

**THE CHURCH BELLS OF
NORFOLK. WHERE, WHEN, AND
BY WHOM THEY WERE MADE:
WITH THE INSCRIPTIONS ON ALL
THE BELLS IN THE COUNTY**

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JOHN L'ESTRANGE

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JOHN L'ESTRANGE.

ILLUSTRATED WITH NINE PLATES AND SIXTY WOODCUTS.

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1874.

*Gough Adds Norfolk 1143
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TO
JOHN ROBERT DANIEL-TYSSSEN, ESQ., F.S.A.,

THESE NOTES

ON THE CHURCH BELLS OF NORFOLK

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE COMPILER.



P R E F A C E .

To collect the inscriptions from nearly two thousand bells, distributed amongst seven hundred churches, was a task which, with my limited leisure, I could not have accomplished unless I had received great assistance.

At a very early stage of my labours, John Robert Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., and Amhurst Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., the Rev. J. J. Raven, D.D., and the Rev. John Henry Sperling placed their collections, not only for Norfolk but for other counties, at my disposal. The Rev. J. A. Ogle of Sedgeford copied for me the inscriptions on the church bells of his rural deanery, and the Rev. Morton Dullely of Barnby, a number of those in his neighbourhood. To these and to other gentlemen who communicated the inscriptions on the bells of their own parish churches my hearty thanks are due, as likewise in a very special manner to Mr. T. R. Tallack, who devoted the summer of 1869 to obtaining the inscriptions from the bells of a large number of churches which, on account of the difficulty of access, had been passed over by previous collectors. It will be readily understood that in a collection of inscriptions thus formed and moreover frequently

transcribed, some, nay, I fear many, errors have crept in, despite all attempts at literal accuracy, which often, owing to the ignorance or carelessness of the bell-founders, have made matters apparently worse.

I gladly take this opportunity to thank those gentlemen who have given me information during the progress of this work; among whom I would especially mention G. W. Marshall, Esq., Justin Simpson, Esq., W. C. Boulter, Esq., A. North, Esq., Mr. J. Calver, Mr. T. G. Bayfield, the Rev. W. C. Lukis, the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, and the Rev. J. T. Fowler.

I should be indeed ungrateful were I to omit to acknowledge the kindness of the Rev. James Bulwer, M.A., who not only read and corrected the copy, but also the proofs of the first part of this book.

Mr. James Mottram gave me his table of the dedications of Norfolk churches, which I have used at p. 14, and rendered me great assistance by collating my list with Ecton's *Thesaurus Rerum Ecclesiasticarum*.

I hope I shall be excused for mentioning here that in the following pages a fuller and more accurate list of the dedications of Norfolk churches is given than can be found in any one book, or indeed in all the books which have noticed this subject. My authorities are principally the Wills preserved in the Registry at Norwich, but I have not thought it necessary to incumber my pages with references to them.

My best thanks are also due to Dr. Bensly, Secretary of the Lord Bishop of Norwich and Deputy Registrar of the Diocese, for continuing to me the privilege of access to the documents in his custody that I enjoyed under his lamented predecessor, John Kitson, Esq.; also to W. L. Mendham, Esq., Town Clerk of the City of

Norwich, for permission to search the Corporation archives; and to the Clergy and Churchwardens of the various parishes whose records I have examined.

For my woodcuts I am mainly indebted to John Robert Daniel-Tyssen, Esq., F.S.A.; but I have also to thank the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, M.A., F.S.A., for the loan of several blocks, and for stereotypes of many others. I am also indebted for similar acts of kindness to the Rev. James Bulwer, M.A., Robert Fitch, Esq., F.G.S., F.S.A., and Llewellyn Jewitt, Esq., F.S.A. Further, I have to thank the Rev. G. W. W. Minns and Richard Howlett, Esq., for the illustrations of the Ketteringham and Great Plumstead bell inscriptions respectively drawn by themselves; and E. A. Tillett, Esq., and Walter Rye, Esq., for the plates of the St. Giles', Norwich, and Cromer bell inscriptions.

In conclusion, I feel that I owe an apology to my subscribers for the delay which has taken place in the appearance of these Notes. When I issued my circular soliciting their names in December, 1864, I had no idea that there was so much work to be done, or that my inclination to do it would decline in the same ratio as my opportunities. However, I have little doubt that even those who are interested will think *Sat cito, si sat bene*.