

Bells—Old and New

"Great are the mysteries of bell ringing," said the poet Southey. "And this may be said in its praise: That of all devices which men have sought out for obtaining distinction by making a noise in the world, it is the most harmless."

Bells, in their primitive form, are referred to by the earliest writers. Their origin is lost in antiquity. The ancient Persians wore bells attached to their royal costumes; in Egypt, in Greece and in Rome, bells were used both for decoration and in patriotic and religious ceremonies. With the single exception of the Turks, bells have been favorably regarded by all nations since the time of their introduction.

From their intimate association with church rituals, bells naturally came to be regarded as sacred. In the early days of the Roman Catholic church they were formally consecrated and were often named for the donor; in the middle ages their prominence was still more plainly marked, and their various uses were designated by names; the Angelus bell, the vesper bell, the complin bell and the sanctus bell each carrying its special message.

From time immemorial the praise of bells has been the poet's theme. Shakspeare, Schiller, Tennyson and Charles Lamb all have written of the subject in living words; but none are more exquisitely touching than the familiar lines of Moore:

"Those evening bells! Those evening bells!
How many a tale their music tells,
Of youth and home, and that sweet time
When last I heard their soothing chime."

Among the largest bells in the world the "Great Bell of Moscow" is rightly termed "Czar Kolokol," or "Emperor of Bells." In simple bell material its cost is not less than \$300,000, which was augmented by precious jewels and plate added by the nobles to the value of \$1,000,000. Its weight is 440,000 pounds; it is twenty-one feet in height and twenty-two feet in diameter. It was cast in the year 1734, by order of the Empress Anne. Suspended from beams which were destroyed by fire, this monster bell fell to the ground and was broken; it is now placed upon a low, circular wall and is consecrated as a chapel, the opening in its side being large enough to admit two men walking abreast. Of the several hundred other large bells in Moscow, one in the Cathedral weighs 120,000 pounds. When this bell is rung, which is only three times a year, all the other bells are silent. In China, where large bells had their origin, the great bell at Peking weighs 120,000 pounds. The bells of China are inferior to those of Russia in both shape and tone. The bells of Japan are not unlike those of China. Holland is remarkable both for the number and size of its bells and for the devotion to them of the inhabitants. In England the largest Westminster bell weighs 30,000 pounds; the largest bell in America, which is in the Cathedral at Montreal, weighs 25,000 pounds, while one in Notre Dame Cathedral at Paris is of the same weight.

Of special interest in this country is the famous Liberty bell. Cast for the state house in Philadelphia in 1751, this bell bears the inscription:

"Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof." Representatives of the thirteen colonies first proclaimed liberty under this bell, which was afterwards broken in ringing a fire alarm. It was replaced in the centennial year, 1876, by a bell bearing the same inscription.

The Columbian Liberty bell, cast in the summer of 1893 and placed directly in front of the administration building at the World's Fair, weighs 13,000 pounds, each thousand pounds representing one of the original states of the union.

In this country a peal consists either of three bells, attuned to the first, third and fifth tones of the musical scale, or of four bells, the eighth musical tone being added. A chime generally consists of eight bells attuned to the eight notes of the octave; very often a ninth bell is added, attuned to the flat seventh tone of the scale, rendering the chime capable of producing music in two keys. The only limit, however, to the number of bells which may constitute a chime is that imposed by the necessary decrease of weight and consequent shrillness of tone. In a chime

of twelve bells no less than 479,091,600 changes can be played. The largest chime of bells in America, if not in the world, is in the tower of the court house in Minneapolis. Persons living many miles out of town are able to distinguish the tunes played upon these remarkable bells.

With the exception of the largest or tenor bell, which is mounted like a church bell and can be rung independently, the bells in a chime are suspended stationarily from a framework, and should be placed just above the level of the tops of surrounding houses. Chains and rods leading from the clappers are attached by pulleys and straps to the manuals, which are in the form of levers, in appearance not unlike a row of pump handles. When struck by the clapper a bell distinctly changes shape. At one moment it is an oval, with its longest diameter at an exact right angle to its longest diameter at the preceding instant. These repeated changes constitute its vibrations and produce the tone, which varies according to the size and weight of the bells. The playing of a chime is a purely mechanical performance. No help can be gained from the sound, as each note must be struck before the reverberation of the preceding one has reached the player's ear. The proposed memorial chime to be placed in the Methodist church in this city will consist of ten bells, the largest weighing 2,000 pounds. Similar chimes have been placed in the old Vanderbilt church, Staten Island, N. Y.; in the Methodist church of Watertown, Mass.; in the Trinity church of Watertown, N. Y., and in old Trinity church of Newport, R. I. Of the six thousand dollars necessary to secure this chime fifty-one hundred dollars have already been subscribed. It is to be hoped that all efforts of the committee to raise the remaining amount will meet with an enthusiastic response from patriotic citizens.

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MEDICAL TREATMENT FREE

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The British Medical Institute Offers
Three Months' Services Free to
All Invalids Who Call at Its
Office Before January 7

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A staff of eminent physicians and surgeons from the British Medical Institute have, at the urgent solicitation of a large number of patients under their care in this country, established a permanent branch of the Institute in this city, in the Sheldon block, corner of Eleventh and N streets.

These eminent gentlemen have decided to give their services entirely free for three months (medicines excepted) to all invalids who call upon them for treatment between now and Jan. 7. These services consist not only of consultation, examination and advice, but also of all minor surgical operations, call before Jan. 7.

The object in pursuing this course is to become rapidly and personally acquainted with the sick and afflicted, and under no conditions will any charge whatever be made for any services rendered for three months to all who call before January 7.

The doctors treat all forms of disease and deformities and guarantee a cure in every case they undertake. At the first interview a thorough examination is made, and if incurable, you are frankly and kindly told so; also advised against spending your money for useless treatment.

Male and female weakness, catarrh and catarrhal deafness, also rupture, goitre, cancer, all skin diseases, and all diseases of the rectum, are positively cured by their new treatment.

The chief associate surgeon of the Institute is in personal charge.

Office hours from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m. No Sunday hours.

SPECIAL NOTICE—If you cannot call, send stamp for question blank for home treatment.

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SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE.

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Notice is hereby given, That by virtue of a certain decree of the District Court of the Third Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster County, in an action wherein Charles White et al. are plaintiffs and Tillie May et al. defendants, I will at 2 o'clock, p. m., on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1902, at the east door of the court house, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described lands and tenements, to-wit:

Block seven (7), lots six (6) and seven (7), in block nine (9), lots six (6), and seven (7), in block twenty (20), lots six (6) and seven (7) in block twenty-three (23), and lots six (6) and seven (7) in block thirty-four (34), all in the town or village of College View, the same being situated in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 5th day of December, A. D. 1901.

Z. S. BRANSON,
Special Master Commissioner.

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L. P. FUNKHOUSER, Cashier.

Farmers & Merchants Bank

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