

VI.

THE CHURCH AND OTHER BELLS OF ABERDEENSHIRE.

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PART II.

KILDRUMMY. St Bride. 1.

A bird-cage belfry, dated 1803, houses a bell, 14 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, note B flat, inscribed:

(Fleur-de-lys border all round, Pl. XVI) / □ IOHN MOWAT
 OLDABDWEFEE1760INUSUMECCLÆSÆ/
 DEKILDRUMMESABATAPANGOFUNERAPLANGO
(Acanthus leaf border Pl. XVII, (a)) / *(Border Pl. XVII, (a))*
all round bell

The smallest church bell of Mowat's found as yet; it differs from his other bells in the absence of rims below the second or lower line of inscription which, however, is close under the lines below the first or upper line, and is quite separated from the waist by a continuous acanthus leaf frieze of the usual kind. The words are put into the smallest possible space with no gap of reasonable proportions between any of them. The stop at the beginning of the inscription is one section of the acanthus leaf frieze which appears again lower down.

The belfry has a large cornice and a conical stone roof which supports a ball with an iron cross. The belfry rises from the wall at the north side of a large semicircular excrescence on the north side of the church which houses a gallery staircase. The belfry is not as high as the roof of the church.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL. St Erchard. 0.

The bell was removed to the new building about 1870. The quaint old bird-cage bellcot is still standing on the west gable of the ruined church. It is almost identical with that at Birse, which is dated 1772. There is no vane as at Birse, but there may have been one formerly. The small semicircular tympana have rope moulding round them.

KINCARDINE O'NEIL. New Church. 1.

The bell from the old church is now in use here, 18 $\frac{1}{8}$ ins. diameter, note G, and with the inscription:

IOHŪ (*rose*) MOWAT (*rose*) ME (*rose*) FECIT (*rose*) VET
 (*rose*) ABD (*rose*) 1744 (*rose*) IN (*rose*) USUM (*rose*) ECCLESĪE
 (*rose*) DE (*rose*) / KINCARDEN (*rose*) SABBATA (*rose*)
 PANGO (*rose*) FUNERA (*rose*) PLANGO (*floral border*)

One of Mowat's earlier bells, although not the earliest kind of all. The fleur-de-lys border (Pl. XVI) appears all round the bell above the inscription, and the acanthus border (Pl. XVII, *a*) all round below the inscription. The flower stop is part of Pl. XVI and the floral border is the one appearing on the bell at Skene below the inscription (Pl. XVI). The letter N in IOHN and the third letter of KINCARDEN are reversed.

The lip is rather chipped and the bell has been badly and clumsily hung in a belfry at the south end of the new church. It used to be said locally that the bell of Kincardine O'Neil could be heard at the church of Birse, but this may have been a rejoinder to the saying "as clear as the bell o' Birse."

KING EDWARD. St Edward the Confessor. 1.

In the picturesque bird-cage belfry over the west end of the ruined church is a bell, 18 ins. diameter, note A flat, inscribed:

OLD (A) ABD (A) IOHN . MOWAT (A) ME (A) FECIT (A)
 1755 (A) IN (A) USUM (A) ECLETIÆ (A) DE (A)/KING (B)
 EDWARD (C) SABATA (C) PANGO (C) FUNERA (C)
 PLANG (*border*)

Above the inscription there is a border of fleur-de-lys (Pl. XVI) and single ones appear in the top line of the inscription denoted by (A). The acanthus leaf border (Pl. XVII, *a*) also appears at the end of the second line of the inscription and below that all round the bell, all inverted. One acanthus leaf is used as a stop, right way up denoted by (B), inverted by (C).

The bell is a good clean casting in good condition and is one of the best and largest of Mowat's products. The bell is now disused. The inscription has in part been blundered, the intended words ECCLESIAE and PLANGO not appearing.

The belfry (Pl. XX, *c*) is of red sandstone and has four pillars, each outside face of which bears a richly carved pilaster in middle relief. These pillars support the cross-pieces in the usual way and are corbelled out on the west side. Under each corbel is a short row of dog-tooth. Above the cross-pieces the pillars have merely roll mouldings on their edges, and in the midst of each side is a central square pillar. The tops of the east and west openings

of the belfry have two plain semicircular cusps. The cornice is small and there are remains of pinnacles at the corners.

Over each side are triangular tympana, the west one is much worn, the east one plain, the north and south ones are ornamented with flowers. The lower opening in the south side has an ogee shaped head, that on the north side a square head. Over each is a projecting band of ornament, the lower member of which is a row of dog-tooth ornament. Perhaps the belfry is of the same date as the lych gate, viz. 1621. The design is almost exactly like one section of the elaborate double belfry at Turriff.

The church was extensively repaired by Robert Keith, Earl Marischal, in 1578.

KING EDWARD. New Church. 1.

A pepper-box like turret over the west gable contains a bell provided by public subscription in 1848 and weighing $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.¹ The turret has two windows on each side closed with louvre boards; internally the lower part is like a slender stone tower and access to it from the gallery is such that the bringing of a ladder into it of sufficient length is practically impossible. The bell has not been inspected.

KINNELLAR. St Triduana. 1.

In a plain bird-cage belfry over the north end, built 1801, hangs a single bell, $18\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(a shield) **PEETER VANŌEN GHEIN**
HEFT MY GHEGOTEN MCCCCCXII

One of the finest bells in the county. The lettering is particularly delicate and well proportioned; very probably the best in use in the Low Countries since the Reformation. It is almost late medieval in character and is very like that used by George Waghevans of Mechlin, c. 1519-26, with the difference that it is not quite so massive and rather more elaborate. The "M" used by Waghevans, however, is quite different, being Lombardic in character. The fourth letter in VANDEN is actually a reversed G, and it seems that the last two units in the date have been partly erased. The small shield at the commencement of the inscription has three vertical bands on it and is otherwise plain, being the arms of Mechlin.

Above the inscription appears an ornamental border, and below it there are three angels with outstretched wings each bearing a plaque suspended by three strings from their mouths. The canons are broken.

Two semicircular stones from the old belfry are preserved, one is dated 1615.

¹ Godsman, *The Church of King Edward, Aberdeenshire*, 61.

KINNOIR. Mission Church. 1.

The bird-cage belfry contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed:

ADAME GORDOVNE 1605 · IOHNE ·
 HAMILTOVNE · CORS · | COFT ME
 FOR KINNOIR/1653

A most interesting bell and not one that one would expect to find in a modern belfry of a mission church. The first part of the inscription was stamped or scraped in the mould, and so appears raised on the bell; the letters are Lombardic in design, not unlike those found on a bell at Lochmaben, Dumfries, c.1320, and are well spaced out. The latter part of the inscription, shown in italics above, is all incised and was obviously added some 50 years after the bell was cast. The incising work has been very carelessly and irregularly done, and some of the letters and figures are very poorly defined. The figure 5 of the date 1605 is virtually lying on its side, and the whole inscription has the appearance of complete lack of skill. The bell is rather tub-shaped and retains canons; the fittings are all of iron.

The bell was, as the inscription relates, obtained for Kinnoir church in 1653. The parishes of Dunbennan and Kinnoir had been united about 1567, and in 1727 the parish church of Dunbennan was removed to a site now within the town of Huntly.¹ The bell was discovered at Brodie Castle in Morayshire c. 1935, and the present belfry was added to the mission church to house it.²

KINTORE. St Mary. 2.

The present church, built in 1819, has a small unused belfry at the west end, and the bell hangs in the steeple of the Town House. The diameter is 23 ins. and the inscription reads:

□ FVNDOR □ SVMPTIBVS □ ET □ IN □ VSVM □
 ECCLESIAE □ PAROCHIALIS □ DE □ KINTOR/ □
 MEMORES □ ESTOTE □ SVPREMI □ IVDICII □
 ALBERTVS □ GELY □ FECIT □ AN □ D □ MDCCII

This bell is looked upon as the joint property of the church and the burgh, and hangs between two beams close to the clock in the small box-like steeple in the Town House, which is on the opposite side of the Market Place to the church. The Town House was begun in 1737 and finished in 1747; before it was built it is said that the bell used to hang in a tree in the churchyard.

In 1901, the bell was used on Sundays for meetings of the Council and on all occasions of importance. The clock strikes on it, and it was also used for fires but not for funerals unless the deceased was a person of consequence.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 316.

² Kindly communicated by Rev. Neil R. Henderson, Minister of Huntly, 1956.

The bell is a typical example of Gely's work. Very well and cleanly cast with a thin angular soundbow and Low Country outline. There are three small-rounded moulding wires on the shoulder and again, further apart, on the soundbow. The canons are plain. The clapper has been lowered and enlarged by shrinking an iron band on to the ball.

The inscription is in rather thicker-faced lettering than that used by John Mowat and is not quite in such high relief. Sections of the lower border ornament are used as stops between the words, as at Portlethen (Banchory Devenick, Kincardineshire), this ornament taking the form of a diagonal cross on a rectangular ground on both bells.¹ The fleur-de-lys border above the inscription appears to have been reproduced from a medieval Low Country founder, on whose bells it may be seen at Kettins (Angus), Perth and Dunning (Perthshire), Gely also uses it at Insch. The border is slightly different from that used by John Mowat (Pl. XVI).

At the beginning of the upper line of inscription is an unintelligible mark which is perhaps a blunder for Gely's founder's stamp (see Portlethen). He does not invariably use this, however. The tone is very "stony," *i.e.* unmusical.

The hangings are evidently coeval with the bell. The straps are wide and are nailed to the stock: those for the single canons are V-shaped. The U-shaped bolt through the argent hole is fastened with thin doubled-split keys the ends of which are splayed. The upper edges of the stock are bevelled and there are no coupling plates. A large new iron baldrick has been made for the clapper. The bell is moved by a long wooden lever projecting 30 ins. from the stock. It is 2-3 ins. thick and straight, becoming rounded and slightly pointed towards the end which is covered by an iron sheath terminating in a hook for the rope. The lever is fixed to the top of the stock by an iron hoop on each side, the hoops being nailed on. The whole arrangement is exceedingly primitive.

The clock is inscribed:

Hugh Gordon Aberdeen/Dono dedit Comes Martialis 1774

The Parish Church has a disused handbell, 7½ ins. diameter, 6 ins. high, which bears no inscription and has no moulding wires. The existing handle appears to be a recent addition, the stump of the original handle remains on the crown.

F. C. E. 1901.

LEOCHEL. St Marnoch. 0.

This church is now in ruins and the bell was removed to the new church when that was built in 1797-8. The west wall still stands, with a plain bird-cage belfry with rudimentary pinnacles, something between the newer church at Midmar and Coull, and not unlike Belhelvie.

¹ *Ecles, The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, illustration facing p. 14.

LEOCHEL AND CUSHNIE. New Church. 1.

The west bird-cage belfry contains a bell, about 14 ins. diameter, inscribed:

*(Fleur-de-lys border all round (Pl. XVI)/*OLD ABD IOHN
MOWAT ME FECIT 1754 USUM ECCLESIAE/DE
LEOCHEL SABATA PANGO FUNERA PLANGO
(Acanthus leaf border) (Pl. XVII, a)/(Border (Pl. XVII, a)
all round bell)

The bell retains canons and is hung with a wooden wheel and headstock.

The parishes of Leochel and Cushnie were united in 1795¹ and the church was built on the present site in 1797-8. The above bell came from Leochel Old Church and that from Cushnie, dated 1686, is at Lynturk church in this parish.

LEOCHEL AND CUSHINE. Lynturk Church.

In a belfry of the usual bird-cage type, but unusually plain and apparently of late date, hangs a single disused bell, 13 ins. diameter, note E, inscribed:

(Flower and leaf) PK 1686 *(flower and leaf)*

Cast by Patrick Kilgour of Old Aberdeen, being the earliest known bell cast in that city. Tub-shaped and short in the waist, with the same lettering as used at Ballater, with the flower and leaf ornament found on bells by Peter Ostens of Rotterdam (Pl. XVI). There are two moulding wires above the inscription and two below, with a further three above the soundbow which is rounded and projecting.

The hangings are most remarkable, and form perhaps the earliest known instance of the use of an iron headstock. The hand-bell type argent is strapped to the stock by a single bent iron plate. The headstock is a simple iron bar with a slight thickness in the middle where it meets the argent; the ends of the bar form the gudgeons. The above was written in 1898, and since then a wooden covering has been fitted over the iron headstock and bearings have been provided in the wall where formerly there were none.

LESLIE. St Ninian. 1.

The small bird-cage belfry contains a bell, 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS ME FECIT 1642

A plain bell, bearing no ornamental borders; the lettering is the smaller set, $\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, but very similar in design to Pl. XVII, *b*. The bell is cracked, one single canon has been cut through by a strap, caused by the bell working loose on the stock. The straps are nailed to the wooden headstock and are of considerable age. The modern clapper is hung from a false staple fixed through the crown. The lip has been badly chipped.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vi, 134.

The small but fine granite belfry of 17th century date is of the ornate type and is over the west end of the church (Pl. XX, *d*). The sides have only the lower openings; the pillars are $10\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide with roll mouldings on the edges, and the opening is $19\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide. The cornice has double roll mouldings and the part below the pinnacles projects. The tympana are small, triangular with scrolls on sides over east and west faces, semicircular with finials over the north and south faces. The pinnacles consist of cushions with flowers above. The tympanum over the west face bears raised letters

M

IFL and that over the south face what appears to be I D. The initials do
1608

fit James Douglas, who was minister here in 1628 and in 1637,¹ but he did not hold the office as early as 1608, so the reading of the weathered stone is probably inaccurate.

LOGIE BUCHAN. St Andrew. 1.

A plain bird-cage belfry over the west end contains a bell, $14\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, height $11\frac{3}{8}$ ins., note A, inscribed:

FOR · THE · KIRK · OF · LOGIE · BUCHAN ·
R · M · / FECIT · ED^R : IN · COMP^Y : J728 ·

A small but typical example of Robert Maxwell's work: crown flat-like many Dutch bells, but waist straighter and soundbow very small. The canons appear to be complete but they are almost entirely hidden by the stock, to which the bell is attached by nailed straps. The original crown staple is broken and the clapper has been rehung in the usual way. The lettering is the same as that used at Bonhill.²

The Session Records contain the following entries under 1728:

To the Bursar	£2
Charges of the bell to Edinburgh, and shore dues and carriage and postage of the way	£2 : 1
Charges of bringing her home	1 : 19
To the wright for making the stock and for the bell-tow	0 : 18
	<hr/>
Expended on	4 : 18
John Wood for the block	1 : 4
	<hr/>
To John Mutch, smith in Newark for ironwork to the bell	6 : 2
	4 : 4
	<hr/>
Sum	<u>£10 : 6</u>

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, vi, 171.

² *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXII, 179, fig. 15b.

LOGIE-COLDSTONE. Established Church. 1.

The tower contains a bell, $17\frac{7}{8}$ ins. diameter, 14 ins. high, note B flat Continental Pitch, inscribed:

· MICHAEL · BVRGERHVYS · ME · FECIT · 1619

A very well cast bell with a fine clear tone from the Middelburg foundry in Holland. A rubbing of the inscription is illustrated as Pl. XVIII, *b*, from which it will be noted that the lettering and the ornamental border above it are very simple and effective. The bell is rather irregular at the lip and has small plain canons. The crown staple has broken and a false staple has been fitted, using two holes drilled through the crown. The original clapper was in use in 1901, but the bell was rehung some years later when a new clapper was fitted.

The parishes of Logie Mar and Colstone were united in July 1619,¹ and so the above bell is the first and only bell of the united parish.

F. C. E. 1913.

LONGSIDE. 1.

A bird-cage belfry at the west end of the church contains a bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON./(*waist*) CAST 1817.
WILLIAM GREIG, MINISTER/RECAST 1914. RICHARD
HENDERSON, MINISTER

This bell has canons and is fitted with a wooden headstock and lever. Dr Eeles inspected the predecessor of this bell in 1907 and notes the diameter as $20\frac{7}{8}$ ins. and the inscription as:

BAIRD & ELLIS ABD^N.. REV^D WILLIAM GREIG
MINISTER./1817

Rev. William Greig was born in 1757, admitted in 1790, and died in 1828, his tombstone being in the kirkyard.²

LONMAY. 1.

The bell, 21 ins. diameter, note B, bears no inscription. The crown has a hand-bell type argent and is very similar to the rather smaller bells at Drumblade and Fergie, which have exactly similar moulding wires on the soundbow. The bell was probably cast by Abernethy & Co. of Aberdeen.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 103.

² Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 227.

LONMAY. Episcopal Church of St Columba. 2.

A chime of two bells, 13 ins. and 16½ ins. diameter, notes F sharp and E flat, hangs in an open belfry. Both bells are inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK, FOUNDERS, LONDON. 1869.

Incised on the crown of the smaller is 13 ins. and on that of the larger is 16 ins.

LUMPHANAN. St Finan. 1.

The belfry contains a bell, 15½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(ornament) 1851 (ornament)

On each side of the date there is a floral stop which also appears on bells at the Episcopal Church of St Ternan, Banchory Ternan, and Kinneff former Free Church, both in Kincardineshire,¹ fig. 2, 3.

The bell is rather flower-pot shaped; no lines but mouldings at the shoulder (top) and on soundbow. The inscription is in the usual place. The canons are very straight. The headstock is shouldered and has a lever in the centre. The bell hangs in iron brackets in a very high "arch" belfry of pseudo-classical design, built in 1851. The belfry is huge and is surmounted by three large spiked balls.

MELDRUM. Old Meldrum Parish Church. 1.

A modern arch belfry over the gallery staircase at the south-west corner of the south transept contains a bell, 19 ins. diameter, height 19½ ins., note A sharp, inscribed:

IMPENSIS KEITH URQUART OF MELDRUM M^R
THO^S TAIT MINISTER :∴/SI MUNDUS VULT
DECIPI DECIPIATUR J787 ∴∴

A very cleanly cast English bell, better proportioned than the Whitechapel bells of the period, crown and shoulders rounded, canons small and curved. Moulding wires are located, one on the crown, one above and one below the inscription, three above the soundbow and two above the lip. The crown staple is broken.

The lettering is very closely set, the R of M^R is the same size as the others but the S of THO^S is much smaller; in both cases the letter is cut by the moulding-wire above the inscription. The letter D at the beginning of the last word is inverted.

Rev. Thomas Tait, M.A., was minister here from 1783 till 1798 when he moved to Ellon.²

¹ Eccles, *The Church Bells of Kincardineshire*, 24, 34.

² Scott, *Fasts Ecclesie Scoticae*, vi, 174.

From the Session Records the following entries are noted :

11 June 1699.	To John Young for helping the bell	£00—03—06
	Item to him for his shoes as part of his fee	£00—12—06
31 Dec. 1699.	For taking down the church bell	£— 4— =
3 May 1703.	Item for four fathoms of towes to the bell	£00—12—00
13 Aug. 1753.	To Robert Officer for ringing the Tolbooth Bell for the accommodation of worshippers	£1—10— —
2 Sept. 1754.	To Robert Bruce for ringing Tolbooth Bell	£2— 8— —

MELDRUM. Old Meldrum Town House. 1.

A small wooden box-like bell-turret, crowned with a conical lead roof and cock vane, contains a bell, 24 ins. diameter, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. high, note A sharp, inscribed :

OLD MELDRUM IMPENSIS KEITH URQUHART DE
MELDRUM SALUS POPULI./LEX SUPREMA 1791

By Thomas Mears the elder, of Whitechapel. The moulding wires are located 2, 2-2, 3-2, and the bell is used for the clock to strike upon. The Session Records given above show that the town must have had a bell prior to the casting of the present one in 1791.

F. C. E. 1913.

METHLICK. St Deavanach. 1.

In a plain bird-cage belfry over the west end of the ruined church hangs a single bell, about 18 ins. diameter, inscribed :

1827 1828

A high-crowned bell from the Whitechapel Foundry, London. The belfry is dated 1780 and is of sandstone; it is not of the usual kind, having a flat arch to the east and west, a circular opening to north and south and a miniature flattened dome, with remains of a vane.

The session records¹ contain quite a number of entries relating to the predecessors of this bell. On 23rd December 1781 it was reported that the tongue had fallen out and on 17th August 1783 that the bell had been rent. It was decided to send the bell to Mr George Forbes of Aberdeen who had procured it originally. The bell was recast and put back in place, but it was only a few years later when on 29th January 1786 the Minister reported that "he had been under the necessity of buying several fathoms of ropes in order to get up to the Steeple of the Church to find out what was the

¹ *Methlick Parish Magazine*, Feb., April, 1909.

occasion of the Bell's falling down to the bottom of the Steeple, and it was found that the cause of this was the Ears of the Bell having separated from her."

It was subsequently decided that the bell itself was quite sound so Andrew Lawson, blacksmith of Seatown, near Old Aberdeen, was instructed to rehang the bell. This required a new stock as the old one was too light.

METHLICK. New Church. 1.

A saddle-back tower contains a single bell, 33½ ins. diameter, weighing 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lb., inscribed:

GILLET & JOHNSTON FOUNDERS CROYDON 1908/
(on the waist) IN MEMORY OF JAMES WHYTE/BORN
25 AUGUST 1809, DIED 4 AUGUST 1881/PRESENTED
BY HIS FAMILY TO/THE PARISH OF METHLICK.

The bell has been considerably flattened and is hung dead by four bolts through the crown from a metal girder. The bell is rung by pulling the clapper against one side and the clock hammer strikes on the opposite side. There is an ornamental border at the top of the waist, and the inscription is in plain sans-serif compressed letters.

F. C. E. 1913.

MIDMAR. St Nidan. 0.

This church is now in ruins; the bell was taken to Midmar Castle in 1788 and from thence to the Home Farm at Cluny. From there it was sent to Aberdeen to be recast about 1875.

MIDMAR. Established Church. 1.

In a small bird-cage belfry over the west end hangs a single bell, 18 ins. diameter, note B. inscribed:

PETER IANSEN ANNO 1642 + +

There is a very fine ornamental border above and below the inscription. The design is two angels, one on each side of a vase of fruit holding in their hands cornucopiæ full of conventional foliage: this is repeated continuously in high relief. The lettering, ½ in. high, is in low relief and is very bad, not as good as Ostens' work.

The canons are plain and rather small, one is broken; the soundbow is rounded and the lip is chipped. Height to crown plate 13¼ ins.

The bell was brought from Kinairney old church in 1788.

MONQUITTER. 1.

In a large and coarse "classical" arched belfry over the north end of the church hangs a bell, 17½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(a cross) E 10 EROL P OF MÖVHITER. M AD
HAY MİR. PĀT KILGOVR ABD F. 1689.

The inscription is probably intended to read: EARL JOHN EROL PATRON OF MONVHITER. MASTER ADAM HAY MINISTER. PATRICK KILGOVR ABERDEEN FECIT 1689. The bell is almost identical with that at Kennethmont cast in the same year and evidently using the same moulding tackle. This bell here is a far better casting and has a much smoother surface. The inscription is clearer and better set. The bell is in good condition and has four canons. There are two moulding wires above the shoulder, one each side of the inscription, three above the soundbow and two above the lip. The small initial cross does not occur on the other surviving bells by Patrick Kilgour, but the lettering is the same. As at Ballater and Kennethmont the contraction marks are made by I's turned sideways.

Rev. Adam Hay was born about 1647, instituted in 1678 and died in 1727.¹ A stone upon the old belfry is said to have been inscribed² "I. E. E. PATRON" and would therefore appear to have been the same approximate age as the bell.

MONYMUSK. St Mary. 1.

The tower contains a single bell, 22 ins. diameter, inscribed:

IOA □ MOWAT □ ME □ FECIT □ VET □ ABD □ 1748 □ IN □
USUM □ ÆCCLESIAE □ DE □ MONIEMUSK □ □/SABBATA □
PANGO □ FUNERA □ PLANGO

This is one of Mowat's largest and richest bells, in perfect condition (Pl. VIII, a) is an illustration of this bell. Above the inscription appears the fleur-de-lys border (Pl. XVI); between the words is the flower-stop and at the end of the first line after the word Moniemusk is an inverted fleur-de-lys and the acanthus leaf border (Pl. XVII, a). At the end of the second line the fleur-de-lys border again appears, partly the right way up and partly inverted. On the fourth band appears the border (Pl. XVII, a) with five inverted fleur-de-lys. The lettering has been partly blundered, the first letter of ECCLESIAE is the same as the last Æ; the N of FUNERA is reversed as is the P of PLANGO.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesie Scoticanæ*, vi, 268.

² Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, I, 175.

The tone is stony and the lip is rather thick and blunt. The height is $17\frac{1}{2}$ ins., with canons 4 ins. high in addition. The fittings include an original half wheel with sole and shroudings 6 ins. wide overall. The headstock has been renewed but old nailed straps have been re-used and supplemented with bolted ones. At one time a lever appears to have been fitted below the headstock.

F. C. E. 1913.

NEWBURGH. Holyrood Chapel. 1.

A single bell, $26\frac{3}{4}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY,
LONDON 1890.

NEW DEER. South Church. 1.

The tower contains a bell, $20\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, note A flat, which bears no inscription. It is a rather rough casting of the English type and of no great age. Moulding wires are arranged 2, 2-2, 2-1, and the bell is hung from a stock made of some white wood with a very rude heavy wheel. The crown staple has broken and the clapper has been rehung with bolts through the crown.

The tower was completed in 1865 and the bell and clock were fitted up under the superintendance of Mr David Gill, later Sir David Gill.¹

The tympanum and three finials of an old bird-cage belfry are built on to a burial aisle in the churchyard. The tympanum is of granite and is sculptured with a sun on one side and a fleur-de-lys on the other. Part of an armorial stone, dated 1595, has been inserted into the middle of it: this and two of the finials are of sandstone; the third finial is of granite and is part of one of the stones forming the tympanum. The finial on the top is 9 ins. high and has the remains of an iron upright in the top of it.

F. C. E. 1912.

NEWHILLS. Old Church. 1.

An open east bell-cote contains a single bell, about 24 ins. diameter, inscribed:

1778

The figures and the design of the bell suggest the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, as the place of origin. The bell retains canons and is rung by a lever operated from outside the building. The tone is good.

¹ Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 402.

NEW MACHAR. St Colman. 1.

A plain bird-cage belfry at the west end contains a bell, $14\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

MICHAEL→BVRGERHVYS→ME→FECIT→1635→

A well and smoothly cast bell from the Middelburg foundry in Holland. There are no ornaments and the canons are small and plain. The lettering is a smaller set of the same design as that used by the same founder at Logie Coldstone (Pl. XVII, *b*). Here the lettering is $\frac{5}{8}$ in. high and is illustrated elsewhere.¹

NEW PITSLIGO. Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist. 1.

A bell, $22\frac{1}{8}$ ins. diameter, note G, inscribed:

(*a star*) IMPENSIS · POPULI · ET · URBIS · ET · RURIS ·
IOANNES · EASTON · FRASERBURGI · FECIT · 1725/(*a star*)
CONVOCO · POPULUM · AD · CULTUM · DIVINUM : /(border
all round)/M^B : AL^x : AUCHINLECK · / · PASTOR ·

A remarkable bell. The lettering seems to be a copy of that used by John Meikle of Edinburgh. There is a border above the inscription made up of a design of single hairpin bends, the straight parallel section being placed vertically. The level of the bend of every third one being higher than the remainder, fig. 2, 5. The border below the main part of the inscription is in the form of a sine wave with leaf ornament in the humps and hollows, fig. 2, 7.

The bell is very flat on the shoulder and has small canons. The shape is rather like a flower-pot. The soundbow is thick and rather projecting. Altogether a bell of the Edinburgh type without any affinity with the work of the Aberdeen founders. The tone is stony and poor.

F. C. E. 1907.

OYNE. Old Church. 1.

The old church, now disused, has a plain bird-cage belfry at the east end. This contains a bell, $14\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

HUGH GORDON & COM^Y 1771 (*Border*)

The ornamental border also appears on the bell at Birse which bears no founder's name, fig. 2, 4.

OYNE. New Church.

This church, which was a former United Free Church, is now used as the parish church. A belfry contains an uninscribed bell, about 12 ins. diameter,

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXXII, 179, fig. 15(a).

which has a hand-bell type argent. The fittings include iron headstock and wheel. The bell dates from the 19th century.

PETERCULTER. St Peter. 1.

In a rough plain bird-cage belfry over the west end of the church hangs a single bell, 21 ins. diameter, inscribed:

PETERCULTER/(*on waist*) 1860

The bell is probably from the same foundry as that at Lumphanan.

PETERHEAD. St Peter. 1.

In the tower at the west end of the ruined church is a bell, 23 $\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, height 19 ins., note E flat, inscribed:

(*fleur-de-lys*) SOLI DEO GLORIA MICHAEL BVRGERHVYS
ME FECIT 164Z

The lettering, $\frac{7}{8}$ in. high, is the same as that at Logie Coldstone and a letter Z is used instead of a figure 2 in the date. The fleur-de-lys stop at the beginning of the inscription is repeated as a border all round the bell above and below the inscription. In the latter position it is inverted.

The bell is a good casting and in good condition, the wear due to use has been slight. The crown staple originally cast-in has broken and the clapper has been hung from a bolt through the crown but not straight. The hangings appear to date from the 18th century and include nailed straps.

F. C. E. 1898.

PETERHEAD. Old Church. 1.

In the tower with spire hangs a bell, 38 ins. diameter, weighing 10 cwt. 0 qr. 12 lb., inscribed:

C & G MEARS FOUNDERS LONDON 1850

F. C. E. 1907.

PETERHEAD. Town House. 1.

The steeple contains a bell, 39 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, note G, weighing 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 20 lb., inscribed:

G. MEARS FOUNDER LONDON 1858

The Town House was built in 1788¹ on the site of the old Tolbooth, the bell of which is in the Arbuthnott Museum. The above bell of 1858 is said to be a recast of an older bell which became cracked.

F. C. E. 1907.

¹ *The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 356.

PETERHEAD. Arbuthnott Museum. 1.

Here is preserved the bell from the old Tolbooth, 19 $\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, height 15 ins., inscribed:

▪ FOR ▪ GEORGE ▪ EARL ▪ MARSHAL ▪ OF ▪
SCOTTLAND ▪ R ▪ M ▪ FECIT ED^R / ▪ 1725 ▪

Cast by Robert Maxwell of Edinburgh and bearing his usual lettering as at Logie Buchan. The bell is a good casting with a flat crown, small soundbow and very large deep lip. The canons are 3 ins. high, $\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep, see Pl. VIII, *b*.

After leaving the old Tolbooth the bell was at New Byth where it was hung from a leather strap. This broke and caused the bell to fall breaking the clapper. A local blacksmith repaired the latter but made it too large, causing it to crack the bell.

At the time of the casting of this bell George Keith, Earl Marischal, was an exile on the continent.

PITSLIGO. Old Church. 0.

There is now no bell at the old church but on the west gable there is a most remarkable belfry. It is elaborately treated but not at all the same as the other ornate belfries (Pl. VIII, *c*). Little shafts with capitals and bases are set upon the faces of the four square pillars. Each opening has an elliptical arch, the heads of the east and west arches having two feather-shaped tracery panels. The east and west openings are divided crossways by a stone transom for the bell to rest on and above this are two lights. There is a double moulded cornice; above each corner is a four-sided pinnacle. The roof is four-sided and pointed, there are remains of a vane. The date 1635 appears on the small tympana over the east and west sides with the initials A^LP on the north side.

PITSLIGO. New Church. 2.

In a modern belfry over the west end hangs a bell, 18 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, 16 ins. high which bears no inscription. The bell is very coarse looking and roughly cast, rather long in the waist with very sharp shoulders. The crown, 10 ins. diameter, is practically flat, and terminates in a large hand-bell type argent. The cast-in crown staple has broken and the clapper has been hung from a loop through the crown. There are no ornaments or markings save three coarse and ill-defined moulding wires above the soundbow. The bell is said to have been brought from the old church but it does not appear to be very old.

Fortunately the Kirk Session record for 29th November 1798 states that

the minister had furnished a new bell as the old one had been rent on 29th October 1797. The cost can be calculated as £13, 5s., as one of the heritors, whose proportion was an eighth of the whole, had not paid up. The amount due was £1, 13s. 1½d.

Preserved at the Manse is a handbell, 4⅓ ins. diameter, 5½ in. high, which bears the incised inscription:

KIRK ↓ SESSION ↓ OF ↓ PITSLIGO ↓ MDCCXLII ↓

See Pl. VIII, *d*.

It is unlike other hand-bells in the north of Scotland, rather tub shaped. There are mouldings on the crown and on the soundbow which is small. The inscription is at the top of the waist in rather new looking lettering; between the words is a very small arrow pointing downwards.

PREMNAY. 1.

A plain bird-cage belfry over the west end of the church contains a bell, 17¾ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(Soundbow) J. WARNER & SONS. LONDON. 1880

A brass plate in the porch is inscribed:

THIS BELL/WAS A DEATHBED BEQUEST/TO THE
PARISH CHURCH OF PREMNAY/FROM GEORGE
ISAAC, CARPENTER, GADIEDALE/WHO WITH HIS
FIVE CHILDREN/DIED OF DIPHTHERIA/IN SEP-
TEMBER 1878

A fragment of the top of the old belfry, *c.* 1678, is in the churchyard wall to the west of the gate. The present belfry, built 1792, has chamfered edges to the pillars.

RATHEN. St Ethernan. 0.

The ruined church has a quaint and picturesque bird-cage belfry over the west end. This belfry is now empty as the bell has been hung in Rathen Public School. It is of granite, square in plan, with a semicircular arch on each side, a ball and vane being on the top. Above the north arch of the belfry are incised the letters W^MC; above the west arch A^LS; above the south 1783. The initials WC stand for William Cumine who was minister here from 1772 till his death in 1800.¹

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ*, VI, 239.

RATHEN. West Church. 1.

The tower with spire contains a single bell, $27\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, note F sharp, inscribed:

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1873.

A plate screwed to the headstock is inscribed:

Presented by/M^{RS} A. CHAMBERS HUNTER/OF/
TILLERY AND AUCHIRIES/TO THE/PARISH
CHURCH OF RATHEN/JUNE 1873

The bell in use here prior to 1873 was purchased for the Mission Church at Sandhaven for £5. This bell, $17\frac{3}{4}$ ins. diameter, $12\frac{1}{4}$ ins. high, note C, bears no inscription and has a hand-bell type argent.

F. C. E. 1913.

RATHEN. Public School. 1.

The open belfry of the school contains the bell from the old church, $17\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, 13 ins. high, note A, inscribed:

~~→PETER→IANSEN→ANNO 1643→~~

The bell is much the same as Iansen's other products at Midmar, Glenbuchat and Auchterless. The ornamental border which appears on the Midmar bell above and below the inscription is here only below the lettering; it is rough and worn.

The lettering is small and irregular as on Iansen's other bells. The inscription is the same as on the Midmar bell except for the date, and there is no "BONI TON."

The crown is flat with a slightly projecting edge and is pierced in two places for bolts which appear to meet two of the double canons. Part of the argent is broken. The soundbow is large and projecting and the lip has been chipped.

RAYNE. St Andrew. 7.

The bird-cage belfry contains a bell which bears no inscription. The bell has a hand-bell type argent and no moulding wires where the inscription band should be. It is said to have been recast out of two, one of which used to hang in a medieval belfry which stood above the chancel arch of the old church. The bell has an iron headstock and lever and would appear to date from the 19th century.

The present church was built in 1789, but the very beautiful bird-cage belfry which bears the inscription on the tympanum on the west side:

M
W A
1619

came from the older building. Walter Abercrombie was the minister in 1619,¹ see Pl. X, *a*.

The belfry is remarkable if not unique: of the same general type as Inch and Culsalmond it is simpler in detail. It rests on four short granite balusters, like ornamental balls, each with a different decoration upon it, the upper parts of the sides are of solid masonry and the cornice is simply moulded. There are finials on the triangular pediments on the east and west sides and there are roll mouldings round the openings and up each angle. The last are corbelled off above the ball-like balusters at the base of the structure.

RHYNIE. St Luag. 0.

There are now no remains of the old church. The bell used to hang on a tree upon a small knoll in a field on the hillside to the westward known as the Bell Knowe, whence it was removed when the new church was built on the Muir of Rhynie. It is now at the school. There was formerly a hand-bell at the manse, but it was destroyed when the building was burnt down at the end of the last century. It was bought in Aberdeen in 1762 and was used at funerals up to about 1825,² being most probably the work of John Mowat.

RHYNIE. New Church. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell, 35 ins. diameter, note B, inscribed:

PRESENTED BY JAMES SYMON, OF MELBOURNE,
AUSTRALIA, A.D. 1889./JOHN C. WILSON & CO, FOUNDERS.
GLASGOW./(*On Soundbow*) "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO,
IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS"

James Symon provided the church with tower, clock and bell at a cost of about £500. He died at Huntly on 5th July 1889, aged 63 years.³

RHYNIE. Public School. 1.

The belfry contains a bell, 17 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

SOLI · DEO · GLORIA · MICHAEL · BVRGERHVYS ·
M · F · / 1620

The lettering and the ornamental border which appears above the inscription is the same as at Logie Coldstone (Pl. XVII, *b*). The date is actually 1620, but the third figure is a Z. The bell has been lent to the school by the Kirk Session. The canons have been retained and they are fixed to

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vi, 182.

² Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 154.

³ *Ibid.*, 160.

an iron headstock. The cast-in crown staple has broken and a new one has been fitted through the crown. When seen in 1956 the bell had been painted to be the same colour as its surroundings.

RUTHVEN. St Breandan. 1.

The very large bird-cage belfry of the ruined church contains a bell, 20½ ins. diameter, inscribed:

O NERENVM · INSEIPSV · DESOLABITVR · ANNO 1643

Above the inscription appears the border (Pl. IX, *b*) and below it there is another (Pl. IX, *a*). The lettering is illustrated as Pl. IX, *e*, and is plain and badly designed Roman in style. The inscription is obviously a blunder for omne regnum in seipsum divisum desolabitur, namely "Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation;" an inscription which is thought to be unique on a bell.

One single canon is broken and a bolt through the crown replaces it. The lip has been slightly chipped and the upper ornamental border is turned over the edge of the shoulder; this border resembles one used by Michael Burgerhuys at St Nicholas, Aberdeen, although much smaller.

The tone is remarkably fine, the name "the Wow o' Rivan" being applied to the bell. It is told that about 1850 when an attempt was made to remove "the Wow" to the kirk of Cairney, the inhabitants of Ruthven were so enraged that it was deemed advisable to allow the bell to remain where it was.¹

The name of the founder is somewhat of a mystery, the borders have not been found elsewhere, and the badly designed lettering is only approximately like that used by Cornelis Ouderogge of Rotterdam some years later. The bell may be one of his early products.

The belfry appears to have been repeatedly strengthened and repaired and is perhaps unique, standing as it does, not on the apex of the gable but on a solid rectangular tower or projection from the centre of the wall.

ST FERGUS. 1.

In a very graceful bird-cage belfry over the west end of the church hangs a bell, 17¾ ins. diameter, note B, which bears no inscription. The bell has a hand-bell type argent and is very similar to those at Drumblade and Fergue. The headstock is dated 1836 and it is most probable that the bell, too, is of this date and the product of the foundry of James Abernethy & Co. of Aberdeen.

The belfry was preserved from a former church, originally built in 1616, rebuilt in 1763 and again in 1869. It bears the date 1644 and is a good example of the simpler work of the period. The sides are plain except for

¹ Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions in N.E. Scotland*, II, 33.

the heavy roll mouldings up the outside corners of the pillars. There is a small base and cornice and short pinnacles or finials at each corner with one in the middle crowned by a large cock-vane. There is a triangular pediment over the east and west faces and a semicircular one over the north and south faces. These are inscribed as shown below:

East: HO/LINES/BECOMM/ETH THINE/HOVS o LORD/
FOR EVER/1PSAL 93 : 5

West: D^M R/I^M R

South: VERITAS E VINCIT

W (*a shield*) M

16 44

North: (*a 6 petal design*)/D M

In 1644, John Robertson was the minister here; ¹ his initials and also those of his father David, who was also minister, appear on the west face.

SKENE. St Bride. 1.

In a bird-cage belfry over a small gable in the middle of the south side of barn-like building, hangs a single bell, 19½ ins. diameter, note F sharp, inscribed:

IOHN † MOWAT ‡ OLD ‡ ABD ‡ ME § FE ‡ TO ‡
THE † KIRK OF † SKEIN 1735

Plate XVI shows a section of the inscription and the borders above and below it. The floral stop where it appears normally is denoted by ‡ and where it appears mutilated † or †. The symbol § denotes a recumbent ox, the trade mark of Peter Ostens of Rotterdam.²

SLAINS AND FORVIE. St Ternan.

In a small and mean bird-cage belfry over the west end hangs a bell, 10⅞ ins. diameter, 9⅝ ins. high, note G, which bears no inscription.

A small bell—the smallest in any parish church in the county—without inscription, ornament, lines or moulding wires. It is somewhat long in the waist, but waist rather straight and soundbow small. All the canons have been either broken off or cut away; the argent or central boss is now used as a shank whereby the bell is attached to the headstock. The crown staple has broken and a ring has been fitted through the crown to support the clapper.

The surface has an ancient appearance and the bell may possibly be old—perhaps of the 17th century, but this is doubtful.

¹ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 240.

² Eeles, *The Church Bells of Linlithgowshire*. P.S.A.S., XLVII, fig. 8.

STONEWOOD. Church. 1.

In the open spire hangs a single bell, $22\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(*On waist*) ME MORIENS DICAUIT CAROLUS
ROSE/IN USUM ECCLESIAE LAPIDISILVAE
A.D. MDCCCLXXIX/LOQUITUR REFUNCTOS/
(*On soundbow*) ME FUDIT LOVANII SEVERINUS VANAER-
SCHODT

The bell is profusely ornamented, both on the bell proper and on the canons, but the tone is poor. The fittings include wheel and headstock for swing chiming. The bell was cast at the Louvain foundry of Severin van Aerschodt in Belgium.

STRATHDON. St Andrew. 1.

The tower with spire contains a bell, $19\frac{3}{4}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

□ THE GIFT OF JOHN FORBES ESQ. ^B OF NEW TO
THE/CHURCH OF STRATHDON 18 19 □ □ □ □

The lettering is very similar to that used by the Whitechapel Foundry, London, at that date, but the stop, which is like a cross-section of a flower, is not a stamp normally associated with this foundry. It is possible that the bell was cast by Hugh Gordon & Co. of Aberdeen.

One single canon is broken.

John Forbes was born in 1743 and spent some of his life in Bombay. He died in 1821.¹

F. C. E.

STRICHEN. 1.

A bird-cage belfry, dated 1799, over the west end of the church contains a bell, $17\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, $13\frac{3}{4}$ ins. high, note A, inscribed:

**HENRICK * TER * HORST * ME *
FECIT * DAVENTRÆ * ANNO * 1633 ***

The inscription and borders are reproduced on Pl. XVII, c.

A fine bell, almost identical with that of Belhelvie but slightly smaller. The ornamental borders are very rich but rather rough in parts. The lettering is poor and not very clear or regular.

The upper part of the waist is rather more vertical and soundbow is more curved than is usual in Dutch bells. The stop appears on a bell at Grange, Banffshire, dated 1677, which is otherwise destitute of ornament, and also on the bell at Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, 1677.²

The canons and argent have been removed on some former occasion and the bell was again being rehung in 1956.

¹ *The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 542.

² *Coll. Ayr. A.S.*, Second Series, I, 235.

STRICHEN. Town Hall. 1.

Hung between beams at the base of the spire is a bell, $31\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, note C, inscribed:

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT 1818 (*ornament*)

Cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel and bears the "Whitechapel ornament," fig. 2, 6.

F. C. E. 1912.

TARLAND. St Mathulach. 1.

The belfry of this ruined church contains a bell, $15\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

HUGH GORDON & CO 1772

A small bell on the English model. The lettering is of the ordinary Whitechapel type, but as the date is not from the sets used at Whitechapel it seems probable that the founders were copying those on a bell by Thomas Janaway of Chelsea who was apt to use figures of this kind.

The moulding wires are 1, 2-2, 3-1 and one single canon is broken. The bell is cracked and disused. The original hangings and shouldered stock remain with a lever fixed in the centre, but when seen in 1956 the stock and clamps were much decayed. The bell then had no clapper.

TARLAND. New Church. 1.

In the tower hangs a single bell, $23\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, weighing 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 11lb., inscribed:

J. TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS 1871.

Moulding wires arranged 4, 4-4, 4-2. The bell has large angular canons and is very short in the waist. The fittings include a remarkably large and clumsy modern wheel.

At the south-west corner of the building is a very large and lofty arch belfry like that at Tullynessle which was in use before the present tower and spire were built in 1889.

F. C. E. 1898.

TARVES. St Englat. 1.

The plain bird-cage belfry contains a bell, $19\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

J. WARNER & SONS LONDON 1855
 (*on waist front*) TARVAS SEPTEMBER/
 1855 (*on waist rear*) *The Royal Arms*/PATENT

The Kirk Session records contain a number of references to the predecessor of this bell. On 28th May 1732, it was decided to appoint a committee to consider getting a new bell, and on 4th June the elders were asked to collect money for this purpose. Under the date 13th July 1733 appears "Also a discharge from William Armstrong and David Hodge Bell founders for 46£ 2s. as the balance due to them for casting our Bell." David Hodge cast the bell in St Ninian's Church, Leith, Midlothian, in 1738.¹

TOUGH. The Nine Maidens of St Donald. 1.

A small bird-cage belfry contains a bell, 19 ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

(Cross, Pl. IX (c), (coin) (coin)|(on waist) (Shield, Pl. IX (d))

One of the most interesting bells in the county and probably the oldest, being cast by William Culverden of London. His will is dated 1522,² and he was certainly working as early as 1508.³

The bell bears Culverden's foundry shield which is in effect a rebus. The lettering on each side of the bell in the upper half of the shield reads "In dño cō fido" and is a reference to Psalm XI, the first verse of which reads: "In the Lord put I my trust; how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain." The bird is shown in the bottom right hand corner with the letters "dē" above, it is intended to be a pigeon or culver and the word Culverden is not then hard to derive; the W on the other side of the shield standing for William. The bell itself on the shield bears the letters "Foñd" for founder.

The initial cross was an old one even when Culverden used it, and it appears on bells cast by Robert Burford of London, who died in 1418.⁴

The bell is now unfortunately cracked, though Dr Eeles on his visit in 1898 makes no mention of this condition applying then.

The bell has a most interesting history and from the following it will be seen that Tough was not its original home. About 1700 David Wilson of Finzeauch presented a bell to the church,⁵ but in 1734 the parishoners subscribed for a new one, on the understanding that "they were to have the use of it (without paying anything to the officer) for themselves and their posterity at their several funerals, ay and so long as the said bell should last . . ." An arrangement was made with John Mowat, bell founder, Old Aberdeen, under which he supplied one of the old music bells of King's

¹ R.C.A.M., Scotland. *The City of Edinburgh*, 252.

² Raven, *The Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, Second Edition, 44. Will given in full.

³ Deedes and Walters, *The Church Bells of Essex*, 38.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁵ Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, I, 26.

College—Wilson's" bell and the bad money in the box" being taken in part payment. (Session Records.)¹

It is clear from the above that the bell was one of those cast by order of Bishop Elphinstone for the great steeple of King's College, Old Aberdeen. The inventory of 1541² gives the inscriptions on the five great bells, and that of 1542³ notes that in addition to the five great bells there were five small bells for marking the middles of the hours with as many iron clappers and also two bells for daily use. This bell at Tough must therefore have been one of the latter seven, and so far as is known is the sole survivor of the twelve bells which being in the tower in 1542.

TOWIE. Established Church. 1.

A bird-cage belfry of a common type, built in 1803, contains a bell, 18 ins. diameter, note A, inscribed:

(ornament) M^R: JAMES LUMSDEN OF CORACHRIE
MINNISTER/ATT TOWIE/ 1743

By Thomas Lester of Whitechapel, London; as clearly shown by the lettering and also by the use of the well known "Whitechapel ornament" at the beginning, fig. 2, 6.

The bell is cracked and has one of the double canons broken. The clapper is original and the moulding wires are arranged 2, 1-2, 2-1.

Rev. James Lumsden,⁴ born 1704, died 1777 was minister here from 1740 till his death. A tombstone to his memory is in the churchyard.

TOWIE. Former Free Church. 0.

The bell for this church was obtained from Glenbuchat Castle,⁵ and a print of the castle, c. 1845, shows that the bell was then housed in an opening high up in the walls by the south-west corner of the fabric.

Subsequently it was transferred to the Free Church at Towie, and when that church was disused for ecclesiastical purposes the bell was taken down and subsequently sold as scrap.

Evidence about the bell is conflicting, one authority⁶ states that there was no inscription on it, but the final owner described it thus "an awfu' old bell, about a hundred years, with dates and writing on it."

¹ Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, I, 26.

² Eeles, *King's College Chapel, Aberdeen*, 5.

³ *Ibid.*, 22 and 45.

⁴ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 142.

⁵ W. Douglas Simpson, *The Book of Glenbuchat*, 23, fig. 34.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 166.

TULLYNESSLE. St Neachtan. 1.

In a modern arch belfry on the north side of the west end of the new church hangs a single bell, weighing 2 cwt. 3 qrs. 6 lb., 23 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diameter, and inscribed:

J : TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS 1876

From the Loughborough foundry. The previous bell seems to have been only about a hundred years old and of no interest. A remarkably fine bird-cage belfry is preserved in the north-west corner of the churchyard: it has a saddle back roof, with pinnacles and rudimentary crochets and although dated 1604 is almost in the style of a century earlier.

TURRIFF. St Coan. 1.

In the double belfry over the east end of the ruined church hangs a bell, 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, inscribed:

(on *soundbow*) V H 1556

See Pl. X, *b*.

A most remarkable bell; long-waisted with a small soundbow and small crown and sloping shoulder which might almost be described as a double shoulder. The canons are small with reed mouldings, 4 ins. high and $\frac{5}{8}$ in. by 1 in. in section; one single canon is broken. There are two pairs of moulding wires below the shoulder and on the soundbow in the usual places, but the inscription is located on the soundbow—very unusual at this early date.

The bell is not a very smooth casting and the lettering is very rough and badly cast; very unlike 16th-century Flemish bells, more of the English type, but the Roman lettering and the soundbow inscription do not seem to have been used in England at this date. The bell may possibly be of local—perhaps Aberdeen—manufacture.

The height of the bell to the spring of the canons is 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. The clapper has been hung from a bolt through the crown.

The initials VH on the bell appear to be those of William Hay whose gravestone is in the north-east side of the church.¹ This describes him² as a canon of Aberdeen, prebendary of Turriff, and states “where after 36 years happily spent in that office he died May 22, 1582, in the 82nd year of his age.” Another reference³ states that one William Hay was called parson here in 1583.

The bell was for 34 years in the new church, but was restored to its present position in 1828 when a clock was purchased by public subscription.⁴

¹ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 989.

² Jervise, *Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, II, 220.

³ Scott, *Fasti Ecclesie Scoticanæ*, VI, 271.

⁴ *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, XII, 992.

The bell hangs in the south arch of a very beautiful and rich double belfry of the bird-cage type. The belfry has six pillars about 12 ins. square; the openings are $25\frac{3}{4}$ ins. wide by 31 ins. deep; the lower side openings are $9\frac{3}{4}$ ins. by $30\frac{1}{2}$ ins. The height from cill to cornice is 5 ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Each of the wider openings has a double cusped head and the pillars are corbelled out on the east wall. The upper side openings have a central pillar, and there are the usual triangular tympana over each opening. There are remains of pinnacles above each pillar and of a big one in the centre. On the south-west tympanum in raised letters is the inscription:

M
T M
1635

On the die below the southern half:

W (*a shield*) E

and on that below the northern half:

MAY · 1635/M · T · M/PARSON

One Thomas Mitchell was minister here in 1635.¹

TURRIFF. New Church. 1.

A very large arch belfry contains a bell, $30\frac{1}{4}$ ins. diameter, weighing 6 cwt. 1 qr. 0 lb., inscribed:

J : TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH 1875.

TURRIFF. Former Free Church.

A bell, $15\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, was cast for this church with the inscription:

PRESENTED/TO THE/FREE CHURCH TURRIFF/BY/
WILLIAM INGRAM/FEUAR/1850

In 1901 the bell was hung in the United Free Church, Drumblade, and on the closing of this church was hung in the West Church, Scone, Perthshire in 1944. The bell is a roughish casting with a hand-bell type argent; lettering rather irregular and much raised.

F. C. E. 1901.

TYRIE. St Andrew. 1.

A large plain bird-cage belfry of the usual type over the west end contains a bell, $14\frac{5}{8}$ ins. diameter, 11 ins. high, note D, inscribed:

PIETER SEEST AMSTELODAMI ANNO
J777 ME FECIT

¹ Scott, *Fashi Ecclesiae Scoticae*, VI, 271.

The bell is said to be an old ship's bell; this may possibly be the case, although there is no name of a vessel upon the bell, and the inscription is like that on a church bell. However, the date is after the time when Dutch bells had generally ceased to be imported into Scotland, the bell is unusually small and is much worn. There is also evidence of paint on it.

The lettering is small, rough and poor; the ornaments are good in themselves, but in low relief and apparently much worn. The border above the inscription is of the floral running type repeated every 8 ins., one half being a mirror copy of the other. The border below the inscription is made up of alternate leaf and acanthus leaf designs, repeated every 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. The date seems to be intended for 1773, but the 3 is badly broken.

UDNY. Christ Church. 2.

The tower contains two bells, inscribed:

Treble, 22 ins. diameter.

CHRISTS KIRK OF THE GREEN UDNY 1821. (*fig. 2, 6.*)

Tenor, 26 ins. diameter.

CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS L^{TD} LONDON 1895

The treble has the slightly higher note and hangs inside the tower, being used as a service bell. It was undoubtedly cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel, as the well-known "Whitechapel ornament" appears after the inscription, *fig. 2 6.* The tenor is hung dead on the roof of the tower and is only used for the clock to strike on.

The treble is the successor of a bell by John Mowat of Old Aberdeen. In Logan's MS. (18th century) is the following:¹

"The bell is cracked, and bears the inscription here given from a boy who went up to it at my request: Mr Robert Innes min. John Mowat, me fecit. Old Aberdeen 1744. In usum ecclesiae de Udney. Sabata pango. Funera plango. . . ."

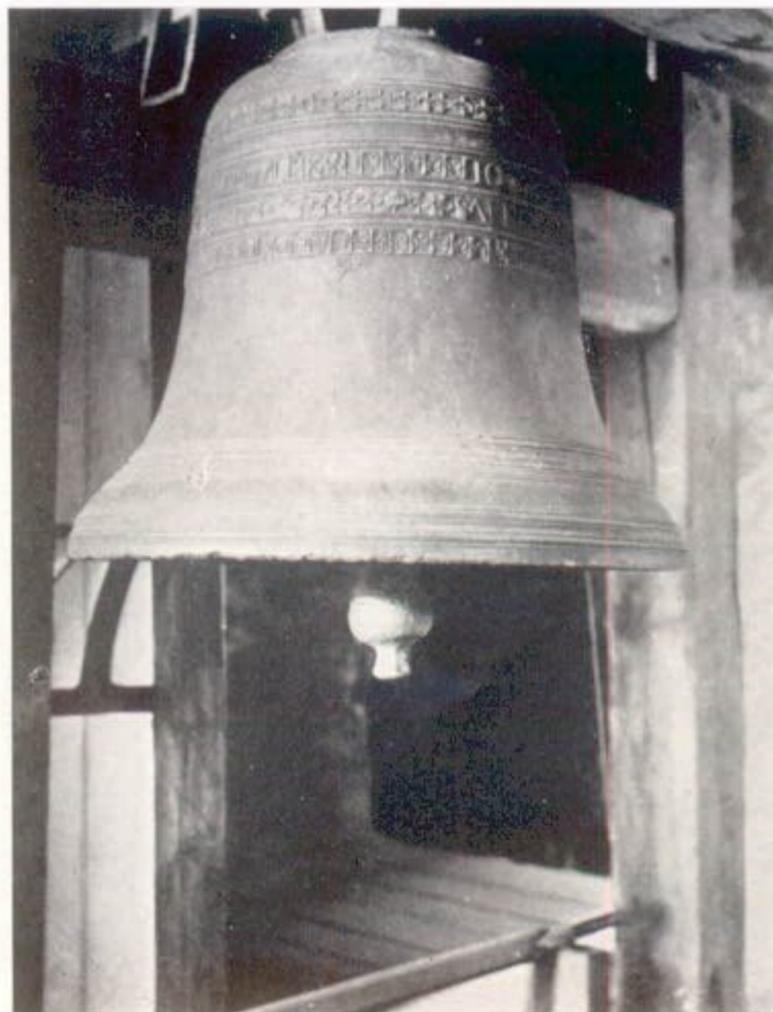
Robert Innes was minister here from 1722 till his death in 1755.² The present church was built in 1821.³

F. C. E. 1907.

¹ Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 93.

² Scott, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vi, 206, 207.

³ Henderson, *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs and Inscriptions*, 94.



(a) Monymusk.



(c) Pitsligo.



(b) Peterhead.



(d) Pitsligo.



(a) (b) (e) Rhutven; (c) (d) Tough.



(b) Turriff.



(a) Rayne.