tal. But it would seem that, with all our modern improvements, we do not now make *large* bells,—at least, at all comparable with those cast by our *ancestors*. It is very certain that no bells cast within the last century compare in tone with those cast before. During a long period, most (if not all) of the church bells cast in England were the work of itinerent handicraftsmen, who, if they were not gipsies, as was commonly supposed, led a sort of gipsy life; and it is scarcely a century since this race of wandering bell-founders became extinct. These nomadic workmen would travel in parties, with their families, the country round in search of work; and after having made a bargain for a peal of bells, would scour the neighborhood for miles in search of old copper and pewter, mostly in the shape of worn-out domestic utensils, and when sufficient metal was obtained would return and erect an *adobe* furnace and commence their operations. Many peals in England, made in this apparently rude way, are beyond all comparison superior in their tone and tune to those cast in the best bell-foundries now in existence.

The largest bells are generally stationary, used only for clocks to strike upon, or, at the most, are occasionally swung frame high, or upon the horizontal position. The largest bells known are of Russian manufacture. That of the Kremlin, in Moscow, weighs 433,772 pounds; but it was cracked in the casting, and was never raised. The bell of St. Ivan's, in the same city, weighs 127,836 pounds. A bell at the cathedral of Olmütz, in Bohemia, weighs over 40,000 pounds; but the great bell at St. Peters, at Rome, weighs only 18,607 pounds. What was until recently the largest bell in England called "Great Tom," at Oxford, weighed only about 17,000 pounds; but the clock bell at the new palace of Westminster, called "Big Ben," weighs 30,352 pounds. The largest bell on this side of the Atlantic is in the Roman Catholic