

**London Ringers and Ringing in the
Seventeenth and Eighteenth
Centuries**

Volume VIII

Trollope, J. Armiger

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In the name of God Amen

The Twen and Twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord God one
thousand six hundred fiftie three I John Godman of the County of Cambridge
Sharncliffe being set in bed but of good and perfect memory thanks be to Almighty
God and calling to remembrance the uncertain estate of this transitory life and that all flesh
must yield unto death when it shall please God to call doe make this my last will and testament
this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following and annulling
by this my last will and Testament and Testaments Will and Will hereafter by me made
either by word or by writing and this to be taken onely for my last Will and Testament and none
other And first being constant and sorry for my Sinnes call from the bottom of my heart
humbly desiring forgiveness for the same I give and bequeath my soule unto Almighty God
and by the meritts of Iesus Christ I trust and beleve assuredly to be saved and to have full
remission and forgiveness of all my Sinnes and that my soule with my body all the generall
dayes of resurrection shall rise againe with ioy and through the meritts of Christ soath and
passion resteth and in the Kingdom of heaven prepared for his elect and chosen And
my body to be buried in such place as my Executors shall please to appoint And for the
besting of my Temporall estate I will give and devise unto my two daughters Mary Godman
and Elizabeth Godman all my Messuages Lands and Tenements both Dorset and
Middlesex with their appurtenances whatsoever in Suffolke and Cambridge and elsewhere
to them and their heirs forever equally to be divided betwene them And if either of
them dye then the survivor and their heirs to have the same lands and Tenements And
if they both dye without heirs or before they come of age Then I will and devise the same
Lands and Tenements unto my Sister Angell Astico and her children and my wife
Mary Godman equally to be divided amongest them I further give unto John Astico
my butler all my goods in my Cheere and ffour barrels of yron yearly after my decease
and forty shillings of lawfull English monny to be paid him within one yeare after my
decease by my Executors hereafter named And I further give unto the said Angell
Astico my Sister the like summe of forty shillings to be paid unto her by my Executors

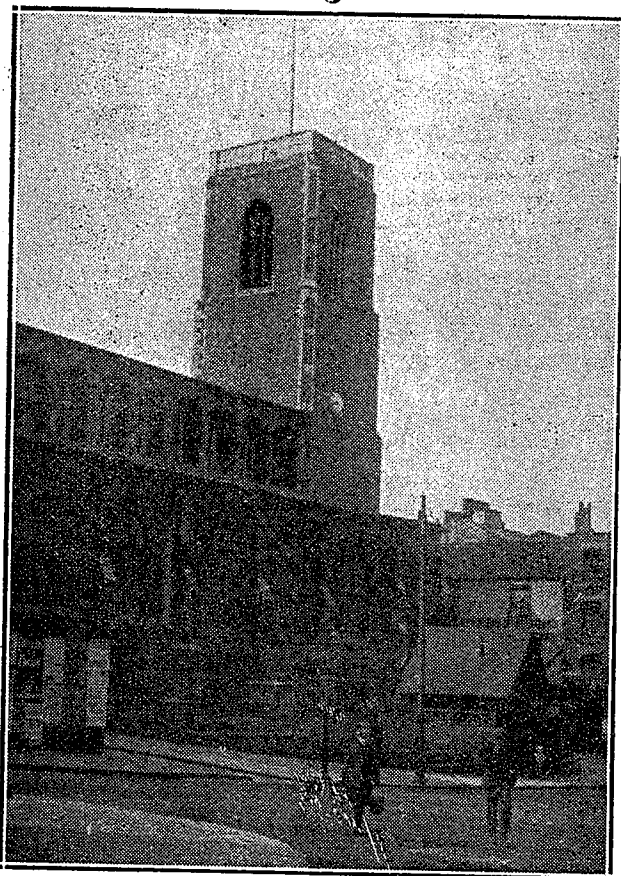
within and after my decease I do further hereby make nominate and appoint my
 wellbelov'd wife Mary Godman and my two daughters Mary Godman and Elizabeth Godman
 to be my Executors of this my last Will and Testament And that all my goods and chattels
 equally to be divided amongst them saving what is not otherwise disposed of in this my will
 by you, that is to say, the said Mary my wife to have a third part of the said goods and the
 children two parts And that my said wife is to have the care and provision for my said
 children for the year or duration may not exceed and binding xxxviii until they come to their
 severall ages of one and twenty years or days of marriage which shall first happen and
 the overplus of their estates revenues and profits shall be a reasonable dowry to them for to be
 involved for their best benefit And if shee marry then her husband to give good security
 for the performance and making goods of all the estate which shall be left unto my two
 daughters and if hee refuse so to doe then whatsover I have formerly given unto my said
 wife in this my Will to be void and of no force And I further give unto my said wife
 my tenements in Wallers land during her naturall life and after her decease unto my
 said two daughters Mary and Elizabeth and their heirs Executors or Administrators
 And I further give unto my said wife thirty pound of lawfull money of England to pay
 her selfe out of my personall estate And I desire my loving friends and neighbours
 William Bunsby and William Norman to be Overseers of this my will and to be aiding
 and assisting unto my said Executors for the best performance hereof and to doe their best
 endeavour to give peace and unity amongst them and to order and dispose all differences
 amongst them if any shall be And I further give unto my said two daughters Mary and
 Elizabeth in further Remembrance of them three twenty shillinge pieces and one five shilling
 piece in gold to my wife In witness whereof I the said John Godman have hereunto sett
 my hand and seal the day and year first above written, The marks of John Godman
 Witnessed sealed delivered and published as the last Will and Testament of John Godman
 in the presence of John Bridgode the marks of John Barron.

This will was proved att the Minister before the Judges for the County of
 Middlesex and granting Administrators lawfully authorized the thirteenth day of June
 in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty four By the oath of Mary
 Godman the wife and executrix named in the said Will to whom Administration of all
 and singular the goods chattels and debts of the said Decedent was committed by the long full
 by virtue of a Commission sworn well and truly to Administer the same The like power
 being reserved for Mary and Elizabeth Godman the daughters to the said Decedent and
 other Executors named in the said Will when they shall come and lawfully demand
 the same.

LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

CENTENARY OF THE FIRST PEAL.

Last Sunday was an interesting anniversary in the annals of change ringing. It was the centenary of the first peal of London Surprise Major ever rung. It was accomplished at St. Andrew's Church, Norwich, by the same accomplished band which earlier in the same year had rung a peal of Superlative at St. Giles' Church, the famous Samuel Thurston being the conductor. Henry Hubbard, who later on produced a text book on change ringing, was one of the band.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NORWICH,
where the first peal of London Surprise was rung 100 years ago.

In 1816 Shipway wrote of London Surprise in his 'Campanologia.' This method is still more intricate than the preceding (Cambridge), and will be found, in composing, to be equally, if not more, precarious, its in and out of course of changes being still more variable. It seems to have received some partial practice by the Ancient Society of College Youths, and was dropped, probably in consequence of its complexity, or because a true peal of 5,000 could not be obtained.

The first peal is recorded on the same tablet as the Superlative Surprise in St. Giles' Church, Norwich:—

Also, at St. Andrew's in this town, on November 17th, 1835, was rung 5,280 of London Surprise, the most difficult system in the art of Campanologia. This insurmountable task was accomplished in three hours and twenty-four minutes. The bold and regular striking of both peals must ever reflect great credit on the company; they were conducted by S. Thurston, and are the first peals ever rung in the above variations. Geo. Watering, treble; Elijah Mason, 2; Fredk. Watering, 3; Henry Hubbard, 4; James Truman, 5; Robert Burrell, 6; Charles Payne, 7; Samuel Thurston, tenor. Weight of tenor, 18 cwt. Key E.

The wording of this tablet shows a curious slip, for apparently the ringers surmounted the insurmountable.

The claim to the first peal of Superlative was doubtless justified at the time by the extent of local knowledge, but Benjamin Thackrah, in his 'Art of Ringing,' mentions a peal of 5,152 of Superlative rung at Huddersfield in 1821.

Apparently, therefore, the Norwich peal of Superlative was the second in the method, but there is no question as to the Norwich band being the first to ring a peal of London, and it may be regarded as an epoch making peal.

No other peal in the same method was rung until 1849, when William Banister's band at Woolwich rang 5,600, and there is no further record of a peal of London being rung until 1870, when 6,048 was achieved by Squire Proctor's famous band at Benington, Herts.

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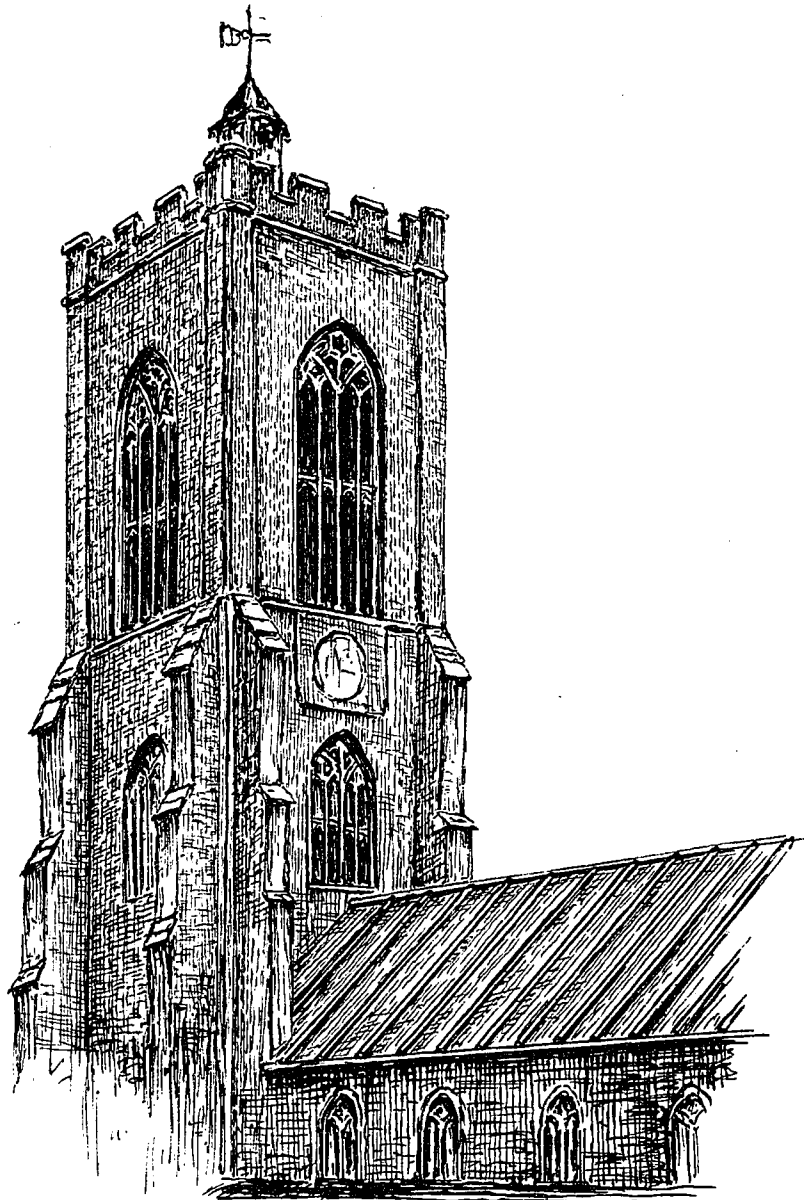
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J.A.T.

St Giles,
Norwich.

London
Ringers and Ringing
in the
Seventeenth & Eighteenth
Centuries

By J. Armiger Trollope.

Volume Eight

Appendix to Chapter Ten.

1938.

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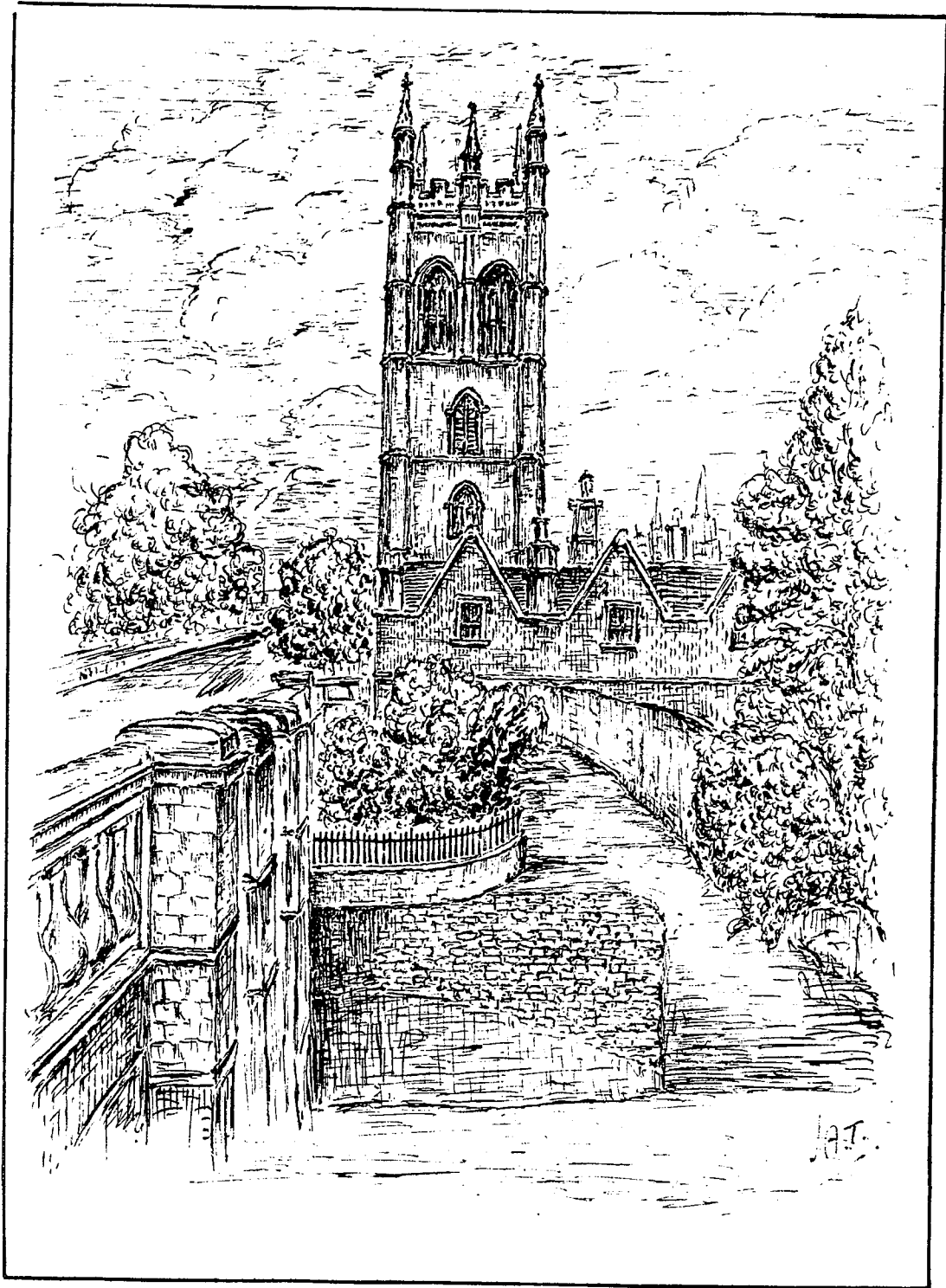
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MACCAFEN TOWER, OXFORD.

Oxford
 Bells and Bell Ringing
 in the
 Seventeenth & Eighteenth
 Centuries.

The art and science of Change ringing was not the invention of one man or of one company, nor did it originate in any one particular place. It was a natural growth which developed out of the pleasure ringing of the sixteenth century, which in turn grew out of the ritual ringing of pre-reformation times.

But as with all other growths, though the seed was broadcast, the development was purest and most rapid where the

soil was most favourable. Many things contributed, and it seems certain that by the end of the first quarter of the seventeenth Century, not only in the larger towns like London and Norwich but also in smaller towns and villages in different parts of the country the first rudimentary stages of the art had appeared. But nowhere was change coming earlier practised or more quickly developed than at the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and among the students at the Inns of Court in London.

That is just what we should have expected. At those places were gathered together a number of young men, intellectually

much superior to the average person and just at that time of life when physical sports most appeal. And many of them, after their student days were over, took down into the Country the love of ringing they had learned at Oxford and Cambridge, and became propagandists of the new art; while the Society of College Youths owed much of its preeminence in the seventeenth century to men who had become ringers in their university days.

The art of change ringing began in Oxford much about the same time as it did in Cambridge and in both places it developed on parallel lines. Both towns gave to the Exercise Leaders and eminent

ringers; Cook
 produced Compositions
 which have taken
 their places as
 standard methods;
 for if we owe Hedman's
 Principle to Cambridge
 we owe Treble Bob
 to Oxford. But
 the details of the early ringing we possess
 of the two places are curiously unlike. We
 know all the peals practised at Cambridge
 in the early and middle seventeenth
 Century, but of the ringers themselves we
 know nothing. We have, it is true, one or
 two great names, but Hedman and

Scattergood we know as Composers 17
only. With Oxford it is just the opposite.
What little we know of the methods rung
there comes to us indirectly and from
other sources; but it so happened that
the two men from whom we learn most
of what we know of the ordinary life of the
University in the seventeenth and early
eighteenth Centuries, were both of them
keenly interested in bells and ringing.

Anthony Wood and Thomas Hearne
were men who wrote on historical and
antiquarian matters, but each kept a
diary in which he made shrewd comments
on men and matters. In both the references
to ringing are few and cursory, as

might have been expected from 18
its relative importance in the general
life of the University, but these remarks
written by a master hand do actually
convey more real information than pages
written by some men.

Anthony Wood, or à Wood as he
liked to call himself in later years, was
the fourth son of Thomas Wood of St. John's
the Baptist parish, Oxford, by his second
wife. Anthony was born in an old house
opposite the gate of Merton College, belonging
to the College and held by the Woods on a
long lease, and here he lived for practically
all his life.

He matriculated at Merton in May

1647, passed through College without 19
distinction for he was but a dull scholar,
and graduated B.A. in 1652, and M.A. in 1655.
The influence of his family would have
been sufficient to have got him a fellowship
at Merton but for his notoriously peevish
temper. His father left him a small
annuity which he refused to increase by
going into business. He lived simply and
frugally in two attic rooms in the family
house and devoted his life to collecting
and editing antiquities relating to the
City and University of Oxford.

When he was an undergraduate he was
taken seriously ill, and when he became
convalescent he was sent to Cassington

a village six miles north-west
 from Gosford to recruit, and there on the
 days he was well enough he followed the
 plough and sometimes ploughed himself.
 In the evenings he practised music and
 he learnt to ring on the six bells that had
 recently been put up in the Church steeple ^①
 On his return to Gosford he practised
 ringing with his "fellow colleagues" of Akerston
 and throughout his life he never lost his
 love for the sound of bells, though after a
 few years he did not himself ring.

Ringling in those days was a young
 man's sport much as football now is;
 and he himself writing about his uncle
 Thomas, who was born in 1581, says he was

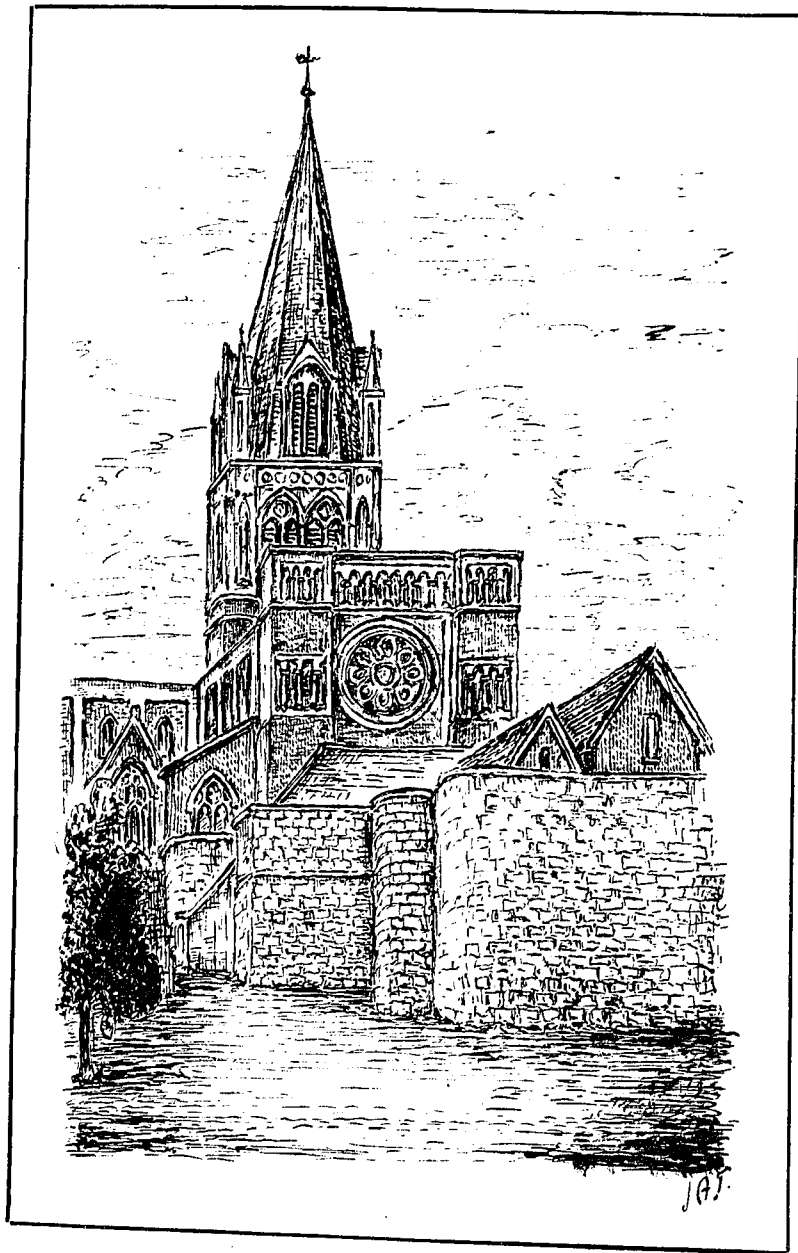
bred a scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxon. He was tall and bigge, and in his younger dayes verie strong and active in manlie sports and recreations as football wrestling, ringing etc." (2)

Besides ringing as a sport, which throughout the Century was practised by university men as well as by townsmen, there was a great deal of ringing and tolling of bells for official purposes and it shows how much the sound of the bells parochial and Collegiate was part of the ordinary life of the people that Wood has over five hundred references to them in his diary. Their sound seems always to have been in his ears; as he took his walks

through the city he listened for the tolling bells just as today a man turns to the obituary Column of *The Times* to see who of those he knows has passed away. He records that "he set down the obits of the persons by the tolling of the passing bell."

On every notable occasion there was ringing. In 1680 a new Parliament was summoned to meet at Oxford, and when on March 14th the King, Charles II, visited Christ Church "what with the shouts, and the melodious ringing of the five stallie bells there, the Colledge sounded, and the buildings did learne from its scholars to echo forth his majestie's welcome." ③

The bell ringing was looked upon as indicative of popular feeling. In 1683 "most of the bells in the City and Colleges rang for the Duke of York. "Stenton & rang at least an hour before he came." Four years later the Duke had become King James II, and when the news came of the birth of the Prince of Wales, Magdalen ring were almost the only bells that celebrated the event. James in his endeavour to further the interests of the popish religion had by a series of arbitrary acts estranged the University. The President of Magdalen and the majority of the fellows had been ejected to make room for Roman Catholics and the new rulers of the College were almost the only people who had cause to rejoice at



CHRIST CHURCH , OXFORD.

at an event which seems to preclude
 the possibility of a protestant King of England. (5)

In 1689 Wood relates that "D. Henry Aldridge had the deanery of Christ Church bestowed upon him whereupon next day the bells rang." That was fitting, for Aldridge by his popular catch "The bonny Christ Church bells" has made that ring better known to ordinary people than any other, save only Bow bells in Cheapside. (6)

In like manner any important event, either public or private, was marked by tolling or ringing, and in those Commemorations Great Tom bore its share.

We should have liked to have known something about the ringers themselves,

but there we are disappointed.

Wood in his notes which were afterwards incorporated in the second edition of *Athenae Oxonienses* gave a short account of Richard Duckworth, and included him among the writers of Oxford University on the grounds that "he hath written *Tintinnalogia*, or the Art of Ringing", and this is the only source from which we learn the name of the real author of the book which for so long was attributed to Fabian Hedman. ⁽¹⁾

The only other ringer mentioned is "one Chilmead one of the town ringers", who appears to have been a strong partisan

in some dispute between the City
and Newton College respecting Holywell,
and when the City gained the legal victory
he presented the mayor with wine and ale
"While the parish bells rang for joy,
occasioned, as it was supposed by the said
Chulmead."

Otherwise Wood has nothing to tell
us about the ringers. I do think he was
a solitary, unsociable, sort of person, who
enjoyed the music of the bells, but except
in his younger days did not enter a
belfry. He was, says a contemporary writer
"a person who delighted to converse more
with the dead than with the living,
and was, as it were dead to the world

and utterly unknown in person to the generality of scholars in Oxford. He was so great an admirer of solitude and private life, that he frequented no assemblies of the said University, had no companions at bed or board, in his studies, walks, or journeys, nor held communion with any, unless with some, and those very few, of generous and noble spirits." ⁽⁸⁾ With advancing years his morose temper was accentuated by increasing deafness though Benjamin Cole, a bookbinder who worked for him, said he could (when he pleased) hear very well, tho' he pretended to be very deaf always, and that he hath seen him

several times walking under St. 28

Maries Spire & at some other places when they have been ringing on purpose to hear the bells, w^{ch} (it seems) he mightily delighted in." (9)

In the late seventeenth Century Oxford had, as now, many bells, and it differed from Cambridge in that the principal rings were in the towers of College Chapels. Many bells were ancient, but a process was going on by which old and heavy rings of five were being recast into lighter octaves, and we may perhaps see here an indication of the popularity of ringing as a sport. At New College there was a heavy ring of five which in 1655, at the

persuasion of
Michael Barrie,
who was at the
time working
in Gocford, was
recast into an
octave. The
new bells were
so much lighter
that there was
enough surplus
metal to pay for

the cost of recasting. As the present tenor
weighs about a ton, we may suppose the
old tenor was about twice as heavy. A
ring of five of that weight would not be
of much use for change ringing.

Four of Darbie's bells (the present third, fifth, eighth, and tenor) still remain in the tower. Henry Knight of Reading recast the present sixth in 1672; Abraham Rudhall recast the fourth; in 1703 he added two pieces and recast the seventh. In 1723 he recast the ninth. All Rudhall's bells are inscribed MANNERS MAKEH MAN the notes of Winchester School and New College. ⁽¹⁰⁾

In volume IV I have given an account of all that seems to be known about Michael Darbie. ⁽¹¹⁾ His headquarters was in London but he did most of his work at the various places he visited. He travelled the country taking his plants

with him and wherever there was a broken bell or the chance of adding new ones he called on the authorities and tried to secure the order. He must have been an attractive person with a very plausible tongue, for he was not a good craftsman, and yet he managed to persuade people all over the Country to entrust the recasting of their bells to him.

In 1654 he turned up at Goxford and was given the order to re-cast Great Tom. What sort of a job he made of it we cannot say for twenty years later it was again recast.

Great Tom was originally the great

bell of Oseney Abbey, and on the
 dissolution of that establishment it was
 transferred to S. Frideswide's at Oxford
 which had become the chapel of Wadsey's
 College of Christ Church and the Cathedral
 of the new diocese. ⁽¹²⁾ The bell was said to

be six feet in diameter and to have the
 inscription IN THOMÆ LAUDE RESONO BOM
 BOM SINE FRAUDE. ⁽¹³⁾

Tom is therefore one of
 the many indications of the honour in
 which S. Thomas Beckett was once held
 in England. ⁽²⁵²⁾ It seems to have been cast

by John Saunders of Reading ⁽¹⁴⁾ but was
 broken in 1612, and who recast it then
 is not known. ⁽¹⁵⁾

33

Merion had five old bells, some of which, including the second, had been in the steeple before the church was collegiate. The tenor was a very famous bell. It had the reputation of being the best bell in England "being as it was said of fine metall silver found." That means is not exactly clear. Dr. Raven supposed it to refer to the common error that the addition of silver to the bell-metal improves the quality of the bell; but Heame thought it to be an error for pound. ⁽¹⁶⁾

The bell was cast at the same time the tower was rebuilt when Dr. Henry Abendon was warden (1421-1438) and

his name was cast on it.

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Michael Darbie now called at the College and suggested that he should recast the five bells into a ring of eight as he had done at New. The warden was away but Dr. Thomas Jones the sub-warden approved the scheme and money was collected to defray the cost. Among those who contributed were Anthony Hood, his mother, and his five brothers, Robert and Christopher, who gave £5. Thomas Heame in "Neubrigensis" says "it was pely that caused these people to give this money", but Hood himself was probably nearer the truth when he

said that they gave as College
tenants.

There were many people who "were much
against the altering of that bell and were
for a treble to be put to the five and to
make them six; and old sarjeant Charles
Holloway who was a very covetous man
would have given money to save it";
but the sub-warden and the bell-founder
had their way.

The tuning of the new tenor was entrusted
to Dr. John Wilson which shows that the
tuning of bells in older times was not
always, as is usually supposed, a matter
which was left to the luck or misfortune
of incompetent founders. But the bells were
a failure, ⁽²⁴⁾ they did not at all please

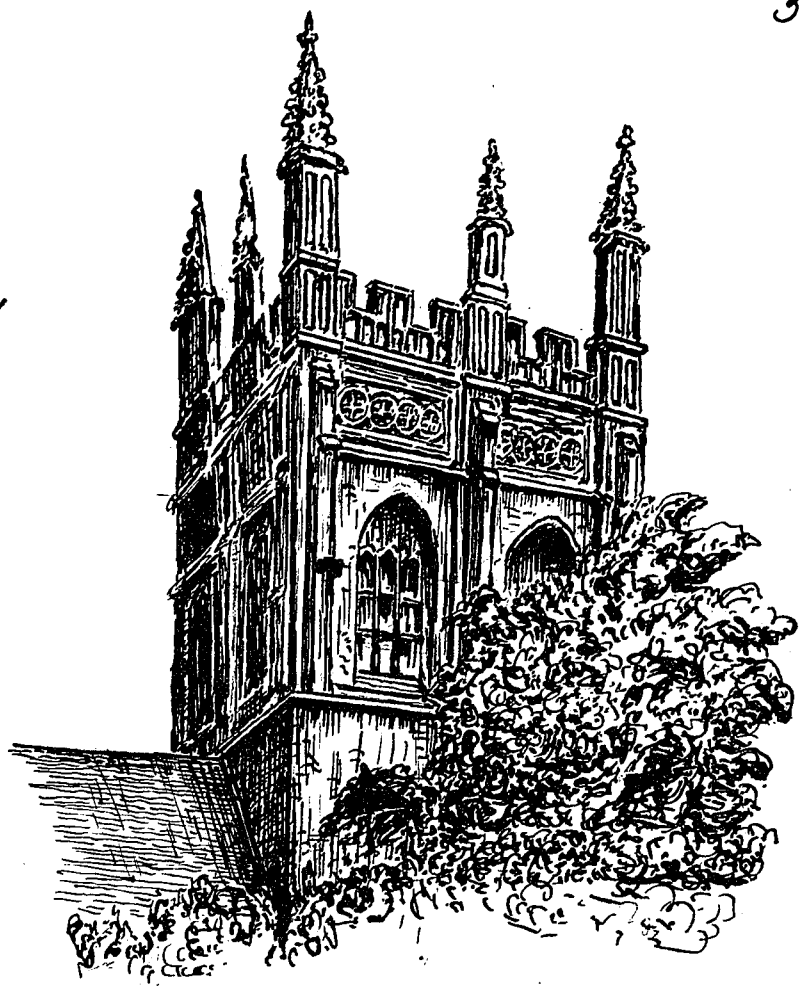
the curious and critical, and several
 were found to be ugly dead bells. ⁽¹⁸⁾ Wood,
 who never was sparing in his censures,
 said piously it was all due to the knavery
 of Michael Barlow, "who stole a great
 deal of mettle from them", and Thomas
 Jones, who, "they say, was Complice with
 him, and whereas, the old tenor was the
 best bell in England, this now is the
 worst. ⁽¹⁹⁾ Wood however often rang upon
 them. He had no very high opinion of
 the Sub-warden; later on he accuses
 him of foul play in the election of a
 new warden; and he said he was ambitious
 discontented, covetous, and destitute of
 preferment. " ⁽²⁰⁾ But Wood was always a

37

hearty hater and his judgement was warped by his prejudices. One does not easily imagine the sub-warden of Sherburn plotting with a travelling bell-founder to steal a few shillings worth of metal from the College.

The old five bells were rung from the floor of the chapel; and what with the weights of metal, the ancient fittings, and the long draught of rope, ringing them was certainly a strong man's job. When Darbie's bells were hung a new floor was put in the tower a little below the arches but, like the bells, it was of bad material and bad workmanship; and later on it was pulled down and another floor put in which lasted until the latter part of

The nineteenth
 Century, when
 the present gallery
 about three feet
 wide, round
 the four sides
 of the tower
 was erected
 to serve as a
 belfry.



Merton College.

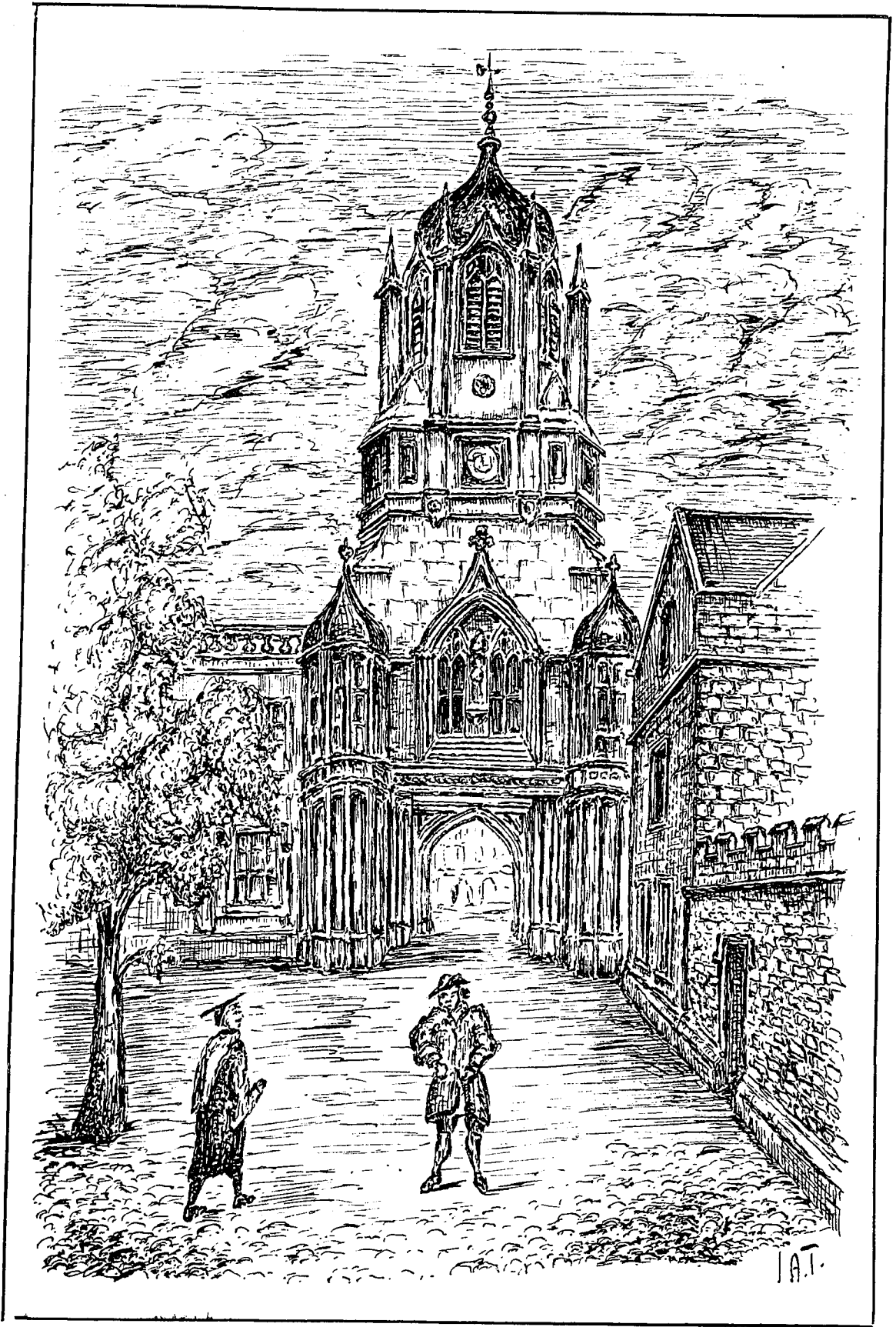
Michael Derly's bells hung in Merton
 steeple for twenty-five years; but in 1678 his
 Great Tom had either been cracked, or
 could no longer be endured for the badness
 of it, and Richard Keen of Woodstock was
 ordered to recast it. A seven ton casting
 is not an easy job even for the most skilled

Craftsman and Keene had no luck. (25)

Thrice he tried, and thrice he failed; and essentially the job was turned over to Christopher Hodson of St. Mary Cray who was making a name as the leading bell-founder in the south of England, and is said to have been at the time itinerating in the district. (21)

Hodson was successful. He cast the bell on April 8th 1680, (253) but it was not until four years later that it was first rung. (26) This was because the ringing peal in the Cathedral tower was at that time increased to ten, and "Tom was reserved for the Tower on the great gate", (22) which was being built by Sir Christopher Wren.

The Sheriton people took advantage of



TOM TOWER, OXFORD.

The presence of Hodson and had
 their bells recast, and on February 2nd 1681
 they "rang to the content of the society." ⁽¹³⁾ The
 new bells all of which are still in the tower
 were heavier than Darbie's ring, for Hodson
 was paid above £300 for his work and metal.
 The tenor is 54 inches in diameter and
 about 28 cwt in weight. Like the famous
 bell that Michael Darbie broke up, she
 bears the name of St. Henry Abyndon. -

D. HEN: ABYNDON S.T.D. COLL. HUIJUS. CUST R.R. H.R.
 C.H. CHRISTOPHER HODSON INSTAURATUM A.D. 1680.

It is worth noting that besides Great
 Tom being recast, the rings of bells at both
 New and Merion Colleges were recast
 and augmented during the Commonwealth,
 showing that at that time there was

plenty of "pleasure" ringing at Oxford 41.
and (we may infer) in the other parts of
the country.

Before the Reformation Greeney Abbey
was famous for its bells. "At the west end
of the church," wrote Anthony Wood "was
situated the Campanile, or bell tower, which
enduring the Great Flood firm and whole
till 1644. It contained a large and
melodious ring of bells, thought to be
the best in England." ⁽⁷⁾ At the dissolution
of the abbey five of the bells and Great
Tom were given to Christ Church, Oxford,
and of them two, the present ninth and
tenth still remain. The tenor is a late
sixteenth century bell. The eighth was
cast in 1611 and the seventh and eleventh

in 1640. ⁽²⁸⁾ As just mentioned the ring was increased to ten in 1680, probably by Hodson, but evidently the new bells were not satisfactory as they were replaced by Abraham Rudhall in 1698. A later Rudhall in 1747 recast the present fifth and sixth. In more recent years two trebles were added to complete the ring of twelve. The bells had previously been taken down from the Cathedral tower and hung in a structure built over the plain case leading to the College hall. ⁽²⁹⁾

The fine tower of Magdalen College contains one pre-reformation bell - the seventh. ⁽³⁰⁾ The tenor was by Ellis Knight of Reading in 1623, and the sixth also. ⁽³¹⁾

Another bell - the ninth - was cast
 in 1641, when England was preparing for
 civil war and bears the appropriate motto
 HONOR THE KING; for Oxford was strongly
 royalist

The two trebles to complete the ten
 were the gift of William Freeman who
 evidently was a ringer and a member
 of a family greatly interested in bells
 and ringing. They lived at Stpenden
 in Hertfordshire. The tenor in the steeple
 there bears the date 1681 and the name
 of Ralph Freeman. William Freeman
 completed the octave in 1736 (the present
 treble, third, and fifth bear his name)
 and on a board in the belfry recording

444

a peal of Triples rung by the local
Company on October 24th 1764 is Ex
Dono Guielmi Freeman, Armigeri. (32)

Besides the bells in the College Towers
there were rings of five and six in several
of the parish churches. In October 1676
Wood records that S. Martin's bells which
Richard Keen had just cast "of 5th dull
ones made six pretty good" and were
"then hung up and rung." (33) Keen also
recast S. Michael's bells and Wood noted
the opening ringing.

Anthony Wood ^{died} on November 29th 1695
and was buried in the ante-chapel at
Merion. Shortly before his death his
propensity for saying better things about
people got him into serious trouble.

In one of his books he made charges 115
against the Earl of Clarendon, the leading
statesman during the early part of
Charles II's reign. Clarendon's son, the
second earl, prosecuted him in the
Vice Chancellor's Court for libel, and
he was found guilty, condemned in costs,
and expelled the University. The
offending pages were publicly burnt.

The most important man among
the Gosford ringers during the latter
years of the seventeenth century and the
opening years of the eighteenth was John
Sacheverel, a gentleman who lived at
Cunmoy. He was elected a member of
the Society of College Youths and in 1702

held the office of steward, having as his Colleague, John Eccles the musician. Sacheverel was not only an excellent ringer himself, but also a fine critic of ringing, and an acknowledged authority on bells. "He used to say that Horsepath bells near Goxford though but five in number, and very small were the prettiest, finest bells in England and that there was not a fault in one except the third, and that so small a fault as it was not to be discerned, but by a very good judge." (34)

In the year 1718 when D. Shippen was Vice Chancellor a proposal was made to increase the heavy six bells at St. Mary the Virgin, the University Church, to eight or ten. D. Shippen was mightily for it, and (35)

one of the ringers, Mr
Brookland was sent
over to Sacherer
to ask him to go and
see the Vice Chancellor
about the matter.

Sacherer said that
if they were made eight
or ten, provided the
fifths were recast, they would be the best
peal in England, ⁽³⁸⁾ but he neglected to
go to Shiffen, and so "the matter was
dropt & wholly laid aside." ⁽³⁶⁾

There are still six at S. Mary's and,
except that Rudhall recast the treble in
1739, they are the same bells. The fifths

which Sacheverell wished to have 48
recast is one of Newcombe's of Leicester
and is dated, 1612. It bears the founder's
usual Couplet -

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT DOTH ME SEE

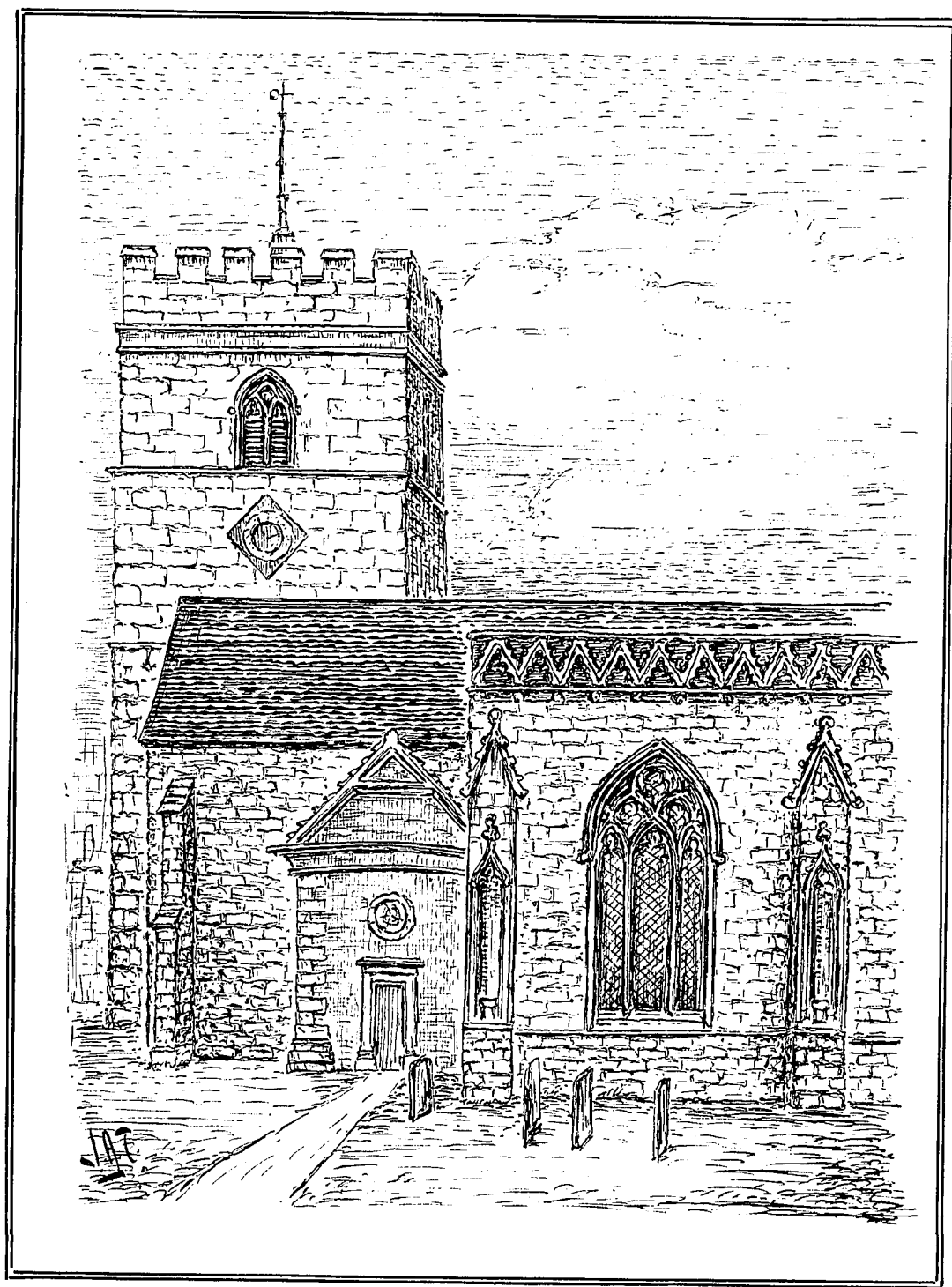
THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE ME -

together with the names of the Chancellor,
Vice Chancellor, and the two Doctors. It
would seem that the bells were looked
upon as belonging to the University.

The fourth, also by Newcombe is the famous
"music bell" ⁽³⁷⁾. The second is dated 1623,
and the tenor 1639. The latter weighs
about 25 cwt. so the bells are quite heavy
enough to be increased to a ring of
eight or ten.

John Sacheverell died in 1724 or 1725. 49
Brookland was a printer and afterwards
worked for Heame.

Thomas Heame was the son of
George Heame, parish clerk of White
Waltham, in Berkshire. He was born in
July 1678, and being a clever lad was
sent to school at Bray by Francis Cherry
of Thatchbrook, a great gentleman, a
patron of learning, and a leading Jacobite
and Non-juror. At Bray young Heame
made the acquaintance of Thomas Wells,
the son of Thomas Wells the parish clerk
there. Both father and son were good
ringers; the father had a good ear, and
the son while still at school "delighted



ST MARY, MAGDALEN, OXFORD.

much in ringing, and was observed 50
to be very strong in the arm." After
leaving school, he went up to Oxford,
graduated B.A. from Exeter College and
took orders; and then shortly afterwards
died at his father's house of small pox.
He kept his love of ringing to the end
and we are told that "he was an
ingenious young man and esteemed the
very best ringer that ever was or ever will
be in England or in the whole world."
"He proved a strong lusty man, and
being wonderfully good natured, he
was much beloved."

To young Hearn, Tommy Wells with
his great physical strength, his skill

51

in ringing and his punny and
loveable temper was a school boy hero,
and though so far as we know he never
rang himself, yet for the sake of his old
friend he took a life long interest in
the art. (130)

Unfortunately, though he was always
in close touch with the Oxford ringers
he did not make any notes in his diary
of their doings until after the visit of
the College Juniors in 1733, when he had
but few more years to live. The entries
he made at that time are so interesting
and give so vivid a picture of Oxford
ringers and ringing that we regret the
earlier omissions; still more that he

or another like him was not
 living in London in the eighteenth century
 and taking notes of Annals and his
 contemporaries. (39)

His school Heame showed such an
 aptitude for learning that Cherry took
 him into his house, treated him as a
 son, and sent him up to Oxford, where
 he graduated B.A. in 1699 and M.A. in 1703.
 He was appointed assistant keeper to the
 Bodleian Library, but on the death of
 Queen Anne he refused to take the oath
 of allegiance to George I, desiring, as
 he said, a good conscience before all
 preferment and worldly honour." He
 inherited his strong Jacobite opinions

from Francis Cherry, and the sincerity of those opinions is attested by the fact that though in his later life he was offered several lucrative posts including the Camden professorship of history, keeper of the University archives, and head librarian of the Bodleian, he steadfastly refused them all. On May 29th 1729 he wrote - This being the Restoration of King Ch. II there was very great and very good ringing of bells in Oxford, but very little and very poor yesterday w^{ch} was the birthday of the Duke of Brunswick commonly called King George.

" On Sunday morning Carl was found dead in his bed, Mr Thomas Flason

of St. Peters in the East, Oxford.

He was abroad on Saturday last, and I think I met & spoke to him that day, or the day before & he had that very day been ringing at Magd^a College. He was a single man and turned of seventy years of age. He was a Taylor by Trade but very indifferent at that business, minding chiefly ringing at w^{ch} he was most excellent, being deservedly looked upon as one of the best Ringers in the World. He was a very honest, innocent, harmless man and one that might be trusted on any account. He was very well beloved but was very poor. Some years since he was bit in one of his Legs

55
by a large dog, w^{ch} could never
be cured, but he was lame ever after.
He was otherwise a very strong lusty
man. He was buried last night in
St. Peter's in the East Church Yard,
almost under Edmund Hall buttery
where his Brother (who died a few years
since and had also been an excellent
Ringer, and was also a Taylor, tho' a
Bungler & poor) had been buried before
at w^{ch} time were rung two handsome
Teals one round ringing (as he was
carrying to Church) the other Changes
(after he was put in the Ground) (40)

What a perfect little picture this is!
We can almost see the old man as he

limped along the streets of Oxford
two hundred years ago, tall and gaunt of
body, shabby in dress, and not over clean
in person. We can see his pre-occupied air
as he moved along, till someone stops and
speaks to him and the grimy old face
lightens up with the smile which shows
that, be the outside what it may, the heart
within was pure gold. He belonged to
a class of men, long since crushed out
by modern social and economic conditions
who dared to live their lives according to
an ideal and in defiance of economic
laws, and were prepared to pay the price
To a man who judges success in life
according to financial or social standards

he was an utter failure. To the man
who holds with Dr. Samuel Smiles that a
person's first duty was to be thrifty,
industrious, and capable, he was a moral
wreck. The world has little use for
dreamers, and if in addition they happen
to be very poor, they soon get broken.
But there must have been many like
Flaxon at Oxford in the eighteenth
century only in more fortunate circumstances.
If he had been born in a higher social
class, or if he had had a patron in early
life, so that he could have graduated
at the University, and if he had had
just sufficient learning to get a fellowship

Then he could have pursued his
pet study or hobby for the rest of his
life, not without the society of others
like-minded with himself; or he could
have retired to a college living to spend
his days in a quiet and stagnant backwater.
Fate ordained otherwise; and he had
to live out his philosophy of life under
conditions that most showed its weakness;
but he would have been justified in
pointing out, that while good tailors
were many, there were very few who
could be classed among the best ringers
in the world. He was very poor, but he
was innocent; and that we are assured
will bring a man peace at the last. He

was an indifferent tailor but he was well beloved; and even at this distance of time we feel glad that his fellow ringers gave him two handsome peals before and after he was put in the ground. They could have done no more if he had been the Vice Chancellor or, for the matter of that, King George himself.

The visit of Benjamin Stuntable and the College Youths to Goxford in 1733, marks an epoch in the history of ringing in the city. ⁽⁴¹⁾ Though it was a failure, so far as peal ringing went, it created a vast deal of interest in the art, and stirred

up the local men to attempt to
 ring the first peal themselves. They had
 no lack of good ringers, Collegiate and
 townsmen, though they were not of the
 same quality as Stuntable's band. Their
 heavy bell men were Arthur Lloyd, who
 usually rang the ninth, and Nicholas
 Berwell, the rector of Christ Church and
 Custodian of Great Tom, who rang the tenor.
 The Conductor was John Vickers, a ringer
 of exceptional ability. Vickers was the
 son of a man who at one time was
 under butler at Wadham College and
 who died of a dropsy in 1727 at the age
 of seventy. Vickers himself was under butler
 of New College and was not only very

ingenious in the art of ringing
 and excellent in calling the bobs, but
 also in managing the music of ringing.
 In other words he was a good Composer,
 and of that we have still proof, for he
 was the author of one of the earliest (if
 not the very earliest), peals of Grand sire
 Triples with ordinary bobs and singles
 only; a Composition which is still rung
 occasionally. On the Three-lead-Course
 plan, it was ultimately a development
 of Garthorn's peal; but whether directly,
 or whether Annable left his five-thousand
 behind at Oxford, and Trickers improved
 it by re-arranging the singles symmetrically

is a matter for speculation. Vickers's 62
Composition was preserved by D. Mason of
Cambridge. (43)

The other ringers were Richard Hearn
a tailor who usually rang the bells,
John George another tailor, Guy Terry, a
polish maker, Thomas Yates, the second
cook at Magdalen, William Barnes the
second cook at Christ Church, John
Broughton, a barber, and Richard Smith
a glower.

On the Tuesday after the College Fourth
Left Christ Church tenor which had
broken down in the Londoners' peal attempt
was rehung and the same evening the
Oxford men rang all ten and endeavoured
to imitate the Londoners but they were

pown out and made few of it in
 comparison with the others", so that
 people said it was more than they could
 do. But they stoutly maintained the
 contrary, and as was natural at the
 time, a match was made and money
 staked as a wager. The test was to
 ring 5040 "quater or Cater Changes";
 they were to have six trials and if
 on the sixth trial they could not do
 it they were to lose.

Hearne notes that they were all
 townsmen, but had received some
 considerable instruction from Mr Stone ^{M.A.}
 a man in orders and a good ringer
 himself. Edward Stone the son of

Edward Stone gentleman of Princes 64
Riseborough matriculated at Wadham
College June 29th 1720 at the age of 18
and graduated B.A. in 1724 and M.A. in
1727. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ We hear nothing further of him
as a ringer.

The first attempt was on New Year's
Day 1734. and it was successful, so they
won their wager. It was the first peal
rung in Cocford, and Heame who heard
the whole of it after the first three quarters
of an hour, and was listening critically
was generous in his praise. "Take it
all together 'twas excellent ringing
and they may glory in it." But it
was not to be compared with the

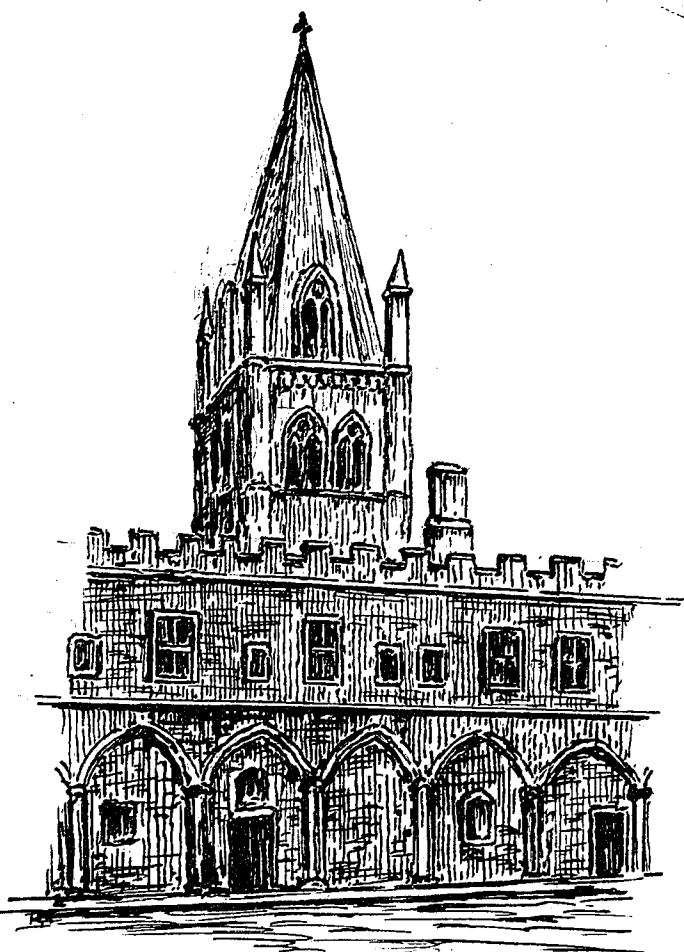
attempts made by Annable and 65
his Company. Then there was not the
least fault made, but now Heame
observed fifty-two faults none of them
considerable ones. The worst was caused
by Dr. Gregory the Regius Professor of
Modern History breaking in upon them
to their great disturbance

On the following Easter Monday,
the same band attempted 6876 Changes
again at Christ Church. Knowing how
interested Heame was the Ringers sent
him a few days notice of the attempt.
They met at ten o'clock, and at a quarter
or a little more after the hour they began
the Changes and continued until about

a quarter after one in the afternoon 66
When the rope of the ninth bell, somehow
or other, happening to first, the ringers
of that bell Arthur Lloyd was out &
thereby they were all stop of a sudden,
(and so they sank the bells) which accident
I was very sorry for. For indeed they rang
so excellently well, that I was even
ravished with it, and tho' they did not
quite come up to the Londoners, who rang
without fault, yet it was really so
admirable that I could observe but
six faults besides the grand one (which
was the seventh and put them out) in
all their ringing, which six faults
however had they performed the whole

I should have looked upon as so 67
inconsiderable that I should have thought
that the seal might have been said to
be rung without faults. They rang 4800
Changes which was 240 less than they
rang before, and wanted 2076 of the whole
6876, which notwithstanding, had not
that misfortune happened they would
certainly have performed without difficulty.
As I went on purpose to be as nice as
possible in my observations, and was
present from the beginning to the end
choosing to be as private as I could, standing
for the most part in Cowley Street which
goes from Christ Church to Milham Bridge
which bridge hath been down many

years) as I do
 not know that
 I ever gave
 greater attention
 to anything
 of this nature
 in my life -
 in short I



Christ Church.

was as critical
 as possibly I could be, and I went without
 any manner of partiality to judge fairly
 of the matter and to pass over no faults
 I must say I could (as I have noted
 before) discover but six faults except
 the grand one (provided an accident

may be called a fault) and 69
that what they did was admirable,
much to their honour and credit, and
greatly to the satisfaction of the auditors. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ "

John Broughton the barber who rang
the peals, had a brother an older man
and a bookbinder by trade. He met
He came five days after the peal attempt
and told him that the tale about the
twisted rope was only an excuse; the
real reason for the failure was that the
ringers were tired out; but they themselves
plainly declared it was otherwise, and
a little more than a fortnight later
they again started for the peal, this
time at New College where the bells are

Considerably lighter than at Christ Church. 70
Church. Broughton was away from Oxford
attending the dons of Magdalen College
in his professional capacity on a progress,
and John George's hands had not recovered
from the many blisters he had got in the
attempt at Christ Church, so the vacant
ropes were taken by Thomas Nash, the
Cabinet maker from London, now resident
in Oxford, who had taken part in the
6012 changes of Grand sire Caters rung by
the City Scholars at Cripple Gate in 1732;
and by Mr Brickland a schoolmaster of
St. Michael's parish.

They began at a quarter to ten in the
morning and rang till five minutes after
twelve when Brickland missed a stroke

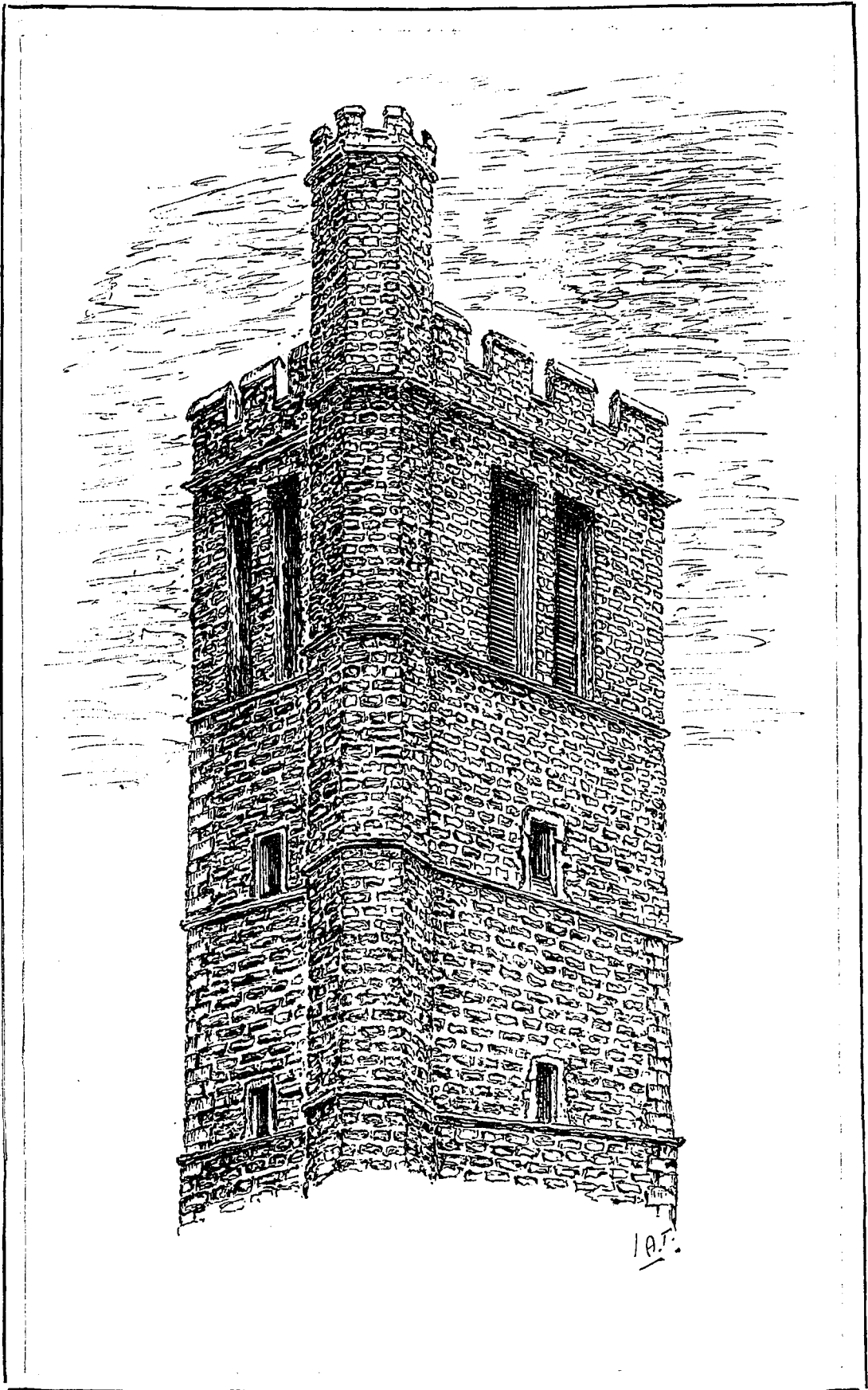
and upset the peal. It was good 7'
ringing, says Heame, except for five
faulds one made by Richard Heame at
the pebble, and the others by Brickland
who was not as good a ringer as the
rest, and was not expected by some to
be able to perform his part. When Richard
Smith was talking afterwards to Heame
about the ringing he admitted "that
tho' he rung himself yet he minded
the faulds. Upon which I ask'd him,
how many there were? He said three
before that w^{ch} stopped them. I told
him that there were just five before that,
at which he admired my niceness."

Friday September 27th being the

anniversary of the death of William 12
of Wykeham, the founder of New College,
and the festival of Saints Comas and
Damasianus was a paid ringing day
and another attempt for the peal was
made. But it was a very poor performance
First Richard Hearn the pieble man
would not start for the peal and so the
band had to be rearranged, Vickers
taking the pieble himself and Broughton
who otherwise would not have rung, being
brought in. And then when they met
three of their best men were "much
in liquor". Perhaps that had something
to do with Richard Hearn's refusal
to ring. The three offenders were Lloyd

Barnes, and (worst of all) Vickers 13
the Conductor. In those days of heavy
drinking to take a drop too much
was no great matter. It might happen
to anybody, and there was plenty of it
among the dons and heads of the University.
But on such an occasion, as Hearne
said, "they ought to have been sober,
and indeed there can never be any true
ringing but by persons that come perfectly
sober."

The ringing was bad from the start.
Lloyd at the ninth was too drunk to
strike his bell and that, of course, upset
the compass. Before they had rung two
courses Vickers missed a bob. Still they



New College, Oxford

went on. Whether they forced up the 74
Correct Course end or not does not appear.

At 600 Changes they had a bad muddle
then another at 1.100, another at 1200,
then a second missed bob, till at last
they got into a hopeless tangle, and the
attempt came to an inglorious end at the
2714th change. Afterwards they rang a
touch of 600 Changes and finished for the
day.

Altogether it was a pretty disgraceful
exhibition. Heame was quite ashamed of
them; and so too were they of themselves,
for they tried to keep quiet who it was
that made the blunders. But Heame
had a genius for finding out details
and he very soon found out all that

75
happened inside the belfry. It
would be interesting to discover how he
got to know about the missed bobs. It
was not until some time afterwards that
he found out what did happen in the
belfry, and yet he records the omission
of one bob on the day after the attempt
was made. He had a very keen and
attentive ear and quite likely he was
following the calling from the outside.

Had they finished the peal and done
it well he had intended to transmit to
posterity their names and their performance
in one of his printed books, but as it was
so bad (considering the reputation and
skill of the ringers) he concluded that it
would not be to their credit to have their

names mentioned now to the 76
honour of William of Wykeham to disclose
who were the persons that performed so
lameely on the day he died, adding that
the day ought to be observed with all possible
decorum, and the ringing should be as
clear and true as can be. "For which
reason I shall pass over in silence, what
might be further observed in silence."

It shows how keen was his interest
in the ringing that though it was raining
the whole time he heard every bell of it,
walking up and down the parks on the
east side of Wadham College.

And then the ringers grieved him
in that matter about which he felt
^{more} strongly than about almost anything

else. For they started for the feal
again on the 5th of November.

77

It is rather difficult to realize now-a-days
how much bell-ringing in the eighteenth
Century did voice the feelings and sentiments
of the people. It was a time when the nation
was sharply divided into political parties
and when the controversies which centred
round the Revolution of 1689 and the
expulsion of the Stuarts had not yet burnt
themselves out. Least of all among the
Jacobites and Non-jurors of Oxford who
felt all the more strongly because they
were a rapidly declining minority. The
Fifth of November celebrations were a
Whig, Low Church and Hanoverian
demonstration by the supporters of the

Government against the Tory, High 78
Church, and Jacobite party of which Heame
was so staunch an adherent. He could
not forgive the ringers for ringing on
such an occasion. They were paid for
their services and so their personal views
were not in question, but even so three
of them - George, Yates, and Broughton -
put principle before interest and refused
to ring, thus gaining the approbation of
Heame, who said that so they avoided
the censure of being poor mercenary
ringers.

The defection of the three made room
for Brickland, the schoolmaster, and also
for William Crozier a cork cutter, and
a new man in the company and yet so

skilful that he may deservedly be 79
reckoned among the best Oxford ringers.

The attempt, which was at Christ Church
was lost after 2000 changes. On such
a day Heame would not dream of
listening to the bells rung for such a
cause, but he "happened" to go through
the White Walk and he heard several
people say 'twas exceeding good ringing,
and so when he came to the cloisters
he did stand still but only (as he is
careful to point out) to see if the
opinion was correct. For fifteen minutes
he listened, and as he did so he counted
to his great satisfaction eighteen Considerable
faul's ending in a break down; "yet
notwithstanding this they boast that

'Twas extraordinary good ringing 80
and that they rang two thousand. I
cannot say anything to the number of
changes, nor for the goodness of the
ringing before the last quarter of an hour
and how bad that was I have fairly
signified, and yet 'twas good enough
for the day. I might likewise here remark
that the reward of these mercenary ringers
was only 1s. 6d. a man." (47)

The Contrast between this ringing at
Christ Church and that other at New
disgusted Heame. That the bells should
have been rung ~~in~~ disgracefully in honour
of the two Catholic Saints and the great
mediaeval Churchman, and excellently

well in honour of William the
Dutchman ⁽⁴⁸⁾ was more than he could
stand. Vickers and his band were
ashamed of what they did in September
and proud of what they did in November
though they did not get the seal, and
so to punish them Heame first of all
found out who it was that blundered
at New (though they tried to keep it
secret) and then he set down their
names in full, that posterity might
know and condemn. Today we know
about John Vickers' extra glass of beer
and his two missed shots, as part of his
punishment for having taken part in

ringing on the wrong political side 82
in 1734. ^{to her}

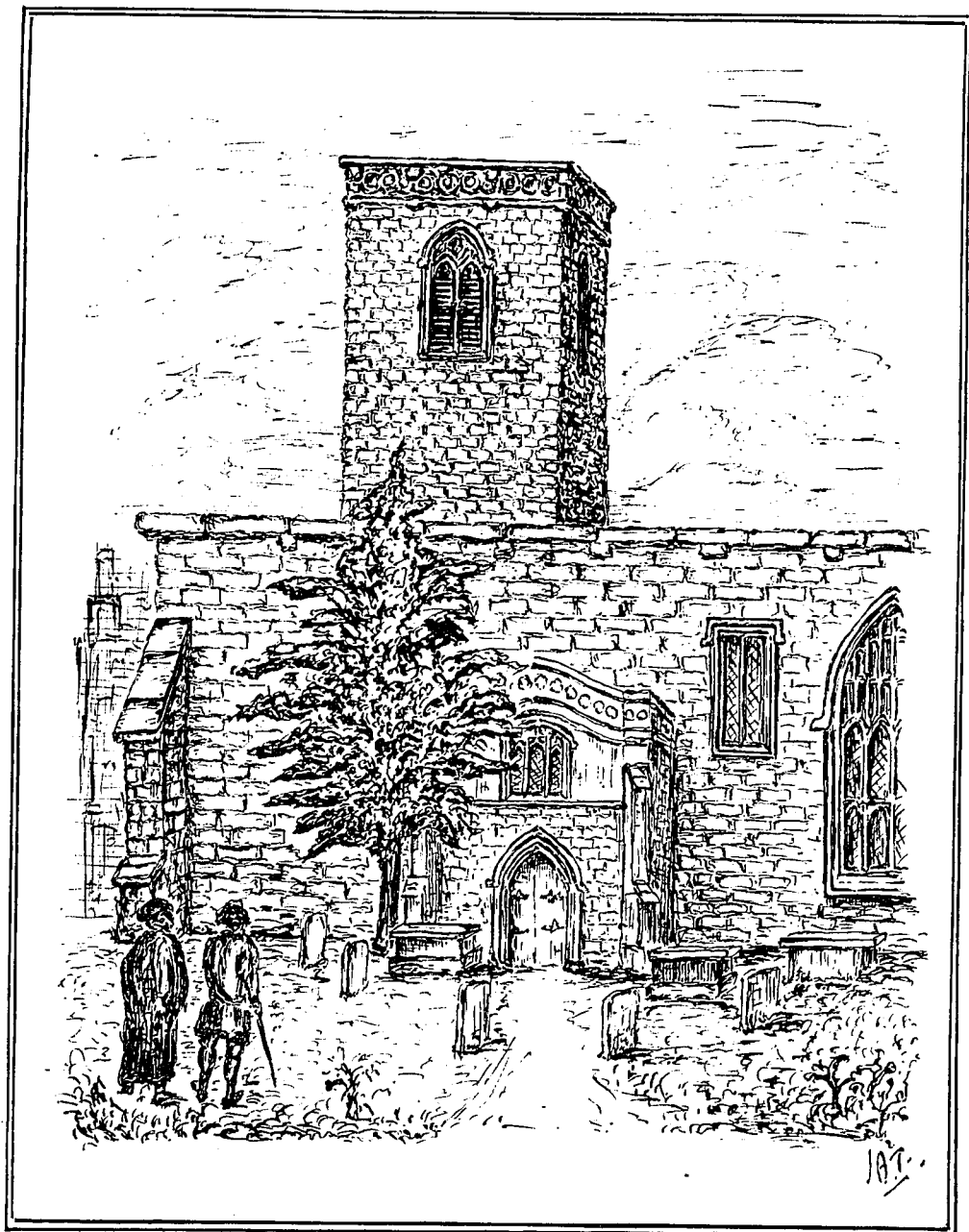
The next attempt for the six-thousand was made at New College on March 11th 1735, but it failed after about two and a half hours ringing; and then nine days later the band started again and this time succeeded.

Heame did not hear the peal nor the previous attempt for he was ill and indeed it was only three months before his death; but he was told by good judges that take it altogether 'twas a glorious performance though there were two very great blunders and some other bad ringing, yet considering the length of the peal it was admirable ringing, such as can hardly be mended unless it be by the Londoners, it being next to impossible to go through such a long

tedious work without fault. The
band was the same as rang the first peal
in 1734 and stood in the same order -
Richard Hearn, John Vickers, John George,
Guy Terry, Thomas Jales, John Broughton,
Richard Smith, William Barnes, Arthur
Lloyd, and Nicholas Benwell.

They were much caressed when they
had finished and were handsomely entertained
at New College, but Barnes could not be
at the entertainment being obliged as soon
as the ringing was done to go to his brother
the waggoner at St. Aldates who died that
same evening.

Thomas Hearn died on June 10th 1735
and was buried on the east side of the
church yard of St. Peter's in the East.



ST PETERS IN THE EAST, — OXFORD.
1871 CENT.

After Hearn's death we have not 84
much information about the early ringing
at Oxford. In 1740 William Freeman
increased the octave at Magdalen College
to ten and on Easter Monday 1742 Vickers
and his band started for a ten thousand
of Grandire Calers but the Conductor is said
to have made a mistake and called the
bells round after ringing seven thousand
changes in 4 hours and 25 minutes. (49)

A statement like that raises our
suspicions. It is of course in some circumstances
quite possible to make a mistake in
calling and yet produce a true peal, but
it is by no means an easy thing to do with
the old style peals of Grandire Calers, in

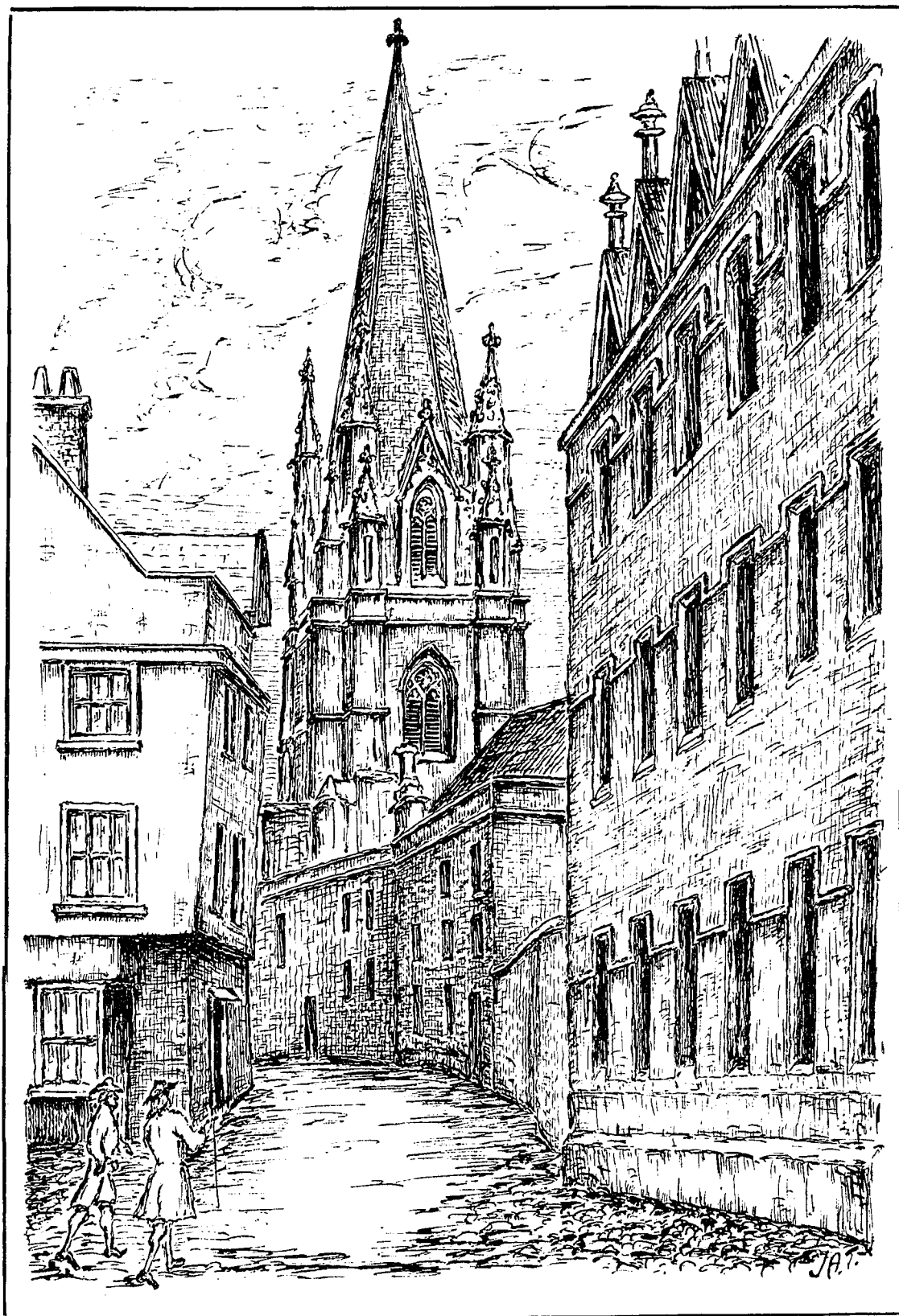
the fittums with long courses. We do 85
not know what composition Vickers was
calling; we do know, however, that once
before he missed a bob twice in a peal
attempt and still went on with the ringing.
But he was drunk then and may have
done what he would not have done had
he been sober.

Six of the old band rang in this peal
and four were new men. They were -
T. Roberts, J. Vickers, I. Manning, Guy Terry,
T. Yates, Joseph Gent, R. Smith, W. Carter,
A. Lloyd, and A. Benwell. The peal, as
well as those previously rung was composed
by Vickers. (50)

Presumably William Freeman who gave

The bells was a ringer but he did 86
not take part in the performance. What
his connection with Magdalen College
was is not clear. He should naturally
assume that he was a student but his
name does not appear among the University
alumni. (51)

Only four other peals seem to have
been rung in Oxford during the eighteenth
Century. Two were Grand sire Calers in 1775
and 1781 by the Oxford men at New and
Magdalen Colleges; and two were by
visiting bands of College youths, both at
Magdalen, - Grand sire Calers in 1764, and
Treble P.B. Royal in 1788.



ST MARY THE VIRGIN. — OXFORD.

11. St Mary the Virgin, Coxford
The Music Bell.

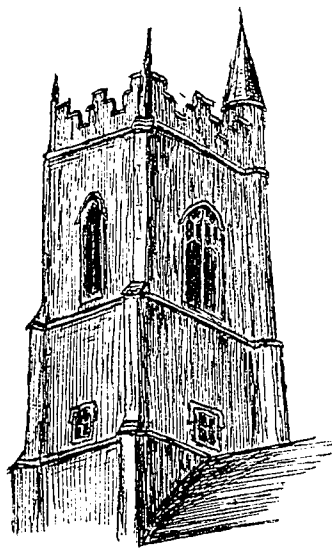
88

The following description of this bell is by J. R. Ferram and appeared in The Bell News of November 26th 1887.

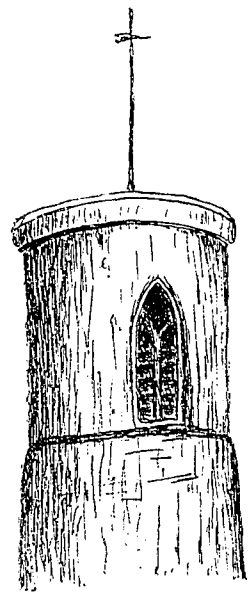
The fourth is one of the greatest curiosities in bells as regards the inscription that I have ever heard of. The legend commences like the fifth with + Be ye knowne to all that doth me see, that Newcombe of Leicesters made me 1612. Above and below this is a wavy pattern of leaves and flowers which Newcombe often used. Below this are two lines of music the upper one going all round the bell and the lower one part of the way. The notes are lozenge shaped

89

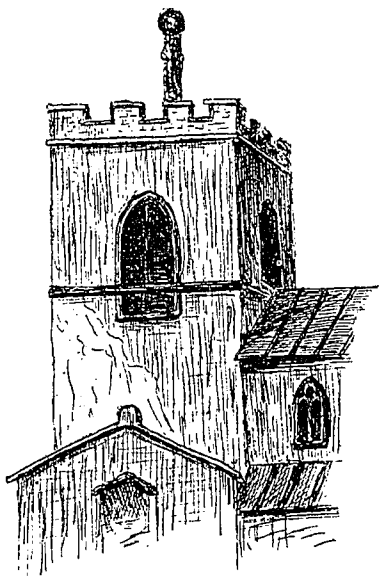
Like Gregorian music and there are
five lines to the staff as in modern music
The staves measure about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches across
There are no bars except one a double one
at the end of each strain, the C clef is used
for the three upper parts and the F clef for
the bass, and all the parts have the
signature of B flat "x" "x" "x" "x" At the beginning
of each of the four parts is a medallion
 $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. These medallions
represent men in the costume of the period
(all different) and surrounded by the
following inscriptions + The last strayne
is good. - + Keep tyme in anye case -
Then lett vs singe it againe - + Well songe
my hart is excellent. (53)



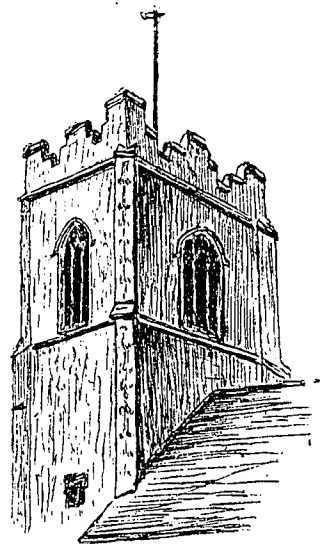
ST LAURENCE



S. MARY AT COSLANY



SAINT GREGORY



ST PETER PERMOUNTERGATE

SOME NORWICH BELLS AND TOWERS.

[Supplement to "THE BELL NEWS."]

The Norwich Scholars in the Eighteenth Century.

Although during the seventeenth Century we have not a single reference to any ringing or to any ringing society in Norwich, we cannot doubt that the city was one of the earliest places where the art was practised and where it was developed most rapidly. (190)

For when the Curtain does rise on the scene we find a Company of ringers inferior to none in the Country and superior to any outside the metropolitan area.

From early times Norwich had many bells. In area the city was larger

than any other in England except 92
London, and when at the end of the fifteenth
century, Norfolk became the manufacturing
district of England and a wave of prosperity
overtook Norwich most of its forty parish
churches were rebuilt in the then fashionable
Perpendicular style. They vary a good deal
naturally in size and quality. Some are
small; for the sites were restricted and
the parishes comparatively poor; but
many are large and splendid and St
Peter Mancroft is one of the finest parish
churches in the world. So far as we can
tell not one of the London parish churches
equalled it in magnificence, and it has
few superiors in other towns.

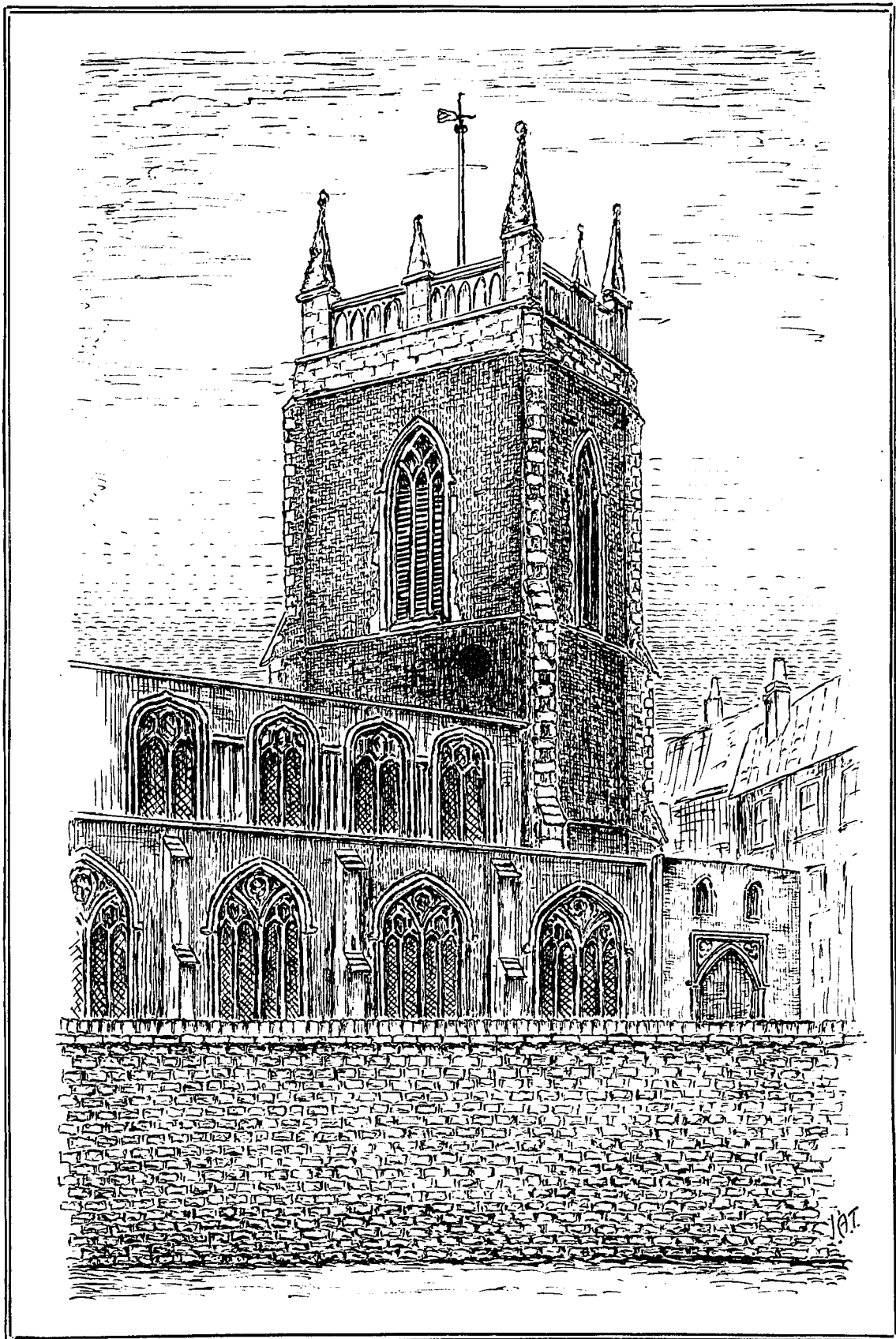
There was bell founding in the city from 93
early times. The first known founder was
a man Willermus de Norwyc, who cast
the bell at Helleston towards the end of
the fourteenth century, and he was followed
by John Lutton, Thomas Potter, Richard
Pasden and the Braziers. It was becoming
the fashion to increase the number of bells
in the parish churches and these men were
kept busy. There are still about a score of
pre-reformation bells in the city.

At the end of the sixteenth and the
beginning of the seventeenth centuries the
Norwich foundry was owned by the Brend
family. John Brend was enfranchised in
1573. He was followed by William Brend

and by William's wife Alice and son 94
John. Their bells are to be found all over
East Anglia ⁽⁵⁴⁾ proof of the popularity of ringing
as a sport.

It was no doubt for the sake of ringing
that so many of the bells in the Norwich
steeple were cast or recast. At St. Mary
Coslany, at the time of King Edward VI
there were four bells. In 1640 the tenor was
taken down and recast into two trebles
to make a ring of five. In 1682 the process
was repeated and the tenor of the five was
recast into two bells to make a ring of six. (55)

At St. Andrew's there was an early ring
of five. When the neighbouring Dominican
priory was dissolved and its great Church



ST ANDREWS, NORWICH.

sold to the citizens to be a civic hall, ⁽⁵⁶⁾ 95
The parishioners of St. Andrews bought the
great bell from the steeple. It was probably
the only one there, for the friars used not
to have more than one bell in their churches.
It was hung as the tenor to the ring in the
parish church, but probably did not accord
very well with the others. ⁽⁵⁷⁾
⁽⁵⁸⁾ It weighed about
26 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt and when William Brend recast
it he reduced the weight to 21 cwt, but it
now proved as much too light as before it
had proved too heavy. So on the 16th day of
April 1634 it was new cast again by him
and made bigger and then weighed 24 cwt
& 11 lbs, but then proving somewhat too big to
accord with the rest of the bells & otherwise

defective in the Casting, it was first 96
skived and then afterwards some part of
the head viz the upper part of the mayne
Connell Crake of by which skiving & breaking
off, thirty six pounds of the weight of metal
was taken away and then it wayed 24c
2q: 3lb. unto which was added when it
was cast the third tyme 7lbs of pewter, being
18 Decemb. 1635 by John Brend & now it
wayes according to our own waight being
waigh in Christmas Holliday 1635 here at
our Church 23c 1q: 10lb. & there remayne in
Metal which was sold to John Brend 1c
1q: for £ 4-12-0. " (59)

The six at S. Andrews were for a long
time the heaviest ring in Norwich. On

1704

91

February the 1st, the big bell was again broken up. The old fifth which weighs about 16 cwt and which had been cast by William and Alice Brend in 1621 now became the tenor and three smaller bells were added to make a ring of eight. It necessitated also the recasting or drastic tuning of the old fourth. The work seems to have been done by Henry Pleasant, an Essex man who for a short time was working at Norwich. One of his bells (the present third) is still in the tower, but the others seem to have been unsatisfactory and were replaced in 1713 by Thomas Newnan whose foundry was at Bracondale just outside the city.

The third to the eighth (now the fifth) 98
is by John Draper of Thetford and is dated
1634. It could not have belonged to the
old pic and probably was cast for some
other Church. Newnan or Pleasant's may
have acquired it in the course of business
and hung it in S. Andrews' steeple to save
making a new bell. The present seventh
is the work of Michael Darbie who in
his journeys round the County had in 1661
reached Norwich. The bell is a bad bell
but it is not fair to judge the founder
by that, for any good qualities it may have
had, have been ruined by incompetent
tuning.

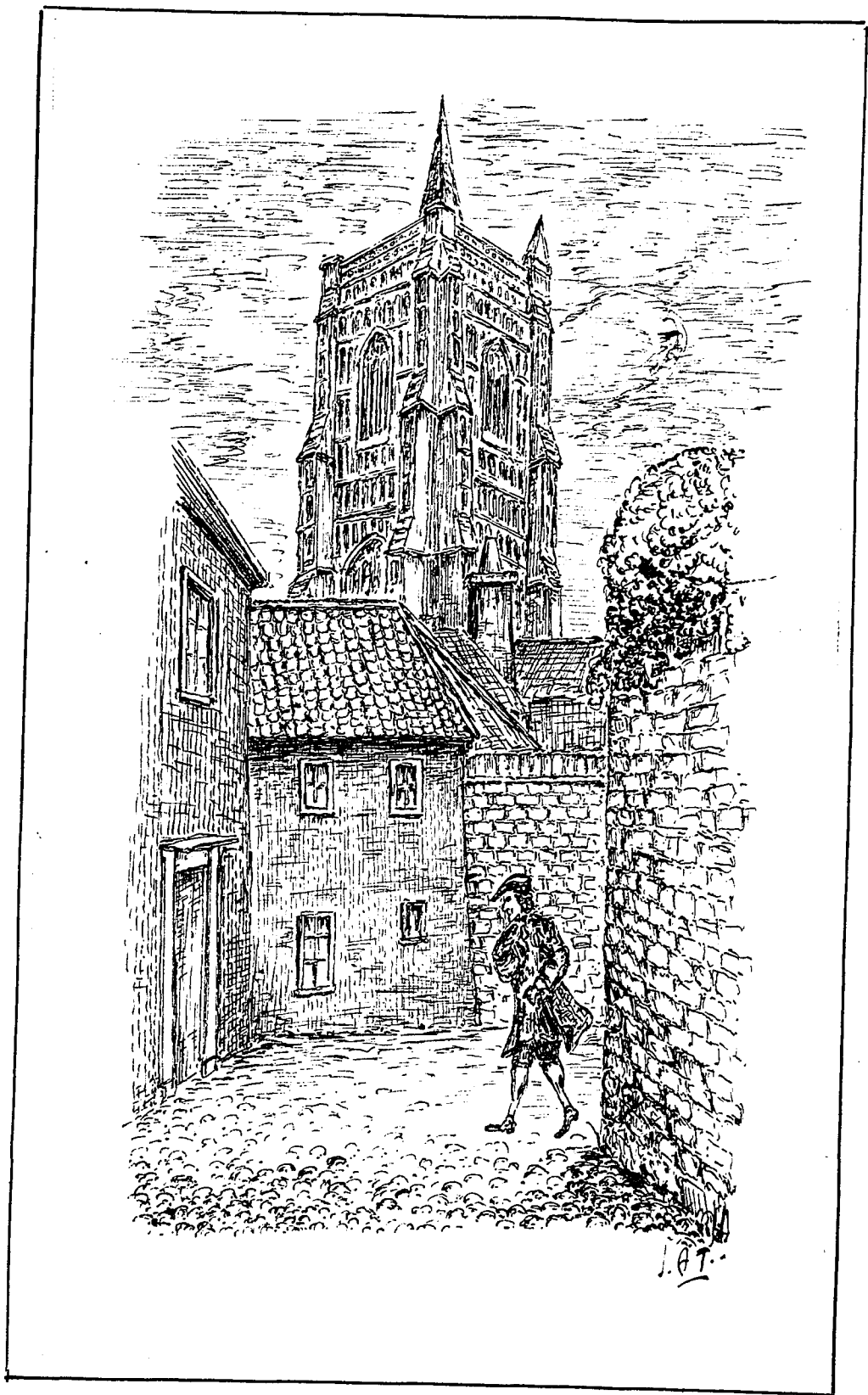
The octave at S. Andrews was in 1825

further increased by two more bells, 99
the gift of Thomas Hurry one of the Norwich
Scholars and a bell hanger. We shall
hear more about him later on.

An interesting thing about St. Andrews
steeple is that all through these different
alterations the same frame has been
retained. There is still the frame in which
the original five bells hung dating from
the early part of the sixteenth Century. It
is set diagonally in the bell-chamber, and
as the ring was augmented other frames
have been built on the top of it. Probably
if we were to examine the fittings and
baldricks we should find some of them
of a very primitive type. This certainly

is so with the lesser rings, for all ¹⁰⁰
the three are hung to be rung and were
rung when they were first put up and
for long after. I believe that few of them
are heard now a days, but fifty years ago
they were all swing-chimed every Sunday
and some of the bells rung up. ⁽⁶¹⁾

The five at the Cathedral are tuned
in the minor scale and the quarties and
low chimes on them are exceedingly
effective. ⁽⁶²⁾ The bells are in the central tower
and until the middle of the nineteenth
century could be rung. The ringing floor
however was taken away to open out the
cantina, and the bells are now chimed (if
they ever are chimed) from the triforium. ⁽⁶³⁾



St. Peter, Mancroft.

There never was a parish church ¹⁰¹
at Norwich in the same sense that St
Martins is the parish church of Birmingham
or St Nicholas is the parish church of
Liverpool, but St Peter Mancroft stands
in the market place, its parish contains
the Guildhall and in a very great
measure it was looked upon as the
municipal church. St Peter's bells were
the ones that were rung on official
occasions, they were regarded much as
if they were the property of the city, and
the mayor gave orders for the ringing
and paid the ringers without consulting
the church authorities. (64)

As early as the middle of the
fourteenth Century there were five bells in
the steeple and night and morning the
curfew was rung. ⁽³⁴⁾ ₍₂₅₉₎ In 1602 a steeple was
added and in 1672 the octave was completed.
They were cast by Edmund Tocke who
according to Raven had his foundry on
All Saints Green and was the son of a
man who in 1650 was sheriff of the City.

In the British Museum is a manuscript
"Account of the Parish Church of S. Peter
of Mancroft in the City of Norwich." ⁽⁶⁵⁾ It
gives a transcript of all the monuments
in the church and a copy of the inscriptions
on the bells. Three of them - the fifth, sixth
and seventh dated from before the

Reformation. The tenor which weighed $23\frac{1}{2}$ cwt was cast in 1618. (66)

Altogether the City contained in 1700 one ring of eight; five of six, twelve of five, and fourteen of three bells. St. Andrews' were made eight in 1704, St. Michael's' Coslany in 1726, and St. Giles' in 1738.

As I have said we have no account of any ringing society in Norwich during the seventeenth Century and we do not know when the Society of Norwich Scholars was founded. Its origins probably go back to the sixteenth Century, but it does not seem to have been a formally organized society with masters and stewards and a code of rules, as ~~the~~ were the Society

of Cheapside Scholars, the Society of College Youths, and the Society of Esquire Youths. There must of course have been some organization, and there was bound to have been something like a social club. The name Norwich Scholars was probably never formally adopted, but was applied to the ringers by people in the same way that ringers in all parts of the country were usually called "scholars". It was not until the year 1716 that the Norwich ringers organized themselves into a formal society, and then it was as a purse club or benefit society. Although the title Norwich Scholars was already in use, it was not applied to the new society

On December 22nd 1716, articles 105
were made and agreed unto by the Society of
Ringers in the City of Norwich for the ordering
of a stock or purse for the relief of such persons
as shall be therein concerned and shall
stand in need of the same. (6)

Every candidate for admission had to
be capable of ringing five Courses of Grandire
Triples. He paid an entrance fee of two shillings
and thenceforth two shillings a quarter until
he had paid ten shillings in all and then
was entitled to be a full pursuer. After
that his subscription was one shilling a
quarter. No one over thirty years of age
was admitted as a member. The number
of full pursuers was not to exceed five and
forty but an unlimited number of members

Could be admitted who were entitled 106
to partial benefits.

The officers were a Headman, a Purser (also called the Treasurer), five Supervisors, and five Feast Makers. The Headman had power to fix the time and place of the quarterly meetings, and the Feast Makers with the consent of the Headman to make arrangements for the annual dinner which was to be held on every Whitsun Monday, and for which every member had to pay one shilling and sixpence. "And if any person belonging to this Society doth privately and fraudulently dispose of any beer which doth properly belong to the whole Company in any of their public meetings, he shall for his first offence pay sixpence and for the

second be struck out of the book. (68) 107

If any person belonging to the purse
fell ill and desired relief he had to send
by a member of the Society to the officers
to acquaint them with his condition, and
seven days after notice they were to pay
him nine shillings, then seven shillings
a week for five months and after that four
shillings a week. On the death of any
member forty shillings was granted for
his burial.

The stock of money was not to be reduced
below ten pounds and so long as six
members remained in the Society the purse
was not to be broken.

The usual fines and penalties are
provided for the usual offences - refusal

to take office, quarrelling, disobeying 108
of orders, cheating and the like.

The whole Company was under obligation
to attend the funeral of a deceased member
timely notice having been given. Those
who were absent were fined sixpence and
those who were present had each man to
spend threepence for his own drinking.

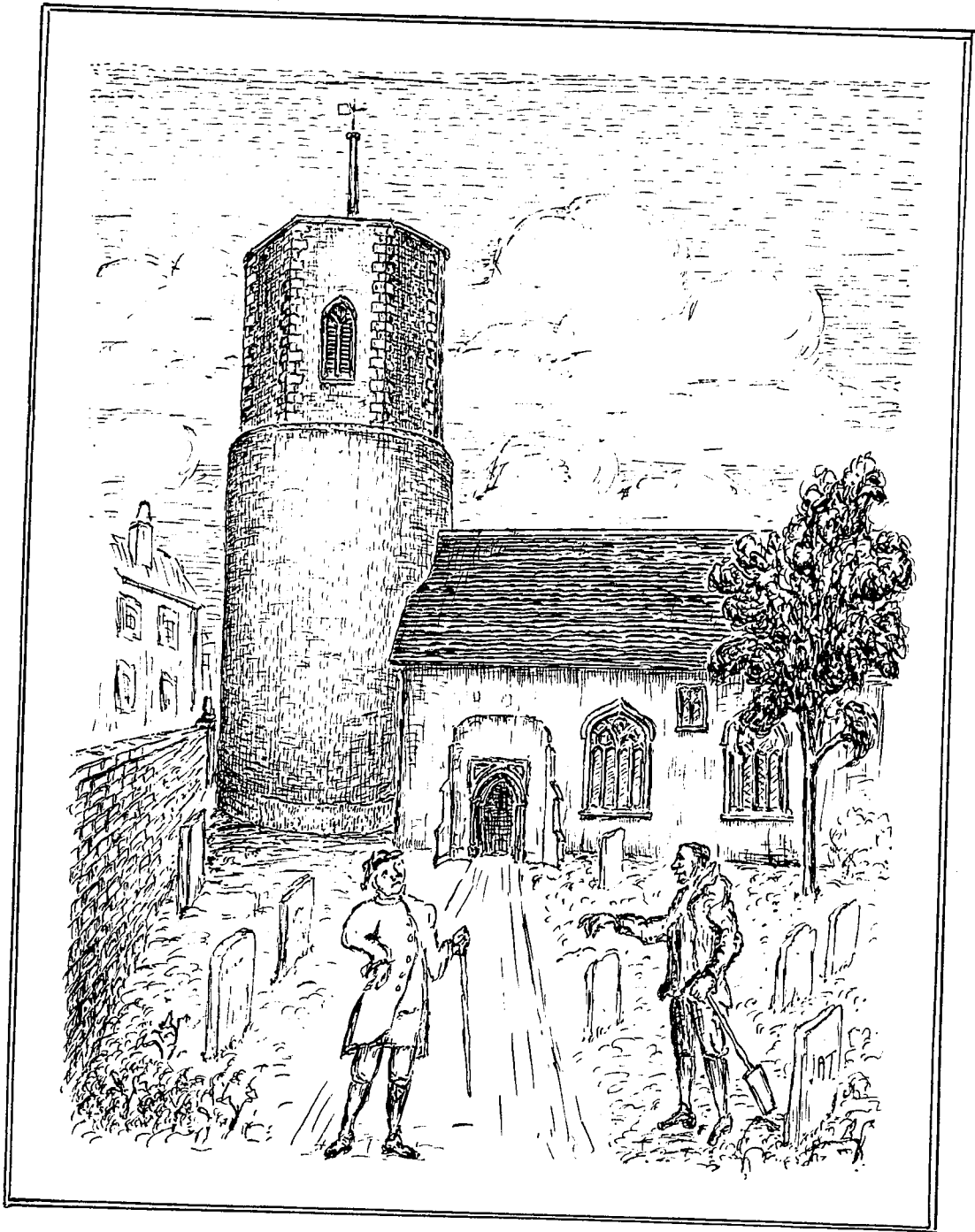
The Society tried to control the whole of
the ringing at all the city churches. There
were at the time many ringers in Norwich
and they appear to have been organised
into different "steeple Companies" A rule
was passed that "when there be a vacancy
in any Steeple Company of Ringers in this
City, either by death or otherwise, the

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said Steeple Company shall be obliged to choose a person to supply any such vacancy who is at that time a member of the Ringers' purse in this City, and the person chosen out of one Company into another doth thereby discharge himself of his former Company by accepting the same " for no man shall hold two Steeple Companies

And another rule said " that if any member or members of this Society shall practise with aid or assist any person or persons to take away any Steeple or Steeples from this purse to the detriment of the same he or they shall be expelled the purse for so doing. "

We must not however suppose that the



ST BENEDICTS, NORWICH.

110

Society was like one of our modern territorial associations, a federation of bands belonging to and practicing at separate churches. The explanation of the system will probably be found in a tradition which lasted down until fifty years ago. The paid ringing and the benefits accruing at the various churches (mostly from Christmas boxes) were supposed to be shared according to a recognised scheme. The twelve senior members rang at S. Peter Mancroft, the five junior members at S. Peter Termoulingate and other bands had other churches. The same band might ring at more than

one church. Except at Mancroft 111
the "benefit" band did ^{not} hold any practice
at a tower or ring there except during
the month before Christmas. There were
many more ringers and many more
belfries available in 1720 than there were
in 1890 and probably there was a certain
amount of sectional practice ringing,
but there was never a band specially
belonging to S. Giles or to S. Miles, unless
it were an opposition band ⁽⁶⁹⁾

And there was the same exclusive
spirit in Norwich that we find in
London and elsewhere, and the same
quarrels, and schisms. One of the rules

reads - If any person or persons
 belonging to this Society shall at any
 time or place aid or assist any particular
 Company of ringers, or shall agree to
 make a separate Company among
 themselves in the City of Norwich, to the
 detriment or disadvantage of the said
 Society or purse of ringers he or they
 shall be expelled out of the said Society
 for so doing.

This purse Club supplied the organisation
 of the Norwich Scholars for many years,
 though, as I have said, it did not use
 that name. In the days when there was
 no general insurance and no great

benefit societies like the Oddfellows
or the Foresters it was an excellent thing
and supplied a real want. It prospered
during the eighteenth Century and about
1750 a rule was made that the purse
should not be reduced below £100, any
deficiency being made up by a levy of
 $\frac{1}{6}$ per quarter on the members so long
as it was necessary. But, like most
similar institutions, it had its evil
times as well as its good, and it would
be difficult to prove a continuous
unbroken existence. More than once
in the nineteenth Century when the
membership got small the members

114

succumbed to the temptation
to break the purse and share out the
funds. About the year 1870 members
were admitted who were not ringers
and it was run as a separate organisation
from the S. Peter's Company. Finally
in the year 19 the connection between
Mancroft Belfry and the old Company
of ringers was completely severed and
not many years later the purse club
came to a quiet and inglorious end.

During the course of the years a
certain amount of property was acquired
by the Society. It consisted of a parchment

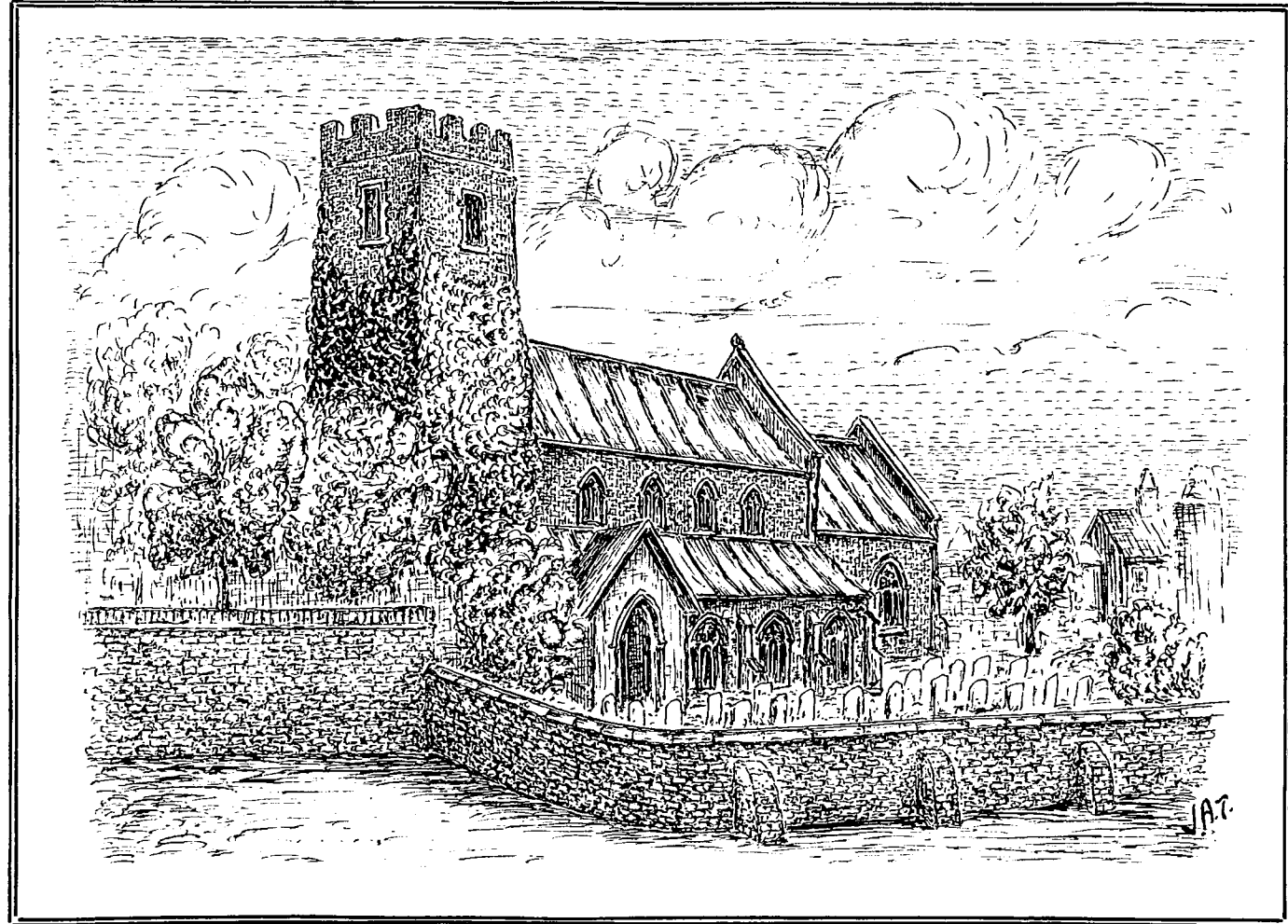
roll with the rules set out in 115
full, a number of pewter flagons and
mugs, a quantity of token money, several
framed records of peals, a set of handbells
in a leather trunk made by William
Tordis, the Composer of Double Norwich
Court Bds, and copies of the Clavis, and
Shipways and L'Estranges' books. There
was also at one time a peal book but
that was lost early in the nineteenth
century.

The parchment roll was alienated at
about the same time and was bought by
Harris Rye, the Norfolk antiquary, as far
from the city as Exeter. He afterwards

presented it to the Church and it 116
is now in the sacristy there.

When the purse club was finally wound up the property was divided among the members and is now irretrievably dispersed and lost.

Another piece of property, which may not have belonged to the purse club but to the St. Peter Mancroft Belfry, was the ringers' jug. It holds 17 quarts and was the gift of John Dersley in 1749. Dersley was a potter, and Sheriff of Norwich in 1759 and Mayor in 1764. It was always filled on Old Years Night with "hot pot" a concoction of beer and rum with spices, and was emptied by the ringers and leading parishioners. The custom lasted until 1880.

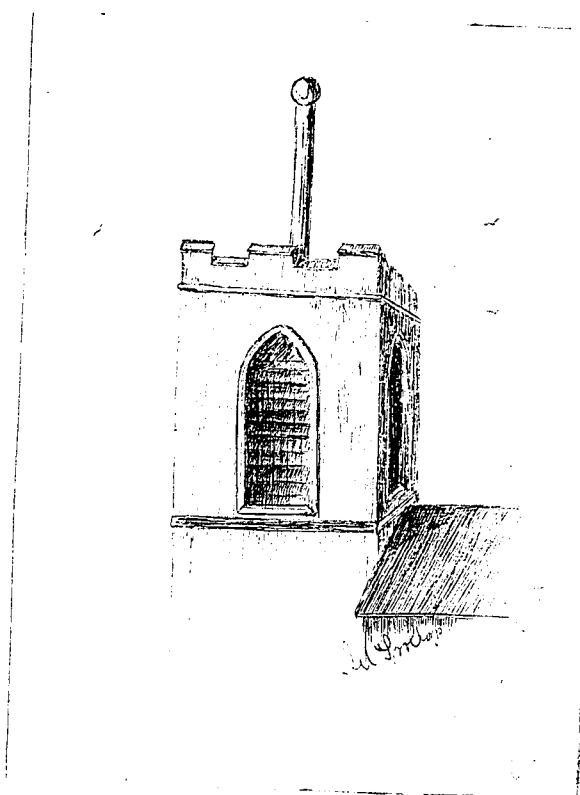


ST. MARGARETS IN WESTWICK, NORWICH. 1870.

This jug too was at one time lost 117
but was recovered in 1846 at a sale by
Robert Felch a well known chemist in
the city and by him given back to the ringers.
For long it was kept inside the penow case
and is now in the church sacistry. 70

The reputation of Norwich bells and
ringers stood very high at the beginning
of the eighteenth century. In 1723 a writer
declared that the tower of S. Peter Mancroft
contained eight bells as perhaps have not
their fellows considering their musical
notes and the persons by whom they are
rung who may challenge (without vanity)
any eight men in England, for ringing
is practised no where else for number of

Changes and truth
 of ringing⁽¹¹⁾. The great
 interest taken by
 the citizens in the
 art even when they
 were not themselves
 ringers, is shown by



the frequent references to it in the pages
 of The Norwich Gazette. Norwich men liked
 to know what was being done by ringers
 in other parts of England as well as at
 home.

The first actual performance that we
 have any notice of was in 1710 when a
 half peal of Grand sire Triples was rung
 at Mancroft. This most likely was the

Composition from the J.D. & C.M.

119

Campanalogia and during the next
three or four years the whole peal was
twice rung⁽⁷²⁾, and almost certainly it
was the same composition, for it was
admitted that there was repetition of
changes.

But now the company contained a
man who set himself the task of
composing a true peal. It is likely
that John Garthorn first tried his hand
at Grand sire on the lines of Doleman's
composition, but finding the task beyond
him turned to the relatively easier job
of working out an escent of Bob Triples

and after he had succeeded in 120
that method turned back with the
experience he had gained to Grand sire.

I discuss fully Garthorn's work as
a composer in chapter XI and need
not anticipate it here. ⁽⁷⁴⁾ Of the man
himself we know nothing, but he has
earned a secure place among the
leading composers.

On May 2nd 1715 "the Ringers called
Norwich Scholars" rang "that most
Incomparable Deal called Grand sire Bob
Triples" "the first whole Deal that ever
was rung to the trust by any Ringers
whatsoever." Garthorn rang the Treble
and called the bobs.

A board was put up in the belfry ¹²¹
to record the performance, and it still
exists though very much restored and
repainted.

Three years later Garthorn had produced
his peal of Grandine Triples, and on
August 26th 1718 it was rung at St.
Peter's. Garthorn himself was not in the
band this time, and only two of the men
- James Brooke and John Briggs -
who took part in the first peal were in
this.

The seventh was rung by Thomas
Melchior who had succeeded to the
leadership of the band and who evidently
(though it is not specifically stated) called
the bobs. In 1672 John Melchior had

given ten shillings towards the bells. ⁽⁷⁵⁾ He probably was a man of some standing in the parish and very likely was a ringer. Thomas Melchior might be his grandson. ⁽²⁵⁷⁾

William Callow rang the sixth. He was afterwards a publican, the Landlord of the Labour-in-vain inn ⁽⁷⁶⁾ which he kept for forty three years, and when he died on July 13th 1779, was the oldest ringer in the city.

Robert Crane who rang the fourth was the eldest of a family of ringers, and the father or older brother of Edward and Thomas Crane of whom there will be something to say presently. The other ringers were William Palmer (3), Henry Howard (5)

and Thomas Barrett (tenor).

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The board which commemorates the peal has been carefully restored and is now in excellent condition. The wording of it is interesting on account of the statements it makes, and what it claims and does not claim. This performance is not claimed to be the first peal of Grand sire Triples ever rung. On the contrary it is stated that 5040 Changes had "often times" been rung, but with Changes alike. The Norwich claim was that though the "most ingenious men" of the age who were ringers had studied the problem of producing a true peal of Grand sire Triples yet all their projections had proved errors

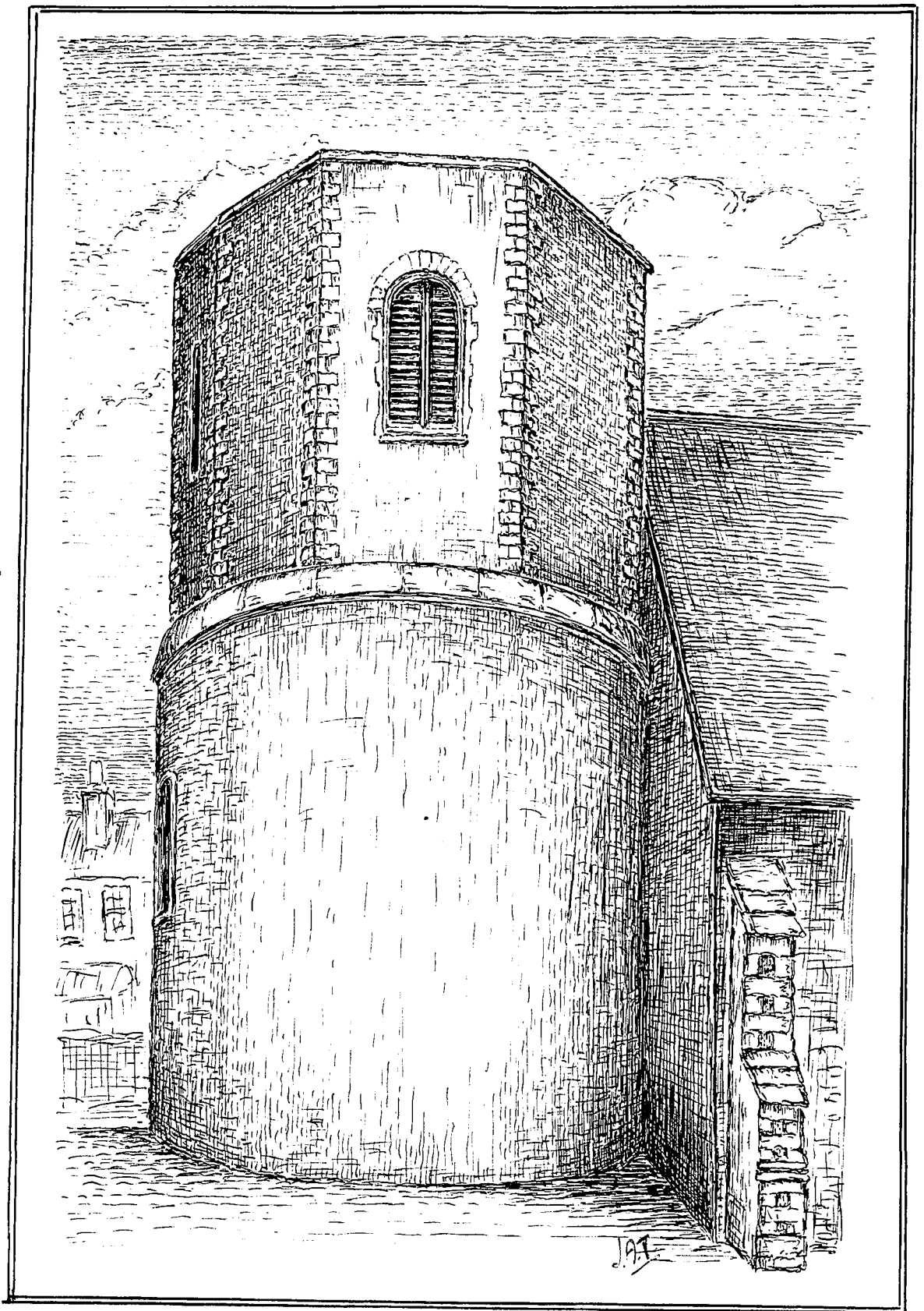
until John Garthorn with long
study and practice had discovered the
secret.

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From this we are justified in concluding
that peal ringing was common at a
much earlier date than is usually supposed,
only, for want of a true composition, all
the peals were false. And this is confirmed
by what the authors of the J.V.C.M. Campanalogia
say. ⁽⁷⁷⁾ We may perhaps wonder why men
should ring a false peal of Triples when
they could have without much difficulty
have discovered true five-thousands of
Major, ⁽⁷⁸⁾ but we must remember that
Grandsize Triples was the standard method,
that many ringers did not know that

Doleman's peal was false, and that as yet five thousand had not been accepted as the number of changes for a peal on any number of bells. There was a point in ringing the esdient of Triple Changes, but no more point in ringing five thousand on eight than in ringing four or six thousand. And anyhow Major ringing was little understood or practised.

Another expression on the Board is worth noticing. The peal is said to have been rung true "without Changes alike or a bell out of Course." That sets the standard for a true peal for all time. The point has often been argued as to



ST ETHELRED'S, NORWICH.

What really constitutes a fine

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peal. Here is the answer: the composition must be fine, and during the performance no bell must leave the path allotted to it.

This answers on the one hand those

who say that the band must ring the

peal they started for, and on the other

those who maintain that if a shift occurs

in an in-course peal of, say, Grandeur or

Siedman Gates it can be put right by

a single without repetition of changes. (19)

The question of accurate striking still

remains and the late Norwich men

recognised this and claimed that their

peals were rung with "bold and regular

striking." (80)

Rather more than a twelve-month after

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the peal of Grand sire Triples, on
December 28th 1719, the Norwich Scholars
repeated the performance at St. Peter's. Sketches
again rang the seventh, Thomas Barrett
the tenor man in the first peal, rang the
sixth, and the tenor was now rung by
John Webster, a young man who for many
years was to be a leader of the Exercise in
Norwich. Who rang the other bells we
do not know, but Robert Crane was
almost certainly one of them. (81)

In 1726 the ring at St. Michael Coslany
was increased to eight and on the 1st of April
in the following year "a remarkable peal
was rung called the Quaries-peal of
Oxford Treble Bob, all eight in, or the

Union Bob consisting of 10,080 Changes ¹²⁸
in six hours and twenty-eight minutes.
It was the first time that ten thousand
Changes were rung anywhere, and indeed
so far as we know only one peal longer
than the usual five thousand had been
scored - 6832 Changes of Bob Major by
the College youths at Lambeth in the
previous year.

Thomas Gardiner ⁽¹⁵⁹⁾ who had rung the
sixth to the Bob Triples of 1715, rang the
fifth to this peal; Thomas Melchior rang
the second, John Heblein the fourth, Thomas
Barnett the sixth, and Robert Crane the
tenor. Three names appear for the first
time - Richard Barnham who rang the
Triples,

John Harvey, the third, and Edwards 129
Crane, the seventh.

The Composition, there is good reason to believe was the feat given by Shipway in his Campanalogia, and, if so, was a true one. The evidence I think points to the conclusion that it was the production of John Garthorn and was an extension of the standard 720 of Treble Bob Minor on the same lines that he had extended the standard six-score of Grandfire Doubles to produce his excellent Grandfire Triples. I discuss this fully in the next chapter. (82)

After calling the Grandfire Bob Triples in 1715 Garthorn had taken part in no

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more peals, but he lived to see
his peal of Grand sire Triples and this peal
of Treble Bb rung. He died in June
1728 and was buried on the 20th in St.
Gregory's Churchyard. No tombstone marks
the site of his grave. In that narrow
plot of ground generation after generation
of parishioners had been buried until
the surface was raised far above the
level of the surrounding street. ⁽²⁴⁸⁾ Now it
has all been cleared away and where
the bones of John Garthorn lie no one
can say.

The Conductor of the Coslany peal is
not stated. Melchior had for long been
the leading man among the Norwich

131 128

Scholars, and he, like Annable
among the College Youths was one who
looked upon the conducting as his right.
But he rang the second which is not
an observation bell nor a sub-observation
bell. Edward Crane rang the seventh
and he was beginning to push himself
forward as the authority on Composition
and the successor of Garthou. Moreover
the Cranes seem to have had control
of St. Michael's Belfry, and though the
purse club claimed all the powers in the
city we may be sure that it was individuals
that really counted especially when
they were parish clerks, readers or steeple
keepers. Whether, therefore Thomas Melchior

or Edward Crane called the peal ¹¹⁹₁₃₂
we cannot decide, especially as a keen
rivalry now sprang up between the two
men.

Stancroft Belfry was still the most
important centre of ringing in the City
and it was only natural that the ringers
should wish to have the ring there increased
to ten so that they could emulate and
surpass the feats of the London men.

It seems that in 1724 a scheme was
started to add two pebbles, and on
July 25th in that year the bells were
actually hung in the tower. But the
order was given by someone without
sufficient authority and before the

money to pay for them had been collected. The subscriptions did not come in as was hoped and on September 12th the bells were taken down again. Norwich had to wait twelve years longer before it had a ring of ten bells.

The authority for this tale rests entirely on a statement by T. R. Tallack, who says he copied it "some years ago from a MS. memorandum in a hand of the period, but I do not remember to whom it belonged." (83) No tradition of the transaction survived nor is there any reference to it in the parish records, but the tale is not so incredible as it appears. Something very similar happened a century later

at St. Andrews. In the eighteenth 134
Century parish vestries undertook to keep the
bells in repair and to replace cracked or
broken ones; but the provision of new bells
was generally left to men who were interested
in the art of change-ringing and wanted
them for that purpose. The vestry sanctioned
the scheme, but accepted no responsibility
for it; and as a rule took a bond to cover
any damage that might be done, or any
charges that might fall on the parish. (85)

Having scored feals of Bob Triples,
Grandsire Triples, and Treble Bob Major,
the Norwich Scholars next turned their
attention to Hedman Triples. They did
not ring a feal of Bob Major, why we cannot

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guess. Perhaps they did not wish
to imitate the College Juniors, who had rung
10,800 Changes in the method in 1728.

And now the rivalry between Melchior
and Crane came to a head. Each of them
wanted to call a peal of Stedman Triples,
and each of them believed himself capable
of composing a peal in the method. So
the society split into two bands. Melchior
was supreme at St. Peter's and he was supported
by John Webster, William Palmer, and John
Gardiner. The men he got to fill up his
band were Thomas Blofield, Thomas Atter
John Foster, Christopher Pooley, and William
Porter. Foster was the landlord of The
Eight Bells the headquarters of the Mancroft
party. It was he that afterwards went to

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Coddenham on the invitation of Theodore Eccleston as related in our last Chapter. ⁽⁸⁶⁾ William Porter was the Composer of Double Norwich Court P.D.B., or a relative, ⁽²⁵⁴⁾ for Osborn gives the name of the Composer as Thomas Porter. ⁽⁸⁷⁾ ⁽²⁴¹⁾

On his side Edward Crane was followed by his father and brother, and by Richard Barnham, and John Hawey. His new men were Robert Stockold, William Tellingall, and Rice Green. He rescued J. Michael Coslany Celfry, if he and his family did not already control that power.

So the old peal ringing band was split into two almost equal halves, and both parties consisted of skilled and competent ringers. It shows how strong the Society

of Norwich Scholars was and how many good ringers there were then in the city that such a thing should have been possible.

Both parties made haste to secure the double honour of composing and ringing the first peal of Stedman Triples, and on September 11th 1731 Edward Crane, in order not to be forestalled, advertised in The Norwich Gazette that whereas that most noted and harmonious peal on seven bells called Stedman Triples which had so long lain hid in darkness from the knowledge of the world and was thought impossible to be done, this was to acquaint all ringers and lovers of the art that it was now brought to light and truth, and

pricked at length by that ingenious 138
and complete ringer Edward Crane. If
any one doubted the truth of the feat, he
could go to the sign of the Six Ringers in
St. Michael's of Coslany and see it, and have
any wages on the matter from his finances
to see. (88)

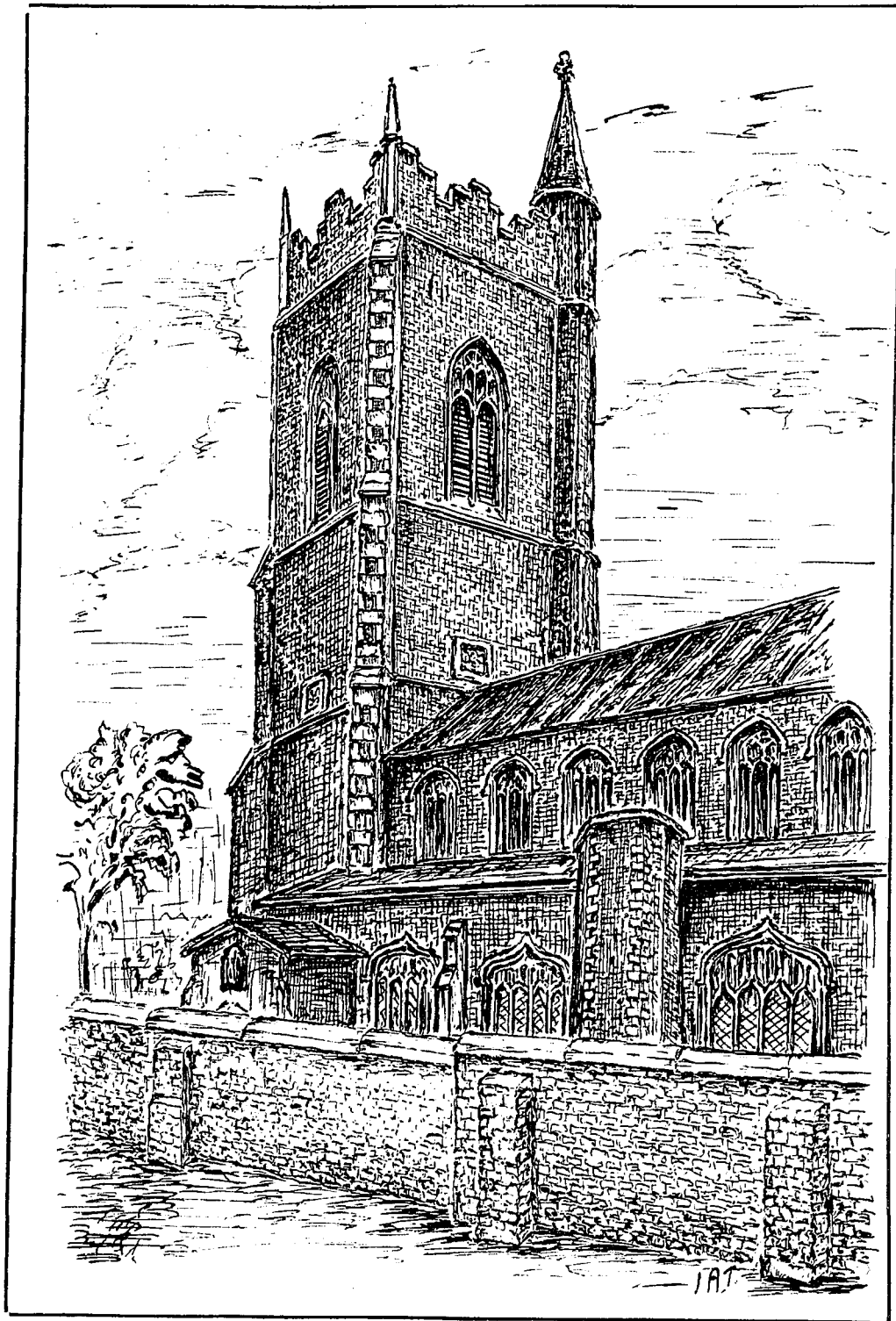
This was a challenge to the Mancroft
party which was quickly taken up, and
in the most effective manner. On October
25th Melchior called his feat at Mancroft
and he issued an advertisement that
notwithstanding the pretensions of several
ingenious ringers in this city and elsewhere
that would bear the world in hand that
they had composed that most intricate
feat of Hedman Triples this was to satisfy

all Covers of that ingenious art 139
that Thomas Melchior had composed it
to finish with five Doubles, being the first
that was composed all perfect Hidman,
and it was rung by him and seven more
on Monday the 25th of October 1731 at St
Peter's of Mancroft in Norwich in 3 hours
and 40 minutes and never a bell out
of Course or Changes alike. And then
with a sly hit at Crane's advertisement
he added, "If any of the Curious be
desirous they may see the Peal at John
Foster's at the sign of the Eight Bells, in
St. Peter's of Mancroft, aforesaid, and
satisfie themselves without laying any
wager." (89)

The time taken seems extraordinary

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long. Three hours and forty minutes
for a peal of Triples with ~~at~~ a 23rd tenor
would today seem almost too slow to be
possible, ⁽⁹⁰⁾ but the time has a double
connotation; a further advertisement and
the peal board. At the time the bells were
ringing from the same gallery as now, and
the draught of rope is a long one. A
long draught usually means slow
ringing, the Norwich Scholars rang all
all their peals at a slower rate than
ringers elsewhere, and the early peals
of Triples were all slow ones. But the
Hedman is by far the slowest of the lot.
The 1715 peal took 3 hours 18 minutes;
the 1718 peal took 3 hours 30 minutes; and



ST LAWRENCE . NORWICH .

The 1719 feat 3 hours and 6 minutes. 141

The reference to the ingenious ringers elsewhere" who had claimed to have composed a feat of Steadman Triples is interesting. It can only be to Benjamin Annable, for we know of no other man who was sufficiently competent to attempt the task. And Annable's feat is false. (91)

The first round in the Contest was clearly Melchior's, but the Costany party had no intention of owning themselves beaten. They had sent two of their number, Thomas Crane and Rice Green to listen and if possible find faults. Crane's method of checking the truth of the performance was to count the strokes of the tenors. He

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did not realize what a difficult,
an almost impossible task, he had undertaken.
He did not even pick the strokes off on
paper which might possibly have been
a fair test. He relied on his memory,
and of course he made the pale shot.

Edward Crane would not have
undertaken such a dull and monotonous
job as his brother, but we may be sure
he took good care to hear the whole of
the peal. He may picture the scene. He
would wait at a convenient distance
to hear the start. Then with one or two
friends he would walk round listening
intently. Across the market place, and
up through the tangle of narrow lanes

By the Church, ⁽⁹²⁾ along S. Peters Street 142^a
and round by the new Bethel Hospital
into the Chapel Field, then past S. Stephen's
Church and over Hay Hill, and so to
the market place again; moving steadily
while the ringing was regular, and
stopping with bated breath whenever
there was a trip, hoping with all his
might that it would develop into a
muddle and so break the peal down.

And since listening to a peal is well-
known to be a thirsty job he would call
now and then into one of the many
public houses that surrounded the
Church. But not, I think, into the

Eight Bells. Horst Foster was up 143
in the belfry sweating at the tail end of
the sixth. But there would be too many
of the Skancroft supporters in that house
to make it a very comfortable place for
Edward Crane.

And then when at last the bells
came round he would not wait to mingle
^{with the} crowd which gathered to congratulate
the ringers but was off to St. Miles and
the Six Ringers. There he would meet
his friends. Stories would be compared.
Faults would be remembered. Trips would
be magnified. And when Brother Tom
turned up and reported that only 4860
changes had been rung, their spirits

would rise again. All was not
lost. The fight was not yet over. Let
Melchior publish the peal if he dared. They
would have something to say to that.

Melchior, as we have seen, did publish
the peal and the Coslany party set about
preparing their Counterblast. First they
tried to get hold of the figures. It will
be remembered that Melchior had offered
in his advertisement to let "any of the Curious"
see the peal free, but when Thomas Crane
and a Companion called for it, he was
suspicious (and not without reason) of
their intentions. However they would
not take no for an answer and kept
him up all night. In the end he sold

them figures for half a Crown a 145
man, but when they examined them they
found it was not the feal which was
sung but another and earlier essay of
Shelchors with 14 Doubles and 21 Alterations.

The Controversy now wased hot, and
in all the public houses round S. Peters
and S. Michaels men took sides and
argued on the merits of the two Brands
and the qualities of Hedman Triples.

The old English Custom was that
when a man wanted to Convince the
public that he was speaking the truth
he either offered to back his words with
a wager, or went and swore an oath
before a magistrate.

Then as now men said the thing 146
that was not in varying degrees from
slight exaggeration to downright lying,
and provided there was something to be
gained by it, it was no great matter.
But when a man laid a wager he
stood to lose his money, and when he
took an oath he was risking his welfare
in the next world. And even though
there were men who, like Macbeth, for
some advantage "cut here upon this
bank and shoal of time" were quite
prepared "to jump the life to come", there
were temporal and mundane penalties
attached to false swearing.

There was no way therefore in which

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The Hancock deal could be more discredited than by taking an oath about it. So Thomas Crane went before a magistrate and formally swore that he had counted the changes and that 4600 were rung and no more. The time he said was three hours and a half, and not three hours and forty minutes.

The Hancock party on their side were prepared to swear, and John Webster also went before the magistrate to take an oath. Webster had not been in the deal band but had been present in the belfry as referee.

The two cases were not alike. Thomas

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Crane could take his oath with a clear conscience, for he, good simple soul, had counted the strokes of the pen and did not see why he should have made a mistake.

Treble was in a different case. He was an honest and truthful man and was quite prepared to swear that the peal was fairly and truly rung. But that did not satisfy the opposition. They challenged him to swear to the exact literal truth of the advertisement of October 31st. That there was "never a bell out of course nor changes alike." Naturally he hesitated. There have been

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very few peals rung of which that
could be said to be strictly and literally
true. One missed dodge - one little trip
in the slow, - is enough to invalidate the
claim. And the Mancroft peal had
not been faultless. There had been some
bad striking and a few blunders. The
sixth too was going badly, so much so
that Webster had had to relieve John
Foster.

Naturally the Goslany men made the
most of these things, and cross examined
Webster severely. When they put him upon
his oath "he said cunningly that it
was not the peal they rang, but it was
the peal upon his paper he would swear

was true. We asked him how many ¹⁵⁰
times their 5 fine bells struck together
in one part of their peal. He owned five
times. Then how could this peal be rung
without bells out of course? "

Hester was then asked why his party
had advertised but eight men when he
himself was fain to relieve the sixth
man. This was something of a poser,
and his answer was more ingenious
than convincing. "Oh," he said "we did
not count the penon man"; which led to
the quick retort, "Then why was he in
the News?" (93)

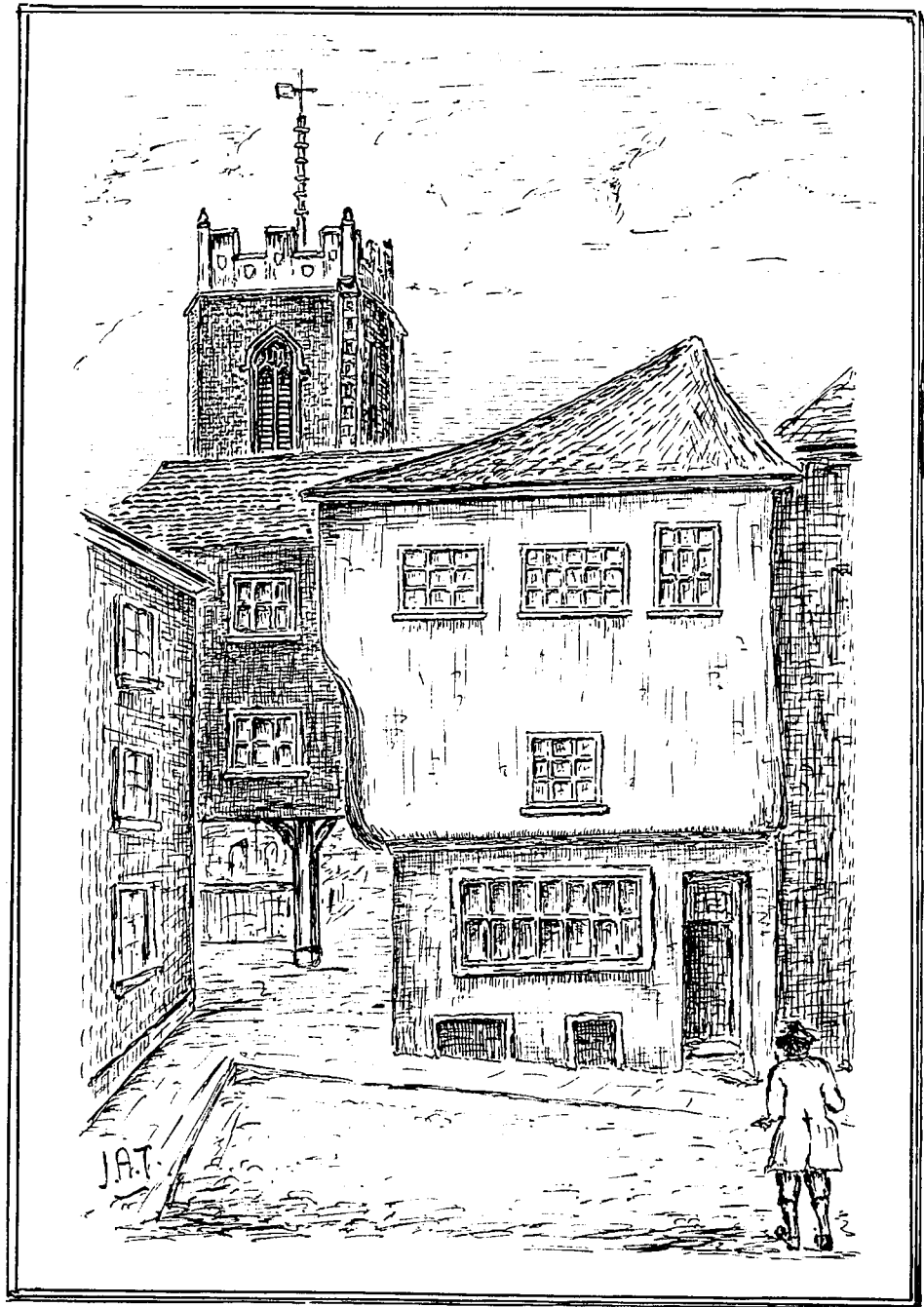
All this was very damaging to the
Mancropi party, but the Coslany men

in their eagerness to discredit 151
their opponent's performance, forgot that
it was a game that two could play at.
When their turn came their own peal
could be subjected to a like scrutiny.

Melchior was a bonny fighter and
could hit back hard. He had a pretty
wit and could write an effective letter.
He was a born controversialist who
thoroughly enjoyed the fray and who
could give and take hard knocks
without losing his temper or saying
anything that really hurt or rankled
and so made a final reconciliation
impossible.

He was quite satisfied himself that

his peal was true as a Composition 152
and had been rung fairly, and he was
justly scornful of Thomas Crane's method
of checking it by counting the strokes of
the tenor, and he very properly pointed
out that it was no peal at all. "I will
acquaint the world with his accurate
proceedings. First he placed himself
in a public house where people were
often coming in and going out, by and
by in a yard, and oftentimes walking
backwards and forwards telling the
strokes of the tenor; which is the method
he took to prove the truth of our
performance as he himself confessed
before the justice. Now I appeal to the



ST GEORGE AT TOMBLAND , NORWICH .

world whether or no this man 153
could be a proper judge of it. He also
asserted that we rung but three hours
and a half, and likewise that we rung
180 changes too short; notwithstanding
we rung 3 hours and 40 minutes, not
only by Mr. William Peches's watch, but
by many others in S. Peter's of Mancroft
in Norwich; and that the peal contained
5040 changes John Webster (whom they
supposed to be the prompter) will firmly
assert." And then acting on the
principle that to attack is the best
defence he carried the war into the
enemies' country and offered a wager of

two to one as far as ten guineas 15th
go that Edward Crane's peal (if it be
the same they oftentimes endeavoured
to ring at St. Michaels of Coslany) is
not proper Stedman Triples. "But," he
added, "to challenge them to ring is
beneath us; for we know that if we
perform our parts to truth we may
be sworn out of it. Therefore we leave
them as false malicious brethren, not
thinking it worth our while to answer
their base, scurrilous, and scandalous
calumnies for the future." (94)

The last bit was merely rhetoric, for
Melchior was enjoying the fight too
much to retire from it.

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Melchior's advertisement provoked
a rejoinder from Crane. He flatly denied
that his brother was walking about
while he was counting the strokes of the
penon "Mr. Will Auburn does here justify
that he was in a room of his and that
there was nobody with him all the time
of their ringing but two of his Company
till he had proved the truth of their peal."
Crane gave his version of what had
happened before the magistrate, and
then took up Melchior's challenge on the
composition of Hedman. "Mr. Melchior
was pleased to say that the peal we rung
in St. Michael's of Colerany is not Hedman.
I am sorry that he should show his

ignorance to both City and County. 156

I will appeal to any Man of his Art whether or no they ever knew the 6th and 7th bells were turned half the one way and half the other as theirs do now. I will tell him he never picked a peal upon seven bells with only two Doubles, if he had he would have known how the great bells should come home at their proper places, and not have taken to himself a peal of five bells and fled to Hedman for assistance because the peal of five bells will work many ways and so will Grandeur on five bells as well as Hedman. Then, I pray let any man that is a judge in this art tell me why Hedman on seven

bells should not look as Grand sire 157
on seven bells and bring their great bells
home at their quarter, half, three quarters,
and whole peals' end? * * * * And so do
other peals on 5, 6, 7, and 8. But alas!
Mr Melchior, if you desire to keep to your
Credit you must go into St. Gregory's
Churchyard and call up John Gartham
to do the work for you. Pray be not
affronted because I tell you the truth. (95)

Whether Thomas Crane spoke the truth
when he said that he had shut himself
up in a quiet room all the time he was
checking the Mancroft peal, or whether
Melchior was right when he said he
was walking about in a busy place, where

people were passing to and fro is
no great matter. I am inclined to
believe Crane. Melchior could have
known nothing about it personally. Mr.
Aburn was the Landlord of the Tavern
and as such friendly with both parties.
He was ready to testify to Crane's version,
and later on when Melchior called on
him he agreed to pretty well what he
was wanted to. Crane's evidence, of course,
was really contemptible, but so far as the
general public went it was the most
effective weapon in the Coslany party's
armory. And so Melchior published
a fancy picture of Thomas and his
Counting which must have made even

that somewhat dull-witted gentleman ¹⁵⁹
squirm. It is not good for a man's
vanity after he has been posing as an
authority to be turned into a figure of
fun. When Thomas Crane and Rice
Green first came, said Auburn, they sat
in the yard and listened to the ringing
but finding it too cold (it was we remember
at the end of October) they went into a
room. Presently the landlord looked in
but found only one man there "Doubtless
they had no discourse" remarks Melchior
"for honest Tom was so brisk in telling
the strokes of the penon that he could
hardly spare time to tell Rice Green
to go and be damned because he would

stay no longer. Tom, methinks 160

has an excellent memory and ears as long as an ass, that he could not be put out of his reckoning by any noise the people made by going in and out. This indeed to me seems wonderful, for I

have often mistook in telling twelve strokes of the clock by some interruption or other.

But Tom was earnest in proving what he knew nothing of, for whenever the

landlord came in to see what he wanted

he clinched his fist, shut his hard mouth and grinned at him: all this could not

put infallible Tom out, but he went on

telling the strokes of the penon for three

hours and a half. ... Methinks this

infallible man ought to be frightened 161
for this grand exploit. I would almost
envy his great skill in proving peals.

Melchior went on to repeat the claim that
he and his band had rung 5040 changes
and not two bells out of course "and John
Webster remarked every bell that I called
and will take oath that I called every bell,
neither more nor less, yet honest Tom by
his unerring rule of telling the strokes of
the tenor has sworn that we wanted nine
score changes. Likewise this Honest Man
told John Webster that he never spoke a
word in his life but he would swear to
the truth of it." "Let this be allowed
him", added Melchior sarcastically.

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He then expressed his sorrow for poor Ned Crane, finding him void of all knowledge of Hedman's Triples." and he asked him "If the deal we picked and rung be not proper Hedman's Triples why does he not accept the wager two to one we proffered in our last?" Which seems a reasonable demand only we remember that Crane had previously offered a similar wager and Melchior had not accepted it. We rather wonder how far these offers of wagers were really meant to be taken seriously. They sound a bit like the familiar "I'll bet you what you like" that such and such.

Melchior then plunges into the dispute

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about the merits of the two rival
Compositions and here we can follow him
but haltingly for we have lost the key
to most of his allusions. "I tell you, Ned,"
he says ~~that~~ "I am of opinion that you
would rather have made your peal without
Alteration ⁽⁹⁷⁾ than with had you known how.
You have owned that I was the first man
that ever turned the sixth and seventh;
but let me tell you they are all turned
as well as those else they would not be
every bell a course alike which takes
away all pretension of keeping your bells
as in Grandure". He appeals to Nedman's
statement that in the Doubles every bell
has a Course alike, and he added that

if John Garthorn had been alive 164
"he would have laughed at your ignorance
for assigning hunts to Hedman's Triples." (96)

Amid much that is obscure, one thing
is clear. The rivals based their Compositions
on two distinct plans. Crane took as his
model Garthorn's feat of Grandine Triples
with its hunts and regular parts. Melchior
tried to reproduce the distinctive qualities
of Fabian Hedman's suc-score of Doubles.

The controversy mainly turned on which
of these two was "proper" Hedman Triples.

Today we should admit either or both
provided they would give 50% true

Changes Neither Crane nor Melchior

had any doubts about the truth of either

his own feat or that of his rivals. 165

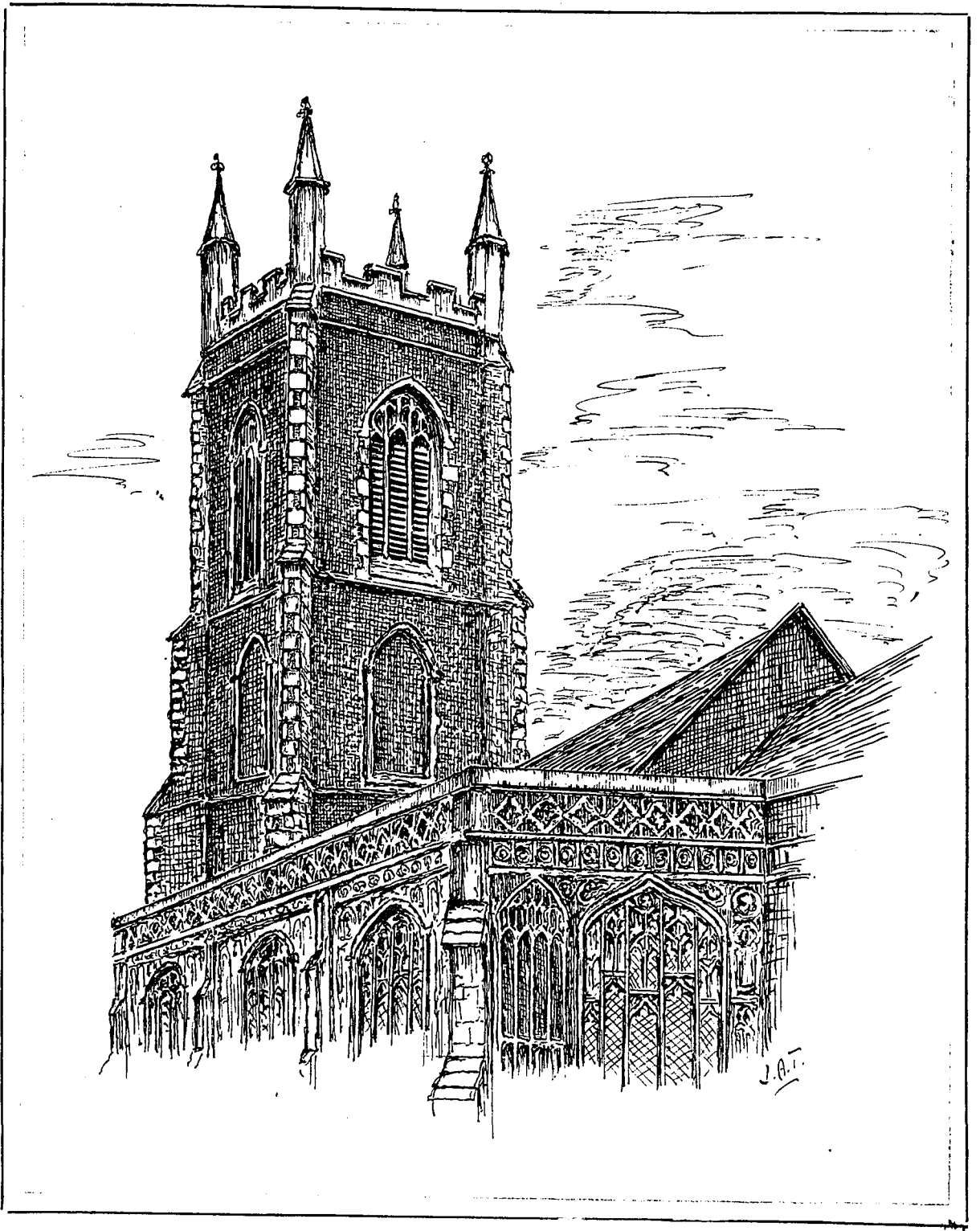
Melchior got in another very shrewd knock in his allusion to "that Wise Gentleman who was your prompter before you found that nice way of nailing your paper against the wall to call your Cobs by (though to no effect)." But perhaps we should not make too much of this.

Melchior was not intentionally unfair, but he was giving no quarter, and he made the most of any rumour that he heard. Both bands had an esquire man in the belfry to act as referee, and testify, if need be to the truth of the performance. It would have been well if these referees had been strictly impartial

but in the circumstances that was 166
hardly possible. They were strong
partisans, just as keen as any of the
band on the peal being scored, and, like
John Webster at St. Peter's, ready to lend
a helping hand if it were needed.

Who the Wise Gentleman was we do not
know, but evidently he had been talking
at large in the Taverns round St. Michael's.

Many conductors who have mistrusted
their memory have had a temptation
to nail a paper against the wall to
call the bobs by. The practice has usually
been looked upon as not quite a fair one
and has been condemned by the Central
Council as "undesirable." ⁹ The chief objection



St Michael, Coslany.

167
to it is that usually as at St.
Michaels it is "to no effect."

Meanwhile the Costany band had
been trying ring their peal. Eleven times
they made an attempt and failed but
at last on December 6th 1731 (which after
all was only six weeks later than their
rivals) they succeeded. The peal was

not without incident. There was a lot
of excitement and party feeling in the

city, and some one paid the bell man
to go round the streets and cry the

following "scandalous" verses -

This is to give notice to all sorts of people
That the ringers that practise at St. Michaels
sleep

Have craz'd their brains by setting 168
forth false pretences

That it is to be feared they have quite lost
their senses.

Therefore let em repair to John Fosters',
and his pain

There's those that can help them to their
senses again.

Before the ringing began a crowd
of several hundred people gathered in
the streets by the church. Many of them
belonged to one or other of the parties
and were interested in the deal. But
many were idle fellows looking for a
little fun and excitement, and there
was plenty of the riff-raff from the
yards and courts of St. Martin's and

St. Miles'. The crowd knew very 169
little about Hedman Triples, but that
would not prevent betting on the result
of the peal. When it began to look as
if the attempt was going to be successful
some of the powder of the Hancock party
began to make a noise and some began
to throw stones on to the Church Leads.
One man bolder than the rest climbed
the wall that separated the Churchyard
from the street and tried to get through
one of the Church windows. This led to
blows and a street fight in which the
Coslany party being on their own ground
and numerically superior drove their

opponents off the field to their 170
shame with bloody noses."

When he published the account of
the peal in the Gazette ⁽⁹⁹⁾, Edward Crane
charged the Hancock Company with
instigating these disorderly scenes, but
that Melchior Holly denied. ⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ "For I
must tell you that St. Peter's ringers
scorn to act or encourage any such
thing, which they are ashamed to hear
of, much more to act." And we can
very well believe him. Men who can
write and speak as he could, do not
need to descend to personal violence.

The riot was unpremeditated, caused
by the roughest elements which can be

found in any crowd.

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The affair of the bellman was another matter. Melchior could not deny that he knew something about that, "the intent of it (as I am informed) was to animate your fearful hearts at the dreadful approach of your alterations. For who could have thought that the sight of those dismal changes could have defeated such old veteran ringers and put them out eleven times together as you have lately been at St. Michaels." It was a good joke and Melchior thoroughly enjoyed the fun.

The Costany men had scrutinised the peal at St. Peters and had made much

of the trips and faultily striking. 172

It was now ~~the~~ Melchior's turn to pick
holes in the St. Michael's peal. "You
say you have rung 5040 Hedman's
Triples, but it was rung no otherwise
than with changes alike. Witness your
4th bell dodging behind with the 3rd
2nd and 7th backstroke instead of 2, 4.
These things are not to be found in your
peal as you picked it." This is obscure,
and the writer's meaning is not clear.
There is a possibility that the printer has
made a mistake and I suppose what
Melchior means is that certain bells,
and especially the fourth, dodged the

wrong way behind, a thing which is 173
not unknown in Piedman Triples.

But it was the Composition that the two men were mainly Contending about. Crane challenged Melchior to meet him before any gentleman who is a proper judge of the art and belongs to neither Company, and I will lay down my peal at length, and he shall do the same and let us dispute it out which is the properest peal according to Piedman's own rule on five bells. Melchior preferred a public discussion, "As you accused us in public it is reason you should dispute us in public." However after the exchange of a couple more letters he gave way - "I will take your advice, and

in a short time will send you word ¹⁷⁴
who shall be your judge, and where I
will dispute with you in private as
you desire"

So, as far as we are concerned, ended
the controversy. Both bands put up boards
to commemorate their performances, and
~~at~~ each reiterated its claim to have rung
the first true peal of Stedman Triples. Both
boards still exist and the wording on
both is interesting and instructive. The
Manxopri board reads -

On the 25th of October 1731 here was rung
that mysterious Peal called Stedman's
Triples. The discovery thereof has been the
study of several ingenious Ringers though
to no effect until this intricate Peal which

175

differs from all other Methods of
Tripples, as being every bell a like Course
was perfectly discovered by Thos. Melchior
who first completed the Seal of Perfect
Kidman Tripples with only two Doubles and
no alteration. The extent being 5040
Changes, was completely rung by us in 3
Hours and 40 minutes, on which occasion
Wm. Scott in his remarks upon the ringing
of this Seal did elegantly ring, viz:—

As for the sweet and pleasant Treble she
By Melchior well was rung that bell, and
Called the Cows so free;

Polfeld the 2nd; Palmer the 3rd did ring;

Alber rung 4th and was not Coats; but
made her for to ring;

Gardener the 5th did sway; Foster the sixth
did play;

The 7th round Chris: Bodly bound and 176.
made her to obey;

The tenor fine and neat have Tates so complete
did ring her out and turned about that
Cymbal loud and great.

The S. Michaels Board is as follows -

In this peefle on the sixth of December
1731 was rung that most incomparable
as well as Intricate Peal of Hedman Triples
which has long been ye Study of many
well skilled in the Art of Ringing, but
without success till Edward Crane one
of the Company with much pains and
application brought it to perfection with
two Doubles. The peal contains 5040 Triple
Changes 2. Doubles only excepted, and is
allowed by all Judges of this Art to be the

most Ingenious Seal that fills now 177
has been composed. The Bobs were called
by Edward Crane before mentioned and
was sung and completed in 3 hours and 18
minutes by us whose names are under-written
Richard Barnham 1; Edward Crane, 2;
Jno. Harvey, 3; Robt Stockold, 4; Wm.
Pettingall, 5; Thos. Crane, 6; Rice Green, 7;
Robert Crane, Tenor.

Though William Scott did elegantly
sing we can hardly admit that he has
any claims to be called a poet. We must
admit, though, that he could write good
doggerel. There is a movement and a jingle
about his lines which make them stick
in the memory long after better things

are forgotten. Even in dogged 178
there are degrees of merit and how bad
it can be we realise when we turn to
William Laughton's effusion.

And now the interesting question
arises, How far can the Norwich Scholars
claim to have rung the first peal of
Hedman Triples, and was either or both
of the Compositions true?

The general opinion of the Exercise has
long been that both were false. William
Shipway summed up the views of the
London Exercise when he wrote in 1816
that "the Norwich peals are entirely discredited" (102)
Jasper Snowdon said that the claim made

179
by the second performance to be the
first true peal must be accepted as a
strong reason for condemning the previous
peal as false, but we have no means of
deciding whether this latter peal was
itself correct." ⁽¹⁰³⁾ F. W. J. Rees an indefatigable
Collector of records of the doings of old
ringers, roundly called the Skancroft peal
false; ⁽¹⁰⁴⁾ and every other person who has
referred to these performances has done
so in similar terms. The peals have been
judged and the verdict has always been
"guilty", or "not proven with a strong presumption
of guilt."

When we seek for the reasons on which



EAST DEREHAM.

These judgements are based, we

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find (apart from the fact that if the second was the first true one the first must have been false) they amount to these: -

The peals are very early ones, the figures of the compositions are lost; the first peal believed to have been true was not rung until 1799⁽²⁴⁰⁾; the first peal known to have been true was not rung until 1803; men were entirely ignorant of everything connected with the Norwich peals and took their ignorance as a proof that they could not possibly be true.⁽¹⁰⁵⁾

It is possible however now to come to a reasonable and considered conclusion on the matter.

181

For a peal to be true there must be two things: the composition must be true and the actual ringing must be correct within the limits which separate merely faulty striking from an actual shift of course.

So far as the actual ringing is concerned we have more evidence than for an average peal rung within the last few months.

Both peals were rung in the hearing of hostile critics and both were sharply challenged at the time. Let us see what the charges amount to.

The chief objection to the Mancroft performance was Thomas Crane's sworn testimony that only 4860 changes were rung. This we can

dismiss at once. Crane was honest 182
and quite thought that he had counted
correctly; but it is far more likely that
he should have made a mistake in his
tale than that the peal was short. It was
of course quite easy for Shelchior to have
miscalled but then it would have been
very unlikely that the peal would have
come round.

The other objection was made when
John Webster was under cross examination
before the justice, but when the most is
made of that it does not amount to more
than evidence that there was one bad
place in the striking which cannot be

said to have invalidated the peal; 183
and the fact that nine men took part in
the performance, though it may to some
extent lessen its merits, also shows the
difficulties under which it was rung,
and the bad going of the peal.

There was no trouble of that sort at
St. Michael's, where the bells were in
excellent order, as the 10.080 of Treble
Peal in 1727 shows. No serious criticism
was brought against the ringing in
Crane's peal of Stedman Triples. Melchior
did indeed say that it was rung no
otherwise than with changes alike;
witness your 4th bell dodging behind

with the second instead of 2-4; but ¹⁸⁴
he does not suggest that the two bells came
away from the back in the wrong order.

So far as the actual performance goes these
two peals are far better authenticated than
almost any of those of past years with
the exception of the Gosford men's Grandring
Peals. Hearn did not listen any more
intently than did the Norwich critics but
he was impartial.

When however we face the question was
either or both the compositions true? we
are in a different case. The figures are lost
and that fact in itself has largely condemned
the peals. "Mr. Hollis' peals" says Shipway
are still admired by the best judges of the

and while the Norwich not being ¹⁸⁵
demonstrable are entirely discredited." (106)

Other people remembering the early date, came
to the conclusion that they could not possibly
be true and dismiss the matter without
any further consideration.

At the time neither Melchior nor Crane
had any doubts of the truth of either his own
or his rivals composition. Each was trying
hard to discredit the others work and to
show that it was not "proper" Steadman, and
yet neither could prove that his opponents
feal was false, though that would have settled
the dispute without further question. There
would have been no need for Thomas Crane
to take oaths about the number of changes

rung, or for Melchior to make jokes
 about "alterations" or argue as to whether
 Hunt's are allowable in Piedman Triples
 or not. All that either need have said
 was - "Here are your figures. In this place is
 a certain change and in that place it turns
 up again." Moreover there was money to be
 made. Each side had offered to wager on
 the truth of their deal; the others had but
 to accept the wager and claim the money.
 That neither could do so is good evidence
 that the deals were not obviously false,
 even though it may also have shown
 that neither Melchior nor Crane had
 an efficient method of proving Compositions.
 Shipway and the London men rejected

187
The Norwich peals because they were
ignorant of them. "It is remarkable" he says
that of the three peals said to have been
rung at St. Peter's Mancroft not one can
be found to ascertain the ⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ truth. The
argument is not really a pound one and
can be ^{used} on the opposite side. "It is remarkable,"
we might say, that of the early peals rung
at Norwich not one can be shown to
be false. The Grand sire Triples we know
was true; the Bob Triples and the Treble
Bob Major we have good reason to think
were true. ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ Why should not the Hedman
Triples also have been true? Unfortunately
the composition of Hedman Triples is not
so easy as that of Plain Bob and Grand sire;

it has many traps and pitfalls, and without definite evidence we must not assume that either Shelchior or Crane avoided them. And there is no such evidence.

The figures, as I have said, are lost. But the advertisements give us a good deal of information, and if we had just a little more we could reconstruct, not perhaps the actual compositions, but the general plans on which they were founded. Our chief loss is that we do not know what sort of bobs were used. The present day bob is to us so obviously the right one that we have some difficulty in thinking that anyone would ever use any other. But in 1731 there was no precedent for such a thing

and Melchior uses language which 189.
seems to preclude its use.

The general ideas in the minds of the
two men however ^{are} is clear enough.

Crane based his peal on Garthorn's Grandioso
Triples with its hunts. It was the only plan
that he would allow as correct for all
methods. It worked admirably in one,
and he did not see why it should not
work equally well in all. It meant that
in Steadman Triples the peal was divided
into four equal quarters; each quarter was
divided into equal and regular parts;
the big bells came home at every quarter-
peal end, and at the half way and end

or perhaps (for it is rather difficult ¹⁹⁰
to follow Crane here) at the end of the
first two quarters, a double was made

by the bells in 1-2-3
lying still. If he
closely copied Garthorn

P.C.	3	2	1	5	4	7	6
	3	1	2	4	5	6	7
P.C.	1	3	4	2	5	7	6
	3	1	4	5	2	6	7
	3	4	1	2	5	7	6
	4	3	1	5	2	6	7
P.C.	3	4	5	1	2	7	6

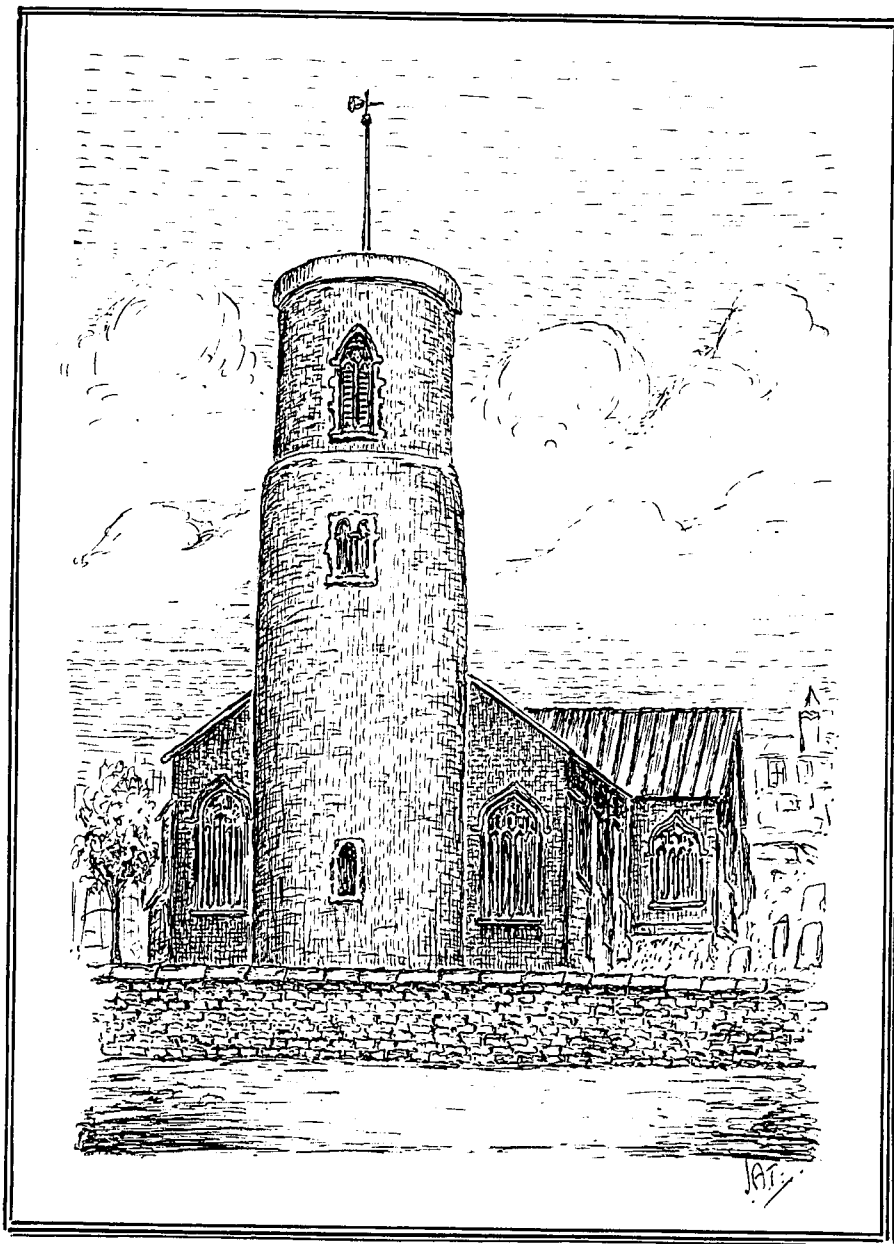
his second quarter-
peal would be the
reverse of his first; and his fourth quarter-
peal the reverse of his third. He made a
great point in the fact that at the doubles
the same bells were dodging behind "as
Hedman does on five bells", and that he
had not "turned the 6th and 7th bells half
one way and half the other as theirs do
now." ⁽¹¹⁰⁾ Roughly Crane's peal was on the

THE ALTERATIONS. (109)

same plan as that given by Annable 191
in his note book. No true peal of the kind
has ever been composed, nor does it seem
that one is possible; and Cran's peal
was undoubtedly false, for he used alterations
to force up the required quarter peal end;
and, apart from the fact that he crowded
eight changes into a six ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾, he introduced
parts of some of the which can hardly
have been completed elsewhere in the peal.

Melchior was very sarcastic about the
alterations and printed the figures in
the Gazette. They certainly introduce
work which is not Hedman. But if they
had produced a true 5040, they might
have passed muster as special calls.

On the other hand Melchior rejected ¹⁹²
the whole system of Hunt's as foreign to the
method. He maintained that in Hedman
every bell worked alike, and quoted Doleman
"In this peal every bell hath one and the
same course, there being no proper hunt
or hay hunt therein." ⁽¹¹²⁾ This Crane denied.
Hedman, he agreed, had said that all
the bells have a like course, ⁽¹¹³⁾ but Hedman
is mistaken, and so are you. Melchior's
course, made a good debating point of
this. "Now if Hedman be mistaken,
who was the Master of a College in the
University and a learned mathematician
with Doleman and others, why need I take
amiss Mr. Crane's saying I am mistaken



ST MARY, COSLANY, NORWICH.

too? For he is a learned man and 193
knows omnia bene in his own conceit.

However he may look into Hedman and
he may see why there are two alterations
on five bells.

Crane stuck to his point. "You call me
to account for saying that Hedman is
mistaken and so are you, but if I be right
it is so," and he insisted that since two
alterations had to be made in the six-score
it was impossible to say that in Hedman
Doubles "every bell hath a course alike."

Both Melchior and Crane print Hedman
Doubles ~~the~~ ~~the~~ as an illustration, and
both print it not in pieces but in twelves
the end of the division being the whole

pull of the quick bell on the lead.

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It would have been better and simpler if this plan had been generally followed and the fourth row of the quick Pisc and not the last row had been taken as the course end of the method. (114)

Skelchior's reference to Fabian Hedman is very interesting. The facts are all wrong but it comes very near to verbal accuracy. Hedman was a Cambridge man; but he was a townsman, not a member of the University. We have no grounds for calling him a learned mathematician but, as his book shows, he was of the stuff that mathematicians are made of. And in 1682

He was elected master, but it was
master of the College Youths not of a College
in the University.

We probably get as near understanding
what Melchior's seal was like as we ever
can do from the following:

It was closely copied from the six score of
Doubles, which consists (as he is careful
to point out) of two separate courses
joined together.

The twelve changes from the middle of one
quick six to the middle of the next are the
"the proper form and grounds of Hedman
Doubles," which being brought ⁽¹¹⁵⁾ five times over in
an expressible denominative course produce
⁽¹¹⁶⁾ "sixty changes," every bell a course alike. In the
same way his whole seal began from every twelfth
change throughout the 5040. This seems

to indicate that he kept his Twelves, 196
and probably his Courses intact and
therefore could not have used the modern
Bob. Crane painted him with "taking
himself to a peal of five bells", and fleeing
to Hedman for assistance

I can only explain this by a reference to
the traditional way in which the early
esclint had been developed. It was common
knowledge, and Fabian Hedman had pointed
it out in his book, that if you take an
esclint of Plain Bob on any number of bells
and put a pebble in front of each row, you
will have the lead heads and ends of the
esclint on the next higher number of
bells. Or to express the same truth in a
rather different way, if at the course-ends

of Plain Bob Major you make 2.3.4.5.6.7. 197
work the full 720 changes of any six-bell
method in which half the changes are
triples you will have the extent on eight
bells (117)

Melchior had sixty Courses to join together
and if he could make five of his bells work
a six-score of Doubles at the Course ends
he would have solved his problem as it
appeared to him. Unfortunately Stedman
Triples does not divide into sixty five and
independent Courses as Plain Bob Triples
does. Melchior's plan would have given
him a fine feat in the latter method (118)
but there can be no reasonable doubt
that his Stedman was false.

When Melchior accepted Oranes' 198
challenge to debate with him in private
the public discussion came to an end, and
we hear no more. We do not know who
was the independent umpire before whom
the debate took place, or what his decision
was, if indeed he gave one. We need not
suppose that either of the rivals convinced
the other or gave up his own opinion.
Such things do not happen. But we do
know that the personal breach was healed.

The advertisements in the Norwich
Gazette cover a period of only four months
but they give us the most complete and vivid
picture we possess of any of the ringers

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of past times. The only other things
comparable to them are the entries in
Heames diary and Laughtons manuscript.
Heame was keenly interested in ringing,
but he wrote as an outsider. He had
neither the personal interest, nor the technical
knowledge that Melchior and Crane had.
Laughton has far more to say than the
Norwich men, but he was inferior to them
in all ways - as a writer, as a ringer,
and as a man.

The Norwich episode is concerning a
quarrel and a hot dispute, the clash
of personal ambition and professional
rivalry. The disputants are in thorough
earnest. They give and take hard knocks,

and they fling jibes and personalities 200
at each other. Yet the whole thing leaves
a good impression. We feel that these people
mean what they say, but they were friends
a week or two ago and there is no reason
why they should not be friends again a
week or two hence. It is different with
Laughlin. He can see that his quarrel
with Annable and the College Juniors has
gone too deep to be patched up.

All the principals in the Norwich
dispute come out well, even Thomas
Crane. No doubt he was not a very
brilliant person and he took upon himself
a foolish job. But he was honest and

truthful. He did not swear that 201
only 4860 changes had been rung because
he was trying to present a tale that would
discredit the S. Peter's Company. He really
had counted only 4860 changes. If he had
counted 5040 he would have said so.

It was a priggish thing for him to tell
John Webster that he never spoke a
word in his life but he would swear
the truth of it; but we may be sure
that he had a better right to say it
than most people. Melchior jibed him
unmercifully, but it is pretty certain
that at bottom he rather liked him.

We have testimony from other sources
that John Webster was respected and loved.

Edward Crane was a much greater 202
and more intellectual man than his brother.
Born in 1701 he was now 30 years old and for
two years had been parish clerk of St. Gregory's.
In those days a parish clerk was an official
of considerable importance in the civil and
church life of the people.

Crane had none of Melchior's brilliance
and as a controversial writer was overshadowed
by his rival. When he tried to retort some of
the other's jibes he was not very successful.
Perhaps his best hit was when he repeated
the jest about Honest Tom having ears as
long as an ass, for Melchior's name was
Thomas, and he had taken over Thomas
Crane's role of critical listener. But for the

most part Edward Crane states his 203
case fairly and temperately.

Melchior is the leading man of the piece. He presents a very attractive figure. A witty and well-read man he threw himself into the fight with gusto and dealt his slashing blows right and left. But there was no venom in his attacks. He calls his opponents false malicious brethren and refers to their "base scurrilous and scandalous calumnies;" but the point is that he does look on them as brethren. He baniers Tom Crane for swearing what he knew nothing about and he ridicules his brother's feat - "it must be called Ned Crane's Triples and not Hedman's," but there is no malice in it all. Only once

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When he seems rather chagrined
by the success of the Coslany feat and
irritated by the suggestion that he was
at the bottom of the street row, does he
show any trace of really bad feeling, and
even then he recovers before he gets to the
end of his letter. He is eager to discuss
the question of Hedman Composition with
his opponent, and though he prefers a
public debate at which he is most fitted
to shine he will meet him in private.

Thomas Shelcher was a clever man
and had taken pains to study Composition
as it was known in his time, but he
cannot be ranked among the great

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Composers. He was not of the same Calibre as John Garthorn, nor for that matter was Edward Crane. Both of them no doubt did not see any reason why they should not carry on the older man's work and be as successful as he had been, but they lacked the necessary qualifications; and nearly a Century had to pass before the problem they tackled so confidently was really solved.

The breach was healed and the reunited Society of Norwich Scholars became stronger than ever. In 1736 the ring at St Peter's Mancroft was increased to ten and the bells rehung or overhauled

and other alterations made.

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Visitors to Mancroft will remember that one of the most striking features of that noble Church is the tower arch and the great west window beyond, with the stone gallery which serves as the present ringing floor and from which also the earlier peals were rung. Arew in his Churches had set the fashion of having a western gallery to contain the organ and choir, and this fashion was copied in many Churches which were really not suitable for it. A gallery was put up at St. Peter's hiding the tower arch and the west window, and after that no great harm was done by putting

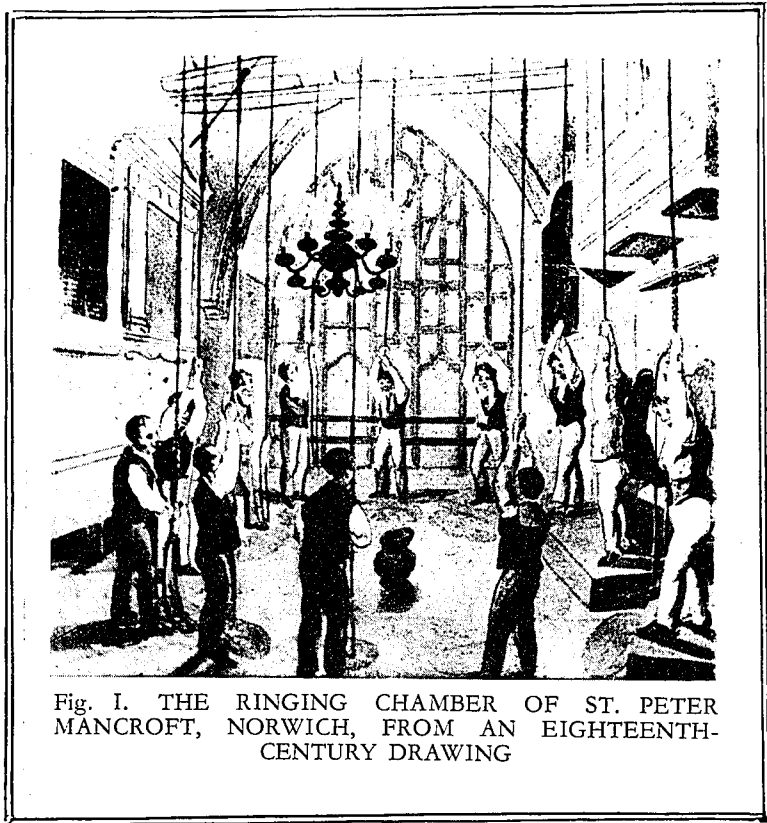


Fig. I. THE RINGING CHAMBER OF ST. PETER
MANCROFT, NORWICH, FROM AN EIGHTEENTH-
CENTURY DRAWING

in a new floor half way between 207
the stone gallery and the bell chamber.

The object was the convenience of the ringers,
for the draught of rope in the old belfry
was a long one. ⁽¹¹⁹⁾

In 1737 on this new floor was rung a
remarkable peal. It was one of Grandure
Caters, 12.600 Changes, in 8 hours and 15
minutes, and is thus described on the very
fine board which still records it -

On March the 8th 1737, was rung a peal
of Grandure Caters which for the excellency
of its ringing, Harmonious Changes, and
ye number of them, was certainly superior
to anything of its kind ever done in the
World, and to Remove all doubt of the

truth of the performance several ingenious Ringers were abroad the whole time with proper rules to prove the certainty of ye. game. Thus was this great feat perfectly completed to the entire satisfaction surprise and amazement of thousands of hearers in the space of 8 hours 15 minutes.

The number of changes were 12.600 rung by 9 men of the Company then belonging to the Company. The tenor singly by a young ringer 8.000, then a second ringer rang her to the end of the feat.

The persons names and the bells they rung as follows - Tho. Melcher, 1; Wm. Pellingall, 2; John Gardiner, 3; Tho. Barrett, 4; Robert Crane, 5; Wm. Porter, 6; Tho. Blotfield, 7;

Edwd. Crane, 8; Christi Pooty, 9; 209
James Jerom, Robt Liddamon, Tenor.

Of these men Pettingall, Edward Crane,
and Robert Crane had taken part in
the Costany peal of Hedman Triples;
Melchior, Gardiner, Porter, Blofield,
and Pooty had rung in the Mancroft
peal; and Thomas Barrett had rung
in the two peals of Grandine Triples at
St. Peter's in 1718 and 1719 and in the
ten-thousand at St. Michaels in 1727.

It was a band thoroughly representative
of the best of the ringers in the city.

Several good men had to be left out
and it is interesting to note those who
did not ring. John Foster had not

yet gone to Coddanham, but his 210
experience on the sixth at Mancroft had
probably convinced him that he would
not be able to stand a long peal. John
Webster seems to have been a man who
was just as interested and as keen about
a peal whether he was outside the band
or himself taking part. He had shown
in 1727 that he was quite capable of
standing in a long length, but now he
preferred to be one of the ingenious ringers
who were abroad the whole time with
proper rules to prove the certainty of the
performance.

Thomas Crane did not ring nor did
his friend Rice Green. He should not

211
like to think that Thomas had not
forgiven Melchior for his jibes. The true
reason was probably that Thomas was
not so good a ringer as his father or
his brother, and there was no room
for him in the band.

It is worth noticing that though the
board states that the tenor was rung
single handed by a young ringer for
8000 and afterwards by another man,
it stresses the fact that the changes
were rung by nine men of the Company.
The rather curiously worded statement
that they were then belonging to the
Company "may mean that these men
were the 'steeple company' of St. Peter's, and

if so that would account for their 212
selection, but in any case they were probably
the best band in Norwich.

The board gives the name of neither
the composer nor the conductor of the
peal, but we can hardly doubt that
the bells were called by Thomas Melchior,
and that it was his own composition.
He had long been the chief man at St.
Peter's and had fully vindicated his
right to be considered the leading
ringer in the city.

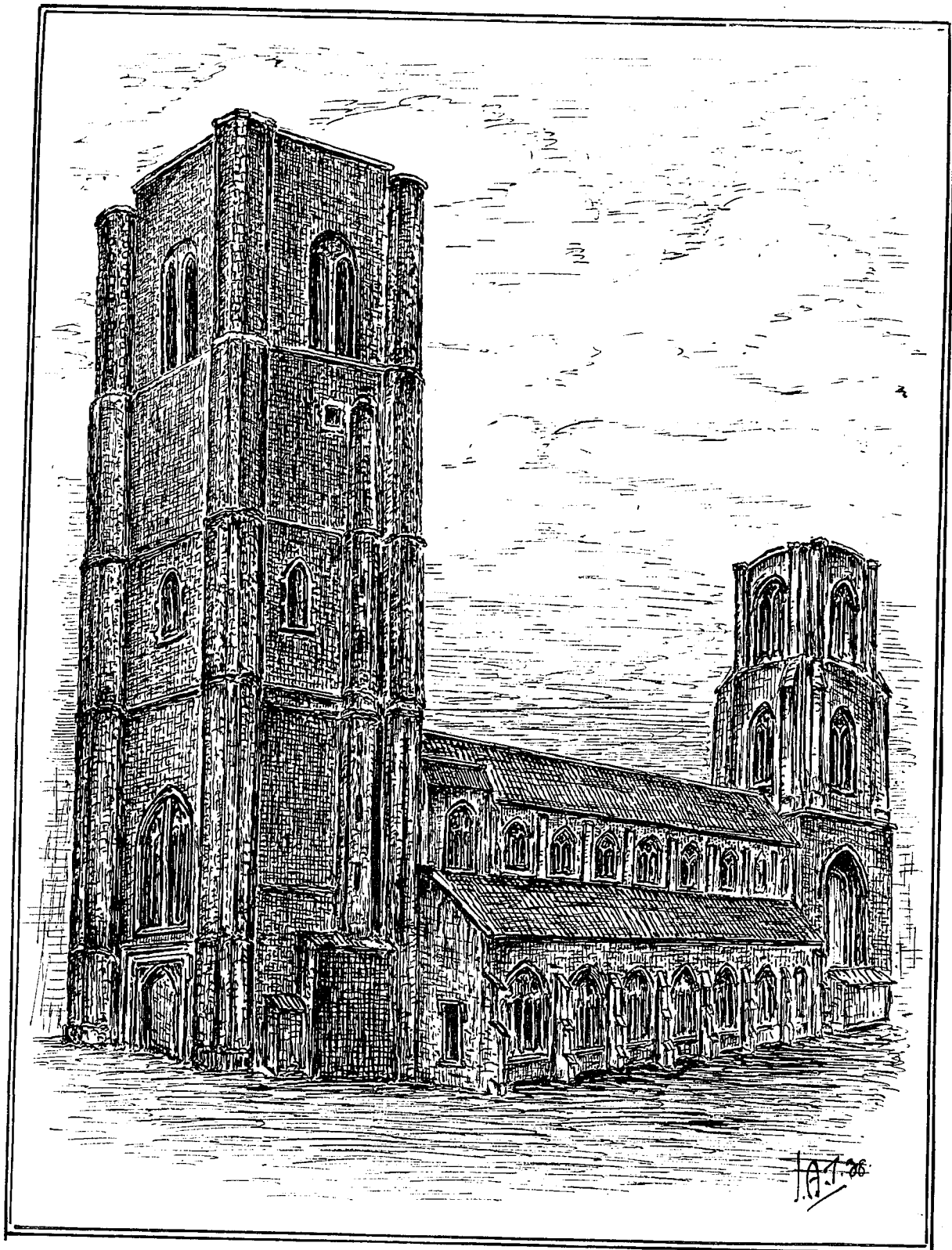
The figures of the peal are lost and we
can only guess at its nature; but since
it consisted of 700 leads we may conclude
that it was in regular parts, and was

Constructed with hunts, the big 213
bells coming home at regular intervals.
Arncliffe had already introduced the
titulum position into Cates ringing, but
the Norwich men had their own ideas
of composition. John Garthorn's influence
was very strong, and they would hardly
be likely to copy anything from the
London men, whom they did not consider
as in any way their superiors. And it
is at least doubtful whether they were
were in possession of the figures of the peals
rung in the metropolis. It is more likely
that they took the peal in the J.D. + C.M.
Campanalogia and improved on it. (120)

When we consider the early date 214
of this peal we shall recognise what a
really fine performance it was. Only
twenty-two years had elapsed since the
first true five-thousand of any sort had
been scored. But there is a difficulty
about the date. If the peal was rung
in 1737, as stated on the board, it was
the sixth performance of over ten-thousand
changes, and the first of over twelve thousand.
But if, as is more likely, the year in
new style was 1738, then Skanwaring's
15.120 of Bob Major had been rung three
months earlier at West Ham, and
nearly twelve months earlier the Painswick

men had rung 12006 Changes of
Grandsire Caters. It is not likely that any
of these bands knew at the time of the others'
performances.

The Mancroft peal remained the longest
on ten bells for a hundred and fifty years
until on April 11th 1888, a band belonging
to the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which included
J. E. Robinson, at the fifth, and James H.
Washbrook at the ninth as Composer and
Conductor, rang at St. Laurence's Appleton,
13,265 Changes in the same method. In
the meanwhile the Gainswick men had
rung 12,312 Changes in 1817, and the St.
James's Society 12,096 Changes at Fulham
in 1837. These Caters performances were all
single handed.



WYMONDHAM.

Hedman continued to be practised at Norwich and the Norwich Scholars were the first to extend the method to nine bells and afterwards to eleven, but it was not until nearly a Century later that the next feat in the method was rung in the city. In 1839 Samuel Thurston called a peal of Triples the composition of Isaac J. B. Latis at S. Giles. ⁽¹²¹⁾

The Norwich Scholars were the foremost society in the Eastern Counties, but the art had taken root very early in the district, and all over Norfolk and Suffolk there were good bands in five and six bell steeples as well as in eight bell towers. In 1728 the Yarmouth men rang

"the whole peal called Grandson

217

Trebles being the Compleat number upon seven
bells" ⁽¹²²⁾ and in 1731 the Styloham ⁽¹⁴¹⁾ Company

claimed to have done the same thing; but

Thomas Melchior in the middle of his dispute

with Edward Crane found time to take

leave to fill them "that we do not believe

that they rung 5040 Changes at once

pulling down any more than they believe

that we have picked and rung Piedman's

Triples." ⁽¹²³⁾ It was not always easy for the

great men of the Norwich Scholars and

the College Youths to admit that there

might be bands in the village belfries

who could ring as well as they could.

Garboldisham ⁽²¹⁴⁾ is a village some miles

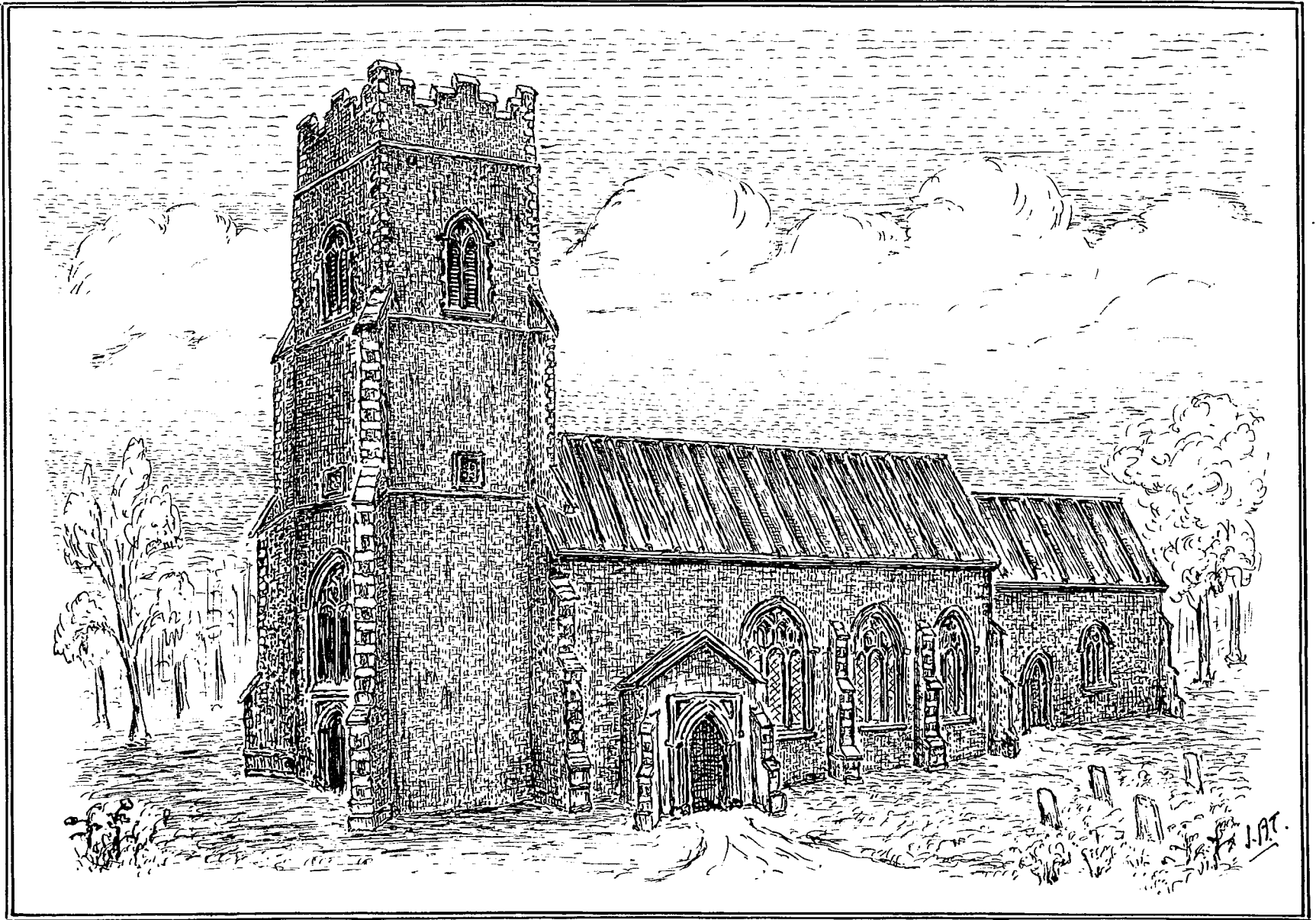
to the south of Norwich, and the 218
Company there considered themselves the
equals of any in the Eastern Counties.
On January 27th 1732 they inserted in
the Norwich Gazette an advertisement
in which they issued a challenge to any
Band in Norfolk or Suffolk to ring the
best of ten several peals. The wager was
for five or ten guineas and it was to be
accepted within three months. ⁽¹²⁴⁾

The Norwich Scholars could hardly
let a public challenge like that go
unnoticed and on March 17th five of them
published an acceptance in the Gazette.
"and pursuant thereto we desire them

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to meet us at the Red Lion in
Bunhill ⁽¹⁴²⁾ on Monday the 2nd of April
next ensuing at 10 a clock in the fore
noon and bring them Ten Seals picked
at length with them; there is article
and put down the money and ring for
it the same day " ⁽¹²⁵⁾

This is signed by Robert Crane, John
Harvey, William Callow, Edward Crane,
and John Helstier. Three of them had
sung in the St. Michael's choir of Stedman
and one, John Helstier, had been Melchior's
staunch supporter. It shows that the
dispute of 1731 for all its civility had
not caused any really bitter feeling.
Callow the fifth man had been one of



ST MICHAELS , BUNWELL.

Triples of 1718.

The Norwich men seem to have been pretty confident of their superiority. For they allowed the others to choose the methods to be sung and did not know what they would be until the day of the match; and their confidence was justified for they won the match. "Both sides performed to admiration", but the local men made a blunder in the ninth pie-score. The writer in the Gazette notes with approval that "what redounds to their credit was the treating each other with the utmost civility." (126)

After the long peal of Grandine Caters

we hear no more of Thomas Shelchior. ²²¹

He was then in the prime of his life and no doubt lived for many years to enjoy

his position as the most important man

among the Norwich ringers. But the

Norwich Scholars were not like the

College youths. They did not look upon

peal ringing as a normal thing. When

they did ring peals it was for some very

special reason - the first in the method

or the longest ever rung - and so Shelchior's

number was only five; but as they included

the first peals of Grand sire and Lidman

Triples and the first of ten thousand

Changes ever rung, and the longest on

ten bells for a century and a half, 222
and as he probably called them all, the
record is a fine one. Thomas Shelchior's
position among the great ringers of the
past is safe.

Edward Crane was a younger man.
Though he belonged to the "steeple Company"
at St. Peter's, and though he had his own
belfry of St. Gregory's ⁽¹²⁸⁾ he seems to have
retained his control of St. Michaels. There
William Porter's extension of Court B.B.
Minor to eight bells was practised, and ⁽²⁴⁹⁾
there Crane called the first peal of it
on March 9th 1741. ⁽¹²⁹⁾ He repeated the
performance in the same tower on November 1

1746. Court Po Major was a popular and much practised method in the City for a hundred years, but it was not until the end of the eighteenth Century that it was called Stourch Court, and not until after Shipway's book had appeared that it received its full modern title of Double Stourch Court Po.

Edward Crane lived to enjoy a good reputation, ⁽¹³²⁾ both as a singer and a man. He died on Tuesday January 18th 1774, and was buried inside St. Gregory's Church where his father Robert, and his brother Thomas had already been interred, the former on July 22nd 1755, the latter on

June 20th 1766.

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Following these performances we have no account of any peals rung in Norwich for some years, but it is reasonable to suppose that some were attempted and probably some peared; for there were many excellent ringers in the city in addition to the Company at St. Peter's. The next peal was in 1752 and was of more than usual interest.

Before the middle of the year 1751, John Hall had composed the Original, and on July 7th he had called it at St. Margaret's Westminster, sitting in the steeple and conducting from the manuscript. Theodore Eccleston sent or took the figures

down to his home in Suffolk,

225

and on January 31st 1752, at Stonham

Aspal William Walker called the peal

like Holt from the manuscript, because,

as the Ipswich Journal stated, it was

"thought impracticable for a man to ring

one of the bells, and call the bobs at the

same time, the peal being so intricate."

Soon afterwards the Norwich men received

the peal and heard the general opinion

among ringers that "no man could ring

a bell and call the bobs." But there

was one man in the City, William Discow,

who thought otherwise. He learnt the

composition, got ~~at~~ a band together,

and on August 22nd 1752, called
 it at S. Michael's, Goslany. Two months
 later on October 22nd he repeated the
 performance at S. Giles', the first peal
 so far as we know on those bells. The
 newspaper report specifically states that
 the peal was rung "without a prompt",
 which means that Discon did not use
 any visible aids to memory.

The band at S. Giles' was - William
 Discon, John Gardiner, Thomas Hart,
 Charles Jarvis, Samuel Shelver, Robert
 Dyke, Charles Harth, and Frederick
 Whitfield. (133)

of these men. John Gardiner had rung
 in the Hedman Triples and the Long peal

of Grandmire Caliers at Mancroft; 227
The others belonged to a younger generation
and some of them may have been among
the "youths" who rang a peal of Double
Norwich Court: Rob Major at Colerany
on March 26th 1754. (251)

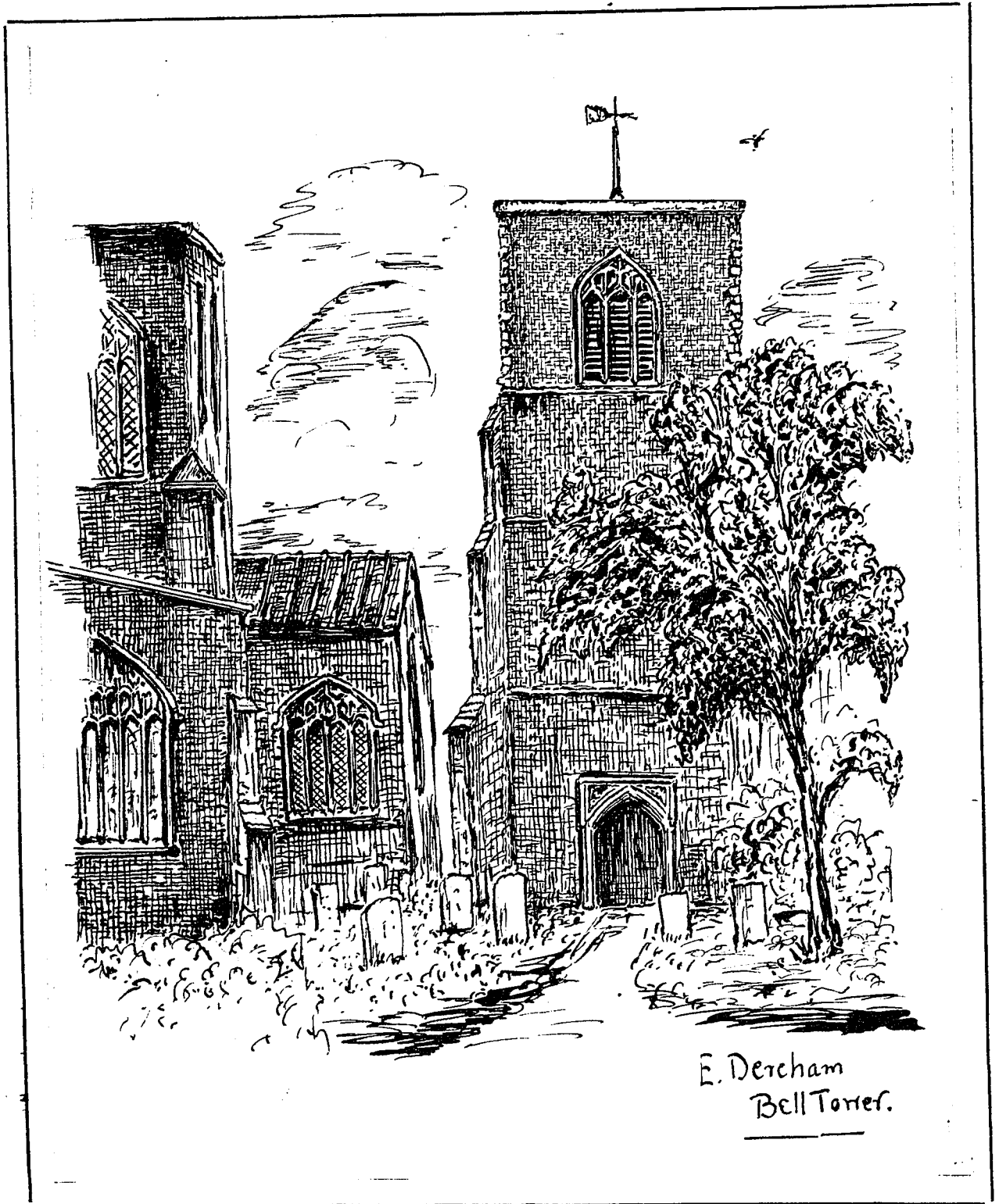
Though the Norwich men rang the
Original they did not take any interest
in the publication of Hollis' other peals.
As we have seen, Dr. Charles Mason
in his endeavours to obtain subscriptions
to the Broadsheet, wrote to John Webster
as the most influential ringer in the
City and received a courteous but
decided refusal. (134) Webster went on to say

"Give me leave to observe to you that it is almost twenty years since that I sent to the Revd. Mr. Hindhall the whole seal of ten with two inferior changes only, fully explaining by an infallible rule how to make any proper seal on all numbers that go with a quick hunt."

Twenty years since would take us back almost to the time of the Hedman Controversy, and here we may have an indication of the keen interest that was taken by Norwich men at that time in composition, and evidence that they were corresponding on the subject with leading men in other parts of the

Country. Perhaps we may take 229
John Webster's letter to Mason as meaning
that the Norwich men considered that
they knew all they needed to know about
composition, that they could compose their
own peals and were not interested in the
work of people outside their city. We
should like to have had Webster's
"infallible rule" for producing exponents
on all numbers of bells. It might have
thrown light on the composition of Garthorn's
Pob Triples and the Long peal of Treble
Pob rung in 1727. But Mason who
preserved the figures of Garthorn's and Vickers
Grandire Triples did not preserve this.

(144)
William Kindler, Webster's correspondent
was a Suffolk man, the son of a grazier of
Hadleigh. He was admitted as sizar
to Caius College in the year 1724 at the
age of 17. He graduated B.A. in 1728 and
took orders being at one time curate of
Willingham in Cambridgeshire. He was
a man of considerable intellectual capacity
and published a book entitled *An Enquiry*
into the Immateriality of Thinking Substance (189)
Such a man was likely to be attracted
by the scientific side of ringing and
he probably gave a good deal of thought
to composition as his name appears



E. Dereham
Bell Tower.

among the subscribers to Hollo's 231
Broadsheet. ⁽¹³⁵⁾

Although William Deacon had made himself famous by calling the Original it was another man who succeeded Edward Crane as the leading Norwich Conductor, and it was under John Chamberlain that the Norwich Scholars had one of their most active periods of peal ringing. He probably called the 5040 of Double Norwich at S. Miles' in March 1754, but the first definite notice we have of him was when a band of the Norwich Scholars went to East Dereham and rang 5040 Changes of Bob Major on

the ring of eight bells which Lester 232
and Jack had recently hung in the
detached bell tower of the parish church. (143)
Chamberlain rang the pebble and called
the bobs and he and his party were
evidently young ringers who did not
belong to the Mancroft steeple company.
for the newspaper report states that they
were "inferior to a company left in the
city." (180) The other ringers were - Geoffrey
Brady, Charles Gibson, Thomas Barton,
Robert Dyke, George Batley, William
Drewry, and Samuel Sewell. Dyke had
rung in Discon's peal of Grand sire; Barton
was in after years one of the foremost of the

Notwich Scholars and the
 Composer and Conductor of the first peal
 of Mascimus on Mancroft Twelve.

A Company of ringers was formed at
 East Dereham who succeeded in ringing
 a peal of Bob Major in 1756 and two
 years later another on the recently
 augmented ring at the neighbouring
 village of North Elmham. Dereham continued
 to have a good band until the middle
 of the nineteenth century. At Fakenham,
 too, there was a Company who were able
 to ring a peal of Bob Major in 1754, and
 who evidently looked on the Dereham
 men, twelve miles away, as their natural

rivals. "That Learned and opinionated
Company", the others sarcastically called them. 234

At the same time in the southern part
of the County there was activity, and in 1756
within a month peals of B♭ Major were rung
at Kemninghall and Diss. ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ The result no doubt
of a rivalry between the two bands though
one man Robert Eaton rang in and conducted
both performances.

Further down the Traveney Valley but on
the Suffolk side of the border at St. Mary, Bungay
a peal of Grandire Triples had been rung as
early as January 21 1732, and an advertisement
in the Norwich Gazette stated that it was
rung by the Bungay youths who have
practised not full two years at the first time

of their pulling down for it "...."
 within the space of three hours by several
 gentlemen's watches which we take to be a
 shorter time than it has been rung in
 before." (137)

John Chamberlain called the first peal
 on Elmham Bells one of Double Norwich
 rung by the Norwich Scholars on January 15th
 1758, and about this time they began to
 practise Imperial the Third. This was a
 method which was ultimately derived
 from Hedman's Campanalogia. Hedman
 gave Imperial P.D. which is the same as
 Norfolk Surprise with seconds and
 sevenths added. (139) The amount of Continuous

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dodging was excessive and it is
doubtful if the method was ever practised
to any extent. Somebody tried to improve
it, but his figures which were known as
Imperial the Second are lost. A further
improvement by the Norwich men gave
a method which became popular with
the more advanced bands in the Eastern
Counties. It differed from the original
variation by having the internal places
at the cross sections omitted, the result
being a method difficult to ring but
with irregular lead-end and so with
the tenors widely parted 140

The first peal of this method was rung

at S. Giles' on November 27th 1760, ⁽¹⁹⁾ 237
₍₂₃₎

and had a tragic sequel. Since the ten
thousand of Treble Bob at S. Giles' in 1727

John Webster had not stood in any long
performances but he rang the sixth to

this peal of Imperial. The bells came

round and were ceased and immediately

Webster collapsed where he stood and

died of heart failure. He had never

been a leader among the Norwich

Scholars in the sense that Thomas Shelchior

and Edward Crane were leaders, but

for more than thirty years in many ways

he was the most influential member in the

city. He was respected and loved by all

and the Contemporary newspapers in 238
reporting his death speaks of him as "a
noted and ingenious singer, an honest
sober, and industrious man, respected
and esteemed by all his acquaintances"

It is no great compliment today to call
a man "honest" when the word means no
more to most people than that he has kept
his fingers out of his neighbours pockets;
but in the eighteenth century it meant
uprightness of character

A stone tablet to the memory of John
Webster was erected in St. Giles' steeple
near to the place where the parish rope
then hung for all that time the ropes
did not hang in regular order. This

tablet reads -

239

Near to this place John Webster fell
Beloved by all who knew him well
The most ingenious noted singer
St Giles' sixth bell round did bring her
He closed the peal struck well his bell
Ceasing the game, down dead he fell.

He died, November 27th 1760.

Like the lines written by William Scott on
the peal of Steadman at Mancroft this
verse has no claims to be called poetry
but it has a quality which makes it
stick in the memory, and it has served
to keep John Webster's name alive for two
hundred years.

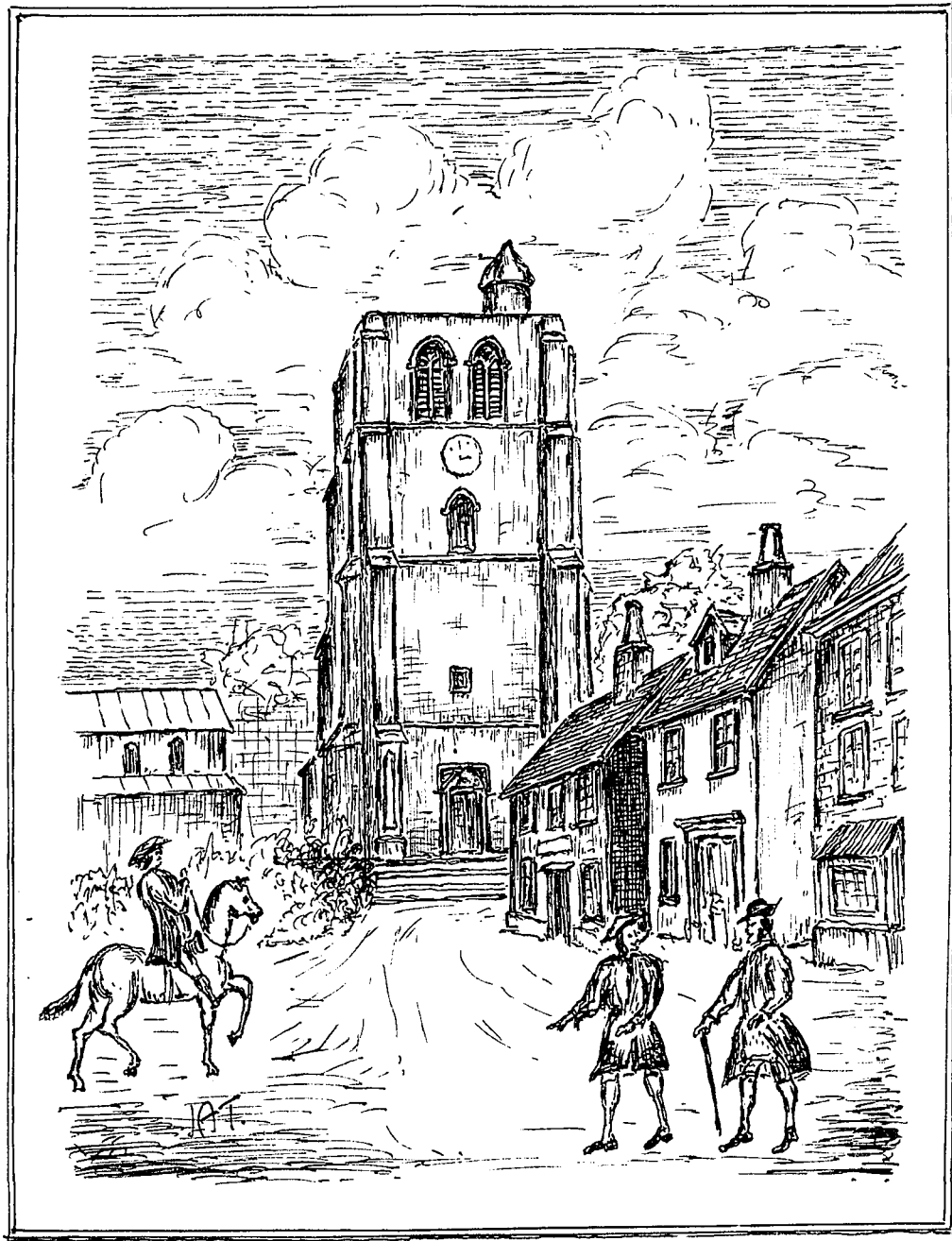
In 1761 the band which practised at
Redenhall ⁽²⁸⁾ and the neighbouring tower

of Alburgh rang in the latter 240
steeple 5040 Changes of Double Bob Major.
It was the first peal in the method in
Norfolk, for Double Bob, although so popular
with the College Youths and in London,
never appealed to the Norwich Scholars,
and indeed throughout their history they
never achieved a peal of it.

About four miles to the west of Norwich,
just off the Dereham Road, is the village
of Costessey, (151) where there is a ring of five
bells; and in the eighteenth Century there
was a good band of ringers who rang
most of the six-scores given in Steadman's
and Doleman's Campanalogias. (149) A board

in the bellry gives the names of 241
"twenty two peals rung of this Company
many a time without setting up the bells.
The date June 4th 1766 is given and the
names of the ringers in due order, but
no definite claim is made that five-
thousand changes were rung at one time;
and probably the board is a record of
ringing spread over several months. It
was quite the usual thing that each man
should have his own bell and stick to
it.

On May 24th 1763 the Norwich Scholars
opened the new ring of ten bells which
Lester and Pack had supplied to Peckes

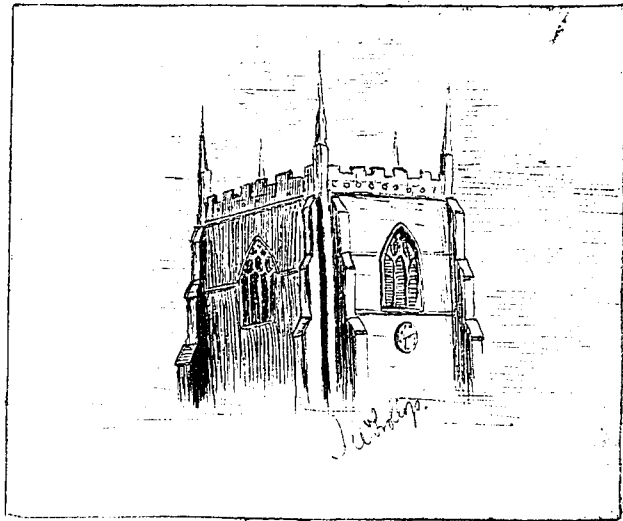


BECCLES.

Although the steeple is a large 242
one the bells were so hung that the ropes
fell out of due order, and the same thing
happened at Halesworth and at two of
the Norwich churches, St. Giles and St.
Andrews. Thomas Barton called the first
peal at Halesworth in 1771 one of Plain
Bob Major, with a band from Norwich
and Redenhall; and rather less than
three months later the Local Company
rang another in the same method. (255) (256)

The fine church of St. Margaret's Lynn
had a ring of eight bells as early as
1663 (153), and on them in 1740 the Local men
rang John Cartton's peal of Grandeur

3
Triples. The bells
were recast in 1766
by Lester and Tack
who at the same
time supplied a



ring of eight to S. Nicholas' the Chapel of
ease to the parish church. On November

30th a band of the Norwich Scholars

with John Chamberlain as Conductor

rang in the latter steeple 5040 Changes

of Bob Major. The local band rang

5040 Changes of Plain Bob in 1770 and

6000 Changes of the same method in 1796.

The ring at S. Mary's, Delnetham was
cast at Whitechapel in 1761, and on Nov. 16th

1767 a little more than a twelvemonth ²⁴⁴
after their first peal, the local men rang
10,080 changes of Bob Major. They were very
proud of their performance, and not without
reason. After the fashion of the times, they
loudly proclaimed it as the greatest peal
ever rung in England, ⁽¹⁵⁵⁾ and especially as
superior to anything that the Norwich men
had done. The latter took up the challenge
and to show that they were not to be beaten
on November 14th 1768 they rang at St.
Michael's 10,192 changes or a course more
than the Delvenham peal.

The times of the two performances if they
were correctly reported are interesting.

The Debenham peal with a tenor 245
tenor took six hours and one minute,
which is at the rate of 27.92 changes a
minute and much faster than the average
peal on the bells; the Goslany peal with a
tenor of $14\frac{1}{2}$ cut took six hours and three
quarters, which is at the rate of 22.88
changes a minute and much slower than
the average peal on the bells. (156)

John Chamberlain called the peal at
St. Michaels, and the other bells were rung
by John Peate, John Havers, John Discow,
James Watling, Simon, Watling, John Dye
and James Vines.

These men belonged to one of the best

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bands that Norwich ever had, and
on April 1769 they accomplished a notable
performance by ringing the first peal of
Double Norwich Court Bob Royal. For just
on forty years J. Peter Mancroft had a
ring of ten bells and during the whole of
that time only two peals, so far as we know,
were rung in the steeple. They were the long
peal of Grandine Calers in 1737, and this
peal of Court Bob Royal in 1769. When we
seek for the explanation of this rather
strange silence (strange because the Norwich
Scholars claimed to be the best ringers in
England, and Mancroft was the principal
belfry in the city) we shall find it, I think

in the system of steeple Companies 247
under which the Norwich ringers were
organized. The Mancroft Band was the
leading company in the city and enjoyed
by far the greater part of the paid ringing.
When a vacancy occurred it was filled
up from one of the lesser companies, and
once a man was elected he remained a
member for life. The tendency therefore
was for the band to consist almost entirely
of senior men who were excellent ringers
but who had ceased to have any ambitions
in the way of peal ringing. That they left
to the younger men, - they had already
had their day. But at the same time

they seemed to have kept the ringing 248
at St. Peter's in their own hands and were
not willing to allow the younger men the
use of the tower for peal ringing. There
were St. Giles and St. Miles for them; and
St. Andrews too if they could ring them to
a peal. It was this spirit more than
anything else which resulted in so few
peals being rung in olden times in
Shancrey's tower and which makes the
records of the Norwich Scholars look
so meagre when compared with those
of the College Youths. Later on in the
next century we shall find that ^{during} the
whole time that Samuel Thurston was

their energetic leader, a time when they²⁴⁹
rang several notable eight bell peals, they
did not succeed in ringing one on the
twelve bells (157)

William Forster had extended Double
Norwich to ten bells as far back as 1751, and
it had been regularly practised since that
time. It may be that peal attempts had
been made for the account in *The Norfolk
Chronicle* is ambiguous (158); but at any rate
no true peal had been rung in the method
before 1769. In 1765 James Parkman and
his band rang 6720 Changes of Count Bob
ten-in and it has been suggested that this
anticipated the Norwich peal by four years.
Both peals were stiled simply Count Bob
but there can be no doubt that one was

Double Norwich Court Bds, and the 250
other Double London Court Bds (160)

William Toller has usually been given the
credit of extending the original Court Bds

Minor first to eight bells and then to ten

but it is perhaps doubtful if he made more than

the second extension. The honour of having

composed Double Norwich Court Bds Major

much more likely belongs to Edward Crane (249)

The band at Mancroft in 1769 was - John

Chamberlain, who called the bells, John

Teake, Thomas Parion, Robert Dyke, John

Havers, Charles Jarvis, John Denson, James

Walling, Simon Watling, and John Dye.

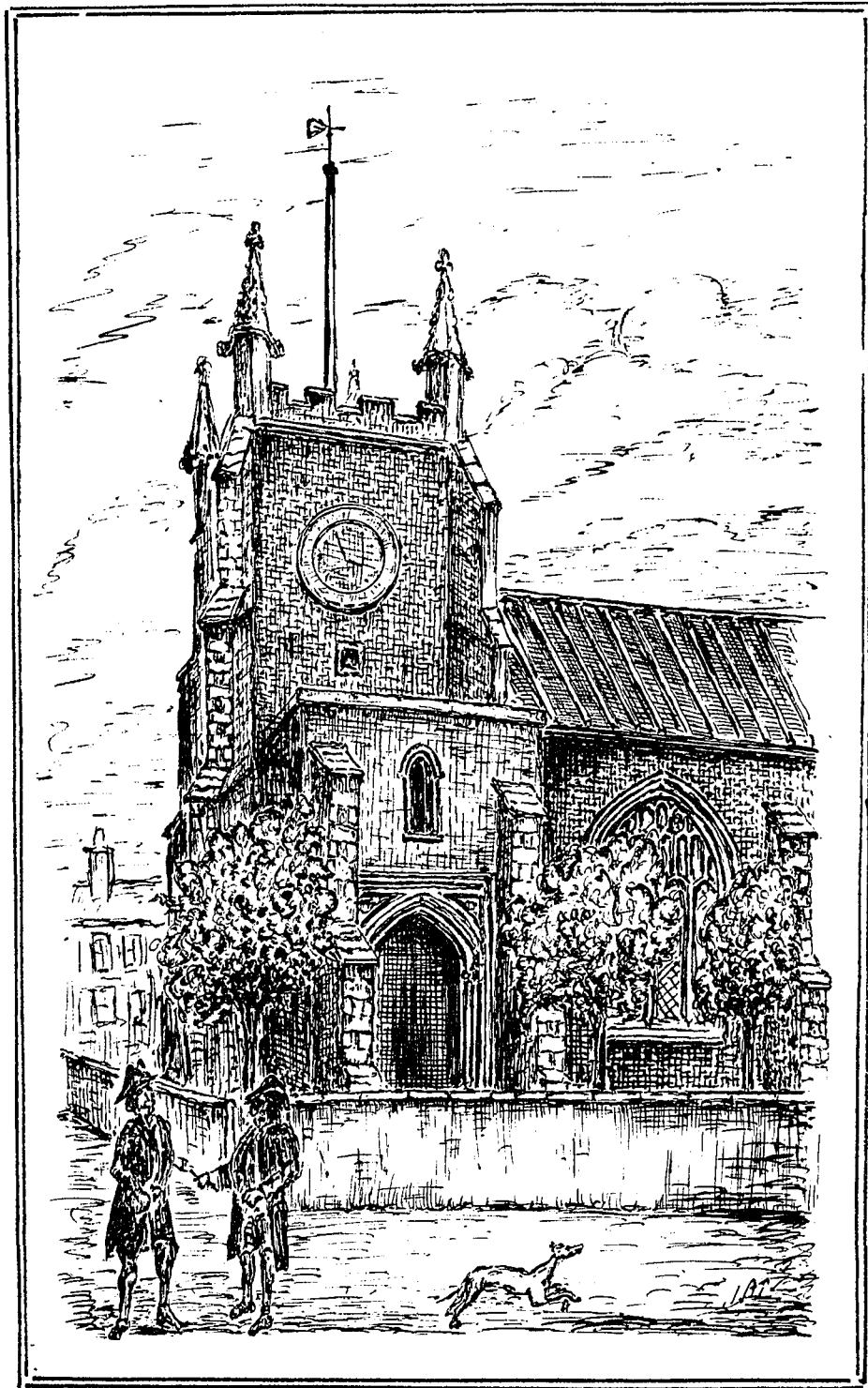
In ^{1761?} 1691 Chamberlain conducted 6720

changes of Double Norwich at St. Michael.

Costany, a feat which remained 251
the record length in the method until 1882;
and almost exactly a year later in the
same power 6048 changes of Imperial the
Third, a feat which was never afterwards
beaten. ⁽¹⁶¹⁾ ⁽¹⁶²⁾

Nearly all the men who stood in these
feats had taken part in the Court 1300
Royal, but there are two new names - James
Vines ⁽¹⁶²⁾ and John Truose - which in after
years were prominent among Norwich
ringers.

Thomas Barton did not ring in either
six-thousand. There are signs that he
was trying to push his claims as Composer
and Conductor in opposition to Chamberlain



ST MICHAEL-AT-PLEA, - NORWICH.

and (as we have seen) it was he who 252
conducted the opening peal at Halesworth
rung between the Costany performances by
a band made up not wholly from Norwich.

The Norwich Scholars were now at the
height of their fame and received invitations
from places in the Country to ring the bells
and open new peals. In 1771 Chamberlain
took a band to West Norfolk and the Fens.

On June 23rd they rang 5040 Changes
of Bob Major at Downham, the first peal
on the bells, (250) and the next day went on
to Wisbech and repeated the performance,
(170) also the first in the steeple. Chamberlain,
as was his wont, called from the bell
and the other bells were rung by John

Keepers, John Discow, James Watling, 253
Simon Watling, John Dye, John Trowse,
and James Vines. The band then went
to Holbeck and opened a new ring of
eight but they did not ring a peal there.

In the next year, 1772. Thomas Barton
took a band to Hemminghall and Diss
and on two successive days rang two
peals of Bob Major, each of 6240 Changes.
Nine men took part, all of them Norwich
men, but only one, John Trowse, had
rung in Chamberlain's peals. Barton
rang the pebble and called the bells at
both places; and the other ringers were -
John Dove, Thomas Hews, Thomas Kemp,
Joseph Lubbock, Samuel Harvey, William

Styion, ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾ and Francis Dack. Styion 254
rang the tenor at Kenninghall, and
probably had an exhausting task, for
he stood out of the peal at Diss, where
Francis Dack took the seventh rope, and
John Frouse, one of the best heavy bell
men that Norwich ever possessed, turned
in the tenor.

Later on in this year 1772 the Norwich
Scholars made an extensive tour in the
north of England, visiting the principal
towns and cities of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.
We have no details of their doings or of the
names of the men who took part for they
do not appear to have rung any peals
except one at Holbeach. Everywhere they

went " they were treated in the
 politest manner, and with the greatest
 respect being universally esteemed for
 their skill in the much admired art
 of Campanology." ⁽¹⁶⁵⁾ Among the places
 visited was York Minster and on the
 heavy ring of ten there (tenor 53 cwt) they
 rang a touch of Bob Royal. It was not
 until fifteen years later that the College
 Youths rang the first peal (Grandson
 Caters) on the bells. The Norwich men
 returned home on July 6th 1772.

John Chamberlain died on February 2nd
 1773, and on February 4th was buried at
 S. Gregory's where already lay the bodies of
 John Garthow, and Robert, Thomas, and

Edward Crane. He was described 256
as an "ingenious ringer, an honest and
industrious man, remarkable for his
extensive knowledge both in theory and
practice of the art of ringing." ⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ He had
left his mark on Norwich ringing, and
indirectly on the whole Exercise.

The citizens of Norwich took a great
interest in bell ringing and were proud
of their ringers, but they could hardly
boast about their bells. The three rings of
^{eight} were all rather light in weight and
were by many founders. The ten at St.
Peter's had a good reputation ⁽¹⁸⁴⁾ but could
not compare with some of the other rings
in the Eastern Counties. Peccles for instance

and East Dereham and Lynn.

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Civic pride demanded that not only should Mancroft bells be superior to those in these lesser towns and villages, but that they should challenge the supremacy of such famous rings as Bow in Cheapside, St. Saviour's Southwark and York Minster.

A scheme was therefore set on foot to instal a heavy ring of twelve new bells. The City Common Council gave fifty pounds, Sir Harbord Harbord, ⁽¹⁶⁸⁾ the Member of Parliament for the City gave another fifty pounds, ⁽¹⁶⁹⁾ Wenman Cooke, and Sir Edward Ashley the members for the County each gave thirty guineas, and the aldermen of the Mancroft Ward, the churchwardens, the ministers of the parish and other leading

Citizens subscribed in due order. 258

Altogether over twelve hundred pounds was raised ⁽¹⁷¹⁾ and an order was given to Pack and Chapman to supply the new bells. As I have already mentioned they were tuned under the direction of Mr Garland the organist according to a special design, ⁽¹⁷²⁾ and on Wednesday June 21st 1775 they were opened by a grand oration sung by the parish and Cathedral Chorus and attended by all the principal people of the city. ⁽²⁴³⁾

The bells at once took their place as the best ring in England, ⁽²⁴²⁾ and for many years were reckoned the pride of the city.

Two of the old bells were sold to S. Hanj's

Pringay and remained in that steeple until 1820; the others went to London and were broken up. But none of the old metal is in the present ring which was supposed to be cast from entirely new metal.

Five months after the bells were opened, on November 22nd the Norwich Scholars rang the first peal on them - 5170 Changes of Grandeur Cinques, and in the next year the Gazette announced that "we hear St Peter's bells will be rung three evenings in every week the ensuing season by the old steeple band who will entertain the Town with several complete Circumsonos particularly the much admired Oxford Campanatum, and the last new peal of

Nowich harmonies as composed by 260
Messrs. Dye, Lindsey, Vines, etc.

Chamberlain's death in 1773 had left Thomas Barton as the most experienced conductor in the city, but he did not at once succeed to the leadership at St. Peter's. Though he was one of the steeple company there. Chamberlain's party were in the majority and it was one of them, James Watling, who called the peal of Cinques. The others in the band besides Barton were John Peck, John Havers, William Warner, John Read, Christopher Lindsey, John Discon, Simon Watling, John Dye, James Vines, John Frouse and James Frouse.

Two men had to be put to the tenor.

261
for though Samuel Turner who
hung the bells was an excellent craftsman
and did his work well, the bell never
was an easy one to ring and indeed only
once was rung single handed to a peal
until modern times.

In 1776 Christopher Lindsey, John Read,
John Discow and John Peake visited London
and when there joined the Society of
Cumberland youths. They did not ring
a peal with the Londoners - so far as we
know they did not attempt one - but a
connection was made between the Norwich
ringers and those of the Metropolis which
was to have important and far reaching
results.

In the following year 1777 Thomas 262
Blakemore, Thomas Smith, and Robert
Shann, three leading members of the
Cumberlands' Society visited Norwich
and on May 24th they rang a peal
of Bob Major at St. Michael's Smith
called the Bobs and the band was made
up by James Walling, John Peake, Thomas
Skuril, James Vines, and John Hunt.
It was entered in the Cumberlands'
peal book as one of the society's performances. (232)

Later in the year the Norwich Scholars,
probably this time with a full band,
visited London and the whole company
were enrolled members of the Society
of Cumberland youths.

It was the time of the great rivalry between the Cumberlands and the junior College youths. The two societies were contending for the honour of ringing the longest lengths of Treble Bob Royal and Minimus, and in 1777 by their 11,080 of Royal at Threditch and 6000 of Minimus at Southwark, the College youths for the time held the double record. The Norwich Scholars, as we learn from the Gazette were practising Oxford Treble Bob Minimus and they determined to take a hand in the contest. So on Monday March 16th 1778 the same band that had rung the Grandfire Cinques in 1775, rang 6,240 changes of Minimus, and

thus gave the twelve bell record to
the Cumberlands.

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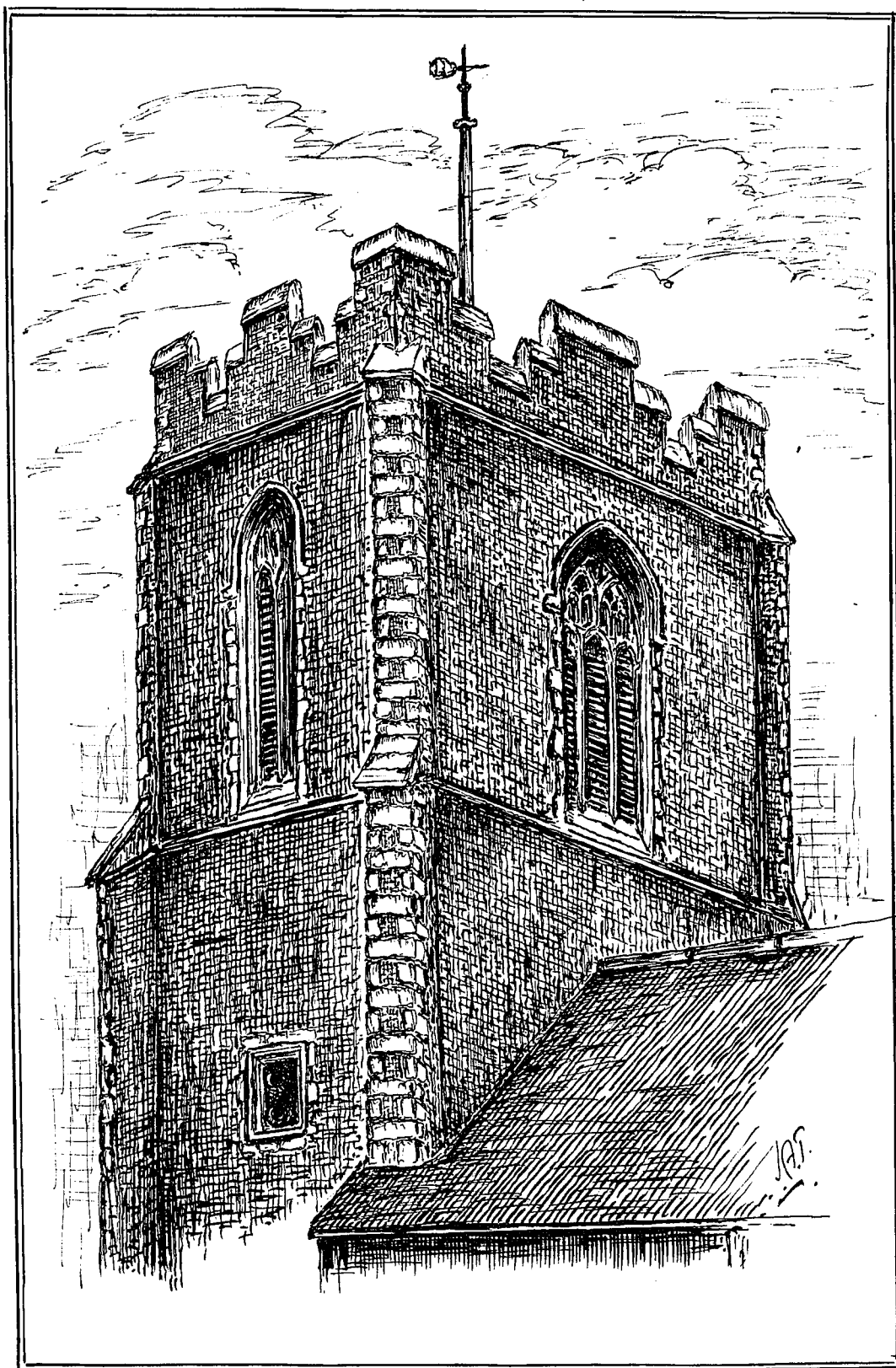
Thomas Parton was now the recognised
Conductor to the Company, and he rang
the Treble and called a five part peal
his own composition. ⁽¹⁷⁴⁾ Its ring it began
with a bob at Home and finished with
ten leads of the plain course. In the
nineteenth Century there grew up an idea
that there was something wrong in starting
a peal of Treble Bob with a bob at Home,
as if it were a deviation from the method
similar to the laying two bells still
at the go-off in Grandeur Caters. ⁽¹⁷⁵⁾ This
idea was at the bottom of Jasper Prowden's
comment on Parton's peal. "The object

of course was to obviate any fear 265
of a jumble out and to make the best
ringing in the last course, and when the
company is not a very able one, perhaps
there is no real ground for any objection
to such proceeding; but for my part I
should certainly prefer to risk the danger
of getting out rather than have recourse
to this measure. " (176)

In this comment Jasper Snowden
showed very much less than his usual
acumen. The Mancroft band can
hardly be said not to be a very able
one, and any company which cannot
ring the first leads of a peal of Mancroft
is not likely to be able to ring the last.

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In 1785 the "ancient" Society of
College Youths paid their famous visit
to Norwich, a visit which had such
important and far reaching results, for
it led to the break-up of the original
branch of the College Youths and also to
Hedman's Principle becoming one of the
most popular and widely practised of
methods. The full tale of this visit I shall
tell later in connection with the London
men. ⁽¹⁷⁷⁾ The chief result so far as the Norwich
Scholars were concerned was to cause a
deep feeling of resentment against the
London men whom they suspected of sharp
and dishonest conduct. Thomas Blakemore
was the man chiefly blamed. He had



ST PETER PER MOUNTERCATE , NORWICH .

as we have seen visited the City 267
in 1777 and had been treated hospitably
a thing which was not then so much a
matter of course as it would be now.

Blakemore had left the Cumberlands
and had joined the "ancient" Society of
College Youths where William Jones was
the most influential man. Jones was
collecting the material from which he
afterwards wrote the Clavis, and Blakemore
and John Reeves were assisting him. It
was largely to further the new book that
the 1785 visit to Norwich was arranged,
and part of the plan was that Blakemore
should stay behind after the other College

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Youths returned home, and gather
what material he could. It was a
perfectly legitimate plan, and probably
was carried out for the most part in a
legitimate manner. But the charge was
made against him that he made copies
of papers belonging to Christopher Lindsey,
with whom he was staying, without his
host's permission or knowledge, and that
these copies formed the basis of the Clavis.

It is certain that Plakemore did take
back with him material which was used
in compiling the Clavis, but there does not
seem to be anything among it which
he could not have obtained in a perfectly

fair and straightforward manner.

But the fact was that Lindsey and Barton were contemplating writing a book on ringing themselves; they objected to giving any help to one whom they could only regard as a rival; and they realised that the appearance of the Clavis had spoiled the chances of their own book.

Whether they ever would, or could, have written a book on ringing is perhaps doubtful. Both of them were skilful ringers and well versed in the science and art as then understood, but something more was needed to write a good book.

Christopher Lindsey is said to have been

THE NORWICH SCHOLARS.—Mor. — — — — —
MORE NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

Mr. Charles E. Borrett has sent us some more cuttings from 18th century Norwich newspapers which throw a good deal of contemporary light on the famous company of Norwich Scholars. The first four relate to early peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, the history of which was for long very dubious.

FROM 'THE NORWICH MERCURY.'

St. Michael's Coslany. Monday March 9th 1741 was rung by the Norwich Society 5040 changes of Court Bob all eight which was never done before, and was performed in 3 hours 13 minutes.

Saturday November 1st 1746 was rung at St. Michael's of Coslany by Edward Crane and seven Norwich Youths 5040 of that most curious Peal call'd Court Bob or all Eight in, in 3 hours and 17 minutes, without a bell out of course, being the second time that ever it was rung in this Kingdom.

On Tuesday March 26th 1754 was rung at St. Michael's Coslany by Eight Youths, a compleat 5040 of Court Bob, in 3 hours and 20 minutes. This is the first time of its being performed by Youths only.

On Monday January 5th 1756 was rung at St. Michael's Coslany 5040 Court Bobs Eight in; it was compleatly rung in 3 hours and 8 minutes without a bell out of course by us whose names are undermentioned. John Chamberlain rang the Treble and called the Bobs, Jeffrey Brady 2, John Dixon 3, Francis Lyth 4, John Keepus 5, John Vines 6, John Read 7, George Battley Tenor.

January 6th, 1775. St. Peter's ringers return thanks to those Gentlemen and Ladies who favoured them with Christmas donations, which liberal encouragement they shall endeavour to express a grateful sense of by continuing to ring such concerto's weekly (Composed by Signor Melchoir and others) as have hitherto given universal satisfaction.

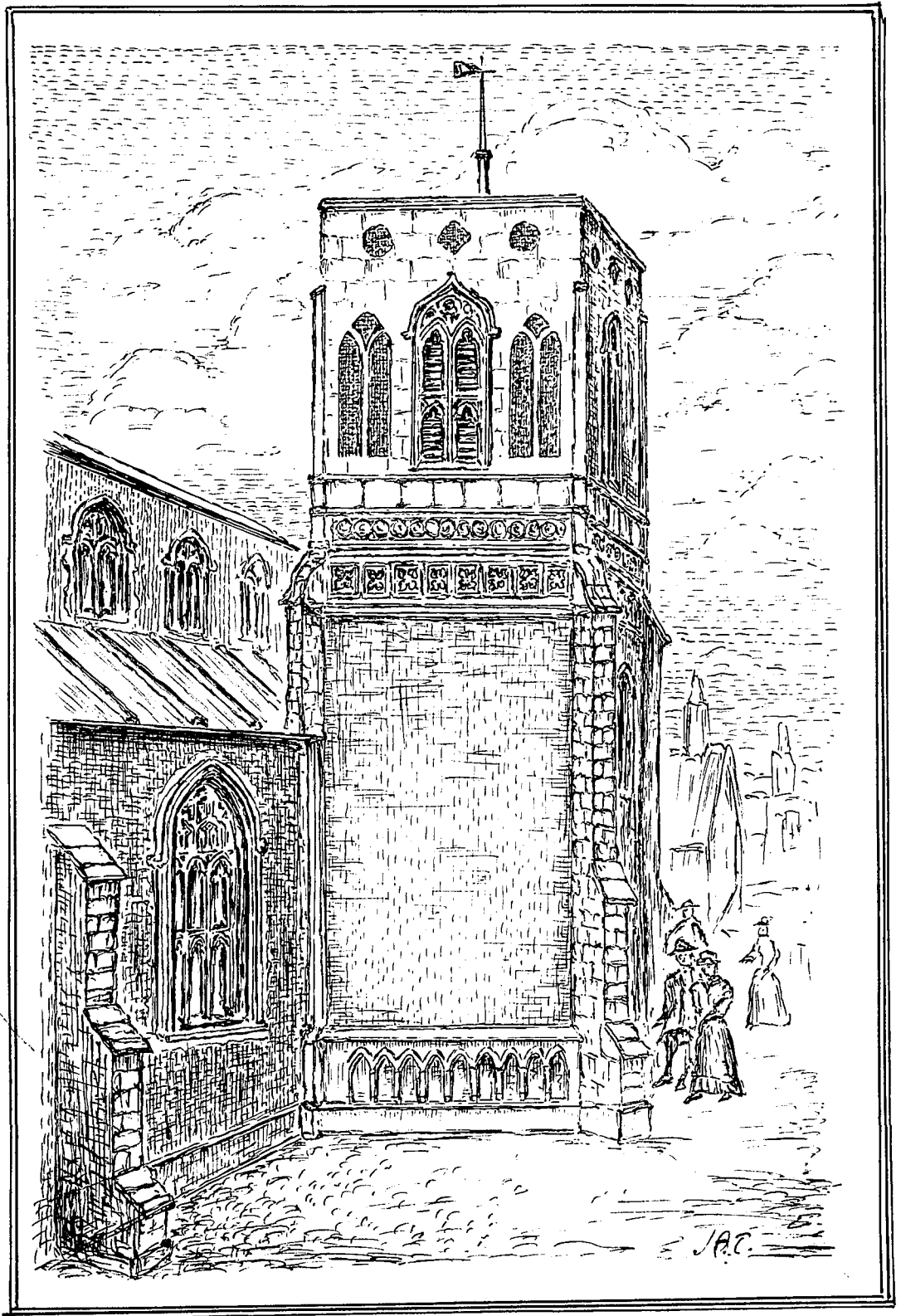
October 26th, 1776. We hear that St. Peter's bells will be rung three evenings in every week the ensuing season by the old steeple band, who will entertain the Town with several complete circumsons's, particularly the much admired Oxford Campanatum and the last new peal of Norwich harmonies as composed by Messrs. Dye, Lindsey, Vines, etc., etc.

Sheffield, Yorkshire. May 4th 1809 was rung at St. Peter's Church a fine peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal composed of 5400 harmonious changes which was nobly brought round in 3 hours 59 minutes on the grand new peal of ten bells cast by Messrs. Thomas Mears and Sons, Bellfounders, Whitechapel, London, in the deep key of C, weight of tenor 41 cwt. and 5 lbs. net bell. This society also rung on the same bells in the summer 1807 at various times 11177 changes in the intricate methods of Bob Royal, Stedmans Principle and Oxford Bob Royal to represent 11177 free holders who polled that year for Lord Milton at York.

July 23rd, 1814. We have it seems been accused of blundering in our paragraph last week concerning St. Peter's Bells. We should hardly have thought it necessary at this time of day to refer our readers to their musical dictionary to discover that pitch and temperament were two things. A confusion has hence arisen (not in our minds) and we are to say that the bells were tuned in the Key of C according to the temperament of E flat. Now we hope we may be better understood. This enables us to add that the bell was broken by the wear of a bolt, which occasioning the clapper to catch upon the frame, the bell thus fell with its whole weight upon the clapper in its rotation and burst its side.

St. Michael's, Coslany. On Monday November 19th 1792 was rung by a select company 1792 changes of that ingenious Peal call'd Norwich Court Bob, the masterly performance of which did great credit to the company and afforded much pleasure to those who understand and admire that art.

born in 1733, and by trade was a 270
woolsted weaver, weaving being the staple
industry of Norwich. The first we hear
of him as a ringer was when he took
part in the peal of Imperial the Third
at S. Giles in 1860, in which he rang
the third. He was not ^{of the} one ^{of the} men who
rang in Chamberlain's peals at S. Giles,
nor did he take part in the Double Norwich
Court For Royal; but he probably was one
of the Skancrope steeple company, and
he had some reputation as a Composer,
for the 6048 of Imperial which Chamberlain
called at Goslany in 1772 was his production.
He took part in the two peals on the new
twelve bells at S. Peters, - the Lingues of 1775



ST STEPHENS, NORWICH.

and the *Maschius* of 1778. But his 271
name does not appear in any other
performance. He died on Friday July 21
1820 and was buried in S. Stephen's
Churchyard. ⁽¹⁷⁸⁾

The peal of *Imperial* is the only one of
Lindsey's Compositions that is extant,
and it is not sufficient to enable us to
judge of his quality as a Composer. *Imperial*
is a very difficult method to Compose
a true peal in; and if we could be
reasonably sure that he had worked out
the possibilities of the method and understood
its liability to falseness, his peal would
stamp him as a man of more than usual
ability. But so many of the peals in older

times were produced by merely hit- 272
or-miss methods and often without
their composers realising the danger of
falseness; and we do not know whether
to call the men clever or only lucky.

Middleton's well-known feat of Cambridge
is an example, and it shares with Lindsey's
Imperial the feature that it is just one
of those arrangements of the bobs that a
man, who was merely experimenting,
would be likely to write down.

The three methods which the Londoners
got from Norwich were Piedman on the
higher numbers, Double Norwich Cant Bob
and Imperial the Third. Piedman Triples

and Calers were known, of course, at ²⁷³
least in theory from Hedman Doubles
but they do not appear to have been rung
outside Norwich until after 1785. In
the subsequent development of the method
the Norwich men took no part.

The Junior Society of Cumberland Youths
rang the first peal of Double Norwich Cant
Bob Major away from Norwich. It was
composed and conducted by George Gross
who had met the Norwich men on their
visit to London. The method continued
for many years to be popular among the
more advanced bands in the Eastern
Counties and as it was included in the
Clavis became generally known but it

did not rank as a standard 274
method until the closing years of the
nineteenth Century. On ten bells it has
never made good.

Imperial the Third was also printed
in the Clavis and afterwards by Shipway
but it was not taken up by ringers, and
after about 1780 was dropped even in
the city of its birth, the reason, as given
by Hubbard being that it has irregular
lead ends and so, wide parting of the
tenors. ⁽¹⁸¹⁾ One or two peals of it were rung
in the Eastern Counties outside Norwich
the last being at Loham on Feb 17th 1800.
The method is chiefly associated with
John Chamberlain and after his death the

Norwich men ceased to practise it. 275

From 1785 onwards the story of the Norwich Scholars belongs to a later part of our history and I shall have to deal with it in another chapter. Of Thomas Barton we hear no more, but he continued for many years to be one of the leading Norwich and he died on April 3rd 1821 and was buried in St. Giles' Churchyard. He was then a very old man; the newspaper at the time gave his age as 92. Which would mean that he rang his first peal when he was twenty-five. But when we remember that in older times much less importance was attached to birth Certificates

and that old people have (or had) 296
a natural tendency to exaggerate their
age. I think we may safely reduce the
figure by about five or six years, which
would make Barton and Lindsey almost
exactly contemporaries.

The entries in the accounts of the purse
club respecting Barton's final illness and
death are - (182)

Crown to T. Barton	£ 1-0-0
Barton's funeral	2.-0-0
Peasen	12.0
Beer	10.0
Bumbling the bells	2.0
Dr. S. Giles	1.0
Clerks	2.0.

THE FIRST PERFORMANCES OF HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

THE NORWICH RECORDS.

In our issue of December 21st it was stated that the first recorded performance of Holt's Original, in which the conductor rang one of the bells, was at Saffron Walden on Christmas Day, 1755. Last week Mr. T. E. Slater's correction of this was made. The peal had been rung twice before under the same conditions at Norwich. Mr. H. Cross now sends extracts from the 'Norwich Mercury' of the time, and suggests that the records at Saffron Walden and St. Giles'-the-Fields, and in the 'History of the Ancient Society of College Bells,' should be corrected.

The following is taken from the record now in St. Peter Mancroft Church, as copied from the 'Norwich Mercury' by Mr. Philip Sadler, Norwich:—

ST. MICHAEL'S COSLANY, NORWICH.

On Saturday, August 22nd, 1752, was rung at St. Michael's Coslany a compleat 5,040 of Mr. Holt's Tripples in three hours, without changes alike, or a bell out of course, it being the first time ever performed by eight men only, so intricate it was thought no man could ring a bell and call the bobs. It has been rung in London and at Stonham Aspall with prompts, but was rung by these men without a prompt.

The following is from the record now in St. Peter Mancroft Church, as copied from the 'Norwich Mercury' by Mr. Philip Sadler, Norwich:—

ST. GILES', NORWICH.

On Sunday, October 22nd, 1752, was rung at St. Giles' in the City of Norwich, 5,040 Grandsire Tripples, with only two doubles and no alterations. This true peal has been very lately found out by Mr. John Holt, of London. The bobs were called by William Dixon, the peal being so intricate the London Bell-ringers thought it impracticable for a man to ring one of the bells and call the bobs at the same time. The peal was compleatly rung in three hours and six minutes by the following persons: William Dixon treble, John Gardiner 2, Thomas Hart 3, Charles Jarvis 4, Samuel Shelver 5, Robert Dyke 6, Charles Horth 7, Fred. Whitfield tenor.

DEATH OF CHELMSFORD'S SUB-DEAN.

The Essex Association has lost an old and valued friend in Canon Wake, Sub-Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral since 1924, and who resided in Chelmsford for 34 years. He passed away on Monday, August 1st, 1958, at the age of 82, after a long illness, as a result of a severe attack of pneumonia. He was buried in the Essex

The
Bells in Norwich Churches.



The Bells in Norwich Churches.

The figures in brackets are the numbers of pre-reformation bells
 Clock bells and sanctus bells not counted

	1550	1700	1800	1938
Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity (4)	5	5	5	5
All Saints (2)	3	3	3	5
S. Andrew	6	6	8	10
S. Augustine		3	3	3
S. Bartholomew (6)	3		—	—
S. Benedict's		3	3	3
S. Christopher (6)		—	—	—
S. Clement (2)		3	3	3
S. Edmund		1	1	4
S. Ethelred (2)		1	1	4
S. George, Colegate (2)		3	3	3
S. George, Tombland (4)	5	5	5	5
S. Giles (3)		6	8	8

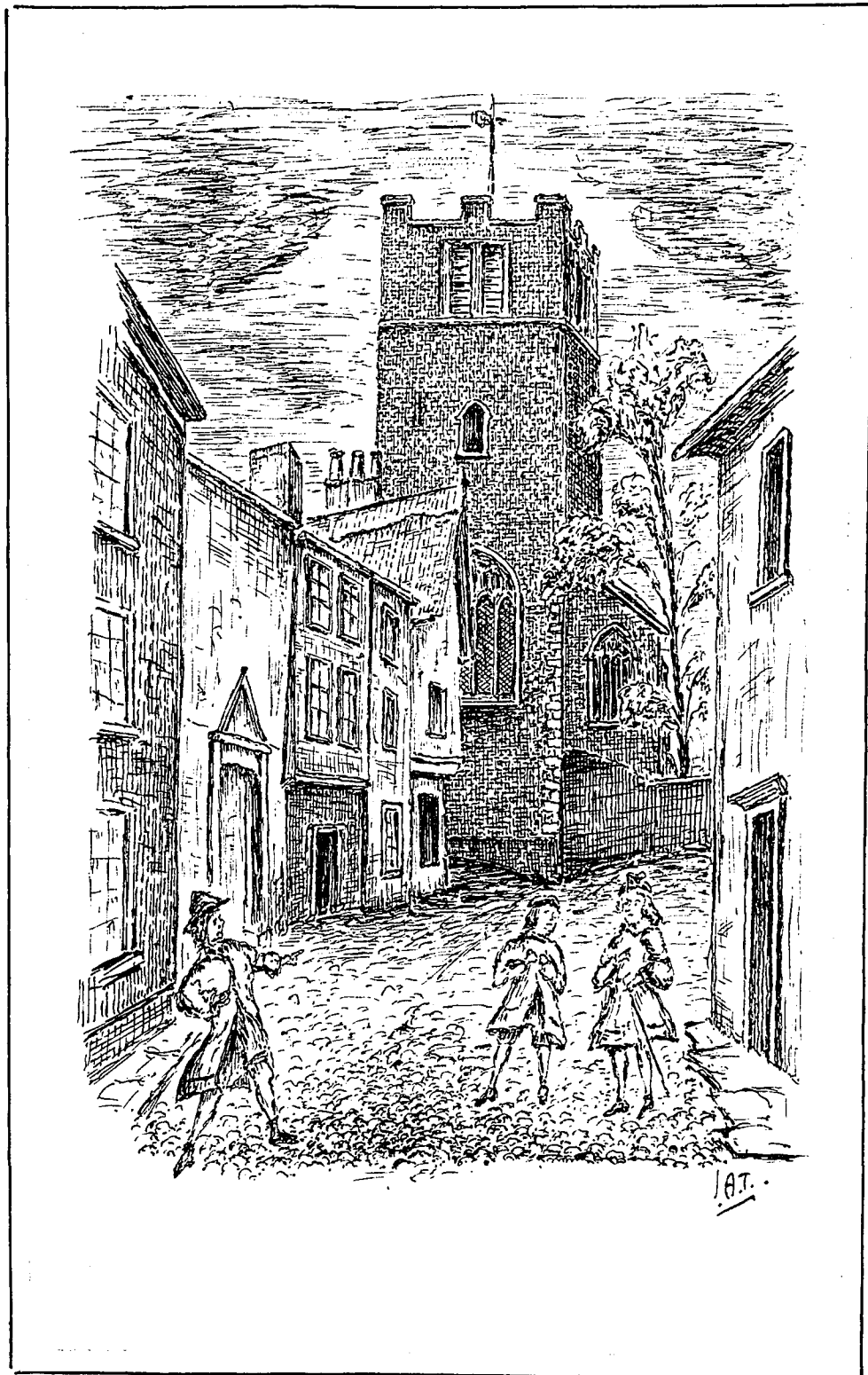
298.

	1550	1700	1800	1938
S. Gregory		5	5	6
S. Helen (c)	4		1	1
S. James		3	3	1
S. John, Naddermarket (185)		5	6	6
S. John, Sepulchre (1)		5	5	8
S. John, Timberhill (7)		5	1	1
S. Julian				1
S. Lawrence (2)			6	6
S. Margaret		5	5	4 (2)
S. Martin at Gate		3	3	3
S. Martin at Palace	4	5	1	1
S. Mary, Costany (2) (j)	4	6	6	—
S. Michael, Costany (3)		6	8	8
S. Mary, in the Marsh			—	— (e)

	1550	1700	1800	1938
St. Michael at Lea	5	5	1	1
St. Michael at Thon		3	3	1
St. Paul			3	1
St. Peter, Hungate (g)			3	1
St. Peter, Mancroft	5	8	12	12
St. Peter, Permountergate (2)	4		5	5
St. Peter, Southgate (b)		3	3	-
St. Saviour		3	1	1
St. Simon and St. Jude (b)		5	5	-
St. Stephen (h)		5	1	3
St. Swithun (f)		3	3	-

300 280

(a) 40 Elizabeth, all bells sold but one. (b) Church destroyed. (c) Church of St. Giles Hospital including three from St. Swithun's. (d) no tower. Chapel in Cathedral used as p. church. (e) tower destroyed (f) now used as a museum. (g) western tower destroyed (h) the bells now removed to a modern church.



ALL SAINTS , NORWICH.

The Edwardian Inventories
 relating to Churches
 in the
City of Norwich.

The Books of the Augmentation Office in the Public Record Office contain a number of documents drawn up in the sixth year of King Edward VI and giving mainly lists of church goods and ornaments that had been sold by the churchwardens, but only a few state the number of bells still remaining in the steeples. The full number of the inventories made have not survived. Those which give particulars of the bells in all cases state the weights by estimation

And this information no doubt was required by the government because they had not yet made up their minds whether it would be possible to confiscate them. ⁽¹⁸⁶⁾

Another interesting feature is that the small esdja bells which in the London inventories are called pounce bells, are in the Norwich inventories termed Gabriel bells. The meaning of this term is not clear. It may possibly have reference to their use as ave bells, but this would seem to be not very likely for they were used for other and more important purposes and especially as sanctus bells. ⁽¹⁸⁷⁾

All Saints P.R.O. E117 6/6.

Item in the steeple three bells which do
wey together by estymacion xiiij c and
one quarytō that is to say the greatest
belle do wey six hundred the second
belle do wey iiiij c & one quarytō and the
lytell belle do wey three hundred

[Two of the three bells are still in the tower]

S. Andrew P.R.O. E117 6/9

Saynt Andrewes Boke in Norwic.
In the Steple. Item they saye and
certifie that there do remayne the
day and yere in the steeple seven
Bells where of one called the Sante
bell conteynne in weyght ---

The firste bell called the sante bell
is half a c.

viz

The seconde Belle Conti

vijc

The thurde Belle Conti

vijc gr. oijte

The fourth Bell Conti

vijc ij gfr. oijte

The fyfthe Bell Conti

The Sixte Bell Conti

Item in the Steeple vij belles where of one is
called the Gabryell bell whyche seven
bells do conteyne in weyght -----

[The churchwardens record a payment
for ij bell ropes and mending the bells.]

St Gregory. P.R.O. E117 6/8.

The booke of the fyfthe of Seyntie Gregory
in Norwych

Item in the steeple fyve belles & gabryell
bell whyche fyve bells and gabryell

together by estymacon

xxxijc

The greaie bell Conti in weyght

xjc

The fourth bell cont in weyght ix c

The thide bell cont in weyght vij c

The seconde bell cont in weyght —

The fyfte bell cont in weyght iij c

The litle bells viz the gabryelle cont in
weyght ---

Now in the steeple fyve bells whereof the
--- called a gabryell bell the weyght together
by estymacon xxxij c

[The detailed weights follow but the MS. is
mutilated]

[All the five bells apparently survived until
the year 1818 when Thomas Mears cast the
present six. His estimate of the weight of the
old ring was 43 cwt a little more or less.

Plomford gives the inscriptions as follows—

1. DULCIS SISTO MELIS CAMPANA VOCOR MICHAELIS
2. SANCTVS GREGORIVS PAPA
3. GABRIEL AVE HAC IN CONCLAVE NUNC PANCE SVAVE

JOHANNIS

5 NOS SOCIET SANCTIS SEMPER NICOLANUS IN ALTIS.]

St. Martin-at-Oak, in Coslany Ward.

P.R.O E 117 6/3

Seynt martyns of bale.

Hm. one broken bell cont in weyght one

hundred and viijty pounde valued at

pprijs. viijd.

Remayning in the Stepyll two belles weyng

by estymacon &c.

**** steple too bells cont by estymacon ****

that is to saye one of them cont The other

of them cont iijc.

St. Martin-at-Galace. P.R.O E 117 6/11

Seynt martyns fische att the palis Gate.

Item in the stepyll house bellis where of one

is called a Gabryell bell whych house bellis

do wey together by estymacon xxviijc that is

To pay the great bell do wey xv c

287

the second xij c the thyrd x c and the gabryell
Bell one quarter.

[Memorandum - That yeres there was
antiently but three bells in S. Martins at y^e
palace & yey very untunable. In y^e yeare of
our Lord 1671 y^e biggest Bell was taken
downe w^{ch} with y^e addition of mettall
was made into five small ones so that
now we have a very pleasant & tunable
Ringe of five Bells - parish books] (188)

S. Mary Coslany P.R.O E 117 6/7.

The Cooke of Seynt Marye of Coslanye in
Norwyche.

Item in y^e Steple Hyve bells whereof the one
is called Gabryell bell whyche Hyve bells
conteyneth to gether in weyght by estymacon
xxxvj c.

That is to saye the greatest bell

288

Cont in weyght

xij c

The Hounthe bell cont in weyght

x c

The Thyrdde bell cont in weyght

vij c

The seconde bell cont in weyght

v c

The Lytyle bell w^{ch} y^e gabryell bell cont in
weyght one c.

Remayning at y^e day

There are in y^e Steple fyve bells whereof the one
is called A gabryell bell whych fyve bells
do weye to gether by Estymacon xxxvi
hundred that is to saye

The greatest bell do weye vij c The fourth

Bell v c The iijrd bell vij c The ijth Bell . . . &

The Lytill bell w^{ch} y^e gabryell bell one
hundred.

S. Michael-at-Sea. P.R.O E117 65

289

S. Michaels, Ward of Wym.

Item in the Steple fyve belles an a Gabryell
bell wiche & bellys & Gabryelle bell Conteyn

together in weight by estymacon xxxij c di

Vidz the grete bell Contz in weyghti xj c

the Horthe bell Contz in weyghti ix c

the Thyrdde bell Contz in weyghti x c

the seconde bell Cont in weyghti iiij c

the Hysle bell Contz in weyghti ij

the Cityll bell viz Gabryell bell
Contz in weight

[The above repeated in almost identical words]

S. Peter per Mountingate. P.R.O E117 610

The Booke of Reyni petrus permountingate in
Norwyche.

It in the steeple fyve bellys where of oon
is called the gabryelle Belle whiche fyve

Belles too wey together by }
estymacon

xxx C

That is to say the grette Belle
Conteyn in weight

xjc di

The iiij Belle Conteyn in weight

viiij C

The iij Belle Conteyn in weight

vjc

The seconde Belle Conteyne in weight

iiiij C

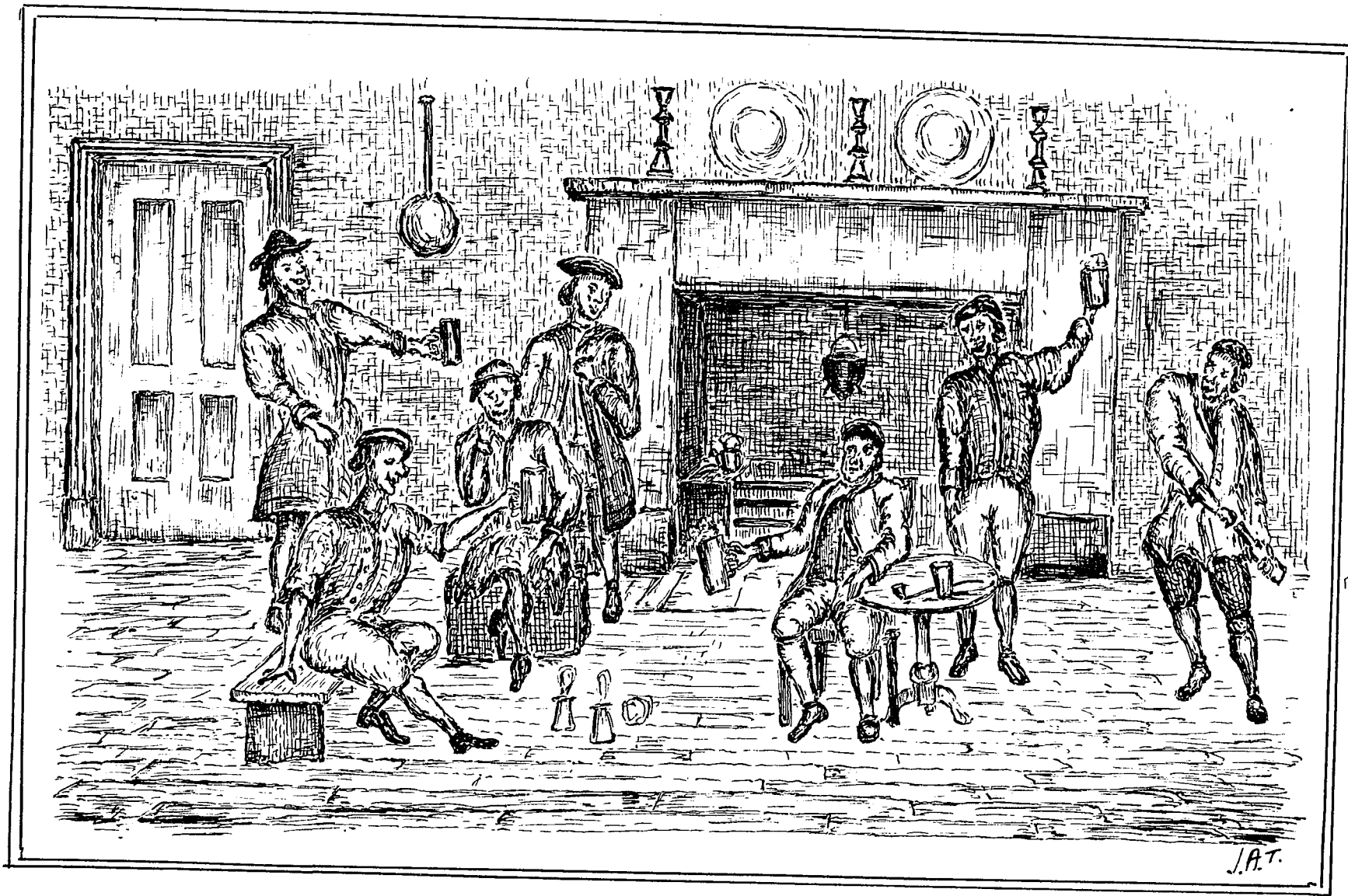
and the gabryelle Belle Conteyn
in weight

Peals Rung
by the
Norwich Scholars
and Other Bands in Norfolk and District
during the Eighteenth Century.

1715	MAY 2	5040	GRANDSIRE BOB TRIPLES	ST PETERS NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
1718	AUG 26	5040	GRANDSIRE TRIPLES	do. do	do.
1719	DEC 28	5040	do	do do	do
1727	APR 1	10.080	OXFORD T.B. MAJOR	ST MICHAELS, NORWICH	do
1728	NOV ^R 5	5040	GRANDSIRE TRIPLES	ST NICHOLAS YARMOUTH	LOCAL
1731		5040	do.	ST MICHAEL AYLSHAM	LOCAL
	OCT 25	5040	STEDMAN TRIPLES	ST PETERS NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
	DEC 6	5040	do.	ST MICHAELS NORWICH	do.
1732	JAN 21	5040	GRANDSIRE TRIPLES	ST MARY'S, BUNGAY	BUNGAY YOUTHS
1735	DEC 13	5040	do	ST MARYS, IPSWICH	LOCAL
1738	MAR 8	12.600	GRANDSIRE CATERS	ST PETERS NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
1741	MAR 9	5040	D. NORWICH CT. B. MAJOR	ST MICHAELS NORWICH	do
	SEP 10	5040	GRANDSIRE TRIPLES	ST MARY CODDENHAM	CROWFIELD SCTY:
1742	NOV 9	5040	BOB MAJOR	do	do
1746	JAN 20	5040	GRANDSIRE TRIPLES	ST MARGARETS LYNN	LOCAL
	NOV 1	5040	D. NORWICH CT. B. MAJOR	ST MICHAELS NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:

1754	JUNE 3	5040	BOB MAJOR	EAST DEREHAM	NORWICH SCH:
	DEC: 6	5040	do	FAKENHAM	LOCAL
1756	NOV 10	5040	do	EAST DEREHAM	LOCAL
	29	5040	do	DISS	LOCAL
	DEC: 4	5040	do	KENNINCHALL	LOCAL
1758	JAN: 16	5040	D.N. COURT B. MAJOR	N. ELMHAM	NORWICH SCH:
	JUNE 2	5040	BOB MAJOR	do	DEREHAM.
1760	APRIL 6	5040	do	KENNINCHALL	
	NOV: 17		IMPERIAL THE THIRD MAJ.	ST CILES, NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:-
1761	JAN: 17	5040	DOUBLE BOB MAJOR	ALBURCH	ALBURCH &
1766	NOV: 30	5040	BOB MAJOR	ST NICHOLAS, LYNN	REDEHALL NORWICH SCH:
1767	MAR: 16	10.080	BOB MAJOR	DEBENHAM	LOCAL
1768	NOV: 14	10.192	do	ST MICHAEL, NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
1769	APR: 17	5040	D.N. COURT B. ROYAL	ST PETER'S NORWICH	do

1770	FEB: 23	5046	BOB MAJOR	S' MARCARETS, LYNN	LOCAL
1771	JAN: 15	6720	D. N. C. B. MAJOR	S' MICHAELS, NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
	JUNE 23	5040	BOB MAJOR	DOYNHAM.	do
	24	5040	do	WISBECH	do
	OCT: 7	5040	do	HALESWORTH	NORWICH & REDENHALL
	DEC: 2	5040	do	BUNCAY	do
	25	5040	do	HALESWORTH	LOCAL
1772	JAN: 13	6048	IMPERIAL III MAJ.	S' MICHAELS NORWICH	NORWICH SCH:
	MAR: 27	6240	BOB MAJOR	KENNINCHALL	do.
	28	6240	do	DISS	do.
1775	NOV: 20	5170	GRAN: CINQUES	ST PETER'S NORWICH	do.
1778	MAR: 16	6240	OX: T. B. MAXIMUS	do	do.
	DEC: 7	5040	BOB MAJOR	DOYNHAM	LOCAL
1779	OCT: 27	5040	do	HILCAY	NORWICH SCH:
1782	MAY L	5040	do	REDENHALL	LOCAL
1785	JULY 30	5040	do	HINCHAM	LOCAL
1796	NOV: 5	6000	do	ST MARCARETS LYNN	LOCAL.



The Rambling Ringers Club, Nov 29th 1733.

Laughton's Manuscript

Guildhall Library MS. 254

I have already in chapter ten given an account of William Laughton and his poem and need add little here. The manuscript is one of our major sources of information about the eighteenth century ringers but it is in many ways a most disappointing document. It deals with a mere incident in the careers of ringers who were themselves unimportant persons, and its chief value lies in the light it throws on the characters of the ordinary average ringers. For a small amount of wheat there

is a very large amount of Chaff, and 297
a great deal of what Laughton wrote is of
no interest, either to us to day or to the men
of his time. He gives us long accounts of the
visits he and his Companions paid to
different Towers and tells us some of the things
they talked about. But he does not tell us
their opinions of the methods they rang; nor
what they said about the other bands that
were ringing in London at the time; nothing
about Arncliffe and Cundell; or the London
Scholars, that were just creating up; or the
Eastern Scholars, who had just rung their
first peal; nothing about the Companies
in the provinces of whose performances they

Ramblers must have heard. We know enough about ringers in all ages to know that they talked at large about these things, and very glad we should be to know what they said. Paul Laughton records never a word. William Coster had been one of the Union Scholars and had pined in the penit to the first peal of Major ever rung. ⁽¹⁹¹⁾ Coster was the landlord of the house where the club often met, and we are quite sure that he told them of the great doings among the ringers of his young days; but Laughton has never a thing. Only a lot of pipe about the reasons for a wren laying eggs in October, shallow talk about religion and morality and squabbles over the price they

299

were charged for their drinks. We
are given what presumably we are to take
for eloquent descriptions of the Country round
Hackney and Walthamstow and the garden
of the Stag's Head at Hitcham, with several
lines pointing out the desirability of covering
a privy with honeysuckle; and cheap
moralizing over the fombs at Westminster
Abbey.

There are many oblique references to
Stonable and the College youths with
whom it is clear Laughton had a bitter
quarrel. He is continually talking about
"snarling cutlers" and lashes them (so he
thinks) with biting satire, but his many

protestations are unconvincing and leave us cold. Especially are we bored with his many and long descriptions of what he and his fellows had to eat. For Laughton there was nothing higher or better in life than a good dinner.

I have given a transcript of the manuscript in full as it stands, for it is necessary for the student of ringing history; but for the average reader it would pay to cut it very considerably. Some parts there are that we would not willingly lose. The account of the journey back to Farn after the visit to Hitcham is a good antidote to some of the traditions

that grew up in later years about
 the College youths of Annals's time, and
 especially the silly oft-repeated tale of the Cordley
 band (Laughton was one of them) who went
 home each in his own carriage after ringing
 the peal of St. Martin's at St. Bridget's.

Laughton's account of his difference with
 the tinker of Mitcham is self-revealing;
 and it is thoroughly characteristic of the
 man that after he, then half drunk, had
 stumbled in the mud when coming through
 the lanes at the back of Houndsditch, ^{he} should
 vent his anger on "the slutish tribe" that
 lived in such "horrid cribs" by writing
 nearly thirty lines of indignant description
 of the food those people ate; or rather the food

he imagined they ate.

302

Great stress is laid on the Concord and friendship which existed among the Ramblers in Contrast to the quarrels that continually rent the other Companies in London. No doubt there were many dissensions among the societies, but the Ramblers were differently situated in several important respects. The Club really consisted of about half a dozen personal friends and a number of other people who joined them on a few occasions. Anyone who disagreed with them would simply stop away and as the club lasted no more than sixteen months there was hardly time enough for any quarrel among the inner circle.

Laughton gives a list of the names of 42 men who were members of the club, but it is evident from the number of those that he says sometimes sat down to supper that they were also joined in their outings and social gatherings by a number of people who were not ringers. Several of the ringing members came only once or twice, no doubt out of curiosity. The most regular in their attendance were John Frennel and John Hayward, who were College youths; Jeremiah Gilbert and John Harrington who afterwards were foundation members of the Society of Cumberland Youths; Thomas Clark, Thomas Greenwood, James Benson, George Carbery,

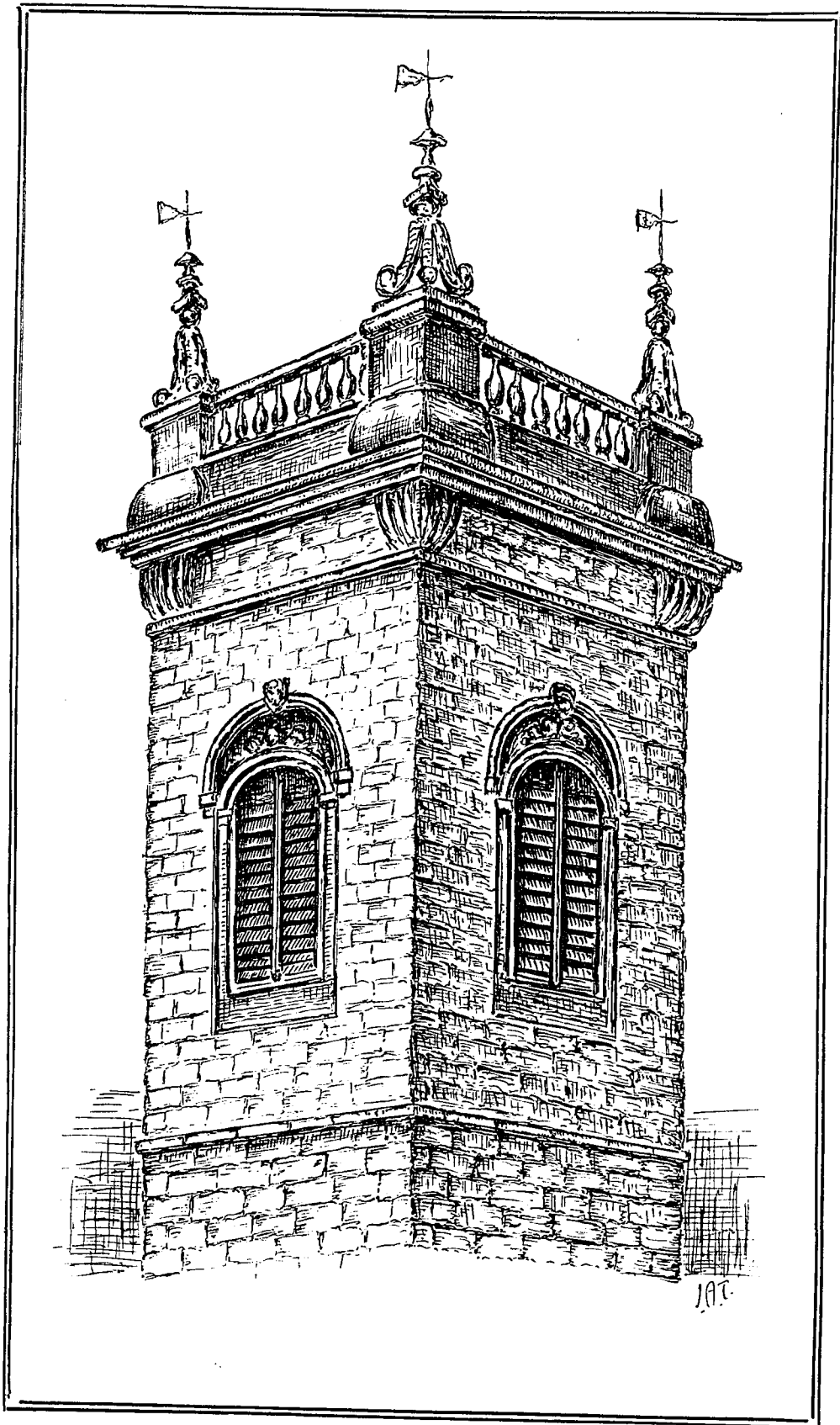
William Nash, and Joseph Bennet. 304

We do not come across the names of these last six in any other connection, and we have here evidence that in the eighteenth century there were in London many ringers who did not belong to any of the leading societies.

As literature the poem is beneath contempt and little regard is paid to rules of rhyme and metre but, as I have already said, to do Laughton justice the lines should be read aloud and fairly rapidly; and the fact that the spelling is often erratic does not signify very much, for in the early eighteenth century

305

The rules of English orthography
had only begun to crystallise, and a good
deal of latitude ~~to~~ in spelling was still
allowed to ordinary persons especially in
proper names.



ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

Remarks

on a Rambling Club of Ringers and their
Performances, giving an account of all their
Meetings from first to Last, wherein may be
seen the famous Esports which have bin
Done in the art of Ringing by that worthy

Body of Men

By

William Loughton

Herein just fifty Tales you'll find
and such set down in prose and Rhyme
not one i-m there was writ in Spite
so Read and Judge 'em as you like.

An ^a ² Apology

Now should I write now sense now rhyme
that would be a horrid Crime
but take the gift from whence it come
For it be e-er so meanly done
is the product of a feeble mind
but something of truth i-m there you'll find
Law:

The names of all the worthy members
 belonging to the Rambling Club of Ringers,
 are
 was as follows ~

viz

Mr Jarronyah Gilbert
 John Monger
 Thomas Clarke
 John Dearnor
 William Laughton
 Richard Spicer
 John Chapman
 William Nash
 John Trendle
 John Harrington
 Samuel London
 Samuel Robins
 Thomas Davis
 Nathaniel Burrows
 Thomas Greenwood
 James Benson
 John Hayward
 John Pearson
 George Carbery
 William Thorp
 John Ward
 John Allsuppe

Joseph Bennett
 William Eyles
 Nathaniel Rippin
 Tobias Marshall
 Thomas How
 Stephen Green
 Peter Lamson
 William Coster
 Thomas Smallshaw
 Joseph Merrill
 John Rainsdon
 William Church
 William Pickard
 Daniel Luck
 Thomas Rainsdon
 Robert ^(P 7) Burchett
 Francis Hylbourn

od Members

Edward Davis Vis
 Joseph Haynes Costers Bitches
 Thomas Jefferies Gunsmith in
 ordinary to the Company in all 42 Members.

Advertisement

'tis well known that the first ^d Design of this Clubs meeting was not to affront any Soul upon Gods earth, but only intended for a little innocent Diversion, to ring at a few Different peals of Bells: tho' some people has taken it very Hainously and bin pleas-d to Call names and endeavour to Redicule folks behind their backs fo't; if any returns should be made em for their Civility, they must e-en take it for their pains, tho' I shall not Cavil at any person in particular; but those that have bin Guilty of such good manners, may e-en take it to them selves.

310

3
On Ringing in Generall.

As Ringing is a Branch of Musicks
let none despise those men that use it,
nor think it mean and Scandalous
Yet at the same time practise worse.
for many men are apt to scoff
at things which they know nothing of
and right or wrong be finding fault
for want of Judgement and of Thought
To censor men hap nup at random
because they dont rightly understand 'em.
but let such poor unthinking Souls
Carouse them ^{7 selves?} selves o-er flowing bowls,
which will shurely pay 'em home at length
whilst Ringers enjoy their health and strength
the greatest blessing that heaven can give,
to be free from illness while we live.
Tho' I cannot say but now and then

Ringers tipple as much as other men
 but their Exercise throws of those Dreggs
 which would bring others of their Leggs,
 that use no Exercise at all
 but sit in a house and Drink and Call,
 as many thousands there are in Town,
^{which} who are pleas'd to run all Ringers Down,
 but let us pity 'em with all our Souls
 to think they shoud-d be such stupid Cools,
 to Condemn such a charming Exercise,
 which men of Sense knows how to prize.

To Mr George Carbery

^{Sy}
Srs,

You are not insensible (being one of those worthy members your self) that a Company of us made an agreement to Ring at all the peals of 3, 4, 5, and 12c Bells within the City of London and bills of Mortality, which we should find ^Rringable and to Ring at a ^ddifferent place every time of meeting if we should think proper, likewise to ring a peal, sometimes upon eight Bells, or take a walk into the Country and divert our selves with a peal if our fancies should lead that way; for which the Inarling Criticsks were pleas'd to call us the Rambling Club; the first time of this Honorable Societys meeting was on Thursday the 29th of November 1733 and the last on ^{the}Saturday

5 (Waver)

313

The 8th of March 1734/5 when this
worthy body of Members broke up after
having rung at 35 ^d different peals of Bells
and done severall Extraordinary performances
in this art, the merit of which caused
me to write the following pages, wherein
I have endeavour'd (as far as my mean
Capacity is able) to set forth their praise
tho' perhaps far short of what they deserve,
but that I'll leave to some more judicious
pen, and in the mean^a time begg your
Exceptions ^{ance} of this, which if ⁵ favourably
Received at your hand will lay a particular
obligation on

I^r Your most obedient

Humble Servant to

^{??}
(5) Leather Lane
London

Comand

William Laughton

Monday the 10th of March 1734/5.

8

Introduction

314

Inarling Criticks now have at ye,
the Rambling Club has not forgot ye,
for all your ^{Fears} ~~ideas~~ they still went on,
and practis'd what they first began.
Variety was their Design
To ring at a Diff-erent peal ev-ry time,
to hear the good as well as bad,
to hear allways one wou-d make ^{one} ye mad
and tho' some Bells sounded like Cleavers
yet variety still made em please us
so ye lost your aim when ye thought to
teaze us
besides those that have heard each sort
must make the better Judges for't
tis so in all things under heaven
by steady and practis murther is given.
Each night we-d mirth as well as Ringing,
tales told by some, by others ringing,

and noble living by the by,
w/ Witness Hall Costers Large Sea pie, 315
enough for twenty men at least,
Who dar-pt pay to wan-t a noble feast,
besides we-d many other treats,
for those worthy souls that did those feats
Sometimes we'd dancing too, and tumbling,
much more diverting than Gizzards Grumbling, ⁽¹⁹²⁾
we could catch Crabbed Souls of Wh-ns
and kicked ill nature out of doors.

W
Where-ev we met, where-ev we went
Each man was ready to consent,
always endeavouring for to please ^{please}
and not like those that love to feaz,
for born Companions whos Delight
is to be obliging Day and Night
Whither o-ev empty or flowing bowls,
Still always are good natur-d Souls
and hate your peevish Cross grain-d fools

that are nev-er pleas-d nor ev-er easy 316
nor will they doo one thing to please ye
for when they know you-re in the right
they'll Contradict ye out o' Spight.
We had no swearing nor no grining, (193)
at any time when we were Ringing,
for there-s nothing that can be more rude
nor on good nature more intinde
for who ever Rings as well as he can
oughti nev-er to be blamed by any man
Could th' fell of a fault, before 'twas struck,
then I shoud-d pay they'd great good Luck
But they know no more than the pope o' Rome
Wholl make a fault before 'tis done,
and what a pose signifies calling them,
when the person knows it as well as them,
it only serves to see 'em a fletting

317

and of less Causes more forgetting
the Consequence of which is ^{ve} ^s not seen
to of less, when is ^{ve} ¹⁰ not bin Ringing,
Some men indeed are made by nature
Directly fit to huff and vapour, (194)
And Load it over their Companions
Call filthy names and Curs and damn'em
but how odious does such wretches look
Hated Despised and in the end forsake
there is no Company in ^{one} this town
free from those tempers but our own
for this the Rambler has to say
that ev-ry man might have his way
free and unprejudiced ev-ry man
let any deny it if they Can.
We ne-er allowd of any Railings
For there's none on earth without their failings

I wish all Company's would do the like
 I would put an end to a ^d Deal of Spite
 for were Backbiters taken up that
 I would put an end to all their sport
 to stop 'em in their height of Spleen
 would break their hearts to keep it in,
 Oh! that all other Ringers would
 take pattern by this Rambling Club
 where all ill nature is abolish'd
 and all sorts of Discord quite Demolish'd⁺
 where nought is seen but pure good Love
 the best souls on earth, by ^{god} g- above.
 The name of ev-ry peal and place
 shall follow next, as in the Chase,
 and not promiscuously set down,
 but as we Rang em thro' the Town.

1

319

The first — stay let me think
Why first of all at Bennett first ⁽¹⁹⁵⁾
Seven Hundred and twenty of plain bob
Ay! fine my muse a noble job. _{4 = Lines}

2.

St. Claves Hall Street next comes in,
Two seven Hundreds we there did Ring,
one College Single, the other plain
bob if ye please that is the name. _{4 Lines}

3

To St. Paul at Shadwell next we come ⁽¹⁹⁶⁾
and there we seven hundred Ring
of College Single will tell ye true,
and give ev-ry peal and place its due _{4 = Lines}

4

We met next, at St. Botolphs ^{a ✓} _s Aldgate ⁽¹⁹⁷⁾
and there Ring two peals, as I shall say,
Grand sire went first, plain bob was next,
Both Rang Completely I protest. _{4 Lines}

At All Hallows Parking nest we met,
and there we had a ^d double set
two seven ^H hundreds there was Rung
Treble and plain, both nicely done

4 - Lines

6.

S. Vedasi foster, nest I name
Some call it S. Vedasi foster Kane,
No Rung Seven Hundred College Tingle
but those bells have a nasty jingle

4 - Lines

7.

At S. Peerspool in Broad Street nest
and there by a paucy section we had
a nasty fat ars-d b-t-h 4 - D-minter
she'd eggs as big as a paviors Rammer
I do believe she was three yards round
but we brought her haughtly stomach down
for we went and ask-d the warden leave
and made ^{pegg} fogg Crabb give us the keys
we Rung three nice scores upon those five

but they-re a horrid feat as im alive
 two Grandvires first the third old Doubles
 then supd on Sea pie for our trouble
 and some of us ne-er thought of parting
 till three i-the morning that's for certain
 but we were busy Ringing of * Bells
 which caus-d us to forget our selves
 feats of tripples and College Double
 Oxford and Cant gave us no trouble
 and ad to these Cambridge Surprise ⁽²⁰⁰⁾
 feats worthy of praise up to the Skyes
 What is it these Ramblers wou-d not do
 were they their Genious's persue

8

Plain bob and Cambridge at Bishopgate
 five seven hundr-ds Rang Complete
 plain bob was first and Cambridge last
 those bells are good as e-er was cast

* Hand Bells at Will Costers. he gave us a
 Sea pie for supper that night

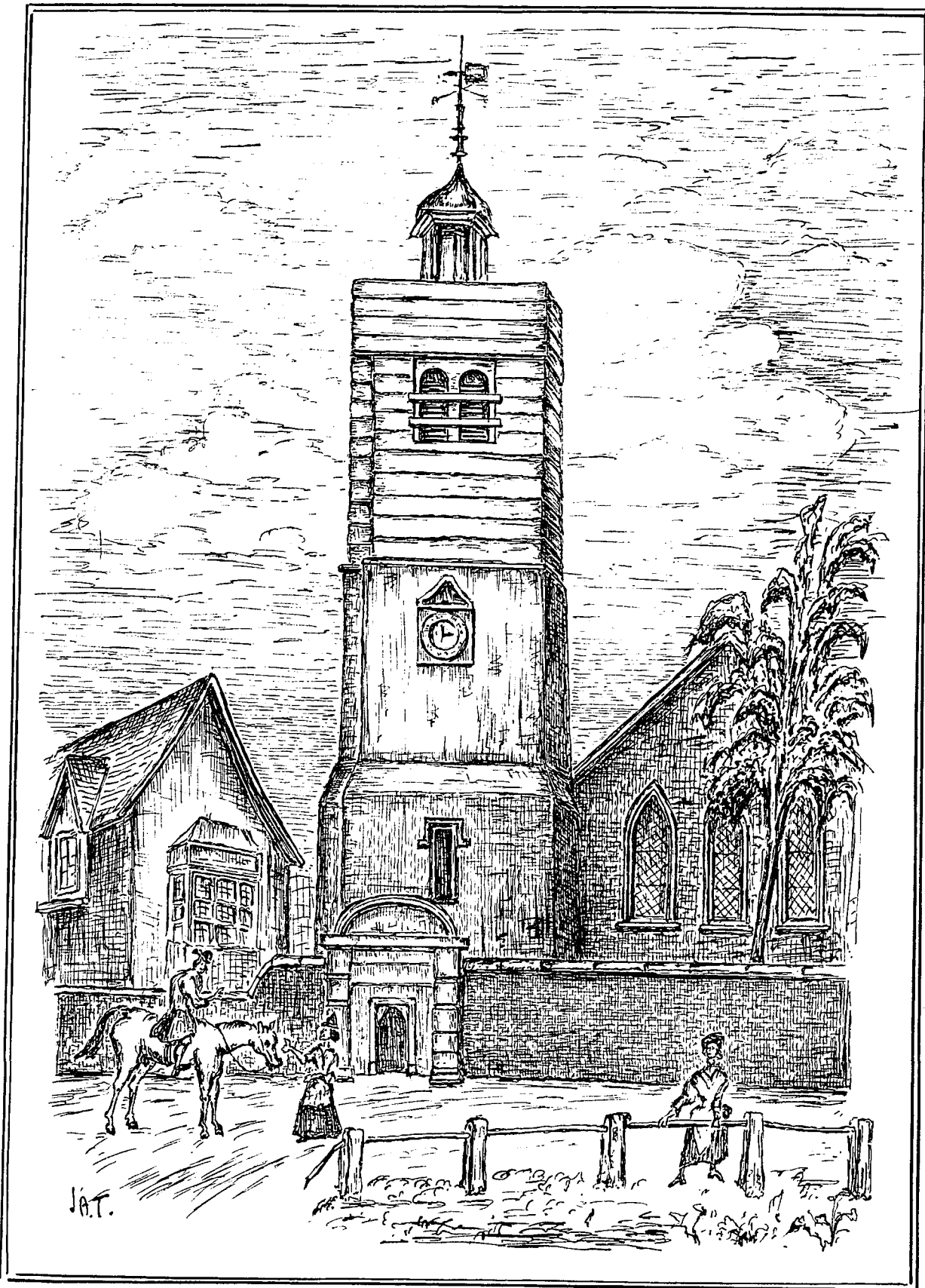
Next at S. Marys ^{9.} in White Chapel ⁽²⁰¹⁾
 We met to Ring and did that well
 Two seven hundr-ds we Ring there
 Trebles and plain I do declare
 Those bells do want a flow-r behind
 for tho five least are good in their kind
 flatter than G. That is the pitch
 But the tenors are iron sided British.

10

Next time we met we had rec^d a full
 a hang-up ⁽²⁰²⁾ unrespected pleas-d us to the full
 Harrington and Saunders hung us by the tooth
 with a legg of Mutton and three pibbs of beef
 it was in milk ally, at the watermans arms
 Such a supper ev-ry night wou-d do us
 no harm

11

All our last meeting was agreed
 at Shoreditch next for to proceed ⁽²⁰³⁾



ST. LEONARD'S, SHOREDITCH. - 1734.

and there accordingly we came
 and Rung those peals which I shall name
 But first of all we view-d the Church
 tis old and Ruined very much
 tho' when tis built dose not appear
 but we guess about five Hundred years
 There is an ancient Tomb stands in it
 which is worth their seeing that ne-er has seen it
 tis allyblastow much defaced
 and the Lord knows who lies in the Case
 for some sacrilegious son of a wh-n (204)
 has stole the Cross of that and severall more
 Mind the old fat womans monument
 Death called for her and away she went
 tis two Deaths splitting of an oak
 none can withstand that fatal stroke
 Theris one glass window very fine (205)
 the rest are all Destroy-d by time
 tis true that will Destroy all things

beggars are equal to him as kings
 He Rang four differant sic scar-p
 and Cou-d have Rang out many more
 Grandone went first, old Doubles next
 Simons and New Doubles were the rest
 The peal of Bells are not Extraor-nary
 for some of them are very ord-nary
 they-d be much better if they had
 a good second and third for those are bad
 the other three are not bad bells
 for pretty well they tell their tales.

12

At Newington Butts we met on a Sunday
 but what signifies when so long as lives
 one day
 we were not fix-d to any particular day
 but might Ring when we pleas-d if it
 fell in our way

it was Seven Hundred and fifty 325
Treble Bob that we Rung
and severall Ringers that heard it said
it was very well Done
we met at the peacock and Drank humming
beer
and never was better Diverted I swore
for Simple the persion and Aesop his man
never was queerer Looks since the world
it began
Simple would us witch damn-d
unaccountable Eyes
which made us laugh till the water ran
out of our eyes
How once on a time, he Rung a long peal
starts naked from the Crown of his head
to his heel
and of Gentleman Ringers that lived in
there town

giving poor ones each day they

326

went with em a Crown

and what famous Exploits in this art

he had Done

Lord bless me! says Aesop tis all an untruth

there is nothing in it by Judith and Ruth

nothing in it! says Simple you blockhead

you clown

If ye speak a word more i'll fell ye to

the ground

You fell me to the ground! no truly not

you

I shant be afraid to speak what is true

and had not Simple bin sent for upon

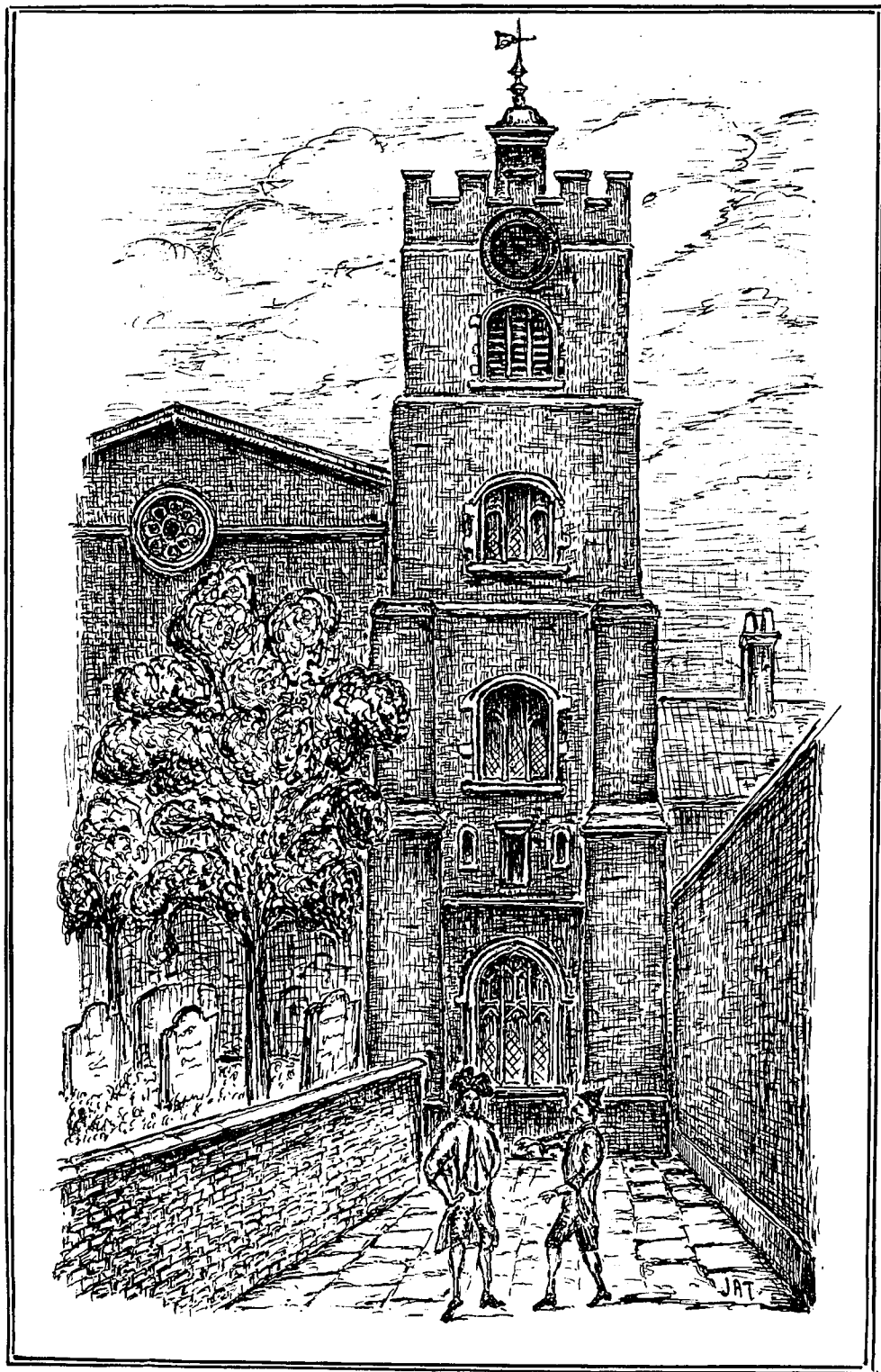
an affair

we-ed shurely had a battle as e-ed we-d

bin there

13.

Now for Bartholomews the Great



ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT.

at the Baker and basket there

327

we met

from whence we went to the bell and horse
for their drink was so bad we ne-er drank

worse

we Rang upon those little bells

four different peals to divert our selves

Grand sire Old Doubles Simonds and new

and faith we struck em very true

Eleav-n Hundred and two times in that year

this Church was founded by Rahere

and Bartholimews the Less likewise

but in this Church his body lies

beneath a Tomb well made for strength

his Efigie on it at length

which ill describe in these few lines

Carved in the habit of those times

a long Robe it was all it appears

And his hair cut short; Close to the Ears
 but by the way i-mo apli fo guess
 they Car-d him in his ^{*} priors Dress
 for prior he was, tho' he had bin
 a fame-d musicion to the King
 but when Religeon him inspirid
 this was the life he then Desir'd
 on his Tomb is writ one line in Latin
 and at the bottom ill put that in.

* after Rahere had founded this Church
 and priory he became the first prior of it
 him self and so continued till he died,
 he had bin musicion to King Henry the
 first and was a famous man of wit and
 mirth.

+ Sic Jaco Raherus primus Canonicus et
 primus prior Huius Ecclesiae
 In English thus

Nestle to St. James's Clerkenwell ⁽²⁰⁶⁾
 and what we Ring there; I have to tell
 five Different peals we there perform'd
 to ring five alike, that night we perform'd
 Grand sire, Old Doubles Cambridge Delight
 Simons and New we rang that night
 By the snarling Criticks it is rung
 five foals at Baines East week Ring
 but who's the biggest foals, pray see
 whether those Snarling foals or we
 We trouble not our heads with them
 nor what is Ring by other men
 variety is still our aim
and in the end they'll be to blame

Here lies Rather the first Canon and first
 prior of this Church - Laughton's note

Because there's peals of twelve in
 down

must five or six Bells ne-er be rung

I think tis a very stupid thing
 of men that take delight to Ring
 to see at all Variety

which is most pleasing still to me

to Ring different peals on different Bells

let us that way divert our selves

whilst those that do condemn the same

be forc'd to Ring peals all ways plain

and travel on in their old Road

like pack horses beneath their load

whose fore horse bears, besides his pack

of God knows what upon his back

a collar o'er his neck of leather

set round with bells full close together

whose discord notes still always ring 331
the same peal o'er and o'er again.

Of late I saw a Rolling Cage
of wood and wiew wisely made
a bird within it. Curleing hop
and strike eight bells hung o'er the top
or set to changes or to times

and when he strikes em as he climbs

but then tis always the same thing

the Cage once round begins again

the simile I make to those

that to Variety are foes.

But hold! these lines perhaps you'll say

are not writ in the Rambling way

a small Digression tis indeed

but now with Rambling i'll proceed.

Of two places now ill tell in rhyme
 where once meeting serv-d to save us time
 and not a meeting for each one
 thus was killing two birds with one stone
 we Rung plain bob at allhallows Slauring
 and at Mary Ax ⁽²⁰⁹⁾ the very same thing
 these are the places I assture ye
 and upon my word we Rung them purely.

16.

Court bob and plain at Islington
 for Seven Hundreds there we Rung
 and by different hands each Seal was done
 how easy whole peals are to these men
 when five on a night is Rung by them
 He-d seventeen that met that night
 no doubt to mine host a pleasant sight.

17.
 Nesci is an ancient gothic pile
 from Thoreditch Church at least three miles
 the famous abby that's the place
 the west end of which they-re about to ease
 and raise the pavers above the Roof
 if they can but raise up money enough
 tis strange for such a space of years
 they shou-d stand unfinish-d as appears
 for about five Hunder-d years ago
 they were founded as i-ve read in How
 what worthy Princes lies intomb'd
 within its vaults and holy ground
 Heros which oft has bin the Dread
 of France and Spain tho' now they-re dead
 and many a Queen and Charming Dutchess
 which now are nought but dust and ashes
 some famous admirals who nev-r Dreded

any fleet at sea that e-er they met with ³³⁴
indefatigable antiquarians

Vertivoro-s and historians

with many an able politician

Statesman Ambassador and physician

Not far from them lies honest Jimmy

Newcome by name and pray forgive me

if I tell ye he Rung fourteen Eighteen Scoars

at Piles-s in the fields with me and four more

which by none had e-er bin done before

and this I may be bound to say

that th' have not bin equal-d to this day

two places in the Abby to him was given

which brought him in a charming living

but there-s no Certainty under heaven

for just as he-d got into good bread

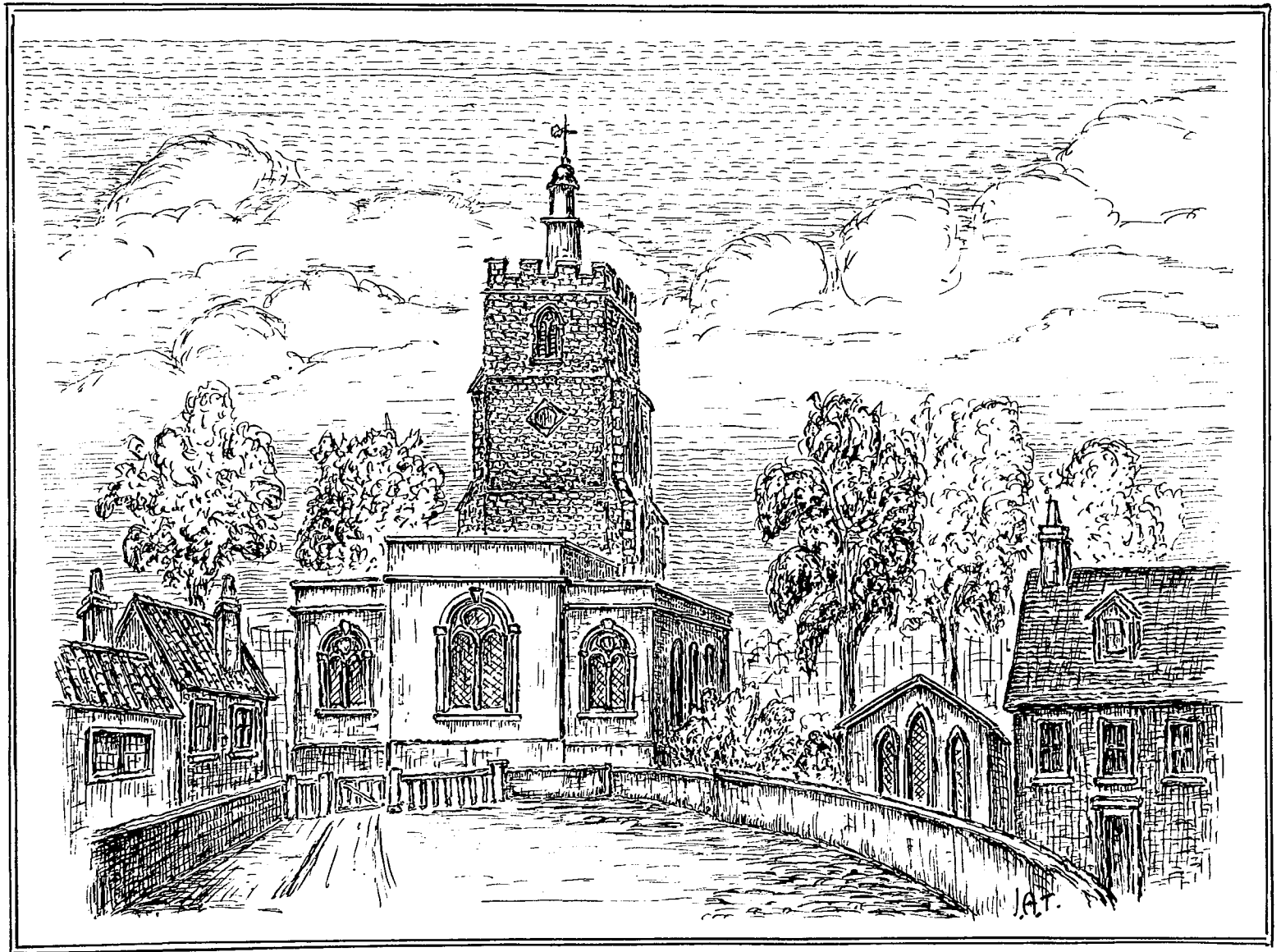
Death call-d upon him and Struck him dead

hard fate! to be match-d in the fortyth year

Who e-er has pity drop a tear
 Happy he who leaves the world resign'd
 without either wife or child behind
 but poor Jemmy left a wife and four
 a Dismal Story! i-ll say no more
 Now i-ll mount the Pulpit and tell what's

there

an ancient peal of Six i-ll swear
 the Tenors Dull and melancholy
 the fifth as Ranting and as jolly
 some o' th' others are very Dull
 as bad as the Tenor to the full
 but when the power is rais'd higher
 they'll be recast and fung'd by fire
 and more bells added to make em tenor
 and still then i-ll neer Ring there agen
 but before I leave it I have to show
 what we Ring if any show'd want to know



HACKNEY, 1734.

336

'twas what we'd often Ring before
College and plain bob 'twas no more
but had the fifth rope held it out
we'd Completed Treble bob without all Doubt.

18

We march'd to Hackney o'er the fields
with thoughts of Ringing there two peals
but only Treble bob was Ring
and that with Difficulty was done
for Bells slip'd wheel and foil'd the men
so we'll not go there in haste again
without they're put in good repair
or there should be eight new bells made there
oh! was there but eight Charming Bells
we'd often go to divert our selves
for I think no steeple near the town
stands in compass'd with such Delightful grounds.

337

there are orchards gardens and Cornfields
and meadows which charming prospects
yealds
and near the Church such pasture grounds
no better in England can be found
at the back side of Old Trands Cannell
how sweetly a fine peal there would toll
out on the Downs or by the brook
where various sorts of fish are took
as perch or Gudgeon Carp or Eel
oh there is a fish and hear a peal.

19

Next to at Will Costers and there Jo Haynes
gave us a Hangup of piths and Crans
some was boyl-d and some was fry-d
and nice Crisp parsley laid by the side
and very good eating let me tell ye

as i-d ever desire to put i' my belly
 who never has tasted of such like food
 wou-d ne-er believe it was half so good
 therefore how silly tis of men
 what they have never experienc-d (Condemn
 the Rung Seven Hundred behind the Change ⁽²³⁰⁾
 whilst Hill and his wife took-d the Chaise
 all tho' we had Rung there before
 yet we-d amind to Ring once more
 after which we all came back to eat
 of this uncommon, but very good treat
 If any dar-st say we want Chaise for the
 future
 knock him her or them down and make
 em lie newtles

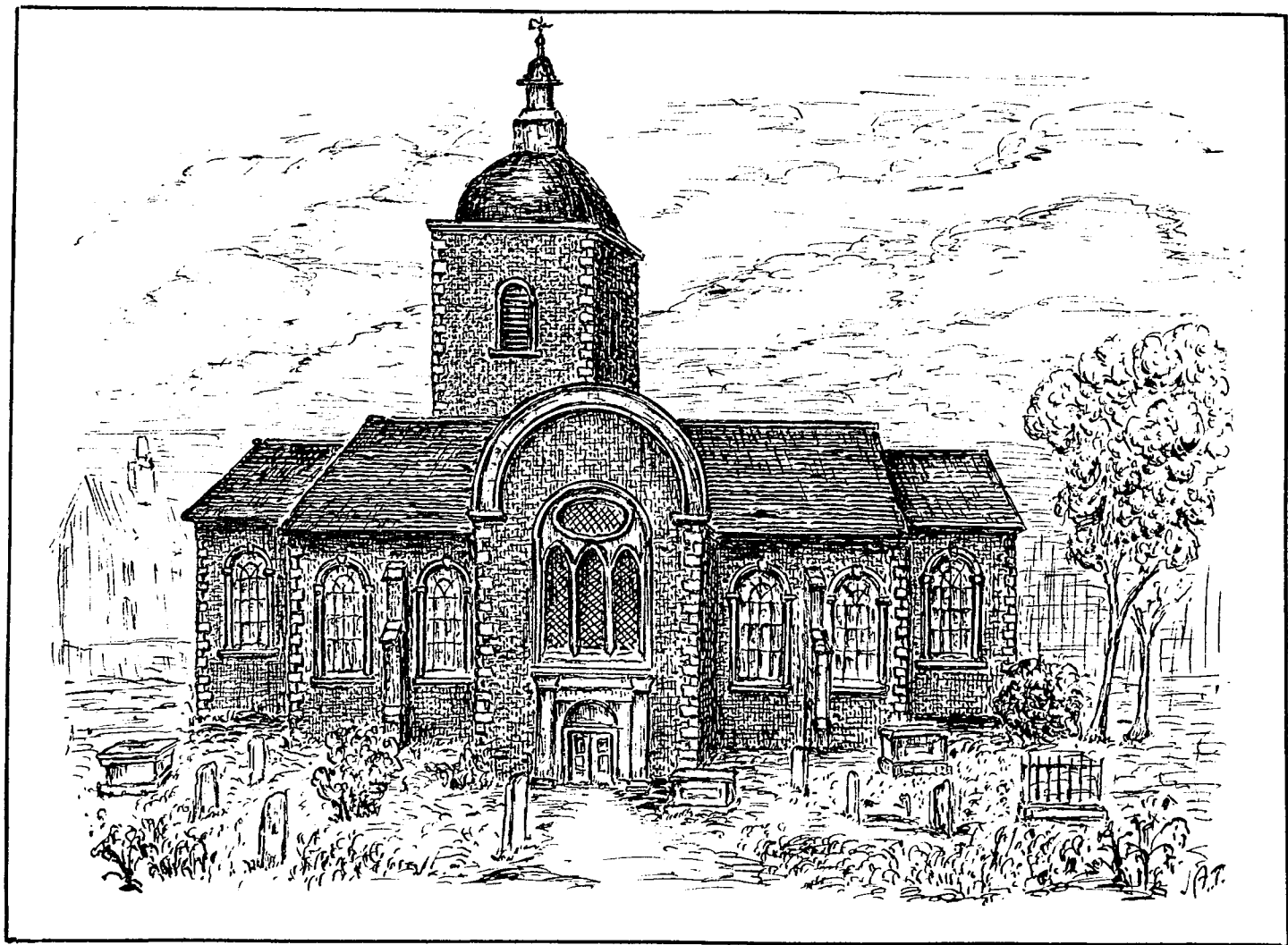
We took a walk to Cambewell
 to Ring a peal as I shall tell

339
but there the Treble being down
we march'd away for Lambeth town
and Ring a thousand and eight Cobmaies
upon those eight bells for our pleasure
tho' pisdien Hundred we Design'd
but Daylight wou'd not allow us time.

21

On Easter Tuesday morn at nine
we met according to design
to take a walk and Ring a peal
and then come back to eat Lamb and veal
and so accordingly we went
to Camberwell all by consent
but there the Treble was to mend
for she plod down with frame on end
well up we got her and hung her true
but faith it was with much ago.

we unbraced the wheel and took it off
 before we could lift her up aloft
 then another fault before we go
 for every pally was too low
 so we took em up and oyled the bells
 and then we all went down our selves
 to make em ready and pull em up
 but then we found out more ill luck
 there was such a rumbling with the tenor
 that we all thought the Dev-l was in her
 says John Trenell she will not mount
 something-s the matter without doubt
 so up we went again to see
 and found her disorder-d Certainly
 one hoop was of the Gudge-on Coos
 and this I do declare in truth



ST MARY MAGDALENE, BERMONDSEY.

Before we could have Ring a Change out ³⁴¹
she-d have fumbled thro' and dash-d our

brains out

Well all amoi ⁽²¹⁴⁾ what must be done

a Council Call-d agree-d to one

to march away to Mary Shaudine ⁽²⁰⁹⁾

and try to Ring five thousand all in

and there good luck propitious show

as I shall tell ye e-ev tis long

for up we went and the first hit

Ring out five thousand quite complete

good Ringing tis as e-ev was rung

or e-ev can or will be done

then all well pleas-d went back to supper

and found it ready taken up there

so Down we pat and fell to eat

of that incomparable treat

a leg of Veal well broyled with Bacon

and Charming greens if I'm not mistaken
as e-er was eat and nice paw Tallet

good very Delightfull to the pallet

to eat with Lamb and there was plenty

five lovely quarters did look scanty

and on my word we clear'd the Dishes

according to the founders wishes

then Drank a Dram and smok'd a pipe

and each went home to kiss his wife

I mean those that had a wife to kiss

such as had not might get a miss

and suppose they did what's that to

me

The name of Ramblers makes em free.

We met at St. Andrews Holbourn next
 And rang out Five thousand I protest
 a good honest peal Completely ended
 Let any others try to mend it
 We are the first e-er attempted
 to Ring five thousand single handed
 of all eight in upon those bells
 so that praise is worthy to our selves
 five hearts of oak that never nag
 or scorn to let our Carriage flag
 a word or two I now shall write
 about the bells but not in spite 210
 That sixth is bad as e-er rung
 the others not so good as e-er was rung
 but pretty well if they were in tune
 and a better sixth in that bell-s room
 for no kettle pan or old dust tub
 e-er made a worse noise by

An ancient Church shall nece be built on
 his sealed nest to Little Britton
 S. Bostholphs without Aldersgate ⁽²¹⁾
 the East end has bin Repair-d of late
 his pitty swarn-ti Repair-d all over
 that one part might have look-d like Pother
 for to see one part foul another Clean
 is as ugly a sight as can be seen
 the helpes to helpes is a Scandal
 ther-p no seeing to Ring without a Candles
 his pulch a Dungeon of a hood
 enough to Strike horror to the Soul
 theres hatches made instead of doors
 that y' may see the bells thro all the floors
 and should a bell or Clapper fall
 should shurely break quite thro em all
 therefore for the future let us shun
 such places and no hazzards run

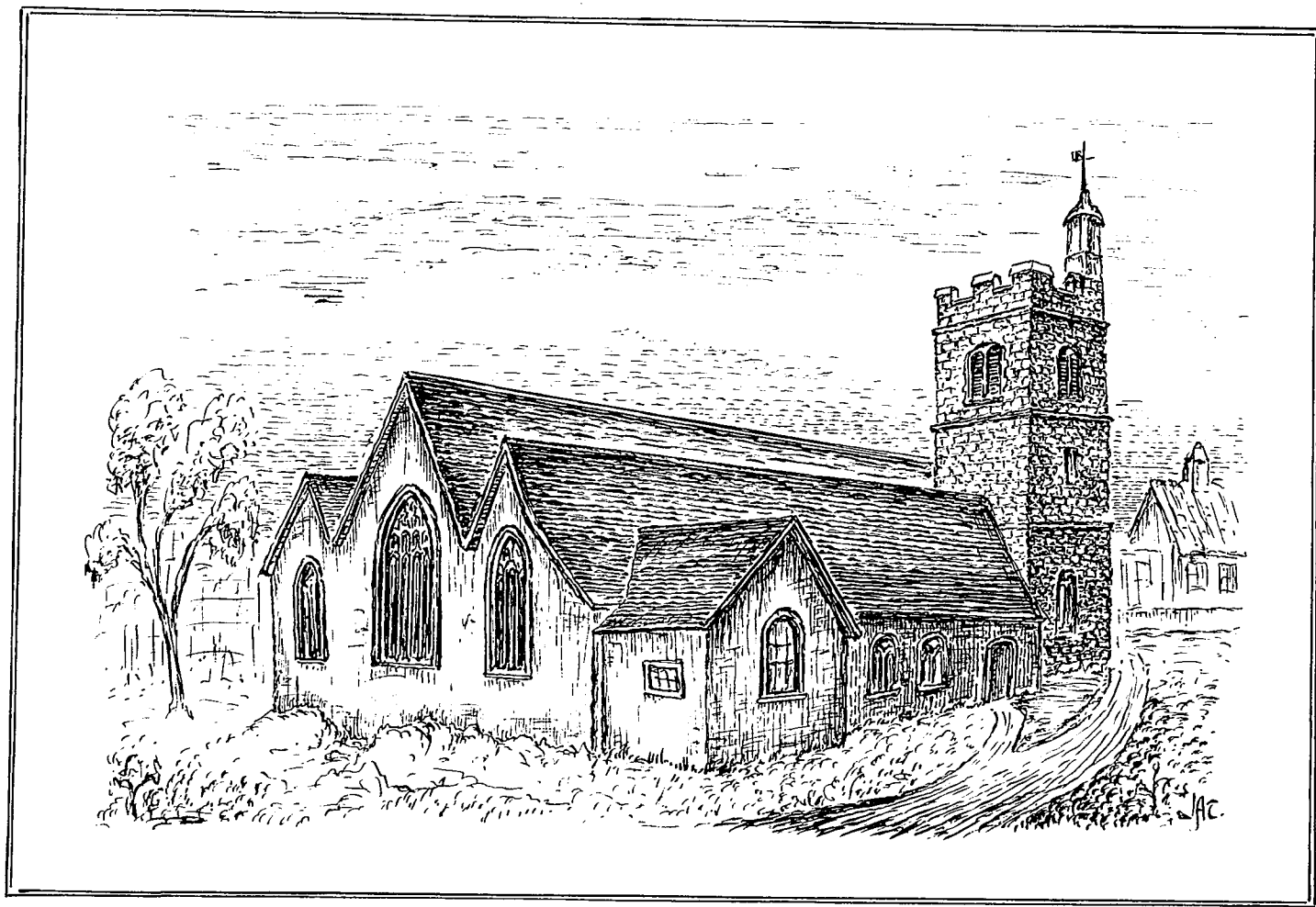
for should there happen such a fray
 would be hard to get out of harms way
 The bells I think are not amiss
 but by the way i'll put in this
 that were Bob Catlin ⁽²¹²⁾ for to look em
 put in new clappers and over look em
 they'd be an honest peal of five
 some of em are flow-ers as i'm alive
 the Tenor is as we was found
 Six hundred and twenty five years old ⁽²¹³⁾
 we Rang two Grandsons and old Doubles
 but with a pretty deal of trouble
 for some went hard others slip-d wheel
 and the Dev-l a shap for foot to feel
 which is a very great disadvantage
 for if a bell slips then the's shurely cantied
 but if we-d a mind to go agen
 all things would be put in order then

for we was promis-d by Tom Goady ⁽²¹⁶⁾ 346
that he-d get them in order, by many
would he.

²⁴
⁽²¹³⁾
At Creed Church there we rang two Grandsons
but had much ado to make em answer
for the bells were in such bad repair
that never more will I Ring there

25.

Of a Voyage next I have to ring
When we went down to Rotherhithe to Ring
at S. Marys Church ⁽²¹⁷⁾ I do declare
and Ring Seven Hundred Plain Bob there
and of Treble Bob one eighteen score
not one Change less nor one Change more
The Boat that Carry-d us brought us back
to Muck ally where first we met
where beans and bacon boiling hot
was taken smocking from the pot



ST MARY, ISLINGTON, A.D. 1734.

and Colly flowers and leggs of
Mutton

347

was provided for us there to sup on
we had seventeen pat down to eat
up the beans and bacon and the meat
and clear-d the Dishes very Clean
for good hands they were as e-ev was seen
after supper ended ev-ry man
according to Custom drank a dram
then fowld a tale or sung a Song
and merrily pas-d the time along
till it was a proper time for parting
and then we all went home that's Certain.

26.

For William Ibbot me met to Ring
a Dead peal at Islington for him
to the Last Respect that can be shown
to a Ringer when he-p Dead and gone

so should be a pity to neglect it
 for most ringers when they die expect it
 besides in Country or in town
 there-s many that like the solemn sound
 and to hear a funerall peal will come
 two or three miles to hear it Ring.

27

On Sunday the Twentieth Day of June
 we met at Greenwich in the afternoon
 with an intent for to have Ring.

but by no means it could be done
 for two Curyngs happen-d there that night
 or else without dispute we might
 so we went to Deptford and Ring there
 but found those bells in bad Repair.

28

At Hackney we agreed to go
 over the marshes to Walthamstow

to Ring a peal upon those bells
 but Dismally they sound their notes
 for each was bad and out of tune (218)
 so to Criticize there is great room
 tho' i'll say nothing that looks like spite
 but I think I never heard the like
 two Seven Hundred-odd we fairly Ring
 of plain bob each Completely Done
 Our walk indeed proved very fine
 so I cannot say we Grudg-d the time
 such a Charming field of Rye and Wheat
 wou-d do a mans heart good to see
 and peas and beans and oats likewise
 I ne-er saw finer with my eyes
 barley and pears and other grain
 all intermix-d in one large plain
 o-er which we march-d by foot paths led

thro' Rye much higher than our heads
 which some eye-d knots on near the ground
 is throw unway mortals down
 poor Tom! he got a swinging fall
 for down came Colly guts and all
 flat as a flounder where he lay
 just i-th middle of the way
 and many more they caus-d to stumble
 but none but Tom Chounds got a fumble
 a few fields from the Church there lies
 a rural seat which I should prize
 like an old Castle it takes the eye
 not built too low nor yet too high
 of bricks and stone the fabric built
 and each Corner has a turret gilt
 on each side charming shady trees
 in the Garden a noble range of bees

an ancient orchard wall'd around
 where various sorts of fruit are found
 as apples cherries pears and plumbs
 some large some smaller than our thumbs
 against the wall grew abra-cocks
 peaches and neclrens in large kinds
 Chois fruits to bring with a Dissart
 either full ripe or in a part
 On the south a hill high on the top
 Cover'd with oats a noble crop
 on the north a Shady Lane appears
 which leads to the forest amongst the bears
 where opening glades so pleas'd to my eye
 ah! there i-d live and there i-d die.

The next Escplot that shall be writ on
 is of our Journey Down to Nitcham

at the Flagg's head there we met eighteen
 all Jolly souls as e-er was seen
 and in the garden there we dine-d
 on food which happen-d to our mind
 beneath a Damson tree we sat
 and all the plagues of life forgot
 upon the bow-s I do believe
 was as many plums as there were leaves
 apples likewise and other fruits
 and various plants and various roots
 might in that garden there be found
 some bow-s were loaded to the ground
 and fill-d it was with garden stuff
 tho not too much but yet enough
 for a small spot that shall be well fill-d
 is better than a large with weeds half fill-d
 there was both wall and rails went round
 this little piece of garden ground
 to part it from their neighbours bounds

a necessary or convenient

there stood quite at the further end on't
 oer spread with woodbines fence-d with roses
 Delightfull smell to most mens noses
 for honeysuckles when they-re blown
 have a Charming sent it is well known
 and nothing more proper can be found
 to spread over a privy all around

The Dwelling house was Laths and Play
 in Country towns a Common way

two storys high and thatch-d with straw
 as Country a Cottage as e-er I saw
 their furniture was neat and plain
 usefull it was not gaudy vain

for a wooden dish or earthen platter
 will serve the turn as well as pewter
 and if they-re kept but sweet and clean
 none need be asham-d to have em seen

Their annamals i-ll fill of now
 for beast they-d none nor horse nor Cow
 a Cock three hens a Dogg and Cat
 a fine young hogg shut up to fat }
 and happy they that can get that
 Whether they-d Children I cannot tell
 or whether they-d either boy or girl
 and thus they liv-d I hope from strife
 too off the plauge of marriage life
 Then for Dinner we'd begun to Call
 mine host Cryd Coming we-ll please you all
 my wife's a taking of it up
 for every thing is just enough
 the Cutlers melting on the fire
 and pogg in a hurry Dont Come ny her
 so we took aw Landlords kind advice
 and Dinner followed in a trice
 beef Bacon Cabbages in one Dish

served up as good as men Cou-d wish
 and in a nother I was glad to see-t
 as good french beans as e-er was eat
 and Charming Roisted Legg of mutton
 good as ever knife made Cut on
 the gravy ran amongst the beans
 which we eat with them and other greens
 and with good butter intermisc-d
 made as good sauce as Cou-d be wish-d
 the air had made our stomachs sharp
 so ev-ry man then play-d his part
 then Dinner ended each man Drank
 Half quartain of brandy to his stent
 some smook-d their pipes whilst others rung
 a Course of Calers nicely done
 and in the steeple we rung out
 seven hundred Cambridge without doubt

a Charming Day lives and things went
 according to our hearts Content
 It was not so hot nor yet so Cold
 The fields was pleasant to behold
 The Dust so laid it cou-d not rise
 to Choak our throats nor blind our eyes
 Our Reck-ning paid and Coming away
 Lould lould says Jerry pretty stay
 we-ll not stir yet by the blood
 ill have more tips or break the mugg
 well done, said I, Jerry so you shall
 then Landlord Landlord Jerry call-d
 and he came running for to see
 bring us another mugg quoth he
 for with your tips I will be free
 with all my heart, Sir, says the man
 Drink as long as e-er you can

By Chance there came a Prancer in
 that work-d at Nible's on the green
 and he and I must needs toss up
 for two full pots of this said keps
 so we threw a Shilling in the air
 and Down it tumbled very fair
 he Cry-d heads and up turn-d tail
 but Chanc-d to roll beneath a rail
 I want fair said he ye go to Cheat me
 say so again said I'll beat ye
 and make ye know friend to your cost
 that very fairly you have lost
 I'll knock your head of if you dare
 Dispute the toss up being fair
 so Tom the Tinker paid the Reck-ning
 without more words or further threat-ning

for if he-d not s-d shurely mill-d him
 without two or three had from me held him
 In coming home we call-d at Plietham
 Hill Eyles and Jerry there we left 'em
 'twas near the Church at the five bells
 where they lay all night to rest them selves
 no farther then they could proceed
 they were both of them so much fatigue-d
 but after they had sleep all night
 next Day they came home dusk and light
 Tom Greenwood Jack Trennel and I
 in marching home was very dry
 but we found a pump upon the road
 which much Refreshment did afford
 about a mile full North from Plietham
 where weary Travellers may Refresh 'em

To Bristol Causey then we went 359
and call-d at the white horse by Convent
to drink a pot and smoke a pipe
till the moon got up to give us light
and no where else we call-d that night

but only at a pump or two
in Blackman Street as we came thro'
to take a draught and so away
without any further stop or stay
We'd another group came home to geather

as in different party-s we went thither

one of their men was honest frank

got an ugly fall from of a bank

into a dry ditch full at length.

but prais-d be God he got no harm

no further than onely run-d his arm

Says Jemmy to Frank this is ill
luck

360

Lend me thy hand i'll pull thee up
no no says Frank let me alone
i'll lie still a little now i'm down
after which we'll march away to town
Hopsy and Timonds got a ⁽²²¹⁾ case
in a Gentlemans Coach that homeward

pass
how grand they look-d! if ye had but
seen

in a Gilded Coach line-d with green
and thus in State they bowl-d along ⁽²²²⁾
Coon and prentice their horses foots
and we other mortals judg-d on foot
Thus various scenes fell out that day
both at Mitcham and on the way

but as we all got safely down
so all came safely back to town.

30

At Camberwell we met again
but as it happen-d was in vain
for the Tenor was so out of order
we Rung three thousand and no further
so we all agreed whenever was mended
to go again and try and end it
at the Crown we met and had to eat
a Legg and Shoulder of good meat
Cabbages well boyled and store of pickles
we had to eat with this good vittels
after which we play-d a game of skittles
and thus we spent the afternoon
and then Returned back to town.

At Christ Church Spittle fields the next
amongst the frenchmen I protest
and many of em did appear
all round the Church that came to hear
Ringers likewise were misc-d with them
that came to hear the Ramblers ring
and said we Rung em very well
and each distinctly struck his bell.

At Spittle fields we met again
and punctily came ev-ry man
and Rung five hundred of bob maies
but indeed it was not without hard labour
for five six seven went so ill
that that night we could not have
our will

Of S. Dunstons Stepney now i-ll till
 Sixteen Hundred rung out very well
 and Done at once no meeting twice
 for the bells went Charming smooth and
 nice
 not ruff and hard like Spittle fields
 what Difference there is between those peals
 for of Stepney bells a man may say: ⁽²²³⁾
 that none e-er went better o' their weight.

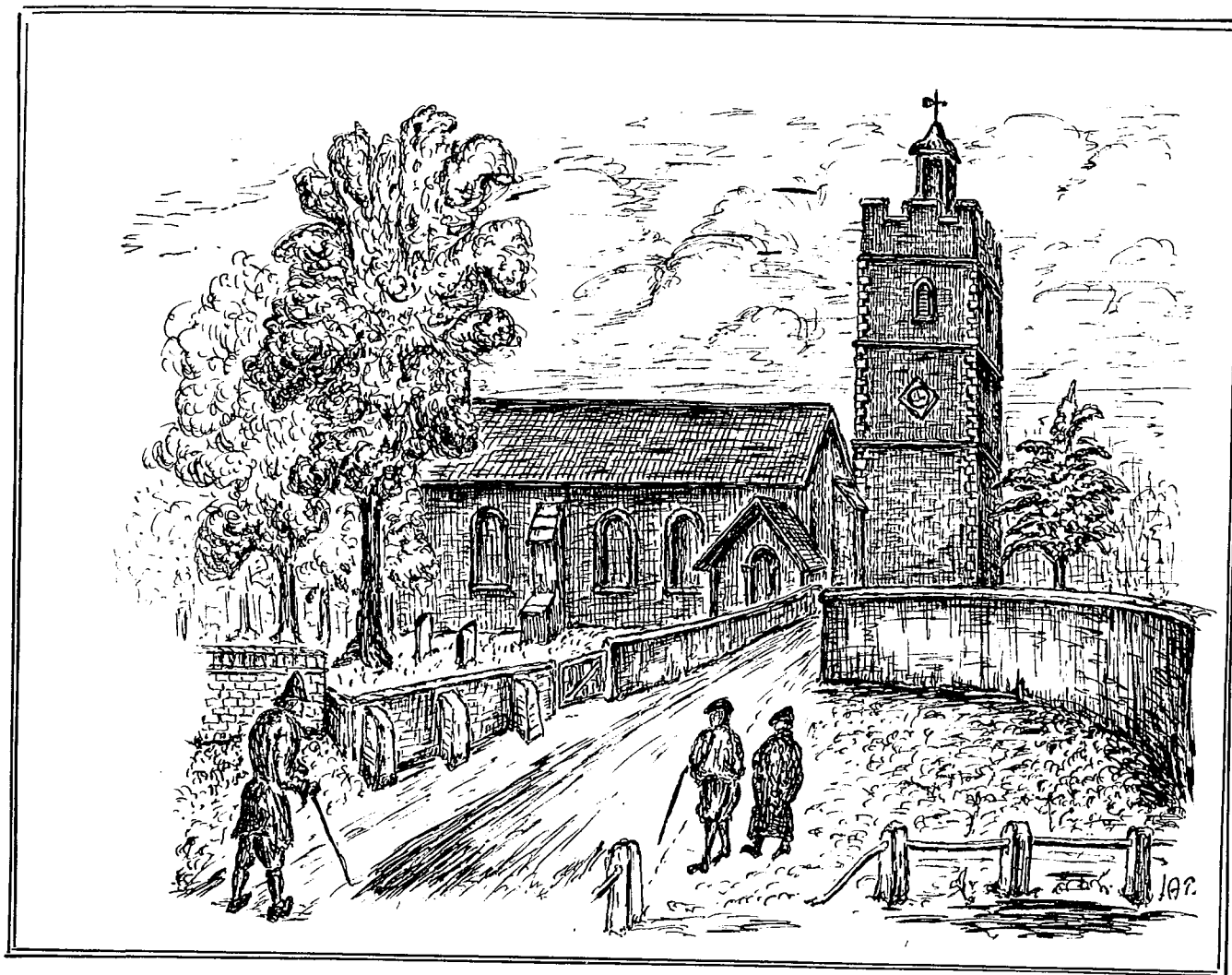
 34.

In the Minories at a peal of three
 the Church is called trimly
 where fourteen Dozen we fairly rang
 of Sices all Completely Done
 and Knock-d em all of Clean at hand
 and Rais-d and Ceas-d without a Stand
 what signifies fewer what peals to us
 who Ring em of by Dozens thus

That is the hardest feat to raise
 that e-er I met with in my days
 the Tenor is so very light
 two Hundred one quarter is the weight
 The Ropes were small our hands they cut
 no Salls on them e-er was put
 so with some Choate we made a mark
 or else we-d all ben in the Bark
 but that show-d us where abouts to Catch
 and stop in due time at full Steich
 but for all that we-d mutch ado
 to keep the Ropes from slipping thro'
 Tom Greenwood, he stood Cross a ~~bench~~
 bench
 and I not three foot space from thence
 to Ring the Tenor in a Corner

and grate my arm against the
wall, Sir

Jemmy Benson had Room with the peller
for she hung pretty near the middle
We met at the Cene in haydon yard
When a supper for us was prepar'd
of good Roast beef and horseradish
a root which has a charming relish
Two Dishes heap'd with butter'd turnips
which prov'd agreeable to our Stomachs
It was good provision Dainty fair
Enough there was and some to spare
we sup'd Completely twenty one
that was our number to a man.



CAMBERWELL - A.D. 1734.

Of Camberwell I now shall sing
 and the five thousand we there did ring
 for by good luck we kill'd the witch
 a damn'd old crossgrained crabbed
 . b-k-h.

full many a time she'd plag'd us sore
 but now she'll ne-er do so no more
 'twas by a horseshoe we did the feat
 nail'd on the Door as you may see-
 for witch nor wizard cannot enter
 nor o-er the threshold dur-s't they venture
 where-n that magic charm is nailed
 well known to us it nev-er fail'd
 'twas great good luck to find the shoe
 and better old than 't had bin new
 for till they're worn they will not do

was found one night at almost

367

dark

upon the road by Mr. Clark

as we was coming from that place

which prov-d to us a lucky case

The smallest peal of eight those are

that can be found out any where

The Tenor weighs not quite eight hundred

and at thirty six all eight is numbered

five thousand there we now have rung

and some are gripe-d because they re

done

and out of spite have call-d us names

but we'll not call them so again

blackguard scoundrills and god knows

what

names not easy to be forgot

tho I assure ye for my part

368

that I forgive em from my heart

but this much I shall say to them

that the Ramblers behave themselves

like men

and are not affronted to any one

so tis hard that they cannot let us alone

but Criticks always will condemn

what-e-er is done by other men

and still be showing their illnature

altho they-re lash'd with biting satire

Our Reck-rings i-m I shure we did

Discharge

altho they mounted e-er so large

and no house where-so-er we us-d

can say by us they were abus-d

It would be well if some could pay 369
so much.

Tho' th' have taken such liberties with us. (225)

36

We met again in Haydown yard
where the jolly Ramblers nobly fair'd
before a pillion, now a barrow
of glorious beef as e-w was fed on
was Mr. Cow that gave the meat
and bread and sauce with it to eat
We met for nothing but good living
for the Duce a Change had we of Ringing
tho' had Aldgate Bells bin in repair
we had Rung seven hundred there.

37

To Tolnam nesci we went to Ring
and hear that noble Tenor ring

is as good a bell as e-er was made
 and that's as much as can be said
 for seven Hundred Cambridge rung
 as well as ever can be done

for tho the bells went puff and hard
 we neither pain-s nor labour spair-d
 but struck em as Distinct and Clear
 as ever I wou-d Desire to hear

By Phillip Whiteman those bells were made
 thirty eight years ago tis said
 for this Tenor bears the Date of this
 one thousand nine hundred and twenty six
 whilst six of us was gone to ring
 five others went to a boozing ken
 where thirteen quarters of Geneva
 was fairly Drunk if you'll believe me

for when we'd Done we every man 371
went in likewise fo Drinks a Dram
and eat a piece of gingerbread
and hear what had bin Done and said
there was pretty Jenny Scapely Came
and a Singing Girl and had a Dram
five lively pullets as e-er was seen
they were just a turning of eighteen
but their mother kept a watchful eye
that none should Slip out. By the by
for if they'd had some nine months after
they might have brought forth sons or
Daughters
and some of those five been the fathers
had a boy been got upon the singer
he'd a shurely made a Charming Singer

for the bells at that time went

so sweetly

that he must have course bin got completely

tho' what might have sprung from either

pullie

is impossible for me to tell it

but suppose they-d had which part they

wou-d

it wou-d have bin the product of youthful

blood

In our Returning home that night

with a merry Quaker we chanc-d to light

by Jove he was a boozing friend

but we stich him up, pray mark this

end

It was at the Castle there we hous-d

and there we sup-d and there we boozed

of Veal we had a charming fillit

our Landlord was so kind to give it
 it was nicely stuff'd and as good meat
 as ever I wou-d Desire to eat
 Our talk was much upon Religion
 and each spoke freely his opinion ⁽²⁷⁷⁾
 some were for this and some for that
 and others for I know not what
 but the golden rule we all stick to
 as you-d be done by so do you
 in the midst of all our speculations
 is the strong opinions of different nations
 mine host he brings us in an egg
 found in his garden in the hedge
 where four more in the nest there lay
 he found it out that very day
 Strange! in October for a generen

to make a nest and lay eggs then
 we philosophised upon the reason
 why birds should lay eggs at that season
 and some said because 'twas open weather
 others said 'twas not so open neither
 but the hedge being stored with food
 might cause some birds a better brood
 and perhaps high feeding was the best
 reason to be given for this said nest
 for in either man or beast high food
 has a strange effect upon his blood
 and if so in them why not in birds
 At the winding up our honest friend
 Challeng'd to toss up for some Gin
 and amongst us all was won and lost

several quarters to his cost

375

at last our friend he made a fair few
sleep pees-ed his eyes, Down Drop: Tom Taylor
and the Kitchen bench he snored upon

Whilst we to London march along

Tom Clark and I call-d in at neds ⁽²²⁸⁾,

had one pint of hot then home to bed

By the way i-ll tel you understand

wed two friends who lay at the bid-
in hand

The lower end of Stanford Hill

was honest ^{*} Jerry and honest [†] Hill

where next day they had a Deal of fame
and perhaps a little bit of that same

for they found a Dam-sell very free

but if she was that's naught to me

Veal Cullet's I find they had for
 dinner
 and what e-er she-d Drink they freely
 give her
 and then in Love they spent the Day
 till tis was high time to march away
 and when they were Come home at night
 they-d heavy hearts and pocket's light 229

* Jerry Gilbert
 † Hill Nash - Laughton's note.

We met at Neds to Divert our selves
 with Ringing of Mother Leeches bell
 we Severall Courses of Caliors Rung
 and one Course of Tripplers neatly Done
 for Supper we had a noble buttock
 of almonds beef as e-er was Cut up 233
 the liquor was o-er Charg-d with salt

Cut: the meat was done without

377

a fault

and eat exceeding fine and rich

for it was indeed a noble Dish

such a hang up we had never had before

nor perhaps may never have no more

39

We found Hackney Bells in good Repair

so we rung seven hundred Cambridge there

in memory of Queen Elizabeth

her accession Day Queen Marys Death

At the rising Sun we met a Scoar

not less i-m shure if there was not more

for supper we had a Shoulder of mutton

as good I think as e-er was Cut on

much mirth we had a Deal of Laughter

with Mrs Mary our Landlady's Daughter

a pretty little black ey-d maid
 and will be marry-d in short time he said
 a loving husband I hope shell find
 to kiss her well and use her kind
 o' happy life when both agree
 and live in love and unity
 we think to step down without bidding
 and Ring a peal and Dance at her wedding
 for she use-d us all so very kindly
 that if we dont 'twill not look friendly
 'twere march-d away at ten at night
 with five links before to give us light
 and in Spittlefields agreed to call
 about eight or nine of us in all
 to drink a dram Ned called it nontz
 but I believe 'twas ne-er in France

for their Brandy Gun and their Rum 379
I believe were all three Still'd at home
Mounsiou he brought an ache-bone out ⁽²³⁴⁾
Could Carols pound it placed about
and so help so was Down this good beer
we-d four full pots of beer and beer
after which another pint of montz
then straight so Ned's we did advance
where I sat me down and staid a little
and drank one pint of Special tipple
and thus I finished for that day
but something more I have to say
at the frenchmans when we come to pay
in order so Ned's to march away
about this Reckning we had dispute
for Mounsiou's wife stood stiffly too't

grounds! says Tom Greenwood Dont 380
impose

and make us pay for't thro the nose
we know better than to pay that price
tho' the liquor had been e-er so nice
two Shillings a pint in a Brandy Shop
for nasty spirits I know not what
and three pence a pot Beer out of Doors
if we pay that price we-re Sons of Whoars
truly says Madam I wont take less
w' give y' beef and bread you-re

Charming gess

you take your beef and carrots too
ill not pay so by ! what ev they do
Indeed says she you like to pay
that price before you march away

Shall we try but I say no!

381

and I shall call them fools that do
so after we'd squabbled about the matter
we e-en paid them just what we thought
proper

Along with me to honest Ned's

went two besides Tom Clarke

but as for Ned and all the rest

we lost em in the dark

a coming thro' some horrid ^{*}cribs

backside of petty coal lane

where I stumbled and got over shoes

and then to hours ditch came

a posc of all such cribs say I

and all such nasty places

where there allways is a Slutish tribe

a turning up their arses

whose food is nought but wretched fair

hairs, livers, lights, hoggs foot

382

and ears

or stale red herrings wretched things
or gunters runs, or Chitterlings

Stale sprats sometimes or necks of beest
or bake-d or cheeks is their relief

Pancks bacon fry-d with addled eggs

Low heel and onions, or Sheeps heads

Slickings or skits sometimes they Chuse
or snails or frogs to make Ragors
food which the french have much in use

various herbs and various roots

in fields they gather to make em soups

ther-s not a meadow field or hedge

near Hackney but has fell their rage

with stubbed knives they Degg em up

and then in Dirty baggs they-re put.

and home they-re brought and you 383
may gess

What must procede from such a mess
Rancid butter too and Stinking Cheese
with maggots fill'd, we'll add to these
which causes such a nauncious smell
As those Cribbs, and those that in em dwell
Enough to strike a Stranger down
not us'd to their parts o' the town
so Lord! defend and keep us from
such places from the time to come
But as for Ned I since have heard
Tom Greenwood and the rest
They stiev'd As Puncho-s for to booz
a Hankard of the best
and perhaps a Dram of Rum likewise
or Hollands Gin I gues.

but how long they staid I cannot

tell

before they went to rest

perhaps it might be one or two

or longer e-er they parted

True souls they are as ever booz-d

free spirits and free hearted.

* Crabb chiefly inhabited by
french folks and Jews - Laughton.

40 (236)

By the Hospital next was our Col

such a fine peal ought ne-er be forgot

tho' my tale perhaps may make ye laugh

we Rung seventeen dozen and a half

of Tunes on that peal of three

by Bennett Benson and by me

the longest peal that e-er was rung

on three bells and Completely Done

twelve hundred and sixty six

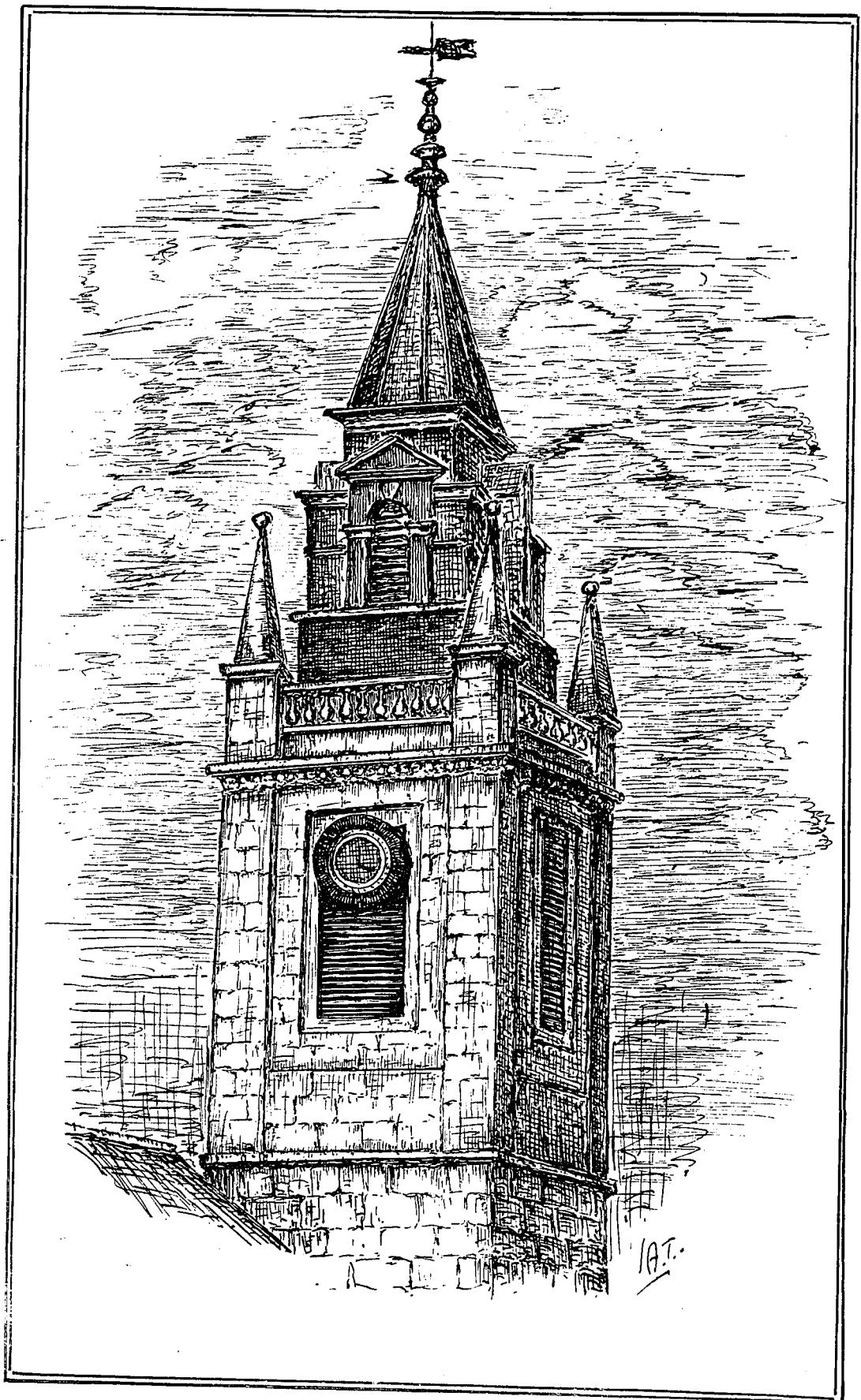
385

Complete

Cast it but up and you may see
the first attempt we lost the peal
by the plangey Tenors missing wheel
for we-d Rung six Dozen and a half
when the Rope got out and stuck up fast
but we could hear of that ugly fault
and rung this peal as fine as thought
Perhaps it may be said by some
to be a childish thing as e-er was done
all the answer I shall make to such
it was our pleasure and that's enough
and what is mens pleasure is so still
let others think out what they will
besides it shall be said by none

that the Ramblers left a peal undone 386
at any place where they'd begun
in the Minorities Tom Clarke Call'd the best *
but here John Allsup Did the job
out of Great Britain we went to booz
at the Cock and Crown a noted house
for birds and those that do delight
to hear their songs by day and night
parrots to prattle Daws to chatter
magpies and Starlings came near the matter
pidgeons of various kinds likewise
swift birds to travel thro the skyes
pouters and Carriers pumblers and horsemen
some was intarp'd when Calil lost them
o Villains! to steal fore Calils Doves
he swore Revenge by the above

387
there was Store of Linnets and Canaries
hung o-er our heads in wiew Cages
our Landlord brought us one to see
twas a Linnet with a mottled beak
which is a rarity I find
amongst the Judges of that kind
I believe he is a Judge indeed
for that's the only sort he breeds
tho many birds of other sorts
you might hear of him where to be bought
Whither Green bird Bullfinch or the Robin
black bird or Thrush nestle shall be brought
in
the owl the Buzzard and Cuckoo
the Raven and the Cuckoo
for from the Eagle to the wren
there I heard Dross conce-d by some men



St Lawrence, Jersey.

I wou-d write more upon the matter 388
but in the art of birds I do but smatter
for indeed I want the proper words
that is us-d by them that fancy birds.

* I could em up - o [W.L.]

41.

At S. Laurence next by Guild hall
one of the very best peals of all
for no better bells can be found
were you to perch all England round
we rang no peal of Grandire Triples
but seven Hundred Coll on the Pisc biggest
on purpose to oblige old Chap
so we Rang no other peal but that
after which we went to Angell ally
in little moor fields as I shall tell ye
to smook a pipe and drink a pot

Where we found a Supper ready got 389
quite unsuspected i-m There it came
not one among us knew o' the same
was a Shoulder of Mutton Costers gift
so we all sat down and pick-d a bit
after which we booz-d till one o the morn
to break up before that time we scorn-d.

42

At Spittlefields it shall be sung
that Fifteen Hundred we have sung
of P Arnairs Completely true
those that heard it gave it praises due
had the bells the last time gone as well
of this meeting w-d not had to tell
but then they went so plangey ruff
that to sing five Hundred was enough.

more pains and labour was by far 390
than now to Ring five thousand there.

43

We met at Brother Costers next
and there we had a Supper dress-d
it was indeed five leggs of pork
and a belly piece o' the same sort
peas pudding potatoes parsnips turneps
Various sauces for various Stomachs
and to make up Jolly Ramblers Cheer
we-d Brandy Rum good ale and beer
we sup-d Completely liveny four
not one man less nor one man more.

44

At Brother Hills we met again
and went to Laurences to ring
but there the fifth was tumbled down

391

a fault in the bells that's often found
so we went to Bripplegate to Ring a peal
but there the Tenor mis-d her wheel
and I was taken with the gripes
I ne-er was worsen in my life
Cos the Rope was too short for him
so neither Bells nor men were fit to Ring
for which I think we must go again
but if we do it shan't be right
for will ne-er Ring there by Candle light
if have 'em stuck against the wall
they gave hardly any light at all
for three that are hung in the middle
are better than ten stuck round the
Steeple
against the wall with Dabs of Clay

392
That nasty blackguard adious way
Each Steeple ought to have a branch
hung in the middle to advance
higher or lower with a weight
as men should fancy for to ha-ve
and at least to have a dozen lights
which would look well on Ringing nights
Perhaps when e-er we go again
we may fifteen-hundred eighty Ring
So never let your Courage fail
for if ye do you-ll spoil my tale
and all the peals which we have Ring
will be the same as nothing done
then never let the Criticks ring
we began a peal we could not Ring
He had for supper two joints of meat

393
Both mutton as good as ever was eat
and proper Sauce prepar'd for them
enough at least for twenty men
tho I think there was but just fifteen
at this hangup which was given between
our Brother Costie and Brother King.

45.

Of Spittlefield again I write
we met there on Christmas eve at night
to Ring seven hundred Cambridge on
the six biggest Bells which none had done
nor Eighteen peaw or plain or treble
since they had been rung up in the steeple
since we then are the first that did
let it to after ages live
and be paid when we are dead and gone
that by the Ramblers it was Ring.

We met again at Brother Ned-s
and had for supper two noble Leggs
of Treather Mutton fresh Cut up
and both with pickled Herrings stuff-d
an od sort of dish it is his time
and was to us intirely new
for such a feast we ne-er had had
so we thought it must eat very bad
but when we had begun to eat
and taste of this well season-d meat
we were every one well pleas-d with it
the Herrings mix-d amongst the herbs
good sweet and some crumbs of bread
gave the Stuffling such a charming flavour
I never tasted such a savor
there was nothing of a fishy taste

395

nor nothing like it in the least
and some that eat wou-d scarce believe
their eyes they were ~~so~~ so much Deceived
but as they were at Neds and saw
the stuffing mix-d together raw
this supper pleas-d us mightily
for we Ramblers love variety
whether it be i-th way of living
or whith-r it be i-th way of ringing
we-d hay a dozen Dames come there
to taste of this new fashion-d fair
and were all well pleas-d with this od Dish
but would scarce believe anything of fish
they tipped sung and play-d at whiske (237)
and all their doings ran very brisk
for they in friendship mirth and love

spent the night below and we above
 We went to Christ Church Spittlefields
 whilst supper was dressing to ring a peal
 and Rung out what we did Design
 It was the first peal Rung there of that kind
 morning Exercise Seven Hundred and twenty
 and then Returned with bellies empty
 There's nothing like Ringing of a peal
 to prepare a Stomach for a meal
 for if with Crudities ⁽²³⁸⁾ is oppress'd
 the Stirring will cause em to Digeſt
 or throw em upwards from the breast
 Tom Greenwood found it true that day
 the seventh brought the phlegm away
 he pull'd her up it did her good
 and eas'd his stomach of a load

and made him breath so free
and light

397
he-d no more Coughing all that night
Jack Trenell, he rais-d the Tenor
in fifty pulls and fairly set her
but she went a little stiff or John
for certain had not ben so long
and thus did we divert our selves
upon Christ Church six biggest Bells.

47

Once more of Laurences I write

and what we rung out there this night
Twelve Hundred as we did Design
Completed at the second time
after which at Hills we found some beef
Dress-d allamode for us to eat
The soup was very rich and good

and the meat was fine Delicious
Food

fit for such hardy souls as we
that love our Bellies as you may see
for of late tis plain we've found to
meet

without we had something good to eat

48

To Cripple Gate we went again
to Ring our peal of all eight-in
for tho before we'd had ill luck
yet this last time we made it up
no griping now to spoil the peal
nor Rope too short nor slipping wheels
but all things in good order found
so we brought the peal completely Round
on well stew'd Legg of Beef we sup'd.

and nut brown fosters in the
Liquor pop-d

for tho' the skin be void of fat
the marrow supplies the place o' that
and makes the poop so rich and good
that Doubles his strong hearty food
fit for Robust men such as we
that always feed most heartily

49

Next we perform-d on Christ Church
Eight

seven Hundred Union Bob Complete
the first attempt was fairly Rung
and what no other there had done
but what feels so-ev. we undertake
we-d seldom any men mistook
and this the Ramblers Last Design

ill Register to after times.

400

I believe we can say more than can
be said since Ringing first began
for no peal that we e-er attempted
at any place but what we ended
a pattern for all steady minds
that e-er shall read or hear these lines

I wish all those that sneer and laugh
were oblig'd to go thro' such a task
and at all the peals where we have been
to go likewise the same to Ring

t-would see their conduct and their hearts
to Ring so many peals in different parts
then quite another tale they'd tell us
and say the Ramblers were brave fellows

Of our Last Meeting now I'll tell
 'twas in Angel Alley at the Bell
 the House where first the Club began
 agreed at first by seven men
 But now increas'd to forty two
 Strange tale to tell but very true
 We met not for to Ring a peal
 but to eat a piece of good Roast veal
 'twas a Shoulder Stipp'd with savory herbs
 good sweet and some crumbs of bread
 and eat Exceeding Rich and good
 for 'twas a noble Dish of food
 Likewise we had a pair of puddings
 and fill'd with sweet eggs and Currans
 as big as a middling pair of Globes
 Plum puddings a food by most belov'd.

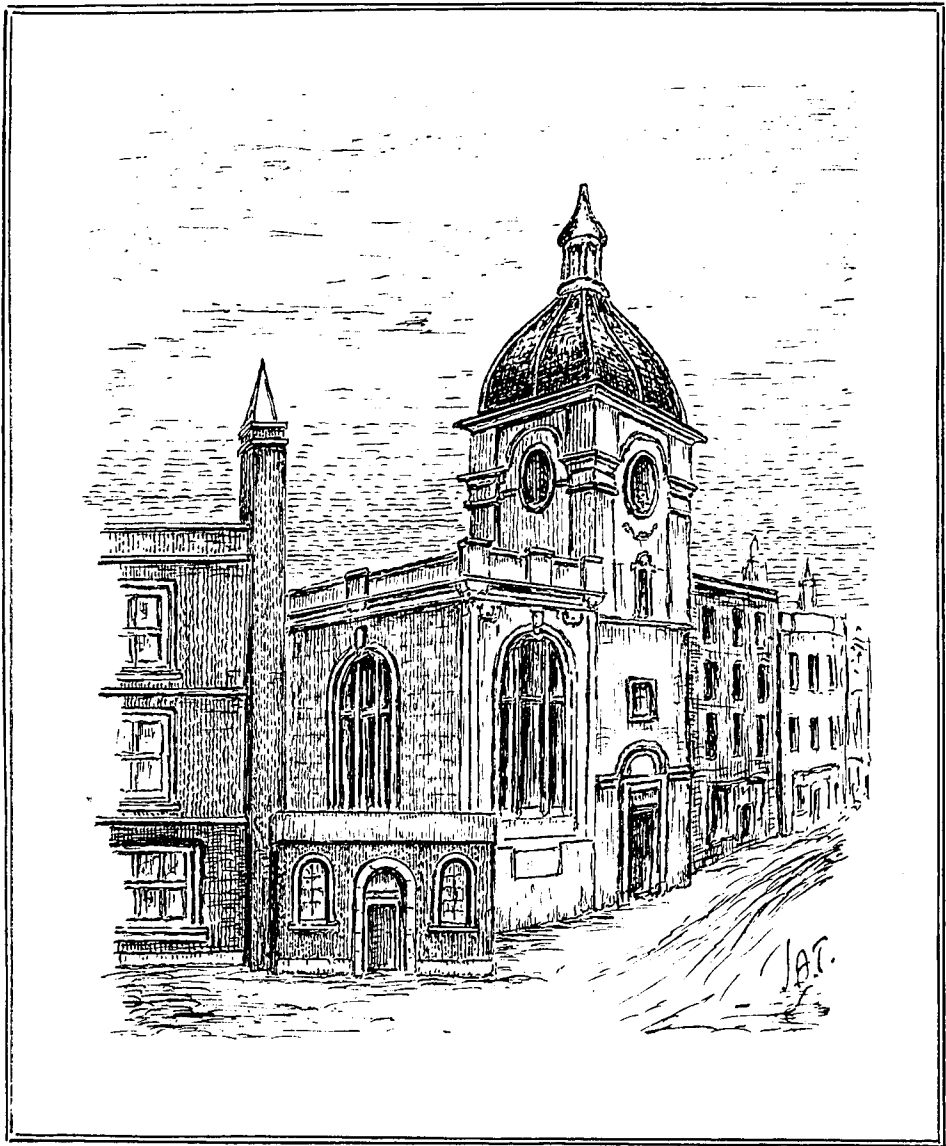
293

We met for nothing but good cheer
and to tell our progress far and near
How many various feasts we'd bring
from one to the other o' the town
our pleasant walks the summer past
and what-e'er we'd done from first to last
which seem'd to yield us much delight
for merrily we spent the night
a song sometimes came in between
and was a greatly intermisc'd
for songs well sung and tales well told
are to conversation the life and soul
and store of sherry will seldom fail
where there's good cheer and sherry tale
To friend and foe I wish the like
whenever they meet by day or night.

that nothing may Disturb their peace
and now I think tis time to cease
for now I have gon thro my task
of all our meetings from first to last
nothing I think I have forgotten
before or at winding up the bottom

Who-ev shall Read or hear these Tales
let not ill nature too much prevail
but weigh the real true Design
then no affronts I hope theyll find.

Tho for what I-cud writ for what I-cud Sung
some Rubbs perhaps may be Return-d
but who-ev shall happen to be the noice
I shall Realy be beneath my notice



ST. BENET, FINK.

1204

The names of all the places that the
Rambling Club have Rung at and when
what peals they perform-d at each place
and which members perform-d them.

Likewise the names of all the Houses they
met at what hang-ups were given and
by whom.

1
720 Plain Bob at St Benedic Fink on
Thursday 29th November 1733 Jeremyah
Gilbert Treble John Shonger Thomas Clarke
John Deamos William Laughlin Richard
Spicer Tenor We met at Hill Coopers the
Bell in angel ally Little Moor fields where
I gave them a dish of Whiteings for supper.

2.
720 College Single and 720 Plain Bob at St
Olaves in Hart St on Thursday the 6th of

December 1733 the first by Jeremiah 165
Gilbert's Treble John Chapman William
Laughton William Nash Thomas Clark
John Trenell the plain Bob by the same men
except John Dearmor to the 2nd in the room
of old Chap We met at the Ship near the
Church.

3

720 College Single at St. Pauls at Thadwell
on Thursday the 13th of December 1733
Jeremiah Gilbert's Treble John Harrington 2
William Laughton 3 Thomas Clark 4 Samuel
London 5 John Dearmor Tenor We met at
the George near the Church.

4

One Grandire on the five biggest and 720
Plain Bob on the Six Bells at St. Botolphs
without Aldgate on Thursday the 20th of

December 1733 the Grand Jurors by 206
William Laughion Treble Samuel Robins
Thomas Clark John Harrington Thomas
Davis Tenor the Plain Book by Jeremiah
Gilbert Thomas Clark Nathaniel Burrows
William Laughion John Harrington Richard
Spicer Tenor We met at the Bell near
the Church

5

720 Treble Book and 720 Plain Book at
althallows Parkin on Thursday the 27th
of December 1733 the first by William
Laughion Treble Thomas Greenwood 2. James
Benson 3 Thomas Clark 4 John Hayward 5
John Pearson Tenor the Plain Book by
Jeremiah Gilbert Treble William Stark 2
William Thorp 3 Nathaniel Burrows 4 John

Trenell 5 George Carby Tenor. We
met at the Bell opposite the church

6.

720 College Single at S. Vedasti Foster Lane
on Thursday the 3rd of January 1733/4
Jeremyah Gilberts Treble John Shonges 2nd
Samuel Robins 3rd William Laughton 4th
John Ward Tenor We met at
the Rising Sun in Noble Street.

7

Two Grandires and one old Double at S.
Peters foot in Broad Street on Thursday the
10th of January 1733.4 Jeremyah Gilberts
Treble Thomas Greenwood 2 John Allsup 3
Thomas Clark 4 William Laughton Tenor
We met at Will Costers when he gave us a
Sea pie for Supper that night.

1256

8

one Plain Bob and one Cambridge
Surprise at S. Botolph without Bishopsgate
on Thursday the 17th of January 1733⁴ the
first by Jeremiah Gilbert Treble Thomas
Clark 2 Joseph Bennett 3 William Egles 4
William Laughton 5 John Hayward Tenor
the Cambridge Surprise by William Egles
Treble Thomas Clark 2nd Thomas Greenwood 3rd
John Harrington 4th William Laughton 5th
John Hayward, Tenor. We met at the
George in Hounds Ditch.

9

720 Plain Bob and 720 Oxford Treble Bob
at S. Marys in White Chapel on Thursday
the 24th of January 1733⁴ the first by
Jeremiah Gilbert Treble John Alderup 2nd

Thomas Clark, 3rd, Joseph Bennett 4 409
William Laughton 5 George Carbery Tenor.
The Treble Part by George Carbery Treble John
Monger 2nd. Thomas Clark 3rd John
Harrington 4th Joseph Bennett 5 William
Laughton Tenor. We met at the White
Horse near the Church.

10

At the Watermans Arms in Silk Alley
Traping on Thursday the 31st of January
1733⁴ we had no ringing but food being
for Mr. Harrington and Mr. Saunders gave
us a Legg of Mutton and three Ribs of
Beef Roasted for Supper.

11

Grandsire, old Doubles Tenors Doubles
and new Doubles at St. Leonards in Shoreditch
on Thursday the 14th of February 1733⁴ The

first two by Jeremiah Gilbert,

410

Treble William Nash 2nd Nathaniel Rippon

William Laughton 4th George Carbery Tenor

the last two by James Benson Treble

William Nash 2nd Nathaniel Rippon 3rd

Tobias Marshall 4th George Carbery Tenor

We met at the black Spread Eagle near
the Church.

12

720 Oxford Treble BR at S. Mary's at

Newington on Sunday the 17th of February

1733⁴ William Laughton Treble Thomas

Clark 2nd William Egles 3rd William Nash

4th George Carbery 5th John Trenell Tenor

We met at the Peacocks near the Church.

13.

Grandsire old Doubles Simonds Doubles

and new Doubles at S. Bartholomew the

Great in West Smithfield on Thursday

The 25th of February 1733⁴ Jeremiah 4th
Gilbert Treble Thomas Clark 2nd William
Laughion 3rd William Nash & Nathaniel
Rippon Tenor. Joseph Bennett rang the
4th Simonds Doubles and William Nash
Rang the other three. We met at the
Baker and Basket the upper end of Cloth
Fair but after we had done Ringeing
we went to the Bell and horse near
the Church.

14

Grandsire Old Doubles New Doubles
Simonds Doubles and Cambridge Delight
at St. James Clerkenwell on Thursday the
28th of February 1733⁴ The first three by
William Laughion Treble Thomas Clark 2nd
John Harrington 3rd William Nash 4th
Nathaniel Rippon Tenor The last two

by Jeremiah Gilbert Treble and the others 4th
as they were before. We met at the Coach and
Horses near the Church

15

720 Plain Bds at alhallows Haining and
720 Plain Bds at S. Andrew Under Shaft
(Commonly called S. Mary Stc) on Friday
the 1st of March 1733⁴ at alhallows Haining
thus James Benson Treble George Carbery 2.
Thomas Clark 3 Thomas How 4 William
Trop 5. William Laughion Tenor at S.
Andrew thus William Laughion Thomas
How 2. William Trop 3 Thomas Clark 4
James Benson 5 George Carbery Tenor. We
met at the George in S. Mary Stc

16

720 Court Bds and 720 Plain Bds at S. Mary
at Islington on Thursday the 7th of March
1733⁴ the first by Jeremiah Gilbert Treble
William Laughion 2nd Thomas Clark. 3rd William

Stash 3^d George Carbery 5^d John 413
Trenell Tenor the Plain Book by Stephen
Green Treble Samuel Robins 2. Nathaniel
Purpon 3 Peter Sampson 4 William Trap 5
James Benson Tenor. We met at the Millie
near the Church.

720 Plain Book and Eighteen Scores of College
Single at Westminster Abbey on Thursday
the 21st of March 1733⁴ the first by William
Stash Treble Thomas Greenwood 2 George
Carbery 3 James Benson 4 William Laughton 5
John Trenell Tenor The College Single by
Stephen Green William Stash 2. Thomas Clark 3
George Carbery 4 William Laughton 5 John
Trenell Tenor We met at the Chequer near
the Church.

720 Oxford Treble Bob at S. John in Hackney
 on Thursday the 28th of March 1734 William
 Mask Treble Thomas Greenwood 2nd James
 Benson 3rd George Carbery 4th William Laughton
 Thomas Clark and William Coster Tenor We
 met at the Rising Sun near the Church

 19

720 Plain Bob at S. Benet Fents on Thursday
 the 4th of April 1732 Jeremyah Gilbert Treble
 Thomas Clark 2nd John Harrington 3rd George
 Carbery 4th William Mask 5th William
 Laughton, Tenor. We met at Hill Costers
 where Jo Haynes gave us a hang up of
 fifts and trains

 20

1008 Bob majors at S. Mary at Lambeth
 on Sunday the 7th of March 1734 Jeremyah
 Gilbert Treble Thomas Greenwood 2 Thomas
 Clark 3 James Benson 4 Joseph Bennet 5

William Laughton 6 John Hayward 7 415
John Frenell Tenor. We met first at the
artichoke at Camberwell from which we
went to the three feathers at Lambeth.

21
5040 Bobmaior at S. Mary Magdalene
Bermondsey on Easter Tuesday the 16th of
April 1734 - it was completed in two
hours and 59 minutes and the first trial

Jeremyah Gilbert	Treble
Thomas Greenwood	2 nd
Thomas Clarke	3 rd
Joseph Bennet	4 th
James Benson	5 th
William Laughton	6 th
John Hayward	7 th
John Frenell	Tenor

We met first at the George in Hounsditch
from whence we went to the Artichoke in
Camberwell from thence back to the Fox and

Goos in Barnaby Street and after
 we had Rang the peal to the George in
 Houndsditch again where we had for Supper
 a Legg of Veal weigh-d 21 pounds broild
 with Bacon and greens, and a Side of
 Lamb roasted with Sallet to eat with it
 there was in all 26 of us at Supper the
 Legg of Veal was given by Mr John Green
 the Side of Lamb by Ned Davis and I.

 22

5040 Proclamation at S. Andrews in
 Holborn on Thursday the 9th of May 1734
 being the first that was Rang on those
 bells by eight men and the second
 that had bin performed there it was
 Completed in 3 hours and 22 minutes
 and the second trial

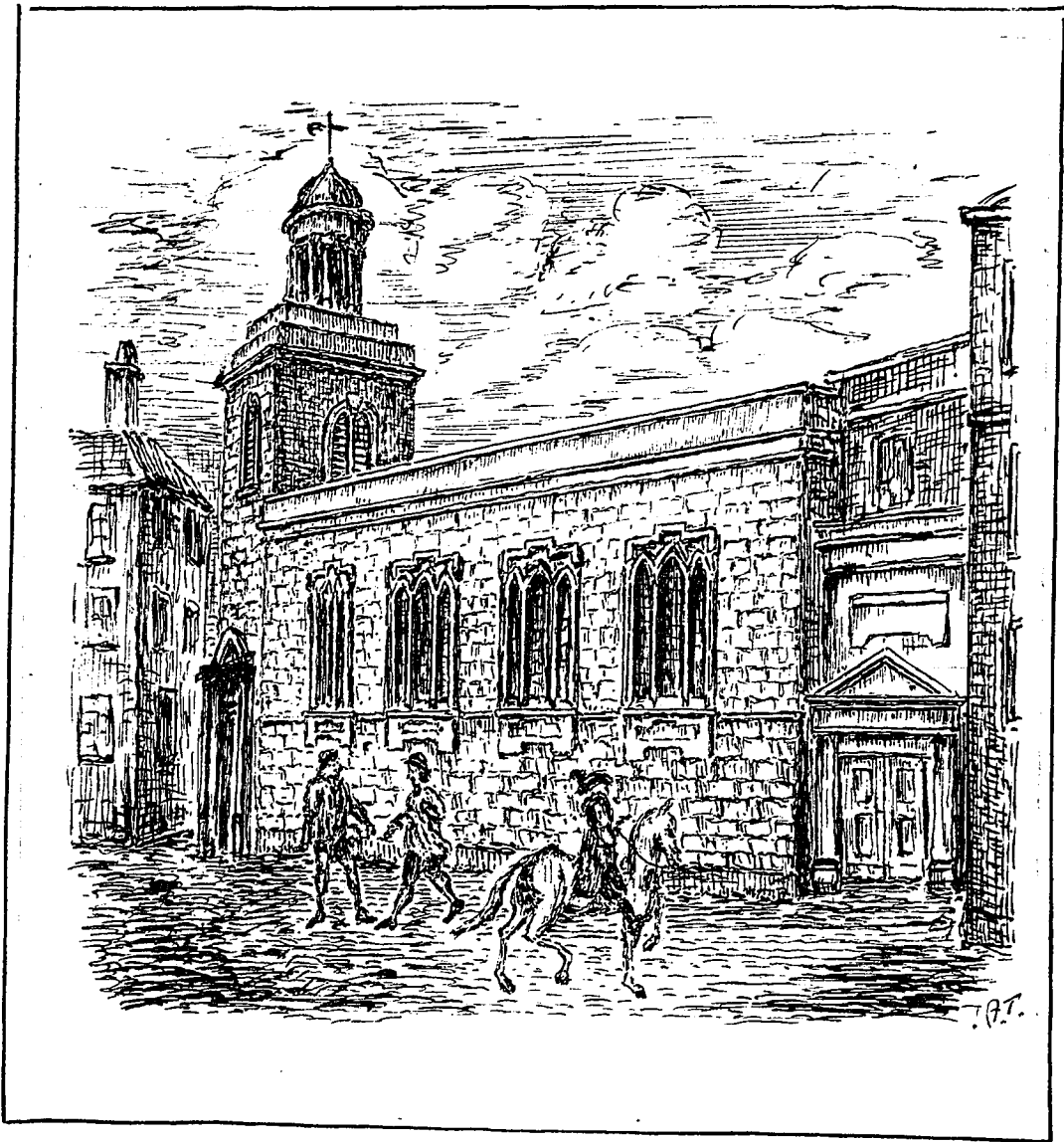
Thomas Smallshaw
Thomas Greenwood
Thomas Clark
James Benson
George Carbery
John Hayward
William Laughton
John Trenell

417

We met at the Jewes Desk and Shagpie
at Holborn Bridge.

23

Two Grandsores and one Old Double at
St. Botolph without Aldersgate on Thursday
the 16th of May 1734 the first Grandsoire
by William Laughton Treble Stephen
Green 2nd Thomas Clark 3rd Nathaniel
Reppon 4th George Carbery Tenor. Old
Double by Jeremyah Gilbert Treble Stephen
Green 2nd William Nash 3rd Joseph Bennett



Greechurch.

William Laughton Tenor. Last 418
Grandsire by William Laughton Treble,
Stephen Green 2nd William Nash 3 Nathaniel
Reppon 4 George Carbery Tenor We met
at the White Horse near the Church

24

Two Grandsires at S. Katherine Creechurch
on Wednesday the 29th of May 1734
Jeremyah Gilbert Treble, James Benson 2
Joseph Murrell 3 John Fenell 4. William
Laughton Tenor We met at the George
in S. Mary asc.

25

720 Plain Bob and 18 Leoan of Oxford
Treble Bob at S. Mary at Rotherhithe
on Thursday the 6th of June 1734 The first
by Jeremyah Gilbert Treble William
Laughton 2nd Nathaniel Reppon 3rd William

Eyles 4^t James Benson 5^t George 419
Barbey Tenor The Treble Part by James
Benson Treble William Eyles 2nd William
Nash 3rd John Harrington 4^t Joseph
Bennett 5^t William Laughton Tenor. We
met at the Waterman's Arms in Shilke
Aley Trapping where Mr Harrington and
Mr Saunders gave us for supper two
large Dishes of Beans and Bacon and
a Legg of Mutton Roasted and Collyflowers
to eat with it Charming picking.

26

Two Grandsires and 720 Plain Part at
St. Marys at Islington on Friday the 7th
of June 1734 which was for a funeral
peal for Mr William Ibbot (245) those that
rang before he was buried are as

follows viz Jeremiah Gilbert Treble L20
Thomas Greenwood 2nd Stephen Green 3rd
George Carbery 4th John Trenell 5th William
Laughton Tenor Those that performed
after he was Buried and sung 720
Plain Psalms were John Rainsdon Treble
James Benson 2nd Thomas Clark 3rd
Stephen Green 4th John Trenell 5th George
Carbery Tenor. We met at the Jubilee near
the Church.

108 and 336 ²⁷ Grandsons Truffles at Deptford
in Kent on Sunday the 16th of June 1734
William Church Treble Thomas Greenwood
William Pickard George Carbery 4th William
Laughton 5th John Trenell 6th Daniell Lucke
James Hayward and Thomas Clark Tenor.

We met first at the three pines in 421
Greenwich, from whence we went to the 8
Poles at Deptford near the Church

28

Two 720's of Plain P^oB at Walthamstow in
Essex on Sunday the 7th of July 1734 the
first by William Laughton Treble Thomas
Ranson 2nd Joseph Bennett 3rd Nathaniel
Rippon 4th Stephen Green 5th William
Thorp Tenor. The Carol by the same men
except Robert Bennett the Tenor in the
room of William Thorp. We met at the
Naggs Head near the Church.

29

720 Cambridge Surprise at Mitcham in
Surrey on Sunday the 11th of August 1734
William Eyles Treble Thomas Greenwood 2nd
William Laughton 3rd Thomas Clark 4th
John Hayward 5th John Frenell Tenor We

met at the Piaggs Head near the 422
Green where the man of the house gave us
for dinner a piece of Beef boyl-d and
Bacon and Cabbage and a Legg of Mutton
Roisted and french beans very good food

30

At Camberwell in Surrey on Thursday the
15th of August 1734 we met at the Crown
on the Green where I gave a Legg and a
Shoulder of Mutton for Dinner with Cabbages
and pickels to eat with them we low-d
not Ring what we Design-d the Tenor
went so bad.

31

672 Grandson Tripples at Christi Church
in Spittle fields on Sunday the 25th of
August 1734 Jeremiah Gilbert Treble Thomas
Greenwood 2nd Joseph Bennett 3rd Thomas

Clark 4th James Benson 5th William 423
Laughion 6th John Trenchell 7th John Hayward
and Nathaniel Peppon Tenor We met at
the 8 Bells near the Church

32

560 Bobmaior at Christ Church in
Spittlefields on Thursday the 5th of September
1734 Jeremiah Gilbert Treble Thomas
Greenwood 2nd Joseph Bennett 3rd Thomas
Smallshaw 4th James Benson 5th William
Laughion 6th John Trenchell 7th John Hayward
and Thomas Clark Tenor We met at the
8 bells.

33

1680 Bobmaior at St Dunstan Stepney
on Thursday the 12th of September 1734 it
was completed in an hour and 20 minutes
and the first trial Jeremiah Gilbert Treble

Thomas Greenwood 2nd James Bennett 3 424
Thomas Smallshaw 4th James Benson 5th William
Laughion 6th John Trenell 7 John Hayward
and Thomas Clark Tenor. We met at the
Walnut tree near the Church

34

14 Dozen of Sixes at Trinity in the Memories
on Thursday the 10th of October 1734 we Rang
em the first trial and Raised and Ceas'd
the Bells without Standing the whole number
of Changes is 1008 James Benson Treble
Thomas Greenwood 2nd William Laughion 3
We met at the Pine and Last in Haydon
Jard where Mr Clark and Mr Jefferies
gave us a Sirloin of Beef. Roasted for
Supper and turneps and horshadisk
to eat with it The Linor of the peal weighs

about two hundred and a quarter .425

35

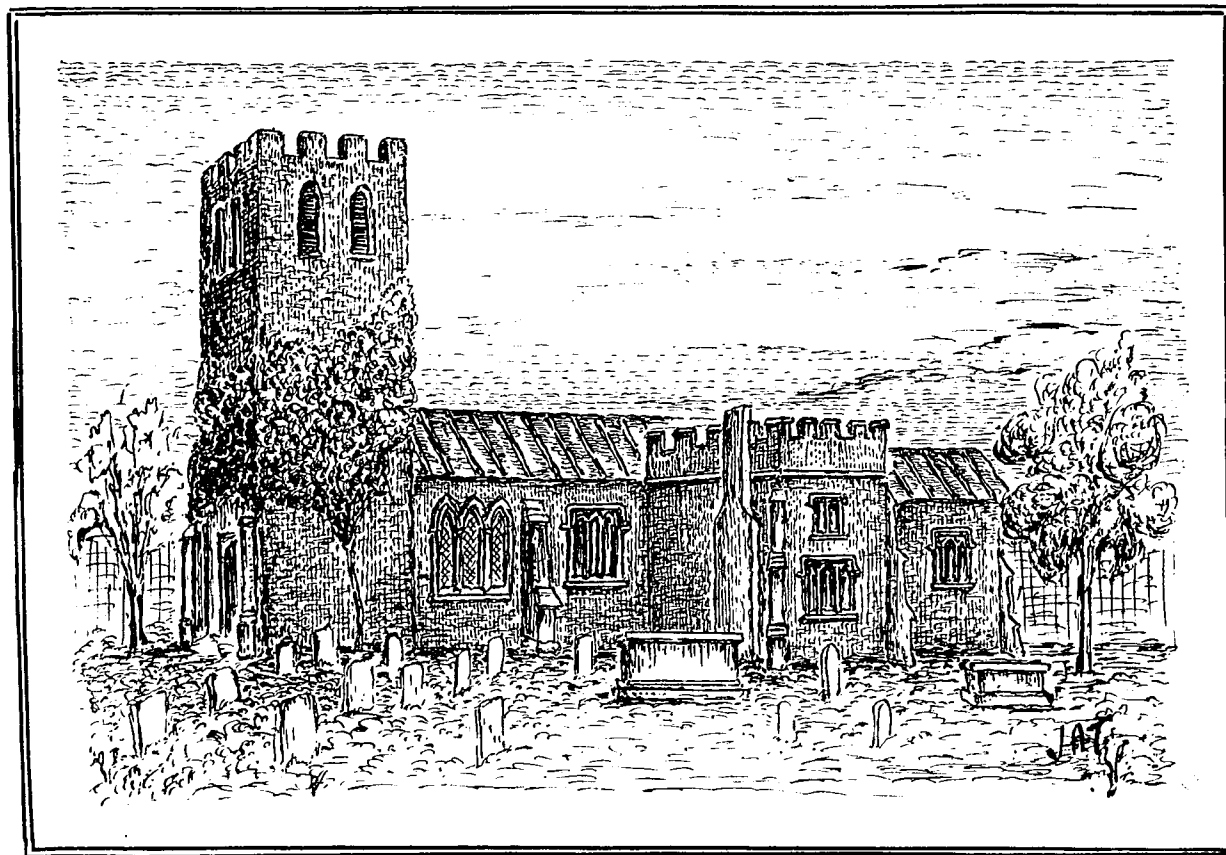
5040 Prolmior at Camberwell in Surrey
on Sunday the 13th of October 1734 it was
Completed in two hours and 55 Minutes by

Jeremyah Gilbert	Treble
Thomas Greenwood	2nd
Thomas Clacke	3rd
Thomas Smallshaw	4 th
Joseph Bennett	5 th
James Benson	6 th
William Laughion	7 th
John Hayward	Tenor

The Tenor of the peal weighs about 7 Hundred
and a half and all the 8 together weigh
about 36 hundred We met at the Churchwardens
the sign of the Crown on the Green.

36

At the Pine and Lase in Haydon yard
on Thursday the 17th of October 1734 where
Mr Coon gave us a Parson of Beef Roasted
for Supper and Cabbages Turnips and



ALL HALLOWS, TOTTENHAM.

Hornhadish to eat with it

426

37

720 Cambridge Surprize at Tottenham
in Middlessex on Sunday the 27th of October
1734 Thomas Greenwood Treble James
Person 2nd Thomas Clack 3rd William
Laughion 4th John Hayward 5th John
Trenell Tenor We met at the hare and
hounds but first Drank 13 Quarters of
Gin and eat some Gingerbread at a
Shop near the Church we Sup-d at the
Castle between Newington and Kingland
at the Palatine houses where our Landlord
gave us a part of a nice piece of Veal
Stuff'd.

38

At the George in Hounsditch on Thursday
the 7th of November 1734 where Mr Davis
gave us for Supper a Buttock of Beef Dress'd

allamode fashion, that is Carded 427
with Bacon and Stuffed with several
sorts of herbs spice and other ingredients
misc-d together the way of Cooking it
is as follows Viz after the meat is season-d
tis first put into a large pot with a
quart of Claret and water misc-d together
to keep it from burning at the bottom
then it is set under a slow fire and
the pot lid cover-d down as close as
possible and weights Card on it to keep
it from raising up to let the air in
and so it stews for twelve or fourteen
hours Successively this was 12 hours
a Stewing and when it was taken up
there was 4 quarts of liquor tho' there
was but one put in it happen-d to be a

428

little over Charg-d with salt or
else the poop would have bin exceeding
Rich and Delicate but the meat was
very relishing we Rang nothing that
night but had Pills some Courses
of Tripples and Catarrs

39

120 Cambridge Surprize at St. Johns at
Hackney on Sunday the 17th of November
1734 being the first that ever was Rang
there Joseph Bennett Treble Thomas
Greenwood 2nd James Benson 3rd William
Laughton 4th John Trenell 5th John
Hayward and Thomas Clarke Tenor.
We met at the Rising Sun where Mr.
Trand gave us a Shoulder of Mutton
for Supper as we Come home we Call'd
at a Frenchmans in Spittle fields that

kept a Brandy shop where we Drank 429
two pints of Brandy and eat some part of a
Cold achbone of beef and Carrots and
tipped a Gallon of beer.

40

At St. Bartholomews the less in Fesi
Smithfield on Thursday the 21st of November
1734 where we Rang 17 Dozen and a half
of Lises without standing the number of
Changes is 1260 Joseph Bennett Treble
James Benson 2nd William Laughton Tenor
the Thursday before we rang there but then
the Tenor Miss-d wheel when we had rung
Two Dozen and a half so baulk-d our
Design that evening the number of Changes
those made is 468 Thomas Greenwood Treble
William Laughton 2nd John Hayward
Tenor. We met both times at the Cock and
Crown in Little Britain which is a

noted house for Birds and Bird
fanciers.

430

41

720 College Single on the Pic Biggest Bell
at S. Laurences by Guild Hall on Thursday
the 28th of November 1734 Jeremyah Gilbert
Trebble John Chapman 2nd George Carbery 3rd
James Benson 4th William Laughton 5th
William Coster Tenor. We met at Will
Coster's when he gave us a Shoulder of
Mutton and Cabbages for Supper.

42.

1680 Bobmaior at Christ Church in Spittle
fields on Saturday the 7th of December 1734
it was completed in an hour and 16
minutes by Jeremyah Gilbert Trebble Thomas
Greenwood Joseph Bennett Thomas Clarke
James Benson William Laughton and

George Carbery. We met at the 8
Bells near the Church.

431

43.

At Will Costers on Thursday the 12th of
December 1734 where I gave for Supper
two Leggs of pork and a piece of the belly
piece with peas pudding potatoes parsnips
and Turnips to eat with them there was in
all 24 pounds of meat and 24 men to eat
it.

44

At Will Costers again on Thursday the
19th of December 1734 where he and Mr.
Draper gave us for Supper two Shoulders
of Mutton Roasted with turnips and
parsnips to eat with them.

45.

432.

720 Cambridge Purpure on the Linc
largest Bells at Christ Church in Spittle fields
on Tuesday the 24th of December 1734 being
the first 720 that was rung there of any
sort whatever. Thomas Smallshaw Treble
Thomas Greenwood 2nd William Laughton 3rd
James Benson 4th John Hayward 5th John
Trenell Tenor We met at the 8 Bells

46

720 Morning Exercise on the Linc largest Bells
at Christ Church in Spittle fields on Friday
the 27th of December 1734 being the first that
was rung there. Thomas How Treble Thomas
Greenwood 2nd William Laughton 3rd Thomas
Wybourn 4th John Hayward 5th John Trenell
Tenor. We met at the George in Hounds Ditch
where Mr Greenwood and Mr Davis gave us

for Supper two Leggs of Mutton roasted 433
and Stuff'd with pickled Herrings which
was as fine Eating as ever was eat the
Stuffing was Composed of pickled Herrings
Sweet Marjoram penny Royal time
parsly onions beef suet crum-s of Bread
Grated Nutmeg and Whites of eggs. the
Herrings minc'd small and mix'd with
the other ingredients 3 Herrings is enough
for a Legg of 12 pounds and 4 for one of
15 or 16 ours weigh'd 12 pounds each and
there was 8 Large Herrings use'd to them
both they were Stuff'd without Cutting
of Herbs in the meat as they do in a buttock
of beef or a fillet of Veal for the stuffing of
this was cram'd down by the Knuckles
where there is a Cavity to be found in the

middle of the Legg near the bone tho' 434
not quite at it the Dripping of these went
down quite to the Bottom of the Leggs and
so up to the knuckles that when they were
Dripp-d they Cook-d half as big again
as they did before as they Roasted the
Herrings Dissolved amongst the other
ingredients and left not the least taste of
fish behind but gave the Dripping the
finest flavor that can be imagin-d nor
was there the least taste of fish in the
Dripping for we had several pops made of it
to taste — the Goodness of this dish few
will believe without they eat on't because
it has such an od sound of Herrings.

1680 Bob maior at S. Laurances by Guild
 Hall on Thursday the 16th of January 1734⁵
 Jeremyah Gilbert Treble Thomas Greenwood
 2nd William Nash 3rd Thomas Clarke, 4th
 William Laughton 6th James
 Benson 7th William Coster Tenor. We met
 at Will Costers where he gave us for Supper
 a Large mouse piece of beef Dress-d
 allamode.

1680 Bob maior on the 8 Biggest Bells
 at S. Giles without Cripplegate on Thursday
 the 18th of February 1734⁵ it was Completed
 in one hour and 13 minutes by James
 Benson Treble Thomas Greenwood Thomas
 Clarke 3rd Joseph Bennett 4th William
 Laughton 5th John Trevell 6th Richard
 Spicer 7th William Coster and John Hayward
 Tenor. We met at Will Costers where he

gave us for Supper a Legg Beef
Hew-d which is most hardy food.

435

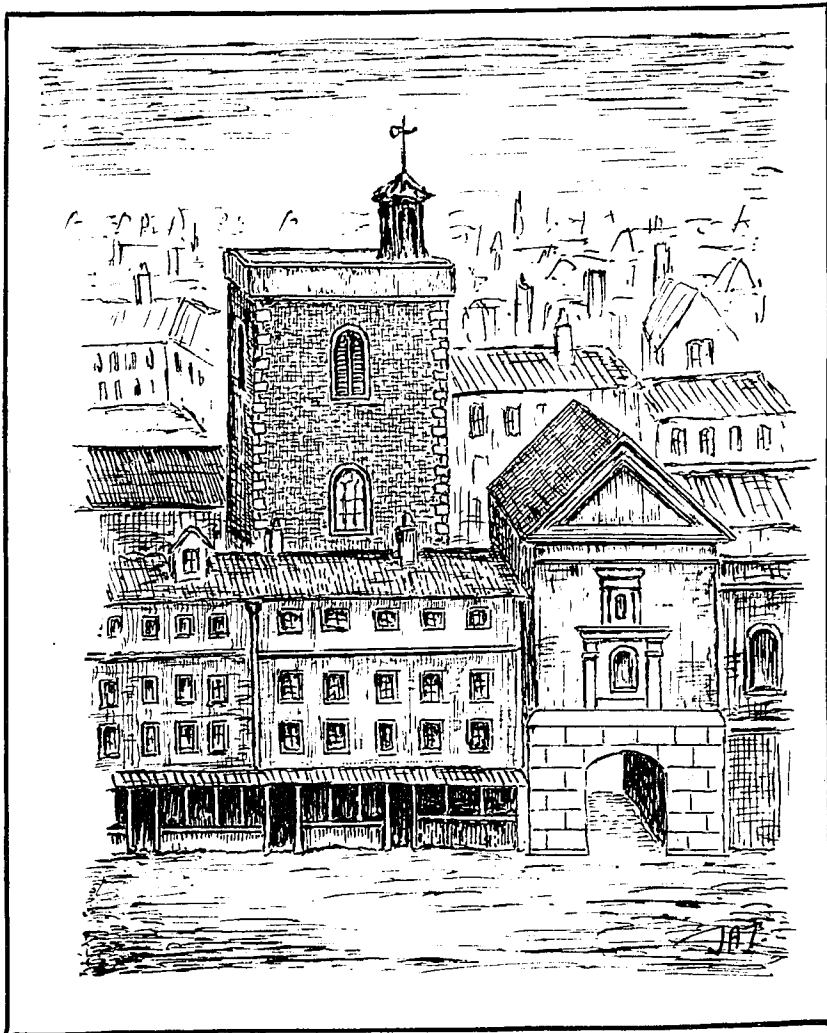
49

768 Union Box at Christ Church in
Spittle fields on Throve Tuesday the 18th
of February 1734⁵ we Rang it at the
first trial being the first Treble Box all
8 in that had been Rang there William
Eyles Treble Thomas Greenwood 2nd Thomas
Smallshaw 3rd Thomas Clarke 4th William
Laughion 5th John Hayward 6th James
Penson 7th John Trenell Tenor. We met
at the 8 Bells.

50

At St. William Coopers in Angell Alley
Little Moor fields on Saturday the 8th of
March 1734⁵ where I gave for Supper
a Shoulder of Veal Roasted and two

436
plum puddings boild being the
breaking up of the Ramblers the Veal
weighed 18 pounds and a half and was
Stuff-d with Common Sore of Stuffing



ST. BARTHOLOMEW THE LESS.

Both gentle and simple give ear
 unto this song I shall sing
 it is of a Rambling Club
 and the peals they intend for to Ring
 had there not bin such a Club
 the Criticks wou-d want what to say
 but now forsooth they Condemn it
 and cry it is out o' the way.

But what is it to such fools
 what others intend for to do
 mayn't ea-ny man spend his own time
 Liv
 in what he-s arriv'd to pursue
 then for all their Scoffs and their jeers
 Still pritty boys let us go on
 and Ring all all different peals
 of 5 and 6 Bells i-th town.

at Several places we-ve Done
 for where we have bin we have Runq
 we-ve not had the ill luck to be bank-d
 at one Stieple since first we began
 since fortune has prove-d so kind
 we-ve incouragement still to go on
 ne-er let it be said that the Ramblers
 have Dropi what at first they began.

and Should we Complete our Design
 our enemys then woul-d Confess
 that we-d Done what was ne-er Done before
 tho' they-d envy us never the less
 then let us be Steady and firm
 and not of a weather Cock mind
 but have Courage and Conduct enough
 to go thro' with what first we Design-d

Saturday the 19th of }
 January 1733⁴ }

The Tune

439

35670787 - 65434356 - 66566427 - 78638790 ||

07677589 - 96567678 - 63572461 - 231235467 ||

It goes on a Complete peal of 10 Bells.

At Long on the Rambling Club after they
had Completed their Design.

Now Rambling boys shall be sung
the famous exploits we have rung
thru' out the whole City and Subburbs
of famous Renowned London
no five or six Bells have we miss'd
thru' out the whole town I declare
nor peal of three or four
that we cou-d find Ringable there.

In the Country too we have bin
at severall places to Ring
some five or six miles out of town

where in haste we shall not go again
 for at Micham they are but indiff
 and at Walthamstow damnable bad
 but Totnam indeed has good bells
 which are things very scarce to be had

The six old peals of five
 and Eighteen peals of six
 two peals of three likewise
 with these are intermisc-d
 that's twenty two peals in all
 and at each a whole peal complete
 and if any will not believe me
 they may look in our book and see-t.

on nine peals of eight we have rung
 P. B. or Triples complete
 and whenever eight bells are well struck
 to besture they sound wonderfull sweet

441

likewise we perform'd Union B.B.
for variety sake it is true
but no farther we troubled our brains
with any Cramp peal that is new.

Good stinking I always prefer
let methods be ever so plain
no peal better musick both make
because it hath got a hard name
tho' some Ringers perhaps i-th' town
may turn up their noses and grin
and cry down your plain bob and
your tripples
we had to hear any such things

So let em condemn it I say
and every man have his way
'tis not worth our whiles for to mind
what such Judges shall please for to say

442

we Ring for to please our own selves
and not for to please other men
so were we to mind what they say
we should be as great blockheads as them

five thousands three we have Ring
and each at a different place
Mary Magdalens Burmondsey first
then to St. Andrews Holbourn we trace
Resolving with Courage most could
to Conquer where ever we came
and let other Ringers to know
that we scorn'd a cowardly name.

Then next upon Camberwell eight
five thousand and forty we Ring
good Ringing most part of it was
as e-er I desire to hear done

443

we struck em most Charming
and fine
and sent out their sound for to Row
for sweetly they rung o-ver the fields
ay and up to the end of the grove

five Hundred and seven whole peals
Completely we have rung out
on the Various Numbers of Bells
to which we have Rambled about
ad all our Explor's together
fifty thousand od Changes you'll find
which shows ye what feats may be done
by Ringers of Resolute mind

This is the first Rambling Club
of Ringers that ever was known
tho' many there are of good boozers
thro every part of the town

and why then might there not be
 a Club of Ringers Compose-d
 to Ramble all over the town too
 i-d fair know as well as those

The Criticks may snarl and grin
 and Call us fools for our pains
 yet none of good manners and sense
 about it will trouble their brains
 for as every man is free
 to Ring or to let it alone
 whatever Divertions they follow
 let ev-ry one think o' their own.

And who would live in a town
 and follow the Ringing art
 and not Ring at all Different peals
 thro' out it in every part
 nothing is more Stupid and Dull

than those that condemn other men
because they can't think as they do
and do what is done by them.

Monday the 10th
of March 1734⁵

The pine came as the other.

446

But pray a little Reader. I shall
first of all inform you that I had promised
to meet Mr Jeremyah Gilberd and Mr Thomas
Greenwood at the three piers in Thames
street on Sunday the 15th of September 1734
at 10 a Clock in the forenoon to have
taken a walk with them to Stowood
but having so short warning of this Voyage
and being oblig'd to embark at Bull
Stairs opposite White Fryers had no
opportunity of leaving a note at the three
piers to inform them of it wherefore I
left one at the sign Bells in fleet street
for Mr John Trenell wherein I had desired
him to do that favour for me but it
happen'd to fall into other hands who
instead of being so kind to give it him

447

Endeavoured to ridicule me for
writing on't which I think was a little
ill-natured

But Critics when they're full of spleen
find a Racking pain to keep it in
so 'twas well I writ it to give em vent
tho' indeed 'twas not with that intent.

in Epistle to Jerry and Tom
Now for the Epistle 'tis as follows

Honest Jerry and Honest Tom
unrespected to sea i-m gon

I knew nought on't till eight last night
and then I boarded the Delight

I perch'd her Round from stem to Stern
hope she's light and fear no harm
we carry a fikin of small beer
per Dozen of Dossel noble cheer

to make punch on Rum and

448

Brandy
with other ingredients ye understand me
to eat Cold Tongues and Roasted fowl-s
oh! we shall live like noble souls
When we get down to the hope
then we-ll fasten to a Rope
and haul and catch a noble Dish
of Soles and plaice and other fish
we have conveniences on board
to dress what-er the Thames affords
how fine they-ll eat to dress 'em fresh
leaping alive as you may guess

We fear no Pirats nor butch Cattle
for if they attack us we-ll give 'em
battle

We-ve store of pistols and of guns
or should we to close quarters come

We've ascens and Labers fo cut

449

em Down

We'll either fairly lose our lives

or else we'll bring em home a prize

We'll try our fortunes on the main

on Land we've many battles gained

if the Stirling Castle we can find

Captain Geary ⁽²⁴⁶⁾ will use us kind

We hope fo find him in our Rounds

either at the nose or in the Downs

for we think fo sail the Lord knows

whither

and then turn up in Chatham River

fo view Sheerness and Tynborough Town

and Minster on a rising ground.

Write more on this I cou-d indite

but now I have no time fo write

For within five minutes tis of ten
 and at eleven i-m p^o. meet them
 at twelve we go on board the Schoop
 and if we are Drown-d ye may go whoop.

Saturday the 31st

of August 1734

Laughton

P.S. At Spittle fields on Thursday
 night i-ll meet ye if all things go Right
 ne-er fear it Boys we fear no
 whether it be the Thames or on the seas.

A voyage to the Isle of Sheppey
on Saturday the 31st of August 1734

Mr Nathaniel Delonder

Mr John Delonder

Mr Richard Conyers

Mr Joseph Smith

and William Laughlin

Embark'd at Bull Stairs opposite White
fryers on board the Delight a small
sloop of about seven tons. We sail'd thro'
London Bridge at a quarter past one
in the afternoon and Ran down to
Gravesend in three hours and a half
and Cast anchor there, went a Shore
to the Bell and had a Legg of Lambe
boil'd with turnips and carrots. While
it was Dressing we walk'd thro' the Town

and up to the windmill where 452
there is a Charming prospect; after
supper we went on board and lay there
but about five a Clock on Sunday
morning there arose a great Hurricane
which caus'd our anchor to Dragg
a Considerable way but our Boatswain
got the Vessel back into the harbour
Cast anchor again and made fast
to some Moorings which prevented
further Danger We weigh'd anchor
at half an hour after four the same
morning and sail'd down to the river
then turn'd up the River midway and
Ran into Dunborough Swale for the

weather prove-d very Ruff, we
 landed there and went to the Sign of
 the Ship bought a neck of mutton
 weigh-d five pounds had it roasted
 and Cabbage boyl-d to eat with it,
 being the best provision we cou-d find
 in that town there being but one Butcher
 in it; while Dinner was Dressing we
 went to Sheernes and View-d that noble
 fortification about two miles from
 Quinborough. After Dinner we travel-d
 to Munsies a town upon a high hill
 about four miles from Quinborough
 and near the middle of the island
 there has bin a very large abby at that

254

place great part of which has
been Demolish'd as appears by the
Ruinated walls tho the Church at
present is pretty large and in the Steeple
is one of the worst peals of 5 Bells that
ever I heard ⁽²⁴⁷⁾ We walk'd about two miles
farther unto some hills from whence we
had a very fine prospect of the sea and
men of war that lay at the nose then
we Return'd on board and lay there
on Monday morning we weigh'd anchor
between four and five a clock and
sail'd into the sea and fish'd with a
trawl net along the Coast of Sheppy
beyond the nose and Catch'd abundance

of fish of various Sorts as Tides
 place Dabs Shads Bullwhs Oysters
 Crabs &c besides Star fish and other
 sorts which were not good to eat
 amongst which were some Scuttle fish
 that spew'd natural inks as black
 ----- as ever I saw any made inks
 whatever; there is a shell grows on the
 back of this fish of which pounce is made
 when we had done fishing we set sail
 up the Thames and very Ruff weather
 we had for some time our Bowprit
 was quite under water and Seas ran
 over our forecastle and Down the Chimney
 into the Cabin and so it continued

until we got out of fiddlers Reach ⁴⁵⁶
When an unlucky accident had like
to have happen-d; for our Boatswain
going to haul the main Tail up a
little higher in order to Crow-d all
we Cou-d to get to Erieff before the
tide turn-d the wind being almost
full against us as he was at full
Stretch and I hold of the main Haulyards
to keep em tite they Croke at mans
head which gave the poor man such
a violent fall upon the fore-castle with
his back between his shoulders full
upon one of the boards of our steel anchor
which almost beat his breath out of

his body for he lay for some time 457
quite motionless but praise be God
we got him up and Reviv'd him
mended our Haulyards Rais'd the
main Sail and gain'd the Desir'd
port thro' with some Difficulty. We
went ashore to the Bell and had a
noble Dish of fish Dress'd of our own
Catching Drank a bowl of punch after
Dinner and then set out on foot for
London and got into Fleet Street at
10 the same evening having had a
great deal of pleasure and diversion
as well as some toil and trouble;
we left our Boatswain to work the sloop

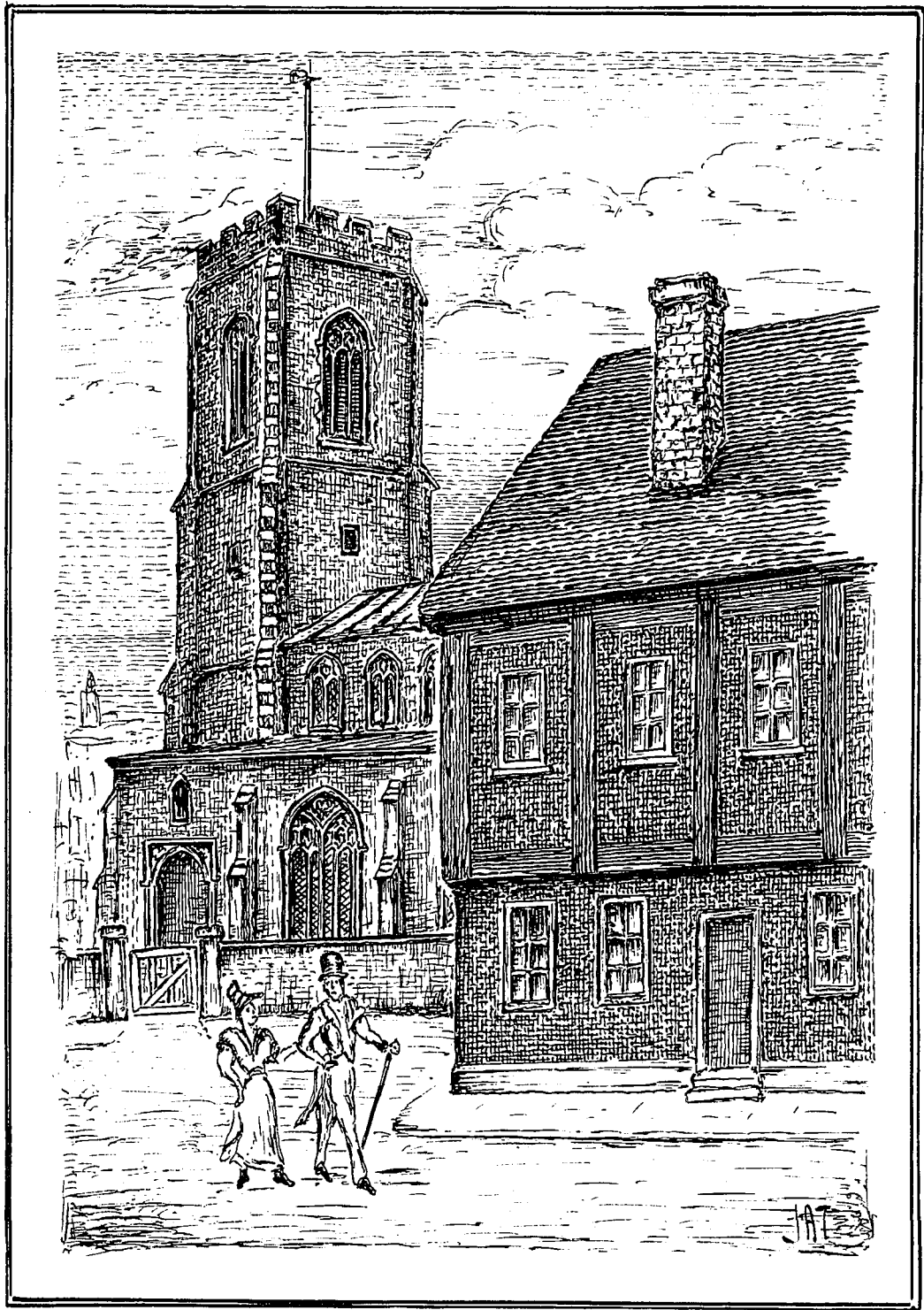
up to London the first opportunity 458
which accordingly he did and came
safe to an anchor at Bull Stairs on
Tuesday in the afternoon about three a
clock.

As we sail'd thro the Swastway which
is near the mouth of the Thames we Ran
over the wreck of a vessel which had bin
lost there but our Rudder only grated
upon some of the Stumps of her Ribs so
did no Damage tis remarkable that
four of us had never bin out at sea before
and though the water prov'd so very
Ruff yet not one of us was the least
sea sick on the Voyage.

Wednesday the 4th
of September 1734

Laughton.

459.



ST. GEORGE AT COLEGATE, NORWICH.

Notes.

1. Life of Anthony Wood written by himself
page 21.
2. Life and Times of Anthony Wood, Vol. I. p. 5.
3. Ibid Vol II p. 526.
4. Afterwards James "the Old Pretender."
5. See Macaulay's History of England.
6. "Hark the bonny Christ Church bells
One, two, three, four, five, six;
They sound so wondrous great so wondrous
sweet
And they howl so merrily merrily." etc.
7. See Volume Two
8. The History and Antiquities of the
University of Oxford. By Anthony a Wood.
Edition by John Guich. 1792.
9. Thomas Heame - Diary CXVI - June 8th 1727.
10. From the inscriptions on the bells copied
by William Boswell A.D. 1801 (Add MS. 33205)

They are also given by C. W. Lukis -
An Account of Church Bells, p. 89 - and by
J. R. Jenam, The Bell News, Oct. 29th 1887.

- 11. See Volume IV page 231.
- 12. "payd to Mellye of Ersham for Carriage
of the great bell to Fryswids xxvi September
xx s." ; and "for ale to theym labourers
at y^e wyndyng up of the great bell into
Friswides steeple" iiiij d. - Raven.
- 13. Anthony Wood - manuscript quoted by
Sir William Dugdale in Monasticon
vi. p 250 ; and by J. J. Raven - The Bells of
England. p 256.
- 14. Richard Corbet in his poem on Great
Tom refers to "Lander his Cyclops Shaker."
- 15. Corbet calls him "Broutes", which is probably
a nickname which cannot be explained.
- 16. Sic MSS. Neque aliter in Diario. Et
Namen pound edidi in Neuburgensi
p. 798 - Heame.

17. " And it was piety that caused
 Mr Wood and his two brothers Robert
 and Christopher to give 5 lib. in the
 year 1656 to Newton College to have
 their five Bells cast into eight, which
 five bells were ancient being put up at
 the first Building of the College and the
 Tenor was supposed to have been the best
 bell in England being said to be fine
 Metal Silver Tound - Thomas Heame,
 Guilielmi Neubrigensis, page 197.
18. Wood's Diary.
19. Ibid.
20. Athenae Oxonienses - Bliss' Edition xlv.
21. A H Cocks - Church Bells of Buckinghamshire.
 For an account of John and Christopher
 Hodson see volume IV page 230-231.
22. Wood's Diary ii p. 497.
23. Wood's Life of himself. Bliss' Edition lxxxvii

24. "May 14th 1657. All the eight bells

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of Merton Coll. did begin to ring and he heard them ring very well at his approach to Oxon in the evening after he had taken his rambles all day about the country to take monuments. The bells did not at all please the curious and critical hearer. However he plucked at them often with some of his fellow colleagues for recreation sake

"The bells were afterwards recast and the belfry wherein the ringers stood which was ^{a little} below the arches of the tower (for while the five hanged the ringers stood on the ground) being built of bad timber was plucked downe also and after the bells were put up againe, this belfry that now is above the arches was new made and a window broke

this the tower next to Corp. Ch. Coll. Lib 4

was made to give light. — Life of Anthony Wood written by himself p. xxviii. The "Curious and critical hearer" evidently is Wood himself.

25. "Apr 8 Maundy Thursday. Great Tom of Ch. Ch. cast after three endeavours, but in vaine." — A. Wood, Diary ii 484. 1680.

26. "1684 May 29. Th. Great Tom rang out inter horas 8 et 9. The first time it rang — Ibid iii p. 95.

27. Quoted by Sir William Dugdale in Monasticon vi. 250.

28. From inscriptions copied by W. Boswell 1801. Add Mss. 33.205. They are printed (probably from this MS by C. W. Lukis in An Account of Church Bells p 89.

29. The new belfry is often called the "meat safe" by people who have not the faintest

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idea of what the joke was. The bells were hung in what was nothing but a square wooden bosc and was a great eyesore in the College quad. Many people loudly protested against it and among them "Lewis Carroll" who published a satirical pamphlet entitled *The New Belfry of Christ Church, Oxford*. He begins by saying "The word 'Belfry' is derived from the French bel = beautiful, becoming, neat, and from the German frei = free, unfettered, secure, safe. Thus the word is strictly equivalent to meat-safe to which the new belfry bears a resemblance so perfect as almost to amount to coincidence." The joke is rather far fetched and has altogether lost its point since the belfry has been enclosed in a stone screen.

30. Inscription on the 7th at Magdalen - 466
+ SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI KATERINA VOCATA.
31. Boswell's MS.
32. From a broadsheet (late 18th cent) Brit. Mus.
Add Mss. 19369.
33. Carfax Tower.
34. Thomas Heame, - Diary.
35. Robert Shuffen, Principal of Brasenose
College 1710. Vice Chancellor, 1718.
36. Thomas Heame - Diary May 6, 1727, cxi.
37. This bell has a tune in musical notation
Cast round the bell in two bands. At the
beginning of the music is a half figure of
a man in the dress of the period with the
inscription - X KEEPE Tyme IN ANYE CASE -
and lower down a similar figure and -
X THEN LET US SINGE IT AGAINE. N. C. Lutius
in An Account of Church Bells. p 39
gives an illustration of the music, which

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has not, I think, been identified
with any known tune. See page 88.

38. It would be interesting to find out how
many rings of bells have been said at different
times to be the "best peal in England."

39. The principal extracts from Heames Diary
which relate to bells and ringing are
printed verbatim in my Notes by the Way
Ringing World, March 4th 1927, et seq except
one or two which are given in the text of
this book. Ellacombe gave very full
extracts in the Supplement to Church
Bells of Gloucester pp. 151-8 and was copied
by J. R. Jenam - The Bell News Oct 15. 1887
et. seq. and Morris - History and Art
of Change Ringing pp. 217-223. The full
Diary was printed in 1885 by C. E. Dobble
Oxford Historical Society.

40. Heames' Diary, May 6th 1727. cxvi. 468
41. See Vol. VII page 311.
42. Vickers or Vicars. The name is spelled both ways.
43. See Jasper Inawdon's Grandsire pp. 66, 124-6
For the figures of Vickers' peal see Vol IX
page 140.
44. Alumni Exonienses 1715-1886. p. 1359.
45. Heames' Diary. Apr 17th 1734.
46. See Vol. VIII, p 305.
47. On the two or three occasions on which this entry of Heames' has been quoted the amount has been given as 15s. 6d a man which spoils the whole point of Heames' scornful remarks, for 15s. 6d even now would not be bad pay for a days ringing and then very generous. Elacombe made the first mistake and others copied him.
See my remarks in Notes by the way.
48. The ringing says Heame "was giving

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credit to a downright false notion
that the Prince of Orange [he does not like to
call him King William III] landed on the 5th
whereas it was upon the 4th of November, to
say nothing of the Powder Plot, which many
wise men give out was a mere sham."

49. Oxford Society - Seal Book.

50. Ibid.

51. Alumni Cantabrigienses

52. Oxford Society - Seal Book.

53. Ellacombe and Lukis give engravings of
this inscription.

54. L'Esrange - The Church Bells of Norfolk
J. J. Raven - The Church Bells of Suffolk.

55. These bells were last rung in about 1893,
They were taken down from the steeple,
and after many years have been hung
dead in one of the new churches in the suburbs.

1937.

56. It is now St. Andrews Hall. The

470

steeple became ruinous and was pulled down

in

57. There was also a paunce bell which until modern times was used as a market bell.

58. The inscription on the bell was -

LAUDO DEUM VERUM : PLEBEM VOVO : CONCREGO CLERUM
DEFUNCTOS PLORO : PESTEM FUGO : FESTA DECORO.

We are often told that this was a common inscription on medieval bells, but this is the only actual instance I have come across.

59. Parish Books quoted by L. Estrange.

60. The bells have not been rung for many years.

In my young days 1893-4 they were already almost derelict but I did ring two quarter

peals on the back eight probably the last

ringing on the bells for shortly afterwards the

wheels were taken off and a chiming apparatus installed.

61. The standard use was to ring a bell up for a quarter of an hour, then chime the three for ten minutes, and then toll in on the tenor for five minutes.

62. The Norwich Cathedral quarters are -



They are the composition of the Rev - Medley, at the time the Precentor.

63. In pre-reformation times Norwich Cathedral had a detached bell-tower which contained a relatively heavy ring of five (see Vol IV p 128).

64. There was a prescriptive (if not a legal) right of mayors to order the ringing of church bells.

65. B. Maackrell - Add Mss, 37431.

66. Inscriptions on the old bells at
St. Peter Mancroft. —

472.

1. EDMUND TOKE A. D. M. 1675
2. E. T. MADE ME A. D. M. 1676
3. ANNO DOMINI 1602
4. NOS THOME MERITIS MEREAMUR CAUDIA LUCIS
5. PETRVS AD ETERNE DUCAT NOS PASCHA YITE
6. AVE MARIA GRATIA PLENA DOMINVS TECUM
7. SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI MARIA VOCATA.

Tenor. EGO SUM CAMPANA CULIELMI ELLYS BARONIS DE EXCHEQUER
GUE FRACTA REFACTA EST 1618. — P. B. Stackerell,
manuscript. Add Mss

67. Parchment in possession of St. Peter Mancroft.
Printed by Wallis Rye in *The Norfolk Chronicle*
and by Charles E. Bonnet in *The Bell News* of
Dec. 8th 1900.

68. A Latin rule ordered that "Half the money
which is collected of this Society upon the yearly
Feast Day shall be expended in beer for the
entertainment of the said Society upon their
Feast day." and another rule "that Tobacco
should be found and allowed the Company
out of the money collected for expenses."

69 For some reason which no one
seemed to know the members of opposition
bands were called "Stags".

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70 See illustration on page 207. The disputed
ownership of this jug was the immediate
cause of the dismissal of the old Skancopi
ringers and the complete break with the
traditions of the past. The Church authorities
had removed the jug from the belfry. The
ringers claimed that it had been given
by Filch to the St. Peter's ringers and therefore
was their property. They made themselves
somewhat disagreeable (though they certainly
had right on their side) and the authorities
who for long had been dissatisfied with them
seized the opportunity of getting rid of
them so that they could say - We admit

that the jig belongs to the S. Peter's
 ringers, but as you are no longer the S. Peter's
 ringers it does not belong to you. They then
 carried out their original intention and
 placed the jig with the other Church property.
 The bells were silent for a while and when
 a new band was formed it was on modern
 lines. The Society of Norwich Scholars was
 definitely entirely a thing of the past.

- 71. Add Mrs. 12525.
- 72. F. W. J. Rees Bell News, Ap. 1884. He says it
 was Garthorn's half peal of Grandson's but
 that is not at all likely.
- 73. The peal board.
- 74. Chapter xi. Vol 1x pp. 20-35, 45-49
- 75. L' Etrange from parish accounts.
- 76. The sign was the picture of a man trying

to wash a nigger white.

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77. See Vol III p. 196.

78. "What credit or satisfaction can arise from repeatedly practising a false peal when so many true ones present themselves in other methods—the Clavis.

79. Cf. the debate at the Bristol meeting of the Central Council in 1898. In 1796 the Junior Cumberlands rang 7001 Grandeur Calers at Christ Church, Spitalfields in which "the third and fifth were out of course five Courses about the middle of the peal after which they took their right Course again to the end of the peal" — Peal Books of the Society of Junior Cumberlands.

See "The Society of Junior Cumberlands"

by J. A. Trollope in *The Ringing World*. 1933.

80. See Peal Boards.

81. Thomas Melchior, Advertisement in *The*

Norwich Gazette Nov. 6th 1731.

476.

82. Volume IX page 44

83. "1724 July 25." Two new bells being added to St. Peter Mancroft eight y^e ten bells were rung for y^e first time, but on Sep. 14th they were taken down y^e undertaker not being able to get subscriptions to pay for them." - Quoted by T. R. Fallack in Notes and Queries, Nov. 1. 1882.

84. "Duties of the Sexton. Item, he shall ringe courttye bell every night for the space of halfe an oure at the least from Crouchemas and Lamas at 11 y^e the clocke and all the yeare after at eayght y^e the clocke" - Parish Records quoted by L'Estrange.

See also Vol

85. I give several instances of this in Chapter VIII.

86. See Vol VII. page 415.

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87. Jasper Snowdon - Double Norwich, p. 46.

88. Norwich Gazette September 11th 1731.

The full transcripts of the advertisements in The Norwich Gazette are printed in The Eastern Counties Collectanea. I published them in The Bell News 19 and in Notes by the Way in The Ringing World. 1925.

I used the original files of the paper (British Museum Collection) in writing "Hedman".

Jasper Snowdon reproduced one of the advertisements from the Eastern Daily Press.

Ernest Morris gives three of the advertisements

Copied from Notes by the Way.

89. The Norwich Gazette Oct 31. 1731.

90. The rate is 22.91 Changes per minute. Today the average rate of a peal of Triples with a 23 cut tenor is 28.00 Changes per minute. I have rung a peal of Triples (Tenor 19 cut)

in 3 hrs 36 mi (23.33 changes per
minute) but that was half muffled.

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91. Hedman by J. A. Trollope page 100
Annals of the Note Book Add 1755. 33. 357.

92. They have all been cleared away since

93. Norwich Gazette, Dec 4th 1731.

94. Ibid. November 20th 1731.

95. Ibid. Dec^r. 4th 1731.

96. Ibid. Dec^r. 11th 1731.

97. An Alteration was a deviation from
the strict method other than the bobs
and the two Doubles which both opponents
treated as necessary to the Composition.

98. "The use of visible aids to memory in
conducting peals is undesirable, and if
such aids are used the fact should be
signified in any published report" - Resolutions
of the Central Council, 1897. - Rules and
Decisions page 13.

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99. Norwich Gazette, Dec 24, 1731
100. Ibid Dec 31, 1731
101. The Town Crier or Bell-man was a city official appointed by the Mayor and Corporation. He still existed in my time, though sadly fallen from his former importance and estate. He is now, I believe, a thing of the past.
102. William Shipway - Campanalogia, reprint, page ix.
103. "Hedman", by C. D. P. Davies, p 136.
104. The Bell News.
105. It must be remembered that the advertisements in The Norwich Gazette were entirely unknown (save for one eschial copied by Jasper Newden from the Eastern Daily Press) until I reproduced them in The Bell News.
106. William Shipway, reprint, p ix
107. Ibid, p 71
108. See Vol. ix pp. 20-35, 45-49.

109. In Notes by the Way and the Bell 480
News I gave these figures as Copied for me
from the Eastern Counties Collediana. They
are not quite Correct.

110 Melchior evidently made 6-7 lie still at
his two Doubles.

111. He may have had two Complementary
Sices with only few changes in each

112. J. D. C. M. - Campanalogia p. 46.

113. Fabian Hedman - Campanalogia p. 129.

114. J. A. Trolope - Hedman p. 23.

115. Croughti, = probably a printers error for
"wroughti". The meaning is quite clear.

116. "Espressible denominative Course". This is
a Correct mathematical expression. Melchior
is pointing out that the Twelve [not the Six]
is in Hedman the equivalent of the Lead
in Grandure and Plain Bob.

117. See Vol III p. 27. Vol IX. p. 76.

118. Annable actually did produce his
peal of Plain Bob Triples in this way.

119. "Within the tower are two belfries, the
lowest having been deemed too far from
the bells" - History of Norwich. 1869.

The floor was removed when the church was
thoroughly restored by G. E. Street, the architect
in the eighties of the last century.

120 See Vol. III page 145. We know that
Melchior possessed a copy of the J.D.C.M.
Campanalogia.

121 See

122 The Norwich Gazette, Nov 29, 1728.

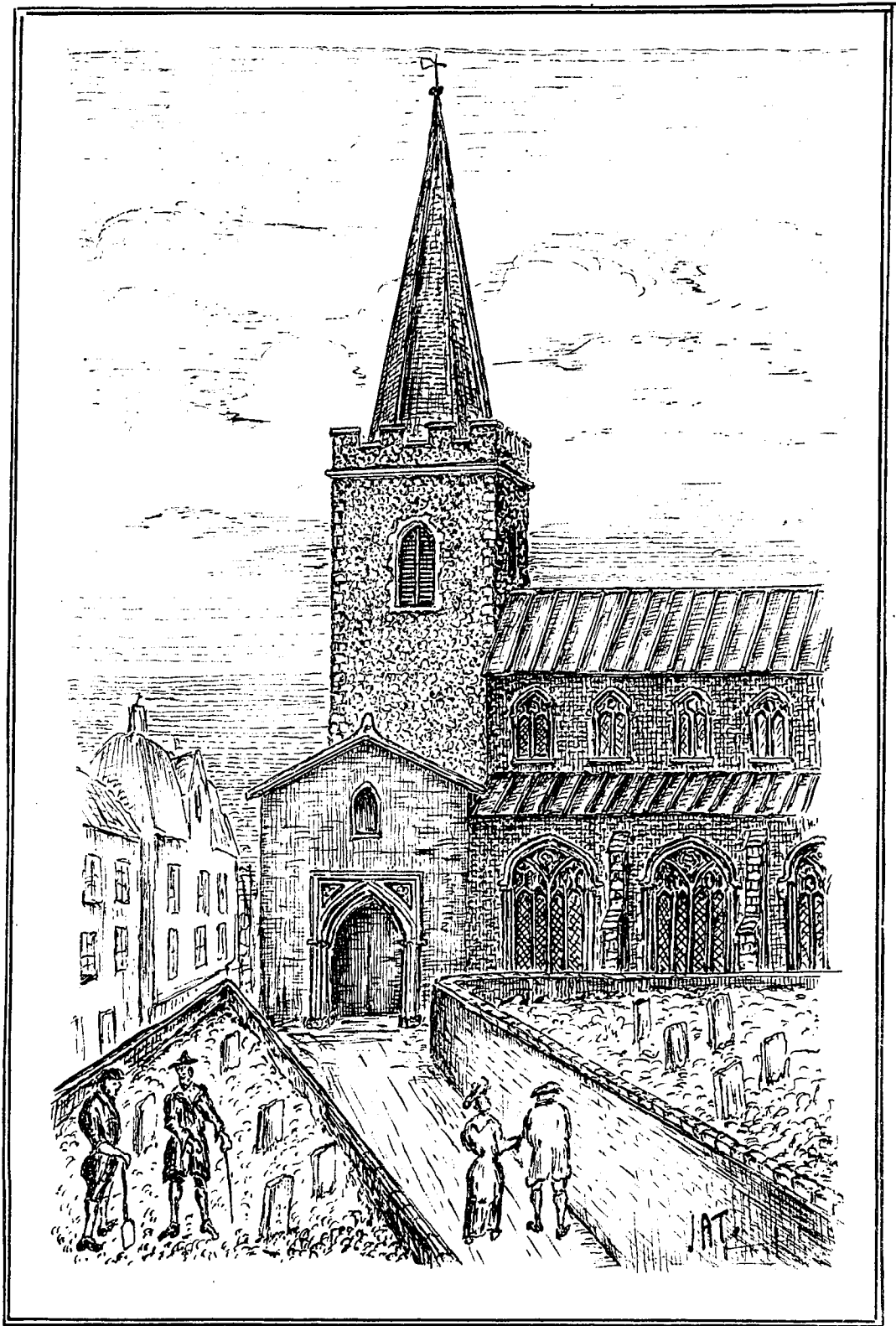
123 Ibid, Nov 20th 1731.

124 Ibid. Jan 27th 1732.

125 Ibid. Mar 11th 1732.

126 Ibid April 7th 1732.

127 But it must be remembered that the records
survive of only those peals which were recorded
on boards or in the pages of the Gazette.



ST GREGORY'S, NORWICH.

128. J. Gregory's were an ancient ring 482
of five which was recast into the present size
in 1818 by Thomas Sears, when an entirely
new frame, new fittings etc were supplied.
According to the estimate the total weight
of the new bells was rather less than that
of the old 40 Cwt. (approx) against 43 Cwt.

129 The tower is not actually mentioned in
the report

130 " Heame was passionately fond of bell-
ringing although I do not find that he
practised himself, and records many of the
exploits in that science at Oxford. The
custom of gownsmen exercising themselves
in this amusement was not uncommon in
the last century [the 18th]. I had an uncle
a fellow afterwards an incumbent of New

College who frequently indulged in a peal on the College bells and D. Gauntlett the late Warden had been no mean performer in his younger days" - Bliss. 9.

131. New College, Oxon. 1400. " The three greater bells in the great tower or belfrey near the said cloister or burial ground were anointed consecrated and made holy by the said Lord Bishop of Dunkeld of which bells the largest is dedicated in honour of the Holy Trinity, the second in honour of the Blessed Mary, the Mother of God, and the third in honour of S. John the Baptist and S. Frideswide the Virgin." - Report of Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

132. " On Tuesday, Jan'y 18th. 1774 died, aged 73

years Mr Edward Crane, a noted and ingenious ringer, and one of J. Peter of Hancock Company. His abilities in the art of ringing, were very extensive both in the theory and practical parts, and was 46 years, Parish Clerk of St. Gregory's and had a universal good character - Norwich Gazette.

133. The particulars of these peals were extracted by Samuel Slater from The Norwich Mercury and were published in The Ringing World by his son Mr Theodore Eccleston Slater.

134. See Vol VII page 533

135. A peal of 1300 Major 40.320 Changes by William Windle is among the Mason MSS.

136. See Hedman by C. D. P. Davies, p. 45
Hedman by J. A. Trollope, p. 46.

137. The Norwich Gazette, Vol 26. number 1321.
Saturday, Jan. 22nd 1732.

138. The Treble man in the peal of 485

1906 Major rung at Dereham on November

10th 1956 was James Philo. I was born in

a house very near the steeple in 1876 and

I have a hazy recollection of visiting a Mr.

Philo when I was a very small child with

my grandmother. He lived next to the

Church and papers were produced. I imagine

he was the parish clerk. This would be

about 1880.

139. See Vol III. p. 144.

140 See Vol IX. p.p. 84, 127, 131

Shipway Reprint Vol I. p. 89.

141 There were five bells at Aylsham in the
sixth year of Ed. VI. The ring was increased

to eight in 1770. In 1775 the two Trebles

were recast and two more bells added to
make a ring of ten by Goben and Arnold

of St. Acolis. The dates of the bells at present in the steeple are -

486

1. 2. 3. 4.	1775	Goborn and Arnold
5	1700	
6. 7.	1677	Edward Fooke
8.	1726	John Stephens
9.	1741	
Tenor	1700.	

142. Brennil = Brunwell, a village about twelve or thirteen miles south west from Norwich and half way between that city and Garboldisham. The Red Lion seems to have changed its name. It is possible that the match took place on the bells of Brunwell Church which would be neutral ground.

143. East Dereham. Inscription on the sixth
THOMAS LESTER & THOS. PACK OF LONDON MADE US
ALL 1753. 1. 2. 4. 5. 7 have since been recast
all at Whitechapel. The tenor weighs -

C23 - 2. 17.

144. William Windle, adm Lizar aged 487

17 Cairns, Oct. 14 1724 S. of Thomas, grazier
of Hadleigh, Suffolk. Born there. School at
Hadleigh, Lavenham, Ipswich. Schol. 1724
Scholar 1724-32. B.A. 1728-29; Ordained Deacon
Norwich June 13 1731; priest June 4, 1732 Aude
of Willingham Camb in 174 - Alumni
Cantabrigienses.

145 Fakenham, St. Peter and St. Paul - In the 6th
year of the reign of Edward VI there were four bells
weighing respect. 11, 14, 17 and 22 cwt.; in 1705 there
were five bells; and in 1706 there were six bells
and a clock. In 1746 Thomas Lester cast
the two Trebles. The dates of the others are -

3. 1706 John Stephens
4. 1639
5. John Brend, 1647.
6. 1660. John Darbie
7. 1802 Thomas Colborn
- Tenor. 1678 Thomas Norris

146 North Elmham, St. Mary - In the 6th year of

Edward VI there were four bells. In 1757 L88

Joseph Mallows of East Dereham recast the bells
in the tower and completed the octave. The

fifth and tenor have since been recast at
Whitechapel. The tenor is reputed to be 20 cwt.

147. The present ring of eight at Dis was cast

by William Dobson of Downham in 1832.

148. St. Mary's Redenhall the parish church of

the town of Harleston. An old ring of bells

tenor 24 cwt increased to six in 1717 by John

Stephens of Norwich and to eight in 1736 by

Richard Sheeps. The other bells are -

4. 1738 R. Sheeps

5. 1737 R. Sheeps

6. □ COELI SOLAMEN NOBIS DEL DEUS □ THOMAS □

DRAPER □ ME □ FECIT 1588 O.E.

7. 1671 John Draper

Tenor + STELLA : MARIA : MARIS : SECCURE : PUSSIMA :

NOBIS O.E.

149. The methods were - Old Doubles, 489
Grandsis, Fortune, Hudibras, Gog, S. Simon's
Reading, Dunstan, S. Clement's, Westminster,
Church, The Dream, Stonsuch, Antelope,
(Antelope), London, Jack on both Sides, New,
Hedman, Mare-maid, Exodus (Hudibras)
and Success. They will all be found
in Vol III p.p. 97-115.

150. Alburgh. Before 1730 there were four bells
The ring was then increased to six by R.
Sheeps and in 1737 the octave was completed.

6. + HAC IN CONCLAVE □ CABRIEL NUNC PANGE SUAVE
Tenor. + DONA REPENDE PIA □ ROGO MACDALENE
MARIA Both O.E.

7. 1766. Lester and Pack.

151. Always pronounced, and now usually
spelt, Cossey.

152. S. Mary Halesworth. An old ring of five
to which Lester and Pack added a treble

in 1759. Pack and Chapman Completed 490
the octave in 1770.

4. □ 65 □ 65 □ 65 + 67 SANCTE □ 68 THOME □ 68
ORA □ 68 PRO □ 68 NOBIS. O.E.

5. 1627.

6. 65. 65. 65. + 67 □ 68 JOHANNES □ 68 CHRISTI
□ 68 CARE □ 68 DICNARE □ 68 PRO □ 68 NOBIS
□ 68 ORARE

7. ▽ 86 AB ▽ 50 ANNO DOMINI 1611

Tenor. 1627.

153. St. Margaret's Lynn. In the sixth year of
Edward VI there were five bells weighing 10,
14, 18, 22, and 28 cwt.

154. St. Nicholas, Lynn. In the sixth year of
Edward VI there was one bell weighing 16 cwt.
Leslie and Pack supplied an octave in 1766.
Thomas Osborn recast the fifth in 1800 and
Thomas Mears the tenor in 1841. The whole
ring was recast by John Taylor and Son in 1868.

155 " Such a peal in old England as never
was rung
By any eight persons indeed at one time."

"They said that they did London
and Norwich excels" - From verses
written and published at the time. 491

156. The Long peal of Treble PB at Debenham
in 1892 was rung at the rate 26.28. The
Norwich Scholars rang 6720 Court PB at St
Michaels at 25.36, and 6048 Imperial at 25.37.
157. Thurston rang the tenor in 1817 to a peal
of Double Norwich Maximus but Cheskute
was at that time the leader, Thurston being
only a young man
158. "On Monday April 17th 1769 was rung at
St Peters Mancroft in this city a Compleat
5040 of that most ingenious peal called the
Court PB. It was performed in 3 hours and
29 minutes without a bell being out of Course
and from the harmony and regularity of its
Changes filled every Corner of the art of ringing
with the most pleasing wonder and astonishment

159. Thomas Gardiner was a bell-founder, who came from Sudbury in Suffolk. Dr Raven came to the conclusion that there were two Thomas Gardiners, father and son for the name appears on three bells at Wisset as early as 1718 and regularly until 1759. Cawston tenor is inscribed THOS. CARDINER NORWICH FECIT 1753. John Gardiner who rang in the Hedman Triples at St Peter's in 1731, and the Long peal of Calers in 1737 was probably a son or brother. The second Thomas Gardiner was the last of the Long line of Norwich bell-founders.

160. See Vol IX p. 311.

161. Henry Hubbard gives the figures of a 6048 of Imperial the Third by C. Lindsey which is probably the peal rung at St. Michaels. Lindsey's name does not appear in any peals

Called by Chamberlain except the Imperial of 1760 but he evidently was one of the Skancropi steeple Company and had made a name as a Composer. The 6048 seems to be true (I have not proved it) although Shipway claimed to be the first man to produce a true peal of Imperial.

162. James Vines had rung in the Long peal of 130 Major at Coleridge, but not in the Double Norwich Royal.

163. Downham Market, St. Edmunds -

- 1. T. Osborn, 1787.
- 2. T. Eayre, 1771.
- 3. 1776.
- 4. Osborn and Arnold, 1774.
- 5. T. Eayre, 1769.
- 6. Joseph Eayre, 1676.
- 7. Pack and Chapman, 1771.
- Tenor. Arnold and Osborn, 1773.

164. " All ye performers in this art
Join hand in hand and bear a part
Praise of Imperial loudly ring

And these here men who did it ring. 494

For Norwich sons, most justly famed
All other ringers here hath shamed" -

quoted by J. W. Snowdon in Church
Bells, Feb 26 1876. The East Anglian ringers
in the eighteenth Century could seldom
restrain themselves from breaking into verse.
Most of it is much better than Laughton
but a long way inferior to William Scott.
Ernest Morris prints a lot of this doggerel.

165. Norwich Gazette.

166. Ibid.

167. William Styton's name does not appear
elsewhere as a Norwich Scholar and he
may have been a local man. John Styton
rang the pebble to the local peal of 1306
Major at Diss in 1756.

168. The Harbords of Gunion Hall are a very
old Norfolk family of which Lord Suffield
is the head.

- 169 A member of the family of Coke of 495
Hockham of which the Earl of Leicester is head.
170. The ring of ten at present in Westch Tower
was cast in 1823 by William Dobson of Downham
Market.
171. £400 was produced by the sale of the old metal
leaving £800 to be raised by public subscription.
Samuel Turners bill for the frame and hanging
was £113.0.0.
172. See Vol IV p 294
173. Fredericks Day the bell hanger of Eye who
rehung Mancroft bells in 188 and did a
lot of work in the Eastern Counties told me
that Turners frames were as well made as was
possible I believe that the frame at Mancroft
had to be scrapped ultimately not because
of any defect in itself but because the
older timber beams on which it stood had
become decayed.

174. Barlow's peal as given by
Hubbard, Campanalogia, 1876 edition
page 144 - 6240

423567890ET

4257396E870

354267890ET

64358207T9E

45623

Four times repeated

175 See Controversy in the Bell News especially
between Henry Dains and Gabriel Lindoff;
also debate in the Central Council ending
with the passing of a resolution (1897) -
"There is no valid reason against
commencing a Treble PB composition
with 1R or 2R."

176. Jasper Snowden - A Treatise on Treble
PB, part II p. 111.

177. See Vol IX p 542. also The College Youths
by J. A. Frodope p. 64, Piedman by J. A. Frodope p. 115.

The History of Hedman's Principle in

497

Hedman by C. D. P. Davies p. 152

The Account of the College Juniors in Cobourn's
History, and Bells of the Church by Ellacombe.

178. Samuel Slater - Short Memoirs of Thomas
Barton and Christopher Lindsey.

179. The band who rang the Imperial at St
Coles consisted of John Chamberlain, who
rang the Treble and Conducted, John
Webster (6th) John Dye (Tenor), Christopher
Lindsey, Thomas Barton, James Watling,
John Havers, and James Vines.

180. "This peal was rung by eight men from
Norwich, being inferior to a Company left
in that city; being the first that ever
was rung at that new peal which is
allowed to be by men of judgement the
best peal of eight bells in Norfolk. As

many in the County have said that 498
Norwich cannot afford eight men only
lifting a 5040 at that Grand Scal. Co
convince those dwelling people it was
completely performed in 3 hours and 18
minutes" - Contemporary newspaper,
extracted by Samuel Slater.

181. See the edition of Hubbards Campanalogia
The criticism is not repeated in the later
editions.

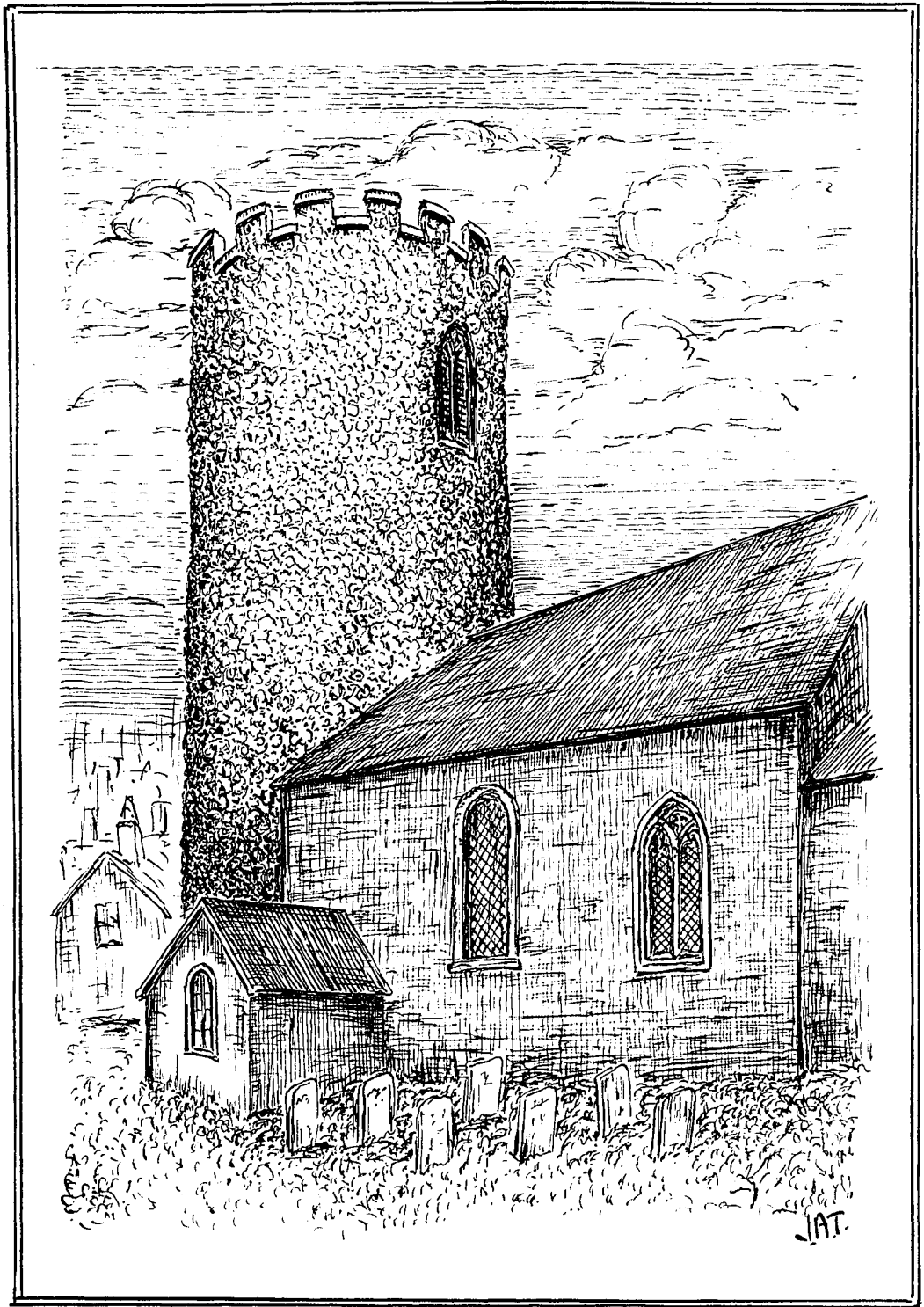
182. Samuel Slater - Short Memoirs of Thomas
Barton and Christopher Lindsey - Bell
News Sep. 19th 1903.

183. Norwich originally contained as many
as 52 parishes in addition to St. Mary-in-
the-Market which was within the Cathedral
precincts and not properly in the city,

although it was within the walls.

L99

(It is only in recent years that the City authorities have made themselves responsible for the paving and lighting of the Close which was maintained as the separate jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter and closed every night). About a dozen Churches were pulled down at various times before the Reformation and the parishes added to the adjoining parishes. The buildings were all small and mean. They included St Olaves, St Edwards, St Clements Cornisford, St Michaels Cornisford, St John in Southgate. St Faiths, St Bartholomew in Berstreet St Catherine's, St Croucher's, St Christopher's St Mary Overen, St Boldph, All Saints in



ST JULIAN'S, NORWICH.

500

Fyldge Gate, and S. Margaret in
Fyldge Gate. The memory of several of these
parish Churches and also of dissolved
monastic Churches is still preserved in
the names of streets: e.g. Bololph Street,
S. Catherine's Plain, S. Faith's Lane, Chapel
Field, Magdalen Street, The Chantry,
Whitefriars and Blackfriars.

184. Blomfield writing about 17 refers to them
as "a peal of ten most excellent bells" -
vol iv page 191.

185 Blomfield gives the inscriptions on three
of the old bells at S. John's as follows, -

3. HAC IN CONCLAVE GABRIEL NUNC PANCE SUAVE

4. DONA RESPONDA PIA ROGO MACDALENA MARIA

5. SUM ROSA PULSATA MUNDI MARIA VOCATA.

186. See Vol. IV pp. 124-186.

187 See Vol IV pp. 82-101.

188 . The Parish Books Copied by 501

J. L'Exchange - Bells of Norfolk p 180

189. William Windle's Book was written in answer to a pamphlet published by Samuel Strutt. Its nature is sufficiently indicated by the concluding paragraph - To Conclude as the Consequences of what may be deduced from the Establishment of our Author's Principles is too obvious and plain, So it must follow if what I have endeavoured to support is true, that there must be a Supreme Being the Continuer and Governor of all Things and that the Variety of Motions in all animated and inanimated Beings can be reconciled originally with nothing but a governing Mind or understanding Principle, and that whoever

thinks the contrary must himself 503
be void of understanding - The book was
dedicated to the Bishop of Ely and was
one of the many contributions to the deist
controversy of which Bishop Butler's "Analogy"
was the greatest.

190. At Halesworth there is a churchwardens'
book and on the front page is written the
Plain Changes on four bells and the date 1621
Mr. F. G. Lambert suggested that it was
written by one of the Brends (the Norwich
bell-founders) who were doing some work at
Halesworth at that time. This is probably
the oldest manuscript containing changes
that is extant, and is good evidence that
the art was practised at Norwich and
in the Eastern Counties from very early

Times - see letter from G. E. Symonds 503
in The Ringing World of Aug. 19th 1938.

191. See Vol VIII p. 178

192. Gizzard - "it is proverbially used for apprehension
or Conception of mind, as he feels his gizzard
he harasses his imagination" - D. Johnson.

193. Grin - to draw back the lips and display
the teeth generally as an indication of
anger - O.E.D.

194. Huff - to be civil, lully, scold, chide, storm
at - O.E.D.

Vapour - to brag or bluster - O.E.D.

195. P. Benet Fink, Threadneedle Street, now
demolished. Vol IV. p. 478.

196. Shadwell. The old church and old bells.
Vol VI. p. 1359.

197. P. Bololph. Redgate. The old church and
old bells Vol IV. p. 493.

198. All Hallows Parsonage. The old six bells
Vol IV p. 360.

199. *S. Peter Poor*, since destroyed. Vol. V. 504²
p. 834.

200. This is the earliest extant reference to
Cambridge Surprise.

201. *S. Mary, Mattewon Whitechapel*. The
old church and old bells. Vol. VI p. 1443.

202. Hang-up. a slang name for a treat,
probably in general use at the time. See
Vol. VII. p. 338.

203. *S. Leonard, Shoreditch*, The old church
and bells. See illustration on page also
Vol. VI p. 1362.

204. A reference to Meredith Hammer, vicar
of Shoreditch at the end of the 16th century
a somewhat disreputable person who made
a name as a scholar and preacher and
is said to have used the metal from the
crasses in his church to coin false money.

205. This window was replaced in the new
Church.

- 505
206. S. James's Clerkenwell. The old Church and the old bells. Vol. V. p. 1136.
207. S. Mary Axe = S. Andrew Undershaft. All Hallows Staining, since demolished
208. S. Giles' Camberwell. The old Church and the old light ring of eight. See illustration on page and Vol. VI. p. 1510.
209. S. Mary Magdalene Bermondsey. There was then a ring of eight bells since broken up. Vol. VI. p. 1501.
210. S. Andrews Holborn. The ring of eight has since been recast.
211. S. Josephs Aldersgate. The ring of five bells has since been broken up.
212. Robert Callin was at the time foreman to Samuel Knight the bellfounder.
213. Creed Church = S. Katherine Creechurch. There was then a ring of five bells since recast. Vol. V. p. 619.

224 amori =

215. Laughton's informant probably exaggerated

216. Tom Goody - probably the steeple keeper.

217. The six bells have since been recast

218. The ring at Tracthamston were recast in
1777.

219 Tups

220 Briston Causey = Briston Causeway.

221 Hopsey and Simonds are not among the
list of members of the club and probably were
non-ringing friends of the party.

222. Laughton who talks thus of two of his
friends who happened to get a Cylc was one
of the band of College youths who according
to the tradition went home from the peal
of Isaacimus at St. Brides each in his own
carriage.

223. The old tenor weighed 49 Cwt.

224. A very old and a very wide spread
superstition, not altogether extinct yet.

225. What a pity it is that we have not got the other side of this little quarrel.

Benjamin Stoddard's opinion of Laughton would be interesting and worth having.

226. Booze is a very old English word and came originally from the Dutch.

227. Naturally they would after so much "Booze".

228. Ned = Edward Davis

229. It is characteristic of people like Laughton that under the pretence of showing a broad mind and tolerant opinions they broadcast their friends' follies to the whole world as they knew it.

230 "Behind the Change" = P. Benet Fink, which stood next to the Royal Exchange in Threadneedle Street.

231. In the year 1760 was rung by the Norwich Scholars a deal of changes in that critical method or system called Imperial

508

The Third which was originally composed
by Mr Thomas Porter [? William Porter]
before mentioned as a celebrated Composer,
as far as memory serves (there being no record
of this peal) It was said to have been rung
by the following persons but it is for a certainty
unknown which bells they rang except the
treble sixth and tenor. viz John Chamberlain
treble and called the peal, John Webster
the 6th and John Dye the tenor. Christopher
Lindsey, Thomas Barton, James Watling, John
Havers and James Vines also rang in this
peal John Barton rang either the 5th or the
7th as Webster fell towards him when he
expired [Osborn however may have been
mistaken here as the ropes did not fall in
the regular order] No other account can
be given of this peal than the above, but

many others in the same method 509
have been rung by the Norwich Company
of which no account can now be had in
consequence of the loss of their ancient books -

E. J. Osborn, Campanarium Vol II p. 84.

232. The only extant record of this peal is in the
Cumberlands' peal book. No memory of it
survived in Norwich and it was probably
only one of many forgotten peals. For instance
Osborn records that on February 23rd 1778
"John Saunders one of the Cambridge
company rang a peal with the Norwich
Society at St. Michael's, Goslany, consisting
of 6048 changes of Bob Major which was
performed in 3 hours and 58 minutes."

233 Allmonds beef = beef dressed à la mode
see page 427. Laughton does not quite

know what à la mode means.

510

234 ache-bone = aitch bone, cut of beef lying over the pump bone.

235. funder's runs = pigs'

236. S. Bartholomew the Less

237 Whisk = Whist.

238. Crudely = undigested food

239 see note 233

240 George Gross jr. told John Cosc that the first true peals of Grandure and Steadman Triples were Holt's Original at Westminister in 1751 and Noonan's peal at S. Giles in the Fields in 1799. This was the London tradition. Gross died in 1832 and Cosc made the above statement in 1872.

241. Cobow had the name wrongly. The Norwich Gazette of April 22nd. 1769 says that the Composer was William Porter.

242. "S. Petri Mancrofi in the City of Norwich was cast a peal of twelve in the year

1775. The tenor weighs upwards of 511
41 cwt. This at present, though it remains
the last is by some deemed the first in
point of merit - The Clavis, 1st Ed. p 274.

" St. Peter's Manuscript in this City [Storwick]
still maintains its superiority as the best
peal of twelve in the kingdom - Shipway
reprint page XL.

243 " Wednesday June 21st 1775 was performed
in the church a grand Te Deum and
jubilate with chorus from Messiah and
the Coronation anthem by a Band consisting
of about thirty Gentlemen accompanied
by the Voices of the Cathedral choir to a
gentle and numerous Audience. After
the Music the Peal of Twelve bells was
opened by the Ringers of the Steeple, which
for sweetness of tone and melody in Concert

513
has answered the Expectations of
the warmest Promoters of the Subscription
and given the highest delight and
entertainment to all Judges and Admirers
of Ringing and other Musical Exercises.

244 Carlodisham; S. John the Baptist.

1. JOHN DARBYE MADE ME RICHARD MASTERS GAVE
ME

2. AD LAUDEM SANCTI ANTONII WILHELMUS SCHEP
ME FECIT [Recast 1883]

3. QUI RECNAT ET UNUS COELI DET MUNNUS

4. SANCTA MARIA ORA PRO NOBIS

5. JOHN BREND MADE ME 1665

6. DONA REPENDE PIA ROGO MACDALENA MARIA

[Treble and Tenor split in 1859]

Ringers jug inscription Holds 16 quarts.

Come jolly boys and drink your fills
Which love I pipe the Pott the bells

Let me not empty long remain

But if all out fill me again.

Thos Knocks

Isaac Cooper

Thos Shallows

John Taylor

Leonard Tilleol

John Tuffin

Nathaniel Holl

Jonas Colby

May 10 1703

245. See Vol III p. 433.
246. Francis Geary. See Vol VI p. 218. He had not yet reached the rank of captain.
247. How did Laughton know that Sunstie's bells were bad? His party were not ringers and he could not have heard them ring.
248. See my drawing on page 482. The spire was taken down in 1806; the churchyard was levelled in the early years of the present century.
249. The report in the Norfolk Chronicle which is the ultimate authority on the matter says that William Portis invented Countess Royal in the year 1751. It says nothing about Countess Major the first peal of which was rung in 1741.
250. "On Wednesday, June 12th 1771 will be opened at Downham in Norfolk a Peal of Eight Bells. the Tenor Twelve Hundred Weight the Treble four hundred

in the key of G. As there is no Particular 514
Company proposed to open the bells, such Ringers
as chose to attend will meet a kind reception
by their humble servant John Hall at the
Chequers in Downham aforesaid. N.B. A
dinner will be provided Gratis."

"On Sunday June 23 1771 Was Rang at
Downham in Norfolk a Complete 5040 of
P.B. Major without Changes alike or Bells
out of Course And the first that ever was
Rang in that Steeple Performed by Eight
men from Norwich who Completed it in
3 hours and 4 minutes.

License on Monday June 24th 1771 Was
Rang Another Complete 5040 P.B. Major
at Wisbeach in the Isle of Ely. And the
first that ever was Rang in that Steeple
which was Completed in 3 hours and
19 minutes. John Chamberlain Treble and

Called the Seal. John Keepus, 2. John
 Driscoll, 3. James Watling 4. Simon Watling 5
 John Dye. 6. John Howse 7. James Vines Tenor
 Holbeach in Lincolnshire - Also on
 Wednesday June 26. 1771 Was Opened at
 Holbeach At peal of eight By the aforesaid
 Company, who gave great Satisfaction
 to all the Gentlemen and Ladies who
 Came on purpose to hear the Ringing at
 the Above mentioned Place" - From
 Contemporary Norwich newspaper Copied
 by Samuel Slater and supplied to The
 Ringing World Sep. 13. 1935 by T. E. Slater.

251. The second man to call the Original
 and ring at the same time was Charles
 Baron of Saffron Walden. - "To inform
 all real Lovers and Professors of the Art
 of Ringing That the Society of young
 Ringers of this Town on Tuesday the 25th

516

of December last being Christmas Day did ring the five peal of Grand sire Triples consisting of 148 bobs with two Singles, which they effected in three Hours and twenty Minutes and on Tuesday following being New Years Day they completed the same in eight minutes less time than before (being the only Times the same has been rung there since there has been eight Peels) to the no small mortification of their Antagonists (some of the Old Society) who instead of Instruction, gave them all the Obstruction in their power. The Ringers which rung the same were Frederick Sell, Charles Barrow, who called the Bobs, Richard Whitehand, John Banks, William Barrett, jun. Richard Bush, jun. John Clark, and John Salmon. — Saffron Walden, January 2nd 1754.

252. In Queen Mary's reign Dr. Fresham 517

is said to have changed the name of the bell to Mary, and to have uttered the following rhapsody over it - *G bellam et suavem harmoniam. G pulchram Mariam, ut sonat musica, ut firmat melodie, ut placet, auribus mirifice!*

253. "From Oxford we are informed that upon the 8th instant the great bell commonly called Tom of Christ Church and which consists of 22,000 weight (after three fruitless trials before at the expense of £800 to the College) was at last cast with success all the bells of the steeple immediately rang with joy at the birth of their elder brother. The reason why this bell is so great in magnitude and weight is that because by the statute of the University it is to call all scholars to their Colleges and Town-people to their dwelling houses at nine of the clock every night, and Christ Church being at one end of the town upon a low

ground, and not having the advantage 518
of a rising situation, it was otherwise impossible
it should serve for the end or use it was designed
for unless the note of it was enlarged by the
compass and weight of the bell - True Domestic
Intelligence, No 81 Ap. 9-13, 1680. Published
by Nathaniel Thompson - quoted in Stokes &
Lucies July 18th 1925.

254 "Thos. Toller an excellent Composer in the
Ringing exercise by trade a punk maker
and resided near the market place in the
City of Norwich - Osborn. Toller's name really
was William.

255. "Halesworth - On Monday, October 7th 1771
was rung a compleat peal of 5040 Changes of
P.D. Major in 3 hours and 20 minutes, it
being the first peal that ever was rung in that
steeple, by us whose names are underneath.

Thomas Barton, Norwich	1 st	William Warner Norwich	5 th
Samuel Bryant, Redenhall	2 nd	John Bryant Redenhall	6 th
James Lake, Redenhall	3 rd	Edward Buckingham,	7 th
William Patuck Redenhall	4 th	Redenhall	
		John Sproue Norwich	Senior

Thomas Barton called the peal

On Wednesday December 25th 1771 was rung at
Halesworth Steeple, a compleat peal of 5040

Changes of B.B. Major within 2 hours and 50
minutes by us.

519.

James Tillott, Preble	James Carter 5 th
William Crow, 2 nd	Samuel Markham jun. 6 th
Samuel Markham 3 rd	William Whincup 7 th
Simon Spannard 4 th	Thomas Ellis Senor

William Whincup called the peal

H.B. This company are all inhabitants of the said
Parish, and this is the first 5040 ever rung by them.

- Records of Halesworth, by Frederick C. Lambert
page 11. Information supplied by Samuel Slater.

256. William Hallpole of Halesworth in his will, dated
July 19th 1539, directed "my Executors to bestow at
my burial day among the priests, clerks, poor
people and the ringers, with their bread and drink
to value 26/8" - Lambert's Records of Halesworth,
p. 11. On the strength of this the claim has been
made that the Halesworth company are one
of the oldest in the country with a history
longer than that of any other, and on July 18th
1939, a 400th anniversary dinner was held -
See Ringing World, July 25th 1939, Aug. 2th, et seq.
There is no real basis for the claim, since the
bequest was merely to make the usual provision
for the expenses of the testator's funeral.

257. Blomfield gives the following inscription 520
from a brass plate in nave of St John's Maddermarket.

Hodie mihi, cras tibi

John Melchior died June 25 1657

And here the body is interred

Whose soul to Heaven is transported

Where angels sing eternally

All Glory to the Trinity

John Melchior, perior 1705. 85

Cornelius Melchior 1713. 47.

In north aisle of St Peter Mancroft -
Mary wife of - Melchior of St John of Madder-
market, Coppersmith and John their son,
buried Nov 21. 1668 Hodie mihi, cras tibi.

258. The chiming apparatus has recently been
restored. See Letters in Ringing World June 7th
1940 and

259. St Peter Mancroft. "The sexton's stipend is £4
per annum besides fees. Peter Smith is now sexton
who hath £4 for ringing the four o'clock bell in the
morning and the nine o'clock bell at night

"The steepleman whose office lies in the steeple
only, for ringing of bells &c hath £4 per annum
and Charles Kern hath that place - Blomfield,

Vol IV p. 191.

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