

## THE DEDICATION OF THE BELL MEMORIAL.

On Saturday, 1st October, His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York visited Bolsterstone in order that he might dedicate the New Peal of Eight Bells, placed in the Tower of the Church to the memory of Rev. John Bell, M.A., Incumbent of Bolsterstone, 1848 to 1862. At the same time the Archbishop started the new Clock by electricity, and dedicated the new Font and Oak Tower Screen. The day was beautifully fine. The houses in the village were decked with flags, and the Union Jack was flying on the Church tower. It is estimated that considerably over 2,000 persons were present. It is said in the *Sheffield Independent* of 3rd October:—"There was an extraordinary gathering for such an isolated centre. Most of the lonely farm houses and cottages amongst the hills for miles around must have been left uninhabited, while large numbers were attracted from the industrious communities at Deepcar and Stocksbridge, over which, ecclesiastically as well as geographically, Bolsterstone holds pre-eminence. The unanimous pilgrimage up those uncompromising steepes was astonishing until the stranger saw the list of subscriptions to the Bell Memorial Fund. Then it was seen that not merely had well-to-do residents such as the Wilsons and others contributed generously to this happily-conceived memorial, but whole families of Bolsterstone parishioners in every walk of life, the £600 or thereabouts which has been subscribed having been raised amongst nearly 900 different individuals, whose contributions have varied from 2d. to £25. Widespread contributions and widespread interest were linked together as cause and effect. There was an almost equally remarkable demonstration when the eight bells were taken up the hill to Bolsterstone in May last, and it is clear that the whole population of the locality is prepared to take a personal interest in the bell ringing."

The Church was completely filled with people long before the time for service arrived, and arrangements had been made for holding an overflow service in the churchyard.

The clergy present were—Rev. Canon Favell, M.A., Vicar of St. Mark's, Sheffield; Rev. W. Knight, Chaplain of Holgate Hospital; Rev. G. Brewin, B.A., Cotefield; Rev. W. Elmhirst, M.A., Chaplain to Mr. Wentworth, Stainborough Castle; Rev. E. J. Huntsman, M.A., Vicar of Harworth; Rev. F. Brodhurst, M.A., Vicar of Sutton-in-Ashfield; Rev. J. Potts, M.A., Vicar of Auburn; Rev. S. Greenwood, M.A., Vicar of Wortley; Rev. T. Houghton, M.A., Vicar of St. John's, Park; Rev. A. B. Browne, M.A., Rector of Bradfield; Rev. W. R. Pym, M.A., Vicar of Sharrow; Rev. J. Julian, M.A., Vicar of Wincobank; Rev. W. J. Peacy, M.A., Curate of Tankersley; Rev. A. M. Winter, M.A., Rev. C. M. Potts, M.A., Rev. M. C. Wells, B.A., Curates of Bolsterstone; and Rev. W. R. Wilson, M.A., Vicar and Rural Dean.

The Archbishop arrived shortly before three o'clock, and proceeded to the Vestry. As soon as it was time for the service to commence a procession was formed at the School, where the clergy and choir had robed, in the following order:—

The Stocksbridge Brass Band.

Members of Bell Memorial Committee.

The Stocksbridge Church Choir.

The Deepcar Church Choir.

Rev. C. M. Potts, Rev. M. C. Wells, and Rev. T. Houghton.

The Bolsterstone Church Choir.

The Clergy.

The Archbishop, attended by the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Rev. Canon Favell, who acted as Chaplain, came from the Vestry round the East end of the Church, and joined the procession.

The Band, on reaching the Porch of the Church, stood on one side. The Members of the Bell Memorial Committee entered the Church and occupied the seats reserved for them. The Stocksbridge and Deepcar Choirs turned off into the new part of the churchyard to assist in the overflow service out of doors, which was conducted by Rev. C. M. Potts and Rev. M. C. Welis; the Rev. T. Houghton preaching the sermon.

The Bolsterstone Choir, the Clergy, and the Archbishop proceeded through the Church into the Chancel. The form of service used was that of shortened evening prayer, beginning with the first Lord's Prayer, one psalm (84), one lesson (St. John x, 22), to the end of Third Collect, when Hymn 395, "O, word of God, &c.," was sung, accompanied by the Stocksbridge Brass Band (to whom we are much indebted), who had come into the vestry to play the hymns. The Choir, Clergy, and Archbishop then formed in procession, and proceeded to the Tower, where the Dedication ceremony took place. After a Collect, read by the Archbishop, the Churchwardens (Mr. J. Hattersley and Mr. C. Macro Wilson) took the Bell ropes, and Mr. Macro Wilson said, "Right Reverend Father in God, we request you to dedicate to the glory of God and the use of this Church, this Peal of Bells." The Archbishop, receiving the ropes, then said, "By virtue of our sacred office we do solemnly set apart and separate from all profane and unhallowed uses these Bells now dedicated to the glory of God and for the benefit of His Holy Church." Then delivering the ropes to the Vicar he said, "Receive these Bells as a sacred trust committed unto thee as the appointed Minister of Christ in this Church and Parish, and take heed that they be ever and only used in His Service and for His Glory." After which, the Archbishop said to the Churchwardens and others, "You are to take notice that these Bells of the Church are committed to the custody of the Vicar of the Parish, to be used only with his consent subject to the ultimate control of the Bishop of the Diocese."

Mr. Rimington Wilson, addressing the Archbishop, then said, "Right Reverend Father in God, we request you to dedicate the new Clock now placed in the Tower of this Church."

The Archbishop then started the Clock by electricity, and offered a prayer of dedication. After this, he dedicated the new Font and Tower Screen.

The procession was then re-formed, and returned to the Chancel, and the Bells were chimed for a few minutes.

As soon as the ringing of the Bells had ceased, the Archbishop continued the Service of Dedication by reading the special Collects, praying that all who were called by the Bells to Church might hear God's loving invitation, that those who were hindered by sorrow, sickness, or other adversity, might be reminded by the Bells of the prayers of the Church, and rejoice in the Communion of Saints, and that all who heard the Passing Bell might be warned to prepare for the time when they too must depart from this life.

The special hymn "Lifted safe within the Steeple" having been sung, the Archbishop preached. His text was from 1 Peter, iv., 10—"As every man hath received the gift, even so, minister the same one to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The truth which the Apostle wished to press home was, said His Grace, that there was no one who had not received some gift from God. There were gifts of nature, gifts of position, and gifts of grace. Men did not differ more in the features of their faces than in the gifts which they possessed. This diversity of gifts was a great truth which gave the greatest interest to our earthly life. It bound men together by making them dependent one upon another, and afforded exercise for some of the highest virtues. If all gifts were the same, life would be infinitely monotonous compared with what it is now, and we should lose all the happiness of mutual help and mutual counsel. Friendship itself would lose half its charm, conversation would lose all its uses

and die down into silence, and the whole of the conditions of life would be changed. Were all gifts of the same character, it would be as if in the material world all mountains were exactly the same height, all clouds were of one permanent form, and all trees of one shape, colour, and size like the trees in a child's story book. Having remarked that no man had reason to boast of any gifts which he possessed, his Grace pointed out that it was the use of a gift, whether small or great, which would have its true reward in the world to come. Dwelling on the gifts of nature, of position, and of grace which men possessed, the Archbishop specially commended the use of the gift of sympathy. In making a reference to the dedication proceedings, his Grace said in the Bells which had been added to the Church, and in the other gifts which had been bestowed upon that house of prayer, there was an expression of brotherly sympathy. He did not know where he had seen a more interesting record than that which was given him by their pastor in the list of subscribers to the fund for purchasing the bells, where he found the pence of the labouring man united with the gifts of those who had greater means in order, in brotherly co-operation, to offer a gift to the house of God which might be in many ways a comfort to the parishioners of that parish. He trusted that the happy day which had brought them in such numbers that the Church could not contain them, would be a new point of departure in their moral and spiritual life, a day for reminding themselves of the responsibility about which St. Peter spoke in the text.

At the end of the sermon hymn 215 "The Church's one foundations, &c.," was sung while the offertory was being collected, and the service was concluded with the benediction.

A selection of sacred music was played by the Band outside the Church after Service.

After Service the Archbishop went to the Vicarage for a short time, and then drove down to Deepcar Station to catch the 4-52 train for York.

A Meat Tea was provided in the School for the benefit of those who had come from a distance, and a large number of persons were present at it.

The ringers, six of whom came from the Parish Church, Sheffield, together with Messrs. A. and D. Brearley, rang in the evening a musical peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, consisting of 5056 changes, in three hours and five minutes. Treble, Charles Henry Hattersley; 2nd, William Bugar; 3rd, Thomas Hattersley; 4th, George Holmes; 5th, Sam Thomas; 6th, John Holman; 7th, David Brearley, Bolsterstone (Captain of Bolsterstone Ringers); Tenor, Arthur Brearley, Bradfield. The changes were composed by Mr. Charles Henry Hattersley, and were conducted by Mr. Arthur Brearley.

A full account of the Bells, with their inscriptions, has already been published in the *Parish Magazine*. It may, however, be interesting to some to read the following metrical translation of the Latin inscriptions on the Bells, written by the Rev. Canon Wilson, R.D., Rector of Bolton-by-Bolland:—

Hither I call you all, with sounding brass,  
 Who called with human voice of yore;  
 I call but as a bell—from me, alas!  
 The human voice is heard no more.  
 But as a bell, in (\*) John Bell's name, I sound,  
 With "learn to live" or "learn to die;"  
 Thus to whoe'er in grief or joy is found,  
 I iterate my ringing cry,  
 That each may learn what best befits his case;  
 While I, from off this †) Waldershelf,  
 Call and will call you to this sacred place  
 Till God shall call you to Himself.

\* The bells are placed to the memory of Rev. John Bell, a former incumbent of Bolsterstone, who died January, 1892.

† Waldershelf is the name of the hill on which Bolsterstone stands.

Seage's Silent Apparatus has been fixed in the Tower, so that the ringers may practice and no sound be heard outside the Church. By this arrangement the tongues of the large bells are fastened, and only the small bells over the ringers heads inside the Belfry are sounded.

The following is an account of the Clock which, through the kindness of Mr. Rimington Wilson, has been placed in the Tower:—The clock was made by Mr. Rippon, of the Wicker, Sheffield. It is constructed on a solid horizontal cast iron frame, planed perfectly flat, and all the wheels and bushes are of gun metal, turned and engine cut from the solid. The pinions are lantern, with hardened and polished steel pins. Each of the bushes is screwed separately into its place, thus enabling one wheel to be taken out without disturbing the other. Fixed on the frame is an internal dial to denote the time, and for the purpose of setting and adjusting the outside dials. The escapement is Lord Grimthorpe's double, three-legged gravity, with a  $1\frac{1}{4}$  seconds zinc and iron compensated pendulum rod and a cast iron cylindrical bob of 224 lb. The main wheel of the gong part is 12 inches diameter, and has fitted to it the sun and planet maintaining power to keep the clock going whilst in the operation of winding. The main wheel of the striking part is 15 inches diameter. On the back of it is attached the cam for raising the striking hammer. This is so arranged that the first blow of the hammer shall fall exactly at the 60th second of the last minute of the hour. The chiming at the quarters is a copy of the Westminster clock. The main wheel is 15 inches diameter, and attached to it is the chiming barrel, which contains 40 cast steel cams, screwed separately into it. There is also attached an apparatus for raising the hammers during service time. The external dials, of which there are two, are of enamelled iron, and are 4 ft. 6 in. diameter. These are the first of their kind fixed in the neighbourhood.

The Westminster chimes are a valuable and useful addition to the Clock, and the words which are adapted to the sound of the chimes are very good, viz.:

Lord, from this hour  
Be Thou our Guide;  
Then by Thy power  
No foot shall slide.

The new Font, of Mansfield stone, is placed in the Church by the Vicar and Mrs. Wilson, to the memory of their little daughter, Christine Augusta, who died 6th July, 1876, aged 4 years and 9 months.

The design for the Font was prepared by Mr. Webster, architect, Sheffield, and the working of it was entrusted to Mr. David Brearley, of Bolsterstone.

The old Font has been set up as a Sun Dial in the Churchyard, opposite the Porch door. Its history is this:—It was first placed in Ecclesfield Church in 1826, removed thence to Bradfield Church in 1852, and brought to Bolsterstone in 1871, where it was used for baptisms from 30th April, 1871, to 29th September, 1892, and set up for a Dial on 12th October, 1892.

The handsome Oak Screen, placed in the Tower Arch was designed by Mr. Webster, and made by Messrs. T. and J. Hawley, of Penistone. The carving of the top moulding was kindly undertaken, and well executed, by Miss Sharp, of Townend House.

The beautiful hangings at the east end of the Church were made and presented by Mrs. Sharp, of Townend House.

The Pulpit frontal, which is a pretty sample of needlework, was made and presented by Mrs. Winter.

The stone heads, &c., in the Church, were carved by Mr. J. Holden, of Sheffield.

The following are represented :—The four Evangelists at the four corners of the nave, according to their emblems, mentioned in Rev. iv. (the epistle for Trinity Sunday) "And the first was like a lion, and the second like a calf, and the third had a face as a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle." Outside the porch door are represented on the left hand at entering, King Henry IV., who granted a license to Sir Robert Rockley, of Rockley Abbey, Knight, Lord of the Manor of Bolsterstone, in 1409, for the founding of the first church or chantry of St. Mary in Bolsterstone ; and on the right hand, Henry Bowet, Lord Archbishop of York, who gave his sanction to the founding of the chantry.

Inside the porch, on the left hand side, Sir Robert Rockley, Knight, who built the chantry, and on the right hand Richard de Westhall, the first chaplain, in 1412. It is intended to place inside the Church, over the entrance, a stone to represent Mr. Rimington Wilson, the present Lord of the Manor, and Patron of the Vicarage of St. Mary, in Bolsterstone. Above the six pillars in the nave the six last clergymen are represented. On the north side, east end, Rev. Thomas Bland, Incumbent of Bolsterstone, 1777 to 1818, who built the second Church in 1791, and died 28th April, 1818, aged 87 years ; over the middle pillar, north side, Rev. Richard Hudson, M.A., formerly Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, Incumbent of Bolsterstone, 1818 to 1835, who died 18th March, 1835, aged 89 years ; and at the west end, north side, Rev. William Irving, Incumbent, 1835 to 1847, who died 19th September, 1847, aged 53 years, to whose memory a window is placed in the Chancel.

On the south side, east end, Rev. John Bell, M.A., late Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, Incumbent 1848 to 1862, to whose memory the Peal of Bells has been placed in the tower, who died 10th January, 1892, aged 70 years ; over the middle pillar, south side, Rev. William Rivington, B.A., Incumbent 1862 to 1867, who died Feb. 11th, 1885, aged 50 years.

At the west end, south side, the present Vicar. The churchwardens, Mr. Joseph Hattersley and Mr. Charles Macro Wilson are represented at the west end, upon the wall on the north and south sides.

The sisters of Bethany, Mary and Martha, are represented at the north end of the Nave, upon the north and south sides.

On Sunday, 2nd October, Special Services were held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, the sermon in the morning was preached by the Vicar, the sermons in the afternoon and evening by the Venerable Archdeacon Blakeney, D.D., Vicar of Sheffield. There were crowded congregations.

The amount received for the Bell Memorial Fund on Saturday, Oct. 1st, and Sunday, October 2nd, was close upon £30.

Many thanks are due to all who helped to make the Dedication Festival a success.