

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertised 28 Dec 1850

New Peal of Bells At Stretton. - The village of Stretton (four miles from Warrington, on the Cheshire side of the Mersey) was on Friday last the scene of great rejoicing, on the occasion of a new peal of bells being opened. This is a new parish having recently been separated from the extensive parish of Great Budworth, and comprised the two townships of Stretton and Appleton. A collection having been made by Mr. Joseph Poole and Mr. John Fairhurst, the churchwardens, to head the list Thos. Lyon, Esq., subscribed £50, the Rev. Richard Greenall, M.A., incumbent and rural dean, £50; - Makin, Esq., of Liverpool, £50; and the remainder of the subscriptions were soon ample for the object. Messrs. G. and C. Mears, of London, contracted for them, and have given great satisfaction. Throughout the morning the bells were sounding forth "the sweetest music to attending ears," "from the Squire's wide hall to the cottage small they were filled with the good English cheer of those merry chimes" peculiar to our native isle. In the afternoon service was performed; The Rev. Mr. Dean. curate, read the prayers, and the Rev. R. Greenall preached an excellent and very appropriate sermon. A collection was then made to defray the incidental expenses, and nearly £27 was realised. Thos. Lyon Esq., Appleton Hall, Gilbert Greenall, Esq, MP., for Warrington, Capt. Clare, the Rev. Mr. Eaton, of the Pole; Mr. Thos. Okell, Stretton House; and several others of the gentry and clergy being present. After service a dinner was prepared by "mine host" of the Cat and Lion, and ample justice done to it by a good number. The "Queen" and the principal subscribers were, along with the churchwardens, severally drank with musical honours. "The ladies" also had fill justice done them, and the meeting broke up to repair to the different private houses in the neighbourhood where "the festive dance and joyous song" continued under the influence of the bright eyes of the Cheshire Witches until a late hour.