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(Compiled by A. A. J. BUSWELL)

Cathedral Memorial Bells —

**Facts and Figures Preparatory to
Next Week's Dedication**

From

Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham News
May 6, 1921

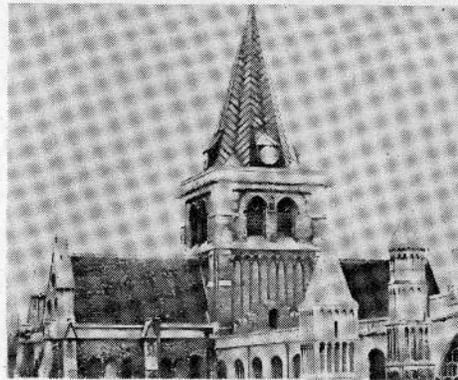
After many delays, due to various causes, the newly-cast and re-tuned bells of Rochester Cathedral are, at last, being re-hung in the belfry.

They will be dedicated at a special service in the Cathedral tomorrow week (May 14) and are so expected to be ringing for Whitsuntide.

For many months Rochester has been without the Cathedral bells — they have all been away at the foundry at Croydon — and it is to Messrs. G. & J. of Croydon, the worldfamous makers of bells and carillons that the "News" is indebted for many of the following details.

In order that the bells should be something worthy of the memorials for which they were intended, the Dean and Chapter decided that they would avail themselves of the opportunity of applying the latest and best methods of bell founding and tuning to the eight existing bells, which were to be increased in any case to 10 in number by the gift of two new bells — a memorial to their son, Lieut. George White Willis — presented by Alderman and Mrs. Charles Willis.

The harmonics or component tones (five in number) of each of the eight bells were not such as to allow of tuning each bell "with itself" as a perfect musical chord. The only remedy was to re-cast them to gain this result, and at an extra moderate cost the actual work of the ringers has



been greatly lessened by equipping each bell with a modern set of fittings. The most important feature of these fittings is the cast iron head-stock (curved in shape for the big bells) in place of the older-fashioned wood ones. The result is to "tuck" the tops of the larger bells well above the axis of revolution so as to reduce the leverage that the ringer has to exert. They have also been hung on ball bearings — an advance on the usual type of plain bearings employed.

The old total weight of the bells has been re-distributed so that the re-cast tenor (the largest bell) weighs 30 cwt. 0 qrs. 12 lbs. as against 26½ cwt. before, thus giving a still more sonorous effect to the whole peal. The total weight of the peal is approximately 119 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. The note of the tenor is D.

The principle of tuning that has been applied is technically known as the "Five-tone Simpson Principle" and it is interesting to note, as was reported in the "News" last week, that the bells were rung round in the presence of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, who visited the bellfoundry to witness the casting of the Carisbrooke bells on the day after the tuning of the Cathedral bells had been completed. The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:—

Bell No. 1
Dia. 27½ in. in F sharp. 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lbs.
To the glory of God
and in proud memory of our dear Son,
2nd Lieut. George White Willis, R.A.F.,
who was killed in France on
the 4th January, 1919.
At the going down of the sun, and in the
morning,
We will remember them.
As the stars that are starry in the time
of our darkness
To the end, to the end they remain.
Cast 1921.

Bell No. 2
Dia. 29½ in. in E. 6 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lbs.
Inscriptions as for No. 1. Cast 1921.

Bell No. 3
Dia. 30 in. in D. 6 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lbs.
In remembrance of
S. Reynolds Hole, Dean,
died 27th August, 1904. T.H.F.

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J.S.S. Pittsburgh
In Memory of 1920.
Apparently cast 1904.

Bell No. 4
Dia 31½ in. in C sharp. 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 17 lbs.
T. H. Foord gave me,
1904.

Recast in Memory of
Frederick Wade Hobson,
Died 25th May, 1903
and of
Eliza Keyworth Hobson,
his only daughter,
Died 18th September, 1914.
Apparently cast 1904.

Bell No. 5
Dia. 33¼ in. in B. 7 cwt. 1 qr. 19 lbs.
In remembrance of W.W.F.,
died 10th September, 1881. T.H.F.
Cast 1695, recast 1770, 1904.

Bell No. 6
Dia. 36½ in. in A. 9 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lbs.
In Remembrance of M.F.,
died 1st July, 1896. T.H.F.
Recast in memory of
Harold Albert Brand,
and
Charles Walter Edward,
Cathedral Choristors, who fell in the
Great War.
Cast ? Recast 1904.

Bell No. 7
Dia. 40½ in. in G. 11 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs.
In Remembrance of E.S.W.,
died 6th September, 1896. T.H.F.
Recast in memory of Bertram Luard—
Selby. Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster,
died S. Stephen's Day, 1918.
Laudo Deum, Verum, plebem voco
Congregatio Clerum.
Cast 1635. Recast 1904.

Bell No. 8
Dia. 43¼ in. in F sharp. 15 cwt. 0 qr. 9 lbs.
Vidua et Socii
me refecerunt.
In Memoriam
Ernaldi Lane, D.D.
Hujusce Aedis Decani
Obiit 16th Jan. 1913.
Adeste Fidales.
Cast 1712. Recast 1904.

Bell No. 9
Dia. 48 in. in E. 20 cwt. 0 qrs. 13 lbs.
Olim Thalebot
Nunc Talbot Vocor.
In die S. Andreae MCHIV.
T.H.F. Restauravit.
Recast in memory of
Samuel Cheetham, D.D.
Archdeacon, and Canon of Rochester.
died 19th July, 1908.
Cast 1683. Recast 1904.

Bell No. 10
Dia. 53¼ in. in D. 30 cwt. 0 qrs. 14 lbs.
I was recast in memory of
Francis Edmund Storrs, R.N.V.R.,
son of the Dean,
died 10th November, 1918,
eve of the Armistice.
Cast 1683. Recast 1834, 1904.

Oxford (St. Aldate). 14 May, 1260 Antelope
Doubles: Maureen S Porter 1, Charlotte Everett 2,
Elizabeth M Perks 3, J R Rook 4, L R Porter (cond.)
5, Sarah R Green 6. First in method for all. 9215
Kimpton, Herts. 2 July, 1260 P.B. Doubles: A
Morton 1, Susannah M Derrick 2, Susan E Scott 3,
M Cox 4, K Newman 5, Susan J Newman 6. For
Patronal Festival. 8585
Kettering, Northants. 1 July, 1260 Doubles (5 m.):
Julie Clarke 1, D J Mossop (cond.) 2, Stephanie J
Kenton 3, L Toseland 4, J R Mossop 5, S York 6.
For Flower Festival. 7914
Ashcott, Som. 28 June, 1260 Stedman Doubles:
Margaret Trimm 1, Freda Prime 2, G Stitch 3, F
A K Prime 4, J S Walton (cond.) 5, A G Kent 6.
First Stedman 1 and 2. 9266

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