

guarding his discovered treasure. He sent it to England, to Capt. Henri Bell, who had been employed by the English government in national affairs, and who had seen military service both in Hungary and Germany. With him Mr. Van Sparr had become acquainted while he was in Germany, and had known that he was well versed in a knowledge of the High German. To him accordingly the book was sent, with an accompanying letter urging Capt. Bell "that for the advancement of God's glorie and Jesus Christ's church, (he) would take the pains to translate the said book, to the end that the most excellent Divine work of Luther might bee again brought to light."

Capt. Bell informs us in his narration that he at once set about the work of translation, but was hindered by other business from much progress in it. About six weeks after beginning the translation there occurred this remarkable event, which is given in his own words: "It fell at that time, I being in bed with my wife, one night between twelve and one of the clock, shee being asleep, but myself yet awake, there appeared unto me an antient man, standing at my bedside, arraied all in white, having a long and and broad white beard, hanging down to his girdle who, taking me by the right ear, spake these following words unto me: 'Sirrah, will you not take time to translate that book which is sent unto you out of Germanie? I will shortly provide for you time and place to do it!' And then he vanished away out of my sight." The time and place were provided in the following equally singular manner: About a fortnight after this occurrence two messengers were sent from the Council Board with a warrant of committal to the Gatehouse, Westminster. Thither Capt. Bell was taken, and there he remained for ten years, five of which he spent in the "translating of the said book."

Meantime Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, hearing of the book and its translation sent his chaplain, Dr. Bray, to Capt. Bell with a request that he would send to the Archbishop "the said original book in Dutch, and also (his) translation." With this request Capt. Bell seemed loath to comply, possibly having had some experience in lending books, possibly distrusting Laud's intentions. The next day, however, the chaplain came again, bringing the Archbishop's word of honor that the book should "be as safe in his custodie—if not safer—than in mine own. For he would lock it up in his own Cabinet to the end that no man might come unto it but only himself." Captain Bell seems to have made a virtue of necessity and sent the book. Two months passed and Laud sent him word that "he had never read a more excellent divine work" and asked to retain it still longer.

A year thus passed. Captain Bell again demanded the return of the book. Again Chaplain Bray asked in behalf of the Archbishop for further favor in the matter. Another year went by, and the patient lender sent unto his Grace an humble petition for the return of his