyth/1794/Proculesto/Profani
(inside crown) I W & CO/F G

The bell is exactly similar to the disused bell at Balfroon and the old Stirling Episcopal Church bell, all having been cast by John Wilson & Co., of 73 Trongate, Glasgow.² The author's thanks are due to Mr J. Currie, Superintendent of the Parks Department of this Burgh, for his assistance.

¹ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 161.

² *Glasgow Directory for 1787*, p. 73.

KIPPEN. Christ Church. 1.

The tower contains one bell, 35 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

*I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO
INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD./GIFTED/TO THE PARISH
CHURCH OF KIPPEN/BY WILLIAM FORRESTER ESQ^r/ OF
ARNGIBBON AND BLAIKET/1873/J. & W. YOUNG/MAKERS/
GLASGOW*

Fixed to the wooden headstock is a brass plate bearing the following:

THIS CROSSHEAD OF OAK WAS/FROM THE TOWER OF
THE/OLD COLLEGE OF GLASGOW/WHICH WAS ERECTED
1656/AND RAZED IN 1870

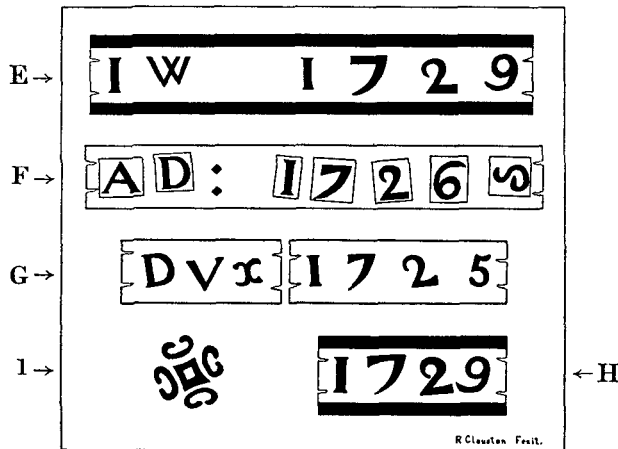
The bell has a flange cast on the crown in lieu of canons and argent. A wooden wheel is fitted, and the oak beams supporting the bearings were from the dock at Port-Glasgow built by the celebrated James Watt.

KIPPEN. St Bean. 1.

The old church is now in ruins, and only the western gable and bell-cote remain in any entirety. The bell, 20 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, is inscribed:

**: A : WALTERO : LECKIE . DE DESHERS · DONATA : FVIT : HAE : CCAMPANA :
A : D/1618 : & APAROCHIA : DEKIPPEN RECONDITIA & AVCTA : AD : 1726 ∞ /
D · MICHAELE : POTTER : PASTORE ∞**

The lettering is of two different types, one being slightly bolder and higher than the other. The letters have been badly stamped in the mould,



Figs. E-H, and fig. 1. Details of inscription on fifteenth bell in chime in Stirling Tolbooth; part of inscription on old bell at Kippen; part of inscription on bell at Buchanan; inscription on tenor bell in Stirling Tolbooth; stop found on bell at St Ninians. (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.)

the alignment is bad, and some letters have been misplaced, such as the C of HAEC, and the second letter of DESHERS should be an A.

The tone is fair, and in design the bell shows a marked similarity with the Buchanan bell. Some of the letters used on them are the same, and there can be little doubt that they are the work of the same founder. The inscription may be translated as, "Walter Leckie of Dashers gave this bell A.D. 1618, and the parish of Kippen recast and augmented it A.D. 1726. D. Michael Potter, Minister."

The author's thanks are due to Mr Andrew Kerr of Kippen for his assistance in enabling the author to reach this bell.

LARBERT. Old Church. 1.

The tower contains a bell, $44\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, which weighs about $14\frac{1}{4}$ cwt., and is inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1819. (*a border*)

A very fine-toned bell from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London. The border is a type of chain design with each centre filled with a five-petalled flower. The bell has been rehung, probably by John C. Wilson of Glasgow, as the wheel and headstock are cast iron. The heritors of the parish when they ordered the bell requested that it should as nearly resemble the Falkirk Steeple bell as possible.¹

In an outhouse of the old manse is preserved a small hand-bell, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, which bears the incised inscription ²:

LERBEIRT x 1669 AB

The lettering is about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch high and has been very roughly cut. The crown has a rectangular iron handle fitted to it, though the handle does not appear to be as old as the bell. Five moulding wires were cast, three being on the waist and two on the inscription band.

LOGIE. St Faelchu. 9.

In the tower hang a chime of eight tubular bells and a single bell of orthodox shape, $23\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, bearing the inscription:

PERTINEO · AD · TEMPLUM · DE · LOGIE/IN · VICECOMITATU ·
DE · PERTH/AD 1808/NOMEN · DOMINI · LAUDIBUS · TOLLITE/
LIVERPOOL · COPPER WORKS & BRASS FOUNDRY · JOHN SUTHERLAND · FECIT

This bell is an excellent casting without any trace of a flaw. The canons and argent are higher than is usual, and the sides of the bell are

¹ Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. p. 265.

² Smith, *Stirling: Local Notes and Queries*. Edited by W. B. Cook. Vol. i. p. 182.

almost straight from the shoulder to the top of the soundbow. Wooden fittings are provided.

The eight tubular bells were cast by Messrs Harrington, Latham & Co., of Coventry, in about 1901, when the present church was rebuilt. They are in the key of C, and range in length from $59\frac{3}{8}$ inches to $90\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The hollow cylinders are suspended from their upper ends and are struck by hammers manipulated from a plucking manual.

The Liverpool bell cost £36, 9s. 6d., and hanging it cost a further £9, 12s. 9d.¹ The old bell was ordered to be taken down and laid up in the Session House; this bell presumably hung in the bellcote of the ruined church and was moved to the present site in 1805 when the old church was disused. It was sold to Mr James McRobbie on 1st August 1815 for the sum of £2, 14s.

On 3rd February 1844 it was reported that Mr McRobbie had sent the old bell to a watchmaker in Stirling to be repaired, and an interdict was obtained against McRobbie moving the bell. As there is no further reference to the bell in the minutes, it is to be presumed that it was discovered that Mr McRobbie had actually bought the bell in 1815.

There are a number of references in the accounts relating to the cost of bell-ropes. In 1691 one cost sixteen shillings, in 1697 the price was twelve shillings, in 1702 seven shillings, and in 1719 the cost had dropped again, to six shillings.²

MUIRAVONDSIDE. 1.

A western open turret contains a bell, about 18 inches diameter, inscribed:

**FOR · THE · KIRK · OF · MUIRAVONDSIDE · IOHN · MEIKLE · ME · FECIT · /
EDINBURGI · 1699**

The lettering and general shape of the bell are exactly similar to the disused bell at Gargunnoch cast by the same founder in 1702.

The parish was disjoined from that of Falkirk in June 1648.³

POLMONT. 1.

In the southern steeple hangs one bell, $39\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter, weighing 9 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lb., hung for ringing inverted, and inscribed:

**MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON./IN MEMORY OF/
WILLIAM LOGAN,/OF CLARKSTONE, IN THIS PARISH,/AND/JANET HIS WIFE./PRESENTED TO THE PARISH
CHURCH OF POLMONT,/BY THEIR SURVIVING SONS AND
DAUGHTERS,/1870.**

¹ Fergusson, *Logie: A Parish History*, vol. i. pp. 214, 215, 298.

² *Ibid.*, vol. i. pp. 319, 321, 323, 330.

³ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vol. i. p. 221.

The bell was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, and is hung with full fittings, including a mechanism to enable the bell to be left inverted.

The parish was disjoined from Falkirk in 1724 and the old church, now in ruins, was built in 1732.¹ The present building dates from 1845, but it was not till 1850 that the roof was removed from the old building. This old church had a small bell turret on top of the gable of the north transept.

Nothing is known about the bell for the first church. The one that preceded the present one is thought to have gone to the church at Shieldhill. The author has inspected the bell in this church and found it to be a very small one of the ship's bell type with a handbell-type argent. The diameter is about 8 inches and no inscription is visible. Due to the small size it is unlikely that it would have been heard very far away if hung in the tower of Polmont church, and would be virtually useless.

ST NINIANS. St Ninian. 1.

The old steeple, which survived the explosion in 1745, contains one bell, $34\frac{1}{16}$ inches diameter, weighing 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lb. The inscription reads:


□ (*Fig. 1*) SUCH WOND'ROUS POWR TO MUSICK'S GIVEN.
IT ELEVATES THE SOUL TO HEAVEN. PACK & CHAPMAN
OF LONDON FECIT 1774

The bell was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, which is now known as Messrs Mears & Stainbank. Messrs Taylors of Loughborough rehung and retuned the bell in 1938, and the fittings now include a cast-iron headstock, ball-bearings, stay and slider. The canons and argent have been removed, and the clapper is of the "balanced" type with a balance-weight above the pivot point.

At first there was no main counterbalance weight fixed to the headstock, but the church authorities considered that the tower swayed more than was permissible when the bell was swung, so weights have now been attached.

ST NINIANS. Polmaise Home Farm. 1.

In an open turret above the granary hangs a bell, $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

• FOR • IOHN • MURRAY • OF • TOUCHADAM • 1713 / 

The shield is the same as that cast on a disused bell in Dunblane Cathedral dated 1723, and bearing the name of Robert Maxwell as the

¹ *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. iii. p. 344.

founder. The shield consists of a hammer with a crown above and the initials R M, one letter on each side. The crowned hammer shows that Maxwell was a member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh. The shield is illustrated on Pl. VIII (*d*).

On this bell the detail of the shield is not too clear but the main features are easily visible. The lettering is the same as that used at Gargunnoch (fig. D) by John Meikle, who preceded Robert Maxwell in the Castlehill Foundry, Edinburgh.

The bell has an argent but was not cast with canons. Originally it hung on the farm of Old Polmaise, farther down the Forth.¹

The author is grateful to Mr S. Cowan for his assistance in enabling him to see this bell.

SLAMANNAN. St Laurence. 1.

In a very high open turret hangs a single bell, about 16 inches diameter, which when viewed through a telescope was seen to be inscribed:

FOR · THE · · SLAMANNAN · R · M · FECIT · ED^R /1722

The whole of the inscription is not visible from the ground, but the missing words can be either KIRK · OF or PAROCH · OF, completing a formula which is often used by John Meikle and Robert Maxwell. The lettering is the same as that found on the Gargunnoch bell cast by John Meikle in 1702, and the bell is the work of Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh.

The bell in the former Free Church in this parish has been thought by some to be ancient, but this is not so, though the metal may belong to an earlier bell. The present bell was cast in the nineteenth century.

STIRLING. The Church of the Holy Rood. 4.

In the tower are four bells, hung for change ringing, and inscribed:

<i>Bell.</i>	<i>Inscription.</i>	<i>Approx. Weight. Cwt.</i>
Treble.	1781/W ^M CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Second.	+ abc maria gracia plena dominus tecum benedicta tu in mulieribus t benedictu	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Third	+ SOLI · DEO · GLORIA + CORNELIS · OVDEROGGE · FECIT · ROTTERDAM · ANNO · DOMINI · 1657 / TO · STERLING · TOWN · I · DOE · BELONG	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tenor.	DAVID BURGES FOUNDER GLASGOW. 1853 N ^o 391	8

¹ *Stirling: Local Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 181.

The bells have been arranged in a descending order of musical note, the diameters being $28\frac{1}{4}$, $30\frac{3}{4}$, $29\frac{1}{4}$, and $35\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The bells hang in a wooden frame dating from 1781, when the treble was added. The bearings are brass blocks recessed into the frame members and protected from dust by a board. Each bell is hung to be rung inverted, and stays and sliders are provided for the bells to be set upside down.

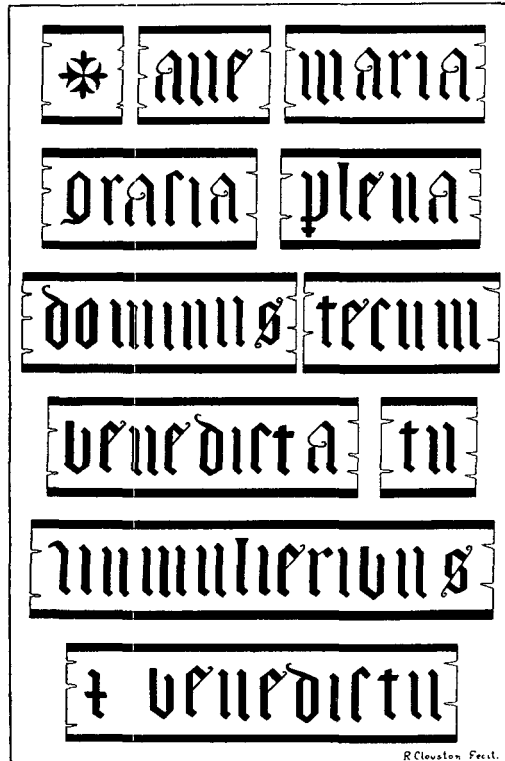


Fig. J. Details of inscription on pre-Reformation second bell in tower of Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

The treble was cast in the celebrated Whitechapel Bell Foundry, now trading as Messrs Mears & Stainbank. William Chapman cast very few bells on his own, as he was in partnership with Thomas Pack up till the latter's death in 1780, and very shortly after he took William Mears into the business. Chapman died in 1784, and apart from this bell, only the third bell at Durham Cathedral and a bell at Otley, Yorks., bear his name alone.¹ This bell is, unfortunately, slightly cracked.

The second is pre-Reformation in date, with a black-letter inscription in Latin which is illustrated as fig. J. The bell is illustrated in Pl. VII, 2.

¹ Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, p. 217.

The inscription has been partially blundered by putting "in mulieribus" as one word and by adding an extra vertical stroke.

The bell is not a particularly good casting chiefly because a poor moulding sand seems to have been used, and as a result the lettering is poorly defined in places and on some parts of the surface there are blowholes.

The bell presents an orthodox design from the outside, but inside the soundbow is not curved round from the lip and instead has a flat surface for about 2 inches in from the lip. This then becomes curved. This particular feature is usually a sign of a very early bell; in England it was disused before 1300, but it is by no means impossible for it to have been used very much later in areas remote from the centres of bell-founding.

The canons on the bell are not complete, as one has been broken off. A new crown staple has been fitted parallel to the old one. The bell has never been tuned by chipping the interior surface and, though $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches larger in diameter than the third, has a higher note.

Entire inscriptions in black letter with no Lombardic capitals became common in England only shortly before the Reformation, though even then the tendency was to make the bells more beautiful by using ornamental capitals for the first letter of each word. This bell is certainly not English, and the author considers that it is the product of some monastic foundation, such as Cambuskenneth Abbey, either for their own use or for a local parish church, and that the date is fifteenth century. The sound produced when this bell is rung dies away quickly after the clapper strikes, and as a result the bell sounds weak outside.

The third bell, cast by Cornelis Ouderogge, is an excellent casting. The lettering, shown as fig. K, is well designed and positioned. The border (Pl. VIII (c)) appears above and below the inscription band.

The crown staple is original but a new clapper has been fitted. The canons and argent are all intact.

When the bell was cast the founder had no idea what note was required, only that the bell was to weigh about 5 cwt., and as a result the bell has had to be considerably chipped at the lip to raise the note. This was done to make the four bells form a musical scale.

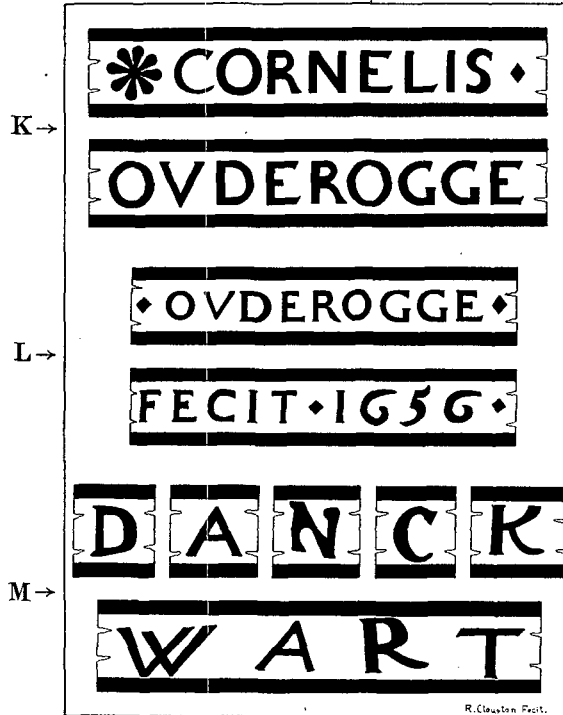
The present tenor was recast by David Burges of the Gorbals Bell Foundry, Glasgow, in 1853, and is a good example of his workmanship.

One of the earliest references to the bells is in the Kirk Session records under the date 8th December 1597, stating:

"Ordains the first bell to be rung on Satterday nixt efter noon at one hour, the second half ane hour theirefter and the last bell to begin befoir twa hours efternoon. And siclyke the first bell to ring on Sonday in the morning half ane hour befoir iij hours, the second bell at iij hours, and the last bell half ane hour befoir iiij hours and

the first bell to the second service to knell at the end of the first serviceive.”¹

On 11th July 1631 the Town Council sanctioned the purchase of a bell for the church from Lord Madertie after the Kirk Session, meeting on 7th June, had decided on this action. The bell was duly purchased, but in



Figs. K-M. Details of parts of inscriptions on third bell at Holy Rood, Stirling; on Council bell of Stirling; and on bell in steeple of Cowane's Hospital, Stirling. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

1657, it is believed, it became cracked, and the Town Council minutes for 29th August 1657 contain the following:—

“The majestrates and counsall haveing considerit the necessatie that thair is for causing renew that bell in the churche whiche is now riven and unprofitable, they have ordeanit that it be sent over to Holland to David Stevinsone, merchand, burges of this burgh, wha is thair for the present, to cause cast the same of new againe, and make it fyve hunderithe weight or thairby, for whiche effect James

¹ J. Ronald, *Landmarks of Old Stirling*, p. 341.

Stevinsone is heirby authorized to wrett to his brother, and to desyre him to cause put about the bell in lettres: A bell for the burgh of Sterling; and the yeir of God in figures; and George Hendersone, thesaurer, is ordeanit to send over money to satisfie for the same."

This bell still exists, and is the present third cast by Cornelis Ouderogge of Rotterdam.

As noted under the heading of Cowane's Hospital, the bell, which was originally intended for the steeple there, was hung in the kirk steeple. This bell was presumably cast in Holland shortly before 1669. It no longer exists in its original state, but the metal should be contained in the present tenor cast by David Burges in 1853.

The Burgh Accounts contain the following under the date 31st October 1690:—¹

To Christopher Russall, wright, and eight warke-
men with him att taking downe of the great bell in
the kirk and putting hir up again and mending hir
wheile and the wheiles of the uther tuo belles and
hinging the tongue of the bell, £13 12s. 0d.

It would thus appear that in 1690 there were three bells in the tower.

In 1702 there is mention in the Burgh Records of ringing the "old little kirk bell"; this would be the pre-Reformation second bell.² In 1707 £33 was paid for tarred ropes for the church bells, with an addition of £1, 8s. for carriage and hanging them.³

On 14th June 1718 it is recorded that

"the council appoints James Wallace, town treasurer, to give to William Smith and Colline M'Lowry, hammermen, fourty pound Scots for their pains and expences by themselves and others they employed in mounting and dismounting one of the church bells, boring thereof, and mounting of the tongue."⁴

The boring referred to would be the drilling of two new holes in the crown for a new crown staple from which the tongue is suspended.

In 1727 the bells were in danger of falling owing to defective gudgeon pins which rest in the bearings; this was ordered to be corrected.⁵ In the following year an account was presented for £16, 10s. for making a new wheel for the tenor.⁶

¹ *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1667-1752*, p. 337.

² *Ibid.*, p. 98.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 110.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 154.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 199.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 201.

Under the date 6th May 1738 it is recorded: ¹

“The councill considering that the largest bell in the church has been for some time rent, and that it is necessar the same to be founded of new, and that it is advised that it may be done as well and cheaper att London than any where else, they therefore appoint John Jaffray, baillie, to send the said bell to London to Mr Claud Johnston, factor there, the said baillies correspondent, in order that he may get the same founded of new.”

The next reference to the bells is on 1st July 1749 when ²

“The council appoint the thesaurer to pay to (blank) Townly, bell-founder, two guineas for his trouble and charges for soldering a rent in one of the kirk bells.”

By 1780 the tenor was again broken, and a minute for 28th December of that year reads: ³

“To procure estimate expense of re-casting the broken Church bell, or of a new bell, discounting the value of the old one, which weighs about eight hundredweight and a quarter.”

On 10th May 1781 the Council approved the account of William Chapman for £20, 1s. 10d. for a new bell after allowing for the value of the old one. On 21st May the bells were ordered to be rehung, and on 5th June 1781 the Council commissioned the present treble to be cast, to weigh about three hundredweight and three quarters so as to complete the “chyme.” This bell cost £28, 12s. 9½d., and the total account paid to William Chapman of Whitechapel, London, came to £49, 3s. 9d. A timber ceiling was erected over the bells at a cost of £2, 16s. 6d.⁴

Unfortunately Chapman’s tenor met with a mishap and was cracked, so the bell was recast by David Burges of Glasgow in 1853 at a cost of £27, 16s. 9d.

In 1836 one of the local papers had “To prevent the inhabitants being taken by surprise or alarm, we consider it right to state that, at a late meeting of the Council, Mr Rankin mentioned that some non-commissioned officers of the 76th Regiment at present quartered here, who are first-rate bell chimers, and who have a regular set of bells with them, on which they play tunes beautifully, had agreed to instruct some of our townsmen to ring the bells in the High Church tower, which bells they have examined, and declare to be a very fine set, and a sufficient number for a chime. The Council having unanimously approved of it, we may therefore expect a merry peal being struck up some day soon.” ⁵

¹ *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling*, p. 243.

² *Ibid.*, p. 289.

³ *Stirling: Local Notes and Queries*, vol. i. p. 177.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 178.

⁵ Drysdale, *Old Faces, Old Places, Old Stories of Stirling*, p. 104.

THE CHURCH AND OTHER BELLS OF STIRLINGSHIRE. 91

The bells do not appear to have been rung in changes again until 1949, when the author brought a company of ringers over from St James's, Paisley. All the bells were then rung in full circles and set inverted.

The author's thanks are due to Mr M. Lees, of Snowdon Lodge, Stirling, for his assistance.

STIRLING. The Grey Friars' Church.

Of this church nothing now remains; at one time it was thought to have formed part of the Church of the Holy Rood, but it is now considered that it stood on the site of the High School.

The Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland shed some interesting light on the work of obtaining bells for this church in 1502 at the command of James IV.¹

	Item, the third day of Aprile, giffin to David Menzeis, burges of Abirdene, to by salmond in part payment of the bellis for the Colledge of Strivelin	ij ^c £.
	Item, eftir that, in Maii to him,	ij ^c £.
	Item, the xvij day of Aprile, to William Rait, servand to the said David, to pas in Inglas to fee ane carpenter to cum with the bellis to hing thaim, and to gif the said carpenter xxiiij angell nobles, ilk pece xxij S. iiij d. summa	xxviiij £.
	Item, payit to the Beschop of Murray, be the Kingis command, for 1 ^c angellis of gold, quhilk he laid down in Ingland in erlis of the bellis of Strivelin, for ilk angell xxvj s. viij d; summa	j ^c xxxiiij £ vj s. viij d.
	Item, payit to David Menzies of Abirdene, the rest of the gret bellis in Strivelin	j ^c lxxxxv £.
	[Item, the first day of Julij], to David Menzes man, to pas to Abirdene . . . to the resavying of the bellis, . . . (receiving?)	no amount
	Item, the vij day of March [Julij], to the marinaris of the barge of Dundee that hesit the bellis out off the schip and put thaim in ane bote	lvj s.
1502	Item, the xj day of Julij, payit to David Abirnethy for the fraucht (freight) of the bellis up to Strivelin	v £.
1502	Item, the samyn day, (July 20th 1502) be the Kingis command, to the Inglishmen brocht hame the bellis, in drinksilver, × French crownis; summa	vij £.

¹ *The Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.* Edited by Thomas Dickson. Vol. ii. pp. 67, 152-155, 288.

It is unfortunate that the Accounts do not mention the number of the bells or their weights, but in England at that time it was usual to have a ring of five bells—very few churches had more. It has been suggested that the pre-Reformation second bell in the tower of the Holy Rood Church may have been one of the bells, but the author, who has examined a large number of English bells of this period, considers that the bell in question is a local product of some monastic house.

In the tower of the High School is a bell, 25½ inches diameter, inscribed:

THIS BELL ALONG WITH THE CLOCK,
THE GIFT OF JOHN RAMSAY OF KILDALTON,
A.D. 1889./JOHN C. WILSON & C^o, FOUNDERS.
GLASGOW.

STIRLING. The Episcopal Church of Holy Trinity. 8.

In the small spire on the ridge of the roof hangs a chime of eight tubular bells of modern date. The bells are the product of Messrs Harrington, Latham & Co., of Coventry. The wires connected to the hammers used to come down over the roof to the upper storey of the vestry, but the effect of the weather on the wires has caused them to rust away. It is hoped that soon new wires will be connected and be protected from the weather by metal tubes.

An earlier bell is now preserved in the church. The diameter is 14½ inches and the inscription reads:

(*front of waist*) Episcopal/Chapel/Stirling/1795
(*back of waist*) AUDITE/Procul Profani
(*inside the crown*) J W & C^o/G

This bell is exactly similar to the disused bell at Balfron (Pl. VI, 1), and was cast by the same founders. The wooden headstock and eccentric solid wheel are still fixed to the bell.

The first episcopal church or chapel was built about the time of the casting of the bell. The first minister was Rev. George Gleig, D.D., Bishop of Brechin, and he held the living for fifty-three years; the bell is sometimes known as Bishop Gleig's bell.^{1 2}

The author would like to record his thanks to Mr Robertson, of Menzies Motors Ltd., for permission to see this bell when under his charge.

STIRLING. The Castle.

On the north side of the inner square stands the Chapel, which was rebuilt by James VI in 1594.³ The earlier building on the same site was

¹ *Stirling: Local Notes and Queries*, vol. i. p. 180.

² *Transactions of the Stirling Natural History and Archaeological Society*, vol. xv. p. 8 ff.

³ Stair-Kerr, *Stirling Castle*, pp. 6, 40, 49, 54, 145, 146.

erected by James III and became the Chapel Royal, and in the year 1503 was made a collegiate church. At this period there was another chapel dedicated to St Michael, which had been rebuilt by Alexander I and then again in 1412. This chapel continued to be used as late as the second half of the sixteenth century, but no trace of it now remains.

At the present time there are no bells in the Castle, but *The Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland* contain the entry: ¹

Item, that samyn day, (17th April 1497), giffin for ane bell to the Castel of Strivelin v £ vij s.

STIRLING. The Broad Street Steeple. 18.

In the tower of the Old Tolbooth, as it is sometimes called, hang two single bells and a chime of sixteen small bells. In a room in a lower stage of the tower hangs a small bell, 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

THE · COVNSEL · BELL · OF · STERLINE · OVDEROGGE · FECIT ·
1656 ·

/S

This bell was cast by Cornelis Jansen Ouderogge of Rotterdam and bears the lettering illustrated as fig. L. Above and below the inscription appears a border (Pl. VIII (c)).

The crown staple and clapper seem to be original, and they are connected by a leather strap or baldrick. The headstock is pivoted between two vertical beams in a room which has no openings to the outside through which the sound could emerge. The soundbow is very little indented where the clapper strikes, and the bell would appear to have had very little use.

Above the clock hangs another bell, 35 inches diameter, inscribed:

PETRUS HEMONY .ME FECIT AMSTELODAMI . A.D. 1669 .
SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM./RECAST BY JOHN
C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW . A.D. 1864 . N^o 828./JOHN
MURRIE . ESQ: PROVOST./OPPIDUM (*a wolf on a crag*) STERLINI

The bell is of the usual Gorbals Foundry type, being hung with metal fittings. The hours are struck on it by the electric clock.

The Burgh records show that in 1612 there were a "counsall bell" and a ten-hour bell which were rung each night.² Under the date 29th September 1634,³

"Robert Henrysoun obleist him as cautioner for Patrick Christie, officer, that he sall attend and ring the ten hour bell nychtlie, and sall nocht leave af the ringing thairof, nor yit the ringing of the counsell bell, befor the space of ane quarter of ane hour be first spendit."

¹ *The Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*. Edited by Thomas Dickson. Vol. i. p. 329.

² *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1519-1666*, p. 129.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 172.

There is no record of the recasting of the council bell in Rotterdam in 1656, but in 1663, on 23rd May, it is noted: ¹

“Alexander Allane, thesaurer, is appoynted to take doune the knock bell that was riven in anno 1660 and send her to Holland to be casten of new and to enlarge her one hundredweight more than shee now is, and to put upe the counsell bell in her stead till she be brought home.”

It is not at all clear if this instruction was carried out, as at a meeting on 24th February 1668 it is recorded: ²

“Ordeans James Brown, theasurer, to send to Holland for a new bell to the town knock as big as the tollbuith steeple will receive; and the size of the said bell to be sent over.”

As a result of this minute the bell cast by Adam Danckwart was brought over and was hung in the Tolbooth Steeple for a time, before being transferred to the steeple of Cowane's Hospital as ordained in a later council minute recorded under the account of that bell. This latter minute ordered the casting of a bell by Peter Hemony, of Amsterdam, in 1669, and this is the bell which was recast to form the present hour bell.

In 1702 the Broad Street or Tolbooth steeple became dangerous, so the large bell was removed while work was done on the structure.³ While the large bell was unhung the council bell was rung at 9 a.m., noon and 10 p.m.⁴

At the same level as the bell and on the side of the tower facing down Broad Street is a chime of sixteen bells. These bells were formerly operated by a chiming machine consisting of a large wooden cylinder in which were placed metal pegs. As the cylinder was rotated these pegs raised and released hammers which struck the bells. Each bell was provided with two hammers to allow for a bell to be struck twice after a short time-interval; this would not have been possible with one hammer each, due to the time necessary to raise and release it. Now, unfortunately, the mechanism is badly rusted and the hammers rest on the bells, with the result that the author could only hold the hammers off one bell at a time and tap it. He was therefore unable to arrange them according to a musical scale and so has had to place them according to the diameter at the mouth. Calling the smallest number 1 and the largest number 16, numbers 7, 6, 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are hung from an upper beam and range in diameter from 6½ inches to 10½ inches, and the order given is from north to south. From a beam immediately below the other hang numbers 15, 13, 11, 10, 14 12 and 16 with diameters from 10⅝ inches up to 14⅜ inches.

All the bells are hung stationary, and only numbers 15 and 16 have

¹ *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1519-1666*, p. 242.

² *Ibid.*, 1667-1752, p. 3.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 96.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 97.

canons and argent, the rest have flat crowns. These latter two bells are inscribed, the former bearing I W 1729 and the other the date 1729, and these are illustrated as figs. E and H.

In most cases the bells have been tuned using a hammer and chisel; number 12, for example, has had the diameter reduced by at least half an inch in order to raise the note. Others have been chipped inside to flatten the note.

All but three, numbers 7, 13 and 14, bear moulding wires on the inscription band and on the soundbow, and appear to have been cast by the same founder, I. W.

The remaining three have no moulding wires on the inscription band and look more like flower-pots.

A new clock was made for the steeple in 1728 by Andrew Dickie, and with it was supplied a chime of thirteen bells.¹ The Burgh records show that Mr Dickie was paid £36 for the thirteen bells, it being stipulated that "the said Mr Dickie being free of any sea risk therefore, the bells being to come from London."²

At a meeting on 13th October 1733 Mr Dickie is granted permission to add three further bells and a new mechanism to increase the number of tunes that could be played.³ As noted earlier three bells, namely numbers 7, 13 and 14, are different from the remainder, and these are probably the added ones.

The mechanism seems to have given trouble right from the start, as in 1739 it was reported that the iron parts were getting rusty and a suggestion was made that brass wires would be better than iron; but this does not seem to have been adopted as a permanent remedy, as the present wires are of iron.⁴

The tunes, which were formerly played on the chime, are: "Birks of Invermay," "Tweedside," "Roslin Castle," "Land o' the Leal," "The Yellow-Hair'd Laddie," "Lochaber no more," "Maggie Lauder," "God Save the King," and the psalm tune "Hanover."⁵

The founder of the thirteen bells cast in 1729 was probably John Waylett, who was working in London at that time.⁶

STIRLING. The Municipal Buildings.

In the Town Clerk's office are two hand-bells; one is the Skellat bell and the other the Dead bell. The inscriptions are:

Smaller.	BURGH OF STIRLING	5 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter.
Larger.	T. OF S.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter.

¹ Morris, *The Stirling Merchant Guild and Life of John Cowane*, p. 308.

² *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1667-1752*, p. 204.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 228.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 246.

⁵ *Shearer's Guide to Stirling, 1911 Edition*, p. 84.

⁶ Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, p. 234.

Both inscriptions are incised, and from all appearances the bells are comparatively modern, the larger being older.

In the Burgh Accounts for 10th September 1702 it is recorded: ¹

“Item, to William Smith for casting of the new skellat bell, quhich was ryven and spoyled be a fall, £1. 16s. 0d.”

Again in the Council Minutes it is noted under the date 30th December 1710: ²

“Appoints the tresurer to pay to William Smith, hammerman, nyne pound fyve shillings Scots for makeing the new dead bell and mending the skellat bell.”

Unfortunately the new dead bell was not a success, as on 17th October 1747 we read: ³

“The council having considered a representation of William Stevenson, beddall, anent the insufficiency of the hand dead bell, they appoint the treasurer to provide a new one and to give the old one in exchange and pay in the difference of the price.”

A chime of bells is to be cast by Messrs John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, for the tower of the Municipal Buildings. These bells will form the War Memorial for the 1939-45 conflict.

STIRLING. The King Street Steeple. 1.

In the steeple attached to the Athenæum hangs a bell, 36 inches diameter, inscribed:

THOMAS MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1817

This bell, from the well-known Whitechapel Foundry, was cast by Thomas Mears II, and bears a loop ornament after the inscription. The original wooden fittings, consisting of wheel, headstock, stay and slider, are still in use, and in addition a counterbalance weight has been fitted. The canons remain and the bell is well cast and has an excellent tone. The clock strikes the hours on it and it is used for the Sunday services.

The building, which originally housed a reading-room and public library, was opened on 7th January 1817.⁴

STIRLING. Cowane's Hospital. 1.

In the steeple of this building, which is also known as the Guildhall, hangs a bell, 31 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

M · ADAMDANCKWART · MEFVDIT · ANNO ·
1665 . / A° 1668 / OPPIDVM (a shield) STERLINI

¹ *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1667-1752*, p. 348.

² *Ibid.*, p. 124.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 286.

⁴ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 426.



1. Disused bell at Balfron.



2. Disused bell at Denny.



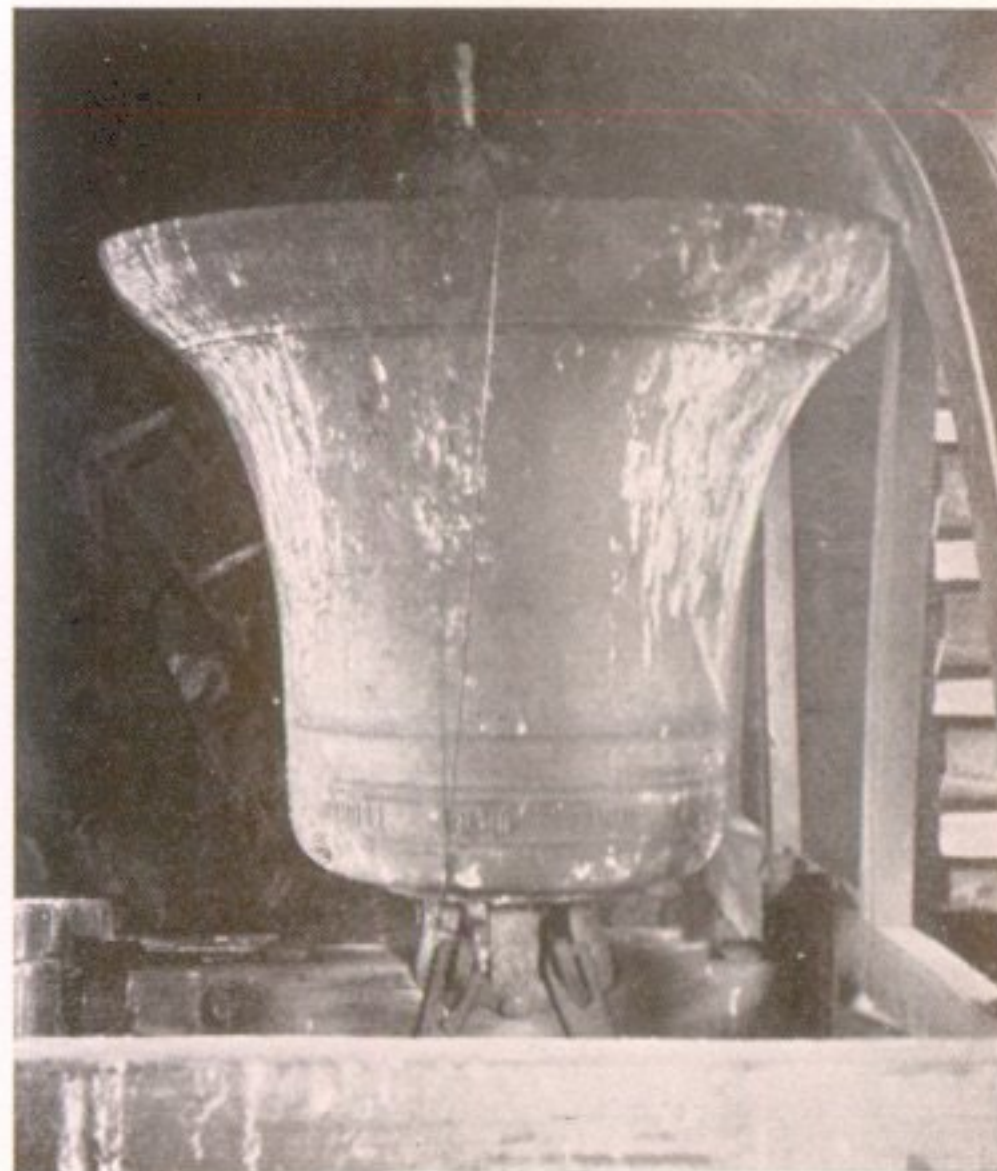
3. Bell at Fintry (1626).



4. Disused bell at Gargunnoch.



1. Falkirk Old Church handbell.



2. Second of a ring of bells in Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling.
(Inverted for ringing in full circle, with clapper tied.)

RANALD W. M. CLOUSTON.

b ↓

a ↓



← c

↑ d

[Photo: Annan, Glasgow.
 (a) Border on bell in Cowane's Hospital, 4"; (b) another border from same, 3 3/4"; (c) border from third bell in Holy Rood, Stirling, 3 1/4"; (d) shield on bell at Polmaise Home Farm, St Ninians, 2" sq.; (e) border from tenor bell at Holy Rood, Stirling, 2 3/4".

↑ e

The latter part of the inscription is incised on the waist of the bell and has probably been added in Scotland. The shield is not at all deeply incised, and the wolf on the crag, the Burgh Arms, is only just discernible.

The lettering, shown as fig. M, is roughly cast and irregular, as are the two borders. The one above the inscription (Pl. VIII (a)) consists of a floral design with three angels, and the other is a trefoil design (Pl. VIII (b)).

The bell and all the ornamentation on it have been badly cast, chiefly because the moulding sand was not capable of retaining the detail of the borders when the molten metal came in contact with it. The crown of the bell is flat, and attached to it are canons and argent of orthodox design. The fittings are entirely of wood, consisting of a wheel and headstock mounted in a good oak frame.

It would appear that this bell formerly hung in the Broad Street steeple as in the Town Council Minutes for 11th March 1669 it is directed that

“The council appoynts the thesaurer to send over the old knock bell to Holland and to caus cast a good new one, and the new one which came home for the Over Hospital to be put up and hung in the kirk steeple, and the bell that is for the present in the knock house (Broad Street Steeple) to be hung up in the steeple of the said hospital.”¹

The bell originally intended for this steeple then became the tenor or largest bell in the church tower. Unfortunately the old inscription is not preserved on the bell as it has been recast three times since 1669.

Under the date 24th February 1668 there is a Town Council minute:

“Ordeans James Brown, thesaurer, to send to Holland for a new bell to the town knock as big as the tollbuith steeple will receive; and the size of the said bell to be sent over.”²

This bell would then appear to have been ordered in 1668, and as the inscription shows that it was cast three years earlier, it is probable that the bell was cast for stock.

A meeting of the Merchant Guild of Stirling was held on 1st June 1781

“to consider the propriety of removing Cowane’s Hospital bell to the kirk steeple to be rung along with the kirk bells, the bell still remaining the property of the Hospital and at their disposal, and the question being put whether remove the bell or not, it carried not remove by a great majority.”³

¹ Morris, *The Stirling Merchant Guild and Life of John Cowane*, p. 305.

² *Extracts from the Records of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, 1667-1752*, p. 3.

³ Cook and Morris, *Extracts from the Records of the Merchant Guild of Stirling*, p. 136.

STRATHBLANE. 1.

In a high western open turret hangs a bell, about 20 inches diameter, which when viewed through a telescope is seen to be inscribed:

JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW/*PRESENTED*
BY ARCHIBALD EDMONSTONE BARONET OF.....

A product of the Gorbals Foundry, Glasgow, this bell was cast for stock, as the latter part of the inscription, that shown in italics, is incised, and was thus put on after the bell was cast. The latter part of the last sentence is not visible from the ground due to the position of the masonry, but Sir Archibald Edmonstone lived in Duntreath Castle.

The masonry just below the turret bears the date 1870, and the bell is of this date.¹

The accounts contain the following entries: ²

c1650	Givin out of the box for ane Iron chynnie to the kirk bell, for ringing of it	£2. 4s. 0d.
1655	Givin for cairiing the kirk bell to Rossedoe (Rossdhu) to get ane tongue put in it	£1. 0s. 0d.

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

The bells noted in this survey may be arranged chronologically in the following table:—

(I.)	2 mediæval.	
(II.)	8 seventeenth century	{ 3 Dutch 5 Scottish.
(III.)	31 eighteenth century	{ 17 English. 14 Scottish.
(IV.)	24 nineteenth century	{ 16 Scottish. 1 Irish. 7 English.
(V.)	32 twentieth century	{ 13 American. 1 Belgian. 16 English. 2 Scottish.

¹ Smith, *The Parish of Strathblane*, p. 232.

² *Ibid.*, p. 205.

These bells form the following collections:—

1	Ring of 4 bells (Stirling, Holy Rood)	4
1	Chime of 16 bells (Stirling, Tolbooth)	16
1	Chime of 13 bells (Falkirk, Old Church)	13
2	Chimes of 8 tubular bells (Stirling, Episcopal Church and Logie)	16
1	Chime of 2 bells (Falkirk Steeple)	2
35	Single bells	35
7	Bells unhung	7
4	Hand-bells	4
		—
		<u>97</u>

PRE-REFORMATION BELLS.

Stirlingshire possesses only two bells that can be said to have been cast before the Reformation. One is the second bell in the ring of four in the Church of the Holy Rood, Stirling, weighing about $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and inscribed in black letter. This bell is fully described under the heading of that church.

The only other bell of this period is the hand-bell which was formerly kept in the church hall attached to Falkirk Old Church (see Pl. VII, 1).

CONTINENTAL BELLS.

The earliest Continental founder whose work remains in Stirlingshire is Cornelis Jansen Ouderogge of Rotterdam, who cast the Council Bell of Stirling in 1656 and the third bell of the ring in the Church of the Holy Rood in that town in 1657.

The history of this founder is given in Volume LXXXII, p. 150, of these *Proceedings*, in the paper on Renfrewshire and Dunbartonshire bells, the information being kindly obtained by M. Arts from Dr E. Wiersum's articles in *Oud-Holland*, 1923-24, No. 41, pp. 41 and 83.

The next bell in order of age is the one in the steeple of Cowane's Hospital, cast by Adam Danckwart in 1665 and not sold till three years later. The border (Pl. VIII (a)) is part of one which appears on a bell at Bromeswell, Suffolk, cast by Cornelis Waghevans of Mechlin, in Belgium, in 1530.¹ Danckwart's bells are very rare on the Continent; one at Uydrecht is inscribed "M. ADAM DANCKWART ME FUDIT ANNO 1664." This bell weighs about $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and has on its waist two portraits of the Madonna and Child; the six canons each bear a cherub's head. Mijnheer Jan Arts

¹ Raven, *The Church Bells of Suffolk*, pl. vi and p. 75.

thinks that the initial M stands for a Christian name such as Martinus rather than Mijnheer. M. Arts has kindly made inquiries in Belgium, but this founder's work is unknown there.

The clock bell in the Stirling Tolbooth was originally cast by Peter Hemony of Amsterdam. This founder with his brother François were very noted carillon founders. François was probably the greater; he was born in 1609, and worked at Zutphen from 1642 to 1657, when he moved to Amsterdam. It was in this city that he cast many practically unsurpassed carillons, and on his death in 1667 he was buried in the choir of the Nieuwe-Kerk there. Pierre moved with François to Zuphen in 1642 from Levécourt, in the department of Haute-Marne, but did not follow him to Amsterdam till 1664, when François found that he could not manage all the work alone.

This Stirling bell was cast by Pierre after the death of François, when he was carrying on the business alone. He died unmarried in 1680 and was buried beside his brother.

The last Continental bell to be noticed is quite a modern one, being that at Inversnaid cast by Felix van Aerschodt of Louvain, Belgium, in 1909. This foundry traces its succession from the van den Gheyn foundry of Mechlin, which was started by William van den Gheyn about 1506. A number of single bells from the van den Gheyn foundry remain in Scotland, and in more recent times the van Aerschodt family have cast the carillon of forty-three bells for St Nicholas, Aberdeen, in 1886, and a chime of nine for Lower Beeding, Sussex, in 1887.¹

The last owner, Felix van Aerschodt, died recently, and the foundry has been discontinued.²

LOCAL PRODUCTS.

The disused bell at Denny, dated 1631, bears the initials I. M., and would seem from its unorthodox design to have been cast by an inexperienced bell-founder. James Monteith of Edinburgh was certainly working shortly after this date, as his earliest bell so far discovered was cast in 1642, and is in the ruined church at Auchinleck, Ayrshire. One at Alloway in the same county is dated 1657. The bells which bear his name in full are inscribed in a different type of lettering and are entirely different in shape from this Denny bell, but this would not prevent this one being an early work of his, cast before he had gained much experience. Another bell, one at Oathlaw, dated 1618, is mentioned by Dr F. C. Eeles as bearing these initials,³ but this one would seem to be foreign, and the author is fairly sure that the Denny bell is a local product.

¹ Eeles, *The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 7.

² Price, *Campanology, Europe*, 1945-47, p. 12.

³ Eeles, *The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 6.

The hand-bell at Larbert has scratched on it the initials A B and the date 1669. The bell is so small that it is quite possibly not the work of an established bell-founder but cast by a local clockmaker or smith. The author knows of no founder working at this time with these initials.

One local founder whose work has not been discovered in the county is Robert Hog, who was working in Stirling *c.* 1632–39 when he cast the bell for Killin.¹ The author could find no mention of him in the published records of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Stirling, as there are only a few odd sheets dealing with the period 1621–1724.²

THE EDINBURGH FOUNDRY.

The first member of this foundry whose products are found in the county is John Meikle, who cast the Falkirk Steeple bell in 1697, Muiravonside church bell in 1699, and a disused bell at Gargunnoch, dated 1702. He was booked as an apprentice to George Anderson, copper-smith in Edinburgh, on 26th October 1664, as recorded in the minutes of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh. He is described as the son of John Meikle, burghess of Musselburgh. On 7th September 1671 he produced his essay before the Deacon and Master of the Incorporation; this was “ane stoving pan and ane skailit quhilk was found ane sufficient and weel wrought essay able to serve his majestees leiges etc.”³

Soon afterwards he was chosen Master of his craft, and in 1681 he was elected to the highest honour they could confer, that of Deacon of the Incorporation. On 10th October 1673 he married Isobell Meik, who died in August 1708. He himself died in 1704, and left a legacy of £150 Scots for the poor of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh.

The Acts of Parliament of Scotland contain this mention of him under the date 15th June 1686:—

OUR SOVERAIGNE LORD and Estates of Parliament, takeing into Consideration the great advantage that the nation may have by the trade of founding lately brought into this Kingdom by John Meikll for Casting of bells, Cannon, and other usefull instruments, Doe, for encuradgement to him and others in the same trade, Statute and ordaine That the same shall enjoy the benefite and priviledges of a manufactorie in all points as the other manufactories newly erected are allowd to have by the Lawes and acts of Parliament, and that for the space of nyntein years next following the date hereof.⁴

¹ Eeles, *The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, p. 4.

² *Transactions of the Stirling Natural History and Archaeological Society*, vol. i. p. 9.

³ Love, *Antiquarian Notes and Queries (Falkirk)*, vol. ii. p. 268.

⁴ *The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, vol. viii. p. 608.

He therefore seems to have been quite an important person in Edinburgh. His most notable work was the casting of a carillon of twenty-three bells for the church of St Giles in Edinburgh; this work was done in the years 1698 and 1699, and John Meikle is thought to have gone over to the Continent to study the methods of founding and tuning employed there. The carillon was in the steeple until modern times, but the bells have now been removed and dispersed,¹ though four of them remain in Lady Stair's House, Edinburgh.

At the present time there are upwards of seventeen of his bells, apart from the carillon, still existing. His work is usually well cast but the shapes used for the inside and outside curves are not those which would produce the best musical tone, and as a result most of his bells do not have very superior tonal qualities.

Robert Maxwell continued the Edinburgh foundry on the death of John Meikle, and it is possible that Maxwell had been assisting for some years previous to 1704, as a bell at Sprouston, dated 1703, bears his name.

Maxwell uses Meikle's alphabet, and sometimes gives his name in full and at others just his initials. On a few bells there is a small shield bearing the insignia of the Incorporation of Hammermen and the initials R. M.; one of these is at Polmaise Home Farm in the parish of St Ninians, dated 1713.

In general his bells are very similar to Meikle's, the canons and argent being of the same design.

Bells cast by Robert Maxwell are fairly numerous; those cast before 1728 bear his name alone, but later ones show that the business had become a company. The author has a list of twenty-two bells cast before 1728 and five after that date, the latest being at Beith, Ayrshire, dated 1734.

A bell at New Luce dated 1729 was cast by Messrs Ormiston & Cunningham, who were certainly Edinburgh founders, as this fact is mentioned on the disused bell at Falkirk dated 1740. It is possible that they worked with Robert Maxwell and caused the change in the designation of the business. A bell at Lanark dated 1740, but now recast, was also cast by these two founders. The lettering and stamps used on the Falkirk bell are altogether different from those used by Maxwell, but the design of canons and argent is retained.

William Ormiston alone cast a bell for Carmyllie in 1748, and in partnership with a Mr Henderson cast one for Cupar, Fife, in 1747. By 1750 we have a new Edinburgh founder on the scene, in the person of John Milne, whose bells, so far discovered, range from 1750 to 1755, when he is known to have cast seven bells; none are to be found in Stirlingshire.

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. iii. p. 196, and vol. xviii. p. 94.

JOHN WAYLETT.

Two of the bells in the chime of sixteen in the Broad Street Steeple, Stirling, bear the date 1729, and one in addition bears the initials I. W. It has been noted earlier that the bells came from London, and a perusal of the names of founders working in that city at that time show that only one founder fulfils the conditions, and he is John Waylett.¹ Waylett was founding from 1703 to 1731; up till 1714 he worked at Bishop's Stortford and later toured Sussex for two years doing jobs on the spot. Then he came to London, and worked for Samuel Knight till 1721. The desire to wander from place to place seems to have made him spend three years in Kent, and then finally in the period 1727-31 he was in London. Mr E. V. Lucas writes of him: ²

“His method was to call on the Vicar and ask if anything were wanted; and if a bell was cracked, or if a new one was desired, he would dig a mound in a neighbouring field, build a fire, collect his metal, and perform the task on the spot. Waylett's business might be called the higher tinkering.”

The original thirteen bells in the Stirling chime are not very well cast, and they required quite a bit of chipping before they formed the musical scale required.

The bells at Kippen and Buchanan in this county, and the larger bell in the Tolbooth Steeple at South Queensferry in West Lothian, with thirteen of the chime of sixteen bells in the Broad Street Steeple, Stirling, show very definite similarity in design and would appear to be the work of one founder.³

Due to the kindness of Mr George Elphick of Lewes, Sussex, the author has obtained a rubbing and some plaster casts of the smallest set of lettering used by John Waylett on a bell at East Hothly, Sussex, inscribed:

JOHN WAYLETT MADE ME 1723

Comparing the lettering and figures the author has found that there is very little difference between the Scottish and Sussex examples. On the Sussex bell the first figure of the date is more properly a J but the peculiar design of the figure 2 (figs. E and H) is the same on all the bells under review.

Being an itinerant founder it is quite possible that some of his types got lost or worn out over the years and certain letters and figures had to be redesigned.

The author has no doubt that these Scottish bells are the work of John Waylett.

¹ Walters, *The Church Bells of England*, pp. 234 and 383.

² Lucas, *Highways and Byways of Sussex*, p. 399.

³ See also Eeles, “Church Bells of Linlithgowshire,” *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xlvii, p. 75.

GLASGOW FOUNDRIES.

The earliest bell in Stirlingshire which can be ascribed to a Glasgow founder is the bell at Fintry dated 1626, bearing the name of W. Maine (see Pl. VI, 3, and fig. B). This bell is well cast but the lettering has a number of errors in it, such as the reversing of one letter and the eliding of two others. The cock seems to appear as a trade stamp and in each case is slightly different; so far no other bells by this founder have been heard of by the author; this bell shows the founder in a good light.

William Mayne became a member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow on 5th May 1624, when only an apprentice.¹ No essay is given, but his trade is mentioned as that of a potter. The early London bell-founders in the thirteenth century almost invariably described themselves as "Potters" (Latin *Ollarius*), and this persisted till quite late in the fourteenth century.²

The firm of John Wilson & Co.—not to be confused with John C. Wilson & Co. Ltd.—are described as ironmongers at No. 73 Trongate in the *Glasgow Directory* of 1787. They cast three bells noted in this survey: the disused bell at Balfroon, 1791 (Pl. VI, 1), a bell at Kilsyth, 1794, and a disused bell in the Episcopal Chapel, Stirling, dated 1795. All these bells are of the same type, without any moulding wires by the shoulder, and having a handbell-type argent. The inscriptions are partially set in lower-case letters, a feature which is quite rare.

Stephen Miller was admitted a member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow on 28th August 1795, and is noted as being the son of a member.³ As an essay he made a raised covered tea-kettle. In the *Directory* of 1807 he is given as working as a copper-smith at 127 Saltmarket. However, by 1818 the business had become Stephen Miller & Co. and the foundry had moved to Saracen's Lane. In Stirlingshire there are two bells from this foundry, one at Lennoxton, 1828, in the parish of Campsie, and the other at Kilsyth dated 1824. On this latter bell the weight has been stamped in the mould even before the bell has been cast. Other bells are the Girvan town bell, Ayrshire, 1826, and formerly before recasting the church bell at Riccarton, Ayrshire, dated 1825. As early as 1828 there is mention in the *Glasgow Directories* of John Watt of Stephen Miller & Co., and in 1838 there is a mention of the firm of John Watt & Sons of Saracen's Lane. It is not clear whether the firms were separate or whether there was an agreement between the two. In any case both firms continued to bear different names at least till 1845. In this year John Watt & Sons cast the bell at Dunipace.

¹ Lumsden and Aitken, *History of the Hammermen of Glasgow*, p. 286.

² Stahlschmidt, *Surrey Bells and London Bell-Founders*, p. 2.

³ Lumsden and Aitken, *History of the Hammermen of Glasgow*, p. 299.

The bell at Kippen was cast by John and William Young, plumbers and brassfounders, of Galbraith Street, Stobcross, in the year 1873.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

It is very rare to find bells cast on the other side of the Atlantic hanging in our steeples, though Stirlingshire has a fine chime of thirteen bells from the foundry of the McShane Bell Foundry Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. These bells hang in the Old Church at Falkirk and were donated by Mr and Mrs Robert Dollar, who were also the donors of two other chimes cast by this firm. One was a duplicate of the Falkirk chime for the San Francisco Theological Seminary at San Anselmo, California, cast in 1923; and another of ten bells with a tenor of 2000 lb. in E for the First Presbyterian Church at San Rafael, California, cast in 1915.

The McShane Bell Foundry Co. was established in 1856, and since that date approximately 130,000 bells have been cast by the firm for destinations in the United States, Greece, Puerto Rica, Japan, China, and many other parts of the world.

THE WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY.

This London foundry was established in 1567 and has been working continuously ever since, a record which must be almost unique in business annals. The Van Aerschodt foundry of Louvain, mentioned earlier, traced the business from 1506, but this firm has now closed down.

The Whitechapel Foundry cast a bell for Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh in 1633, and the bell now hangs in St Paul's Episcopal Church, York Place, Edinburgh. In 1788 they cast the first octave of bells for Scotland hung to be rung in changes in the English style; these bells are in St Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, but they can no longer be swung as the fabric is not strong enough (*cf.* Pl. VII, 2).

Some years before this, Messrs Pack & Chapman cast the bell at St Ninian's in 1774, and later William Chapman alone recast the tenor at the Holy Rood Church, Stirling, and added a treble. At the same time he hung and tuned the bells for ringing in changes.

Thomas Mears II, who owned the foundry from 1810 till his death in 1843, cast a number of bells for Stirlingshire, namely: Falkirk Steeple, 1815; Stirling, King Street Steeple, 1817; Larbert, 1819; Airth, 1824; and Bannockburn, 1839. Later the bell at Polmont, 1870, was cast by Messrs Mears & Stainbank, which is the name used by the foundry since 1865.

Many notable bells have come from Whitechapel during the firm's long history; Big Ben, weighing 13 tons 11 cwt., was cast there in 1857, and the Bow-bells, tenor 53 cwt., still heard as the B.B.C. interval signal though

the bells were destroyed during the late war, were cast by the firm in 1762. Recently they cast the new ring of twelve bells for Liverpool Cathedral, tenor 82 cwt., and these bells form the heaviest ring of bells in the world.

THE GORBALS FOUNDRY.

A large number of the modern bells in the county have been cast at this foundry, which was originated by David Burges, who recast the tenor in the Holy Rood Church, Stirling, in 1853. He was admitted a member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow on 11th June 1833, but it seems that it was not before 1838 that he took up the specialised line of bell-founding. In 1854 he retired and the firm was taken over by John C. Wilson, under whom it continued to flourish to become the principal Scottish bell foundry.

A number of the bells noted in this survey were cast in this foundry, the largest for the county given in the records being a bell for a Free Church in Grangemouth cast in 1883 and weighing 15 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lb. in F#.

These bells have on the whole a good tone, though the author has found quite a variation in tonal qualities from one bell to another.

The firm continued to work under the name of John C. Wilson & Co. Ltd. till 1928, when the goodwill, patterns, etc., were bought by Messrs Steven & Struthers, Ltd., of Kelvinhaugh, Glasgow. This firm has continued the bell-founding business, and the bell at Riccarton, Ayrshire, cast in 1935, is one of their products.

THE LOUGHBOROUGH FOUNDRY.

The new chime for the Stirling Municipal Buildings is to be the work of Messrs John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough. The history of this firm of bell-founders dates back at least to the year 1710, when two Kettering clockmakers decided to start founding bells. The firm has done some excellent work in the two centuries since, and among their products is the heaviest bell in England, Great Paul, in St Paul's Cathedral, London, cast in 1881 and weighing $16\frac{3}{4}$ tons.

In Scotland, the Glasgow University hour bell, 57 cwt.; the rings of bells at St Mary's Cathedral and St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh; Inveraray; St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow; St James's, Paisley, and St John's Episcopal Church, Alloa, were all cast at Loughborough. Among a number of chimes, that of eight bells, tenor $24\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., in Dunblane Cathedral, is probably best known to inhabitants of Stirlingshire.

SHORT NOTES ON THE CHURCH BELLS OF KINROSS-SHIRE.

BLAIRINGONE. 1 Bell.

Virtually inaccessible in an open turret. About 18 inches diameter, and most probably the work of Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel, London, *circa* 1841.

CLEISH. St Cuthbert. 1 Bell.

17 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches diameter. Blank and of flower-pot type with handbell argent. Probably cast in 1832 after the church was destroyed by fire.

FOSSOWAY. 1 Bell and a Handbell.

24 inches diameter.

CHURCH BELL OF FOSSAWAY & TULLIBOLE 1806
GEORGE GRAHAM:/MINISTER/*WM ARMSTRONG FECIT*

Last line is incised. The bell was cast at Whitechapel by Thomas Mears II and was probably hung by William Armstrong.

In the Manse is a handbell, 6 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches diameter, inscribed:

FOSSAWAY . 1725

The lettering has been scratched into the mould and is consequently rough and irregular. Originally there was a handle cast integral with the bell, but this has been broken off and an iron one is now riveted through the crown.

KINROSS. Town Steeple. 1 Bell.

30 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter.

INVITO AD VERBUM: VERBUM AD CHRISTUM KINROSS
1814 □ (5 *times*)

The ornament, which appears five times, resembles half a leaf. The bell was cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel, London. Its predecessor was inscribed:

VOCO AD VERBUM, VERBUM AD CHRISTUM¹

¹ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, vol. ix. pp. 14, 19, 21.

KINROSS. West Church. 1 Bell.

34½ inches diameter, weighing about 8½ cwt.

ERECTED AT KINROSS PARISH CHURCH, A.D. 1873./
JOHN C. WILSON FOUNDER GLASGOW./Bb/ (*Soundbow*)
VOCO, "VENITE IN DOMINI TEMPLUM."

The church was opened in 1832, and the original bell was obtained from London, probably being cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel.

KINROSS. St Paul's Episcopal Church. 1 Bell.

About 16 inches diameter. Access is by no means easy, and with the aid of a telescope the figures 6890 can be seen on the bell, and it seems probable that the material is cast steel, being the work of Naylor Vickers & Co. of Sheffield, and being cast in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

MILNATHORT. Town Steeple. 1 Bell.

28⅝ inches diameter.

C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1854.

ORWELL. Parish Church. 1 Bell.

About 16 inches diameter.

FOR THE KIRK OF ORWELL 1773

On evidence of design the bell is a product of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, then owned by Messrs Lester, Pack & Chapman. The lettering is incised but the figures are raised, showing that the bell was cast for stock in 1773, and later, when an inquiry came from this parish for a bell, the lettering was incised. Thus it is unlikely that the metal is that belonging to an earlier bell of this church.

PORTMOAK. St Moan or St Stephen. 1 Bell.

21⅜ inches diameter.

IACOBUS MONTEITH ME FECIT/ANNO DOM. 1642./THOMAS
MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1843/+GIFTED BY CAPTAIN
CHARLES ARNOT TO THE LONG EXPECTED AND YET
UNERECTED./NEW KIRK OF THE OLD PAROCH OF PORT-
MOACK 1642/RESTORED BY THOMAS BRUCE ESQ^{RE} OF
ARNOT 1843

This Whitechapel bell was recast from one which was the work of James

Monteith of Edinburgh. This founder cast a number of bells still existing in Scotland: those so far discovered are at Auchinleck, Ayrshire, 1641; North Berwick, 1642; Coylton, Ayrshire, 1647; Ewes, Dumfriesshire, 1652; Kennoway, 1653; and Alloway, Ayrshire, 1657. He also cast a cannon, dated 1642, preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh.