

trickled down its sides. This 'heavy sweating' as it was termed, was regarded by every one with peculiar horror, and deemed a certain prognostication of the death of the sick woman, who departed this life a few hours after I left the room. The agonised bell, I was told, had on many previous occasions given similar tokens as proofs of its sympathy, on the approaching demise of its guardians." What gives a special value to this Irish hand-bell is the inscription on it, by which its era is believed to be fixed to the eleventh century, though Dr. Petrie assigns it to so early a date as the close of the ninth century. The inscription upon it is : *Oroit ar Chumascach m̄ ailello : i. e., A prayer for Chumascach Mac Ailello ; who is believed to be Cumascach, Archbishop of Armagh, A. D., 1065.*

The Scottish bell of St. Kentigern, the apostle of Strathclyde, after forming an object of devout veneration to the citizens of Glasgow for centuries, has its memorial still preserved in the city arms ; and relics or records of at least a dozen such ancient holy bells of Scotland are still extant. The majority of them are rude square iron bells, coated with copper or bronze, and bearing a close resemblance to the cattle-bells which tinkle in the woods around our Canadian clearings, with no very musical or harmonious clank, unless when softened by distance and the intervening forest, or rendered grateful to the ear of the wanderer in "the bush," by the promise they give of some farm-house or settled clearing at hand. Nevertheless, to one of those : the bell of St. Ternan, the apostle of the Picts, was given the name of *Ronecht*, derived seemingly from the Gaelic *ron-naich*, a poet ; *rannach*, a songster : however unmusical its *clogarnach* or jangling would sound in modern ears. The Ronnell bell of Birnie, still preserved at the Parish Church of Birnie, in the old Bishopric of Moray, and said to have been brought from Rome by the first bishop, is of the same rude character already described. It is a single sheet of hammered iron formed into a square bell, with the metal overlapped and rivetted at the joinings, after which it has been coated with brass. Yet this unmusical relic of the ancient bishops of the northern diocese, probably derives its name from the like fond ascription of dulcet sounds to its rude clangour.

Of this same class was the ancient relic of St. Fillan, which at a comparatively recent period bore a prominent part in the exorcisms already referred to by the present custodier of the Quigrich, by which the rotaries of the Saint were wont to effect cures of madness and