

7. A PEAL ON THE BELLS AT ST NICHOLAS', ABERDEEN

ON p. 280 of *P.S.A.S.*, XCIV it was stated that 'no complete peal seems ever to have been rung on the bells' of St Nicholas', Aberdeen. In fact at least one peal was rung on the ring of eight bells before their destruction by fire. One of these is recorded in Bell's *Life of London* for 4th December 1859:

The members of St Nicholas' Society of Aberdeen, met on Wednesday and rang a peal of 5040 changes Plain Bob Triples, deeply muffled, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Geo. Gordon, formerly a member of the Soc. of Bellringers. The following were the performers, viz:

Jas. Ross Treble	Jas. Rivie 2,
John Ross 3,	Wm. Wishart 4,
Alexander Bain 5,	Geo. M'Donald 6,
Joseph Healey 7,	Auther Robb tenor.
Wt. of tenor 33 cwt. Conducted by Joseph Healey.	

The above peal is some thirteen years earlier than the one of Grandsire Triples at Old Steeple, Dundee, rung by the College Youths on 21st May 1873 which has been noted as the first recorded peal in Scotland.¹ The fact that the 1859 peal is not claimed as the first in Scotland or on the bells suggests that there may have been an earlier one still.

I am most grateful to Mr F. T. Blagrove for this information.

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¹ Morris, *The History and Art of Change Ringing*, 310.