

don his wicked designs. But we cannot conclude without alluding to the practice in many places to sound forth the bell at a time when its sounds carry within themselves the deepest mourning and melancholy, and calls on all the parishioners to pray for the dying one. Then its sounds succeed each other slowly as the slow pulsations of the agonizing person. Then all Christian mothers in every homestead of the parish gather their children, and on bended knees and with clasped hands offer to God and Mary their ardent supplications. The soul has left the body, has passed the threshold of eternity; it stands before God's judgment seat, when the lugubrious sound of the bell is still heard and when prayers are still offered up to obtain a favorable judgment. The bell resounds again on our funeral day. We shall no longer hear its peals, our eyes shall be dim, our ears shall be deaf, we shall be cold and motionless in a narrow coffin, in a silent, solitary grave; and the bell shall invite our afflicted friends, gathered on the burial ground to shed a last tear and to say a parting "De Profundis" over our newly made grave. Truly the Catholic bell mingles its voice in all the events of a Christian's life.