

Fourth Department.

THE *Penny Post* for November contains some nice reading for boys and girls, which we quote this week to fill up the department of *The Church Times*, reserved for their instruction and amusement:—

DISPUTE FOR RANK.

I.

A warm dispute arose among the beasts. 'Let us consult man how to settle it,' said the horse: 'he is neither of the contending parties, and therefore can be impartial.'

But has he the sense to do it? a mole was heard to say. 'It requires the finest intellect to discover our often deeply hidden perfections.'

'Very wisely remembered!' said the marmot.

'Very good!' joined in the hedgehog, 'I never believed that man had sufficient penetration.'

'Be silent,' returned the horse: 'we all know that he who places the least reliance upon the goodness of his cause, is always the most ready to doubt the sentence of his judge.'

II.

Man became judge. 'Wait one moment,' cried the majestic lion, 'before you deliver your sentence.—According to what rule, O man! will you estimate our worth?'

'By what rule?' answered man: 'undoubtedly by the degree in which you are more or less useful to us.'

'Excellent,' returned the injured lion: 'in that case, how far should I be placed below the ass! you cannot be our judge, O man! leave the consultation to us.'

III.

Man went away. 'Now,' said the scornful mole, and with him joined the marmot, and the hedgehog, 'do you see, horse? the lion thinks with us, that man cannot be our judge; the lion thinks as we do.'

But for better reasons than you do! said the lion, and threw a contemptuous glance on them.

IV.

Then the lion continued—'This dispute, if I rightly understand it, is a contemptible contest! If I am considered the greatest or the least of all, it is much the same to me. Enough, I know myself.' And so he went out of the assembly.

The wise elephant followed him, then the bold tiger, the grave bear, the prudent fox, the noble horse—in short, all who felt their worth, or believed they felt it.

Those who waited to the last, and grumbled the most that the consultation was broken up, were—the monkey and the ass.

BELLS.—PART THE SECOND.

Before proceeding to the account of the great bell for the Palace of Westminster, we should, perhaps mention that the Chinese have been represented as possessing bells next in size to the two we have already described. It is said that one of the bells of Peking is upwards of twelve feet high, and forty-two feet in circumference, and weighs upward of 120,000 pounds. We did not insert it in our list, because we have no very good authority for its weight. All travellers, however, agree that the Chinese bells are far inferior to our bells in tone, they are not so musical, nor have they that cheerful, merry sound which belongs essentially to the bells of Old England.

To these and our list of bells we return. The great bell for the clock-tower of Westminster, which comes next in order, was cast on the 6th of August last, at the little village of Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees. It was made under the direction of the Messrs. Warner, whose names are well known for the superior manner in which they cast their bells.

And here, therefore, it will not be out of place to give a short account of the manner of casting a bell:—

In founding a bell, the fundamental principle is the construction of its shape or form; as on the due proportions of its several parts, the harmony of the different vibrations altogether depends, and as a bell may be considered to consist of a succession of rings of metal, producing different sounds, these must form a perfect chord in tone, or the good effect would be lost. The first step is to design the bell on paper, according to the scale of measurement required. When this is done, what is technically called 'the crock' is made, which is a double compass of wood, the legs of which are respectively curved to the shape of the intended bell—a space, of the form and thickness of this bell being left between them. The compass is made to move on a pivot in a stake, which is driven to the bottom of the casting-pit, and is impelled by the hand of the moulder, defining of course in its rotation the

form of the bell which is about to be cast. The 'core,' or inner mould, is then built up of brickwork, round the stake, a hollow being left in the centre of it for a fire, and a small space also betwixt the solid masonry and the circuit of the compass, in which soft clay is plastered; and on this the lower leg of the revolving compass defines the interior shape of the bell. This inner mould is then baked by the fire, which is lit in the centre of the brickwork, and when sufficiently hardened it is greased or sprinkled with tan dust, and coated over with more clay; and on this fresh substance the outer compass performs a circuit, giving it the exact shape of the cup of the intended bell.—When this mould is sufficiently dry, the 'crown' or head of the bell is fitted to the top of it, making the model complete. The whole is then baked by the fire in the 'core,' and, when quite cooled, inscriptions, or any intended ornaments are moulded and placed upon it, and upon this the 'cope' or outer mould is formed. Having been made of a material which is easily consumed, the clay *à la* stiele is then destroyed, leaving the 'core' and 'cope' with clear impressions of the bell. When both the 'core' and 'cope' have been examined and finished off, the one is fitted over the other, like an extinguisher on a candle, with an exact vacuum reserved betwixt them for the metal to run in. The pit is then rammed up with earth, so as to bind the entire mould perfectly tight in its place; when a channel having been cut in the ground from the furnace to the orifice of the mould, the fused metals are let loose, or 'tapped,' as it is called, and they glide swiftly into every chink of the aperture.

In the case of the large Westminster bell, the cope was of iron, with the interior covered with a composition of clay and sand, &c., which had been shaped to the required section in a precisely similar manner to that adopted for the core before described, though of course inversely, as in this case it was done from the interior. The two being complete, the cope was let down over the core, and rivetted to an iron plate at the bottom, the space is left between the core and the lining of the cope, being the place into which the metal had to run. The remaining space in the pit was then filled up with sand, pigs of iron, &c., carefully rammed down; and the necessary channels for the metal to run from the surface into the mould having been made, the arrangements were then complete.

The preparation of the mould had occupied six weeks, and two reverberatory furnaces, capable of melting ten tons of metal each, had been built expressly for the purpose of casting this monster bell.

The whole of the night previous was a scene of busy industry, and early in the morning, the furnaces having obtained the requisite heat, their doors were opened, and the operation of charging, or putting in the metal, commenced, occupying about one hour, and in less than two hours and a half the whole of the metal (eighteen tons) was in a state of perfect fusion. On the signal being given the furnaces were tapped, and the metal flowed from them in two channels in a pool prepared to hold it, from being admitted into the bell-mould. The shutter, or gate, was then lifted, and the metal allowed to flow, which in five minutes completed the casting of the bell, the successful termination of which delighted all present, who cordially joined the workman in three hearty cheers.

It was sounded for the first time on August 23. It stands 7 feet 10 inches, and the weight is exactly 15 tons 18 cwt. 1 qu. 22 lbs. It is thus nearly half as much again as the bell at York Minster, and double that of Oxford.

The bell next in size was cast in February, 1847, at the great bell foundry belonging to Messrs. Mears. It was made for the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Montreal, whither it was sent across the wide Atlantic. It was of great beauty; on the outside appearing a representation of the Baptist pointing to the typical Lamb, and also one of the Virgin and Child. The metal after the furnace was tapped, took nearly a quarter of an hour running into the mould.

It was in the great establishment, too, of Messrs. Mears that "Great Peter" of York Minster was cast; the late reigning monarch of all the bells in the United Kingdom, but who is now obliged to bow his head to the Westminster king. His height is seven feet ten inches, and the diameter in the widest part eight feet four inches. The good people of York, however, only know once in every twenty-four hours that the monster has a voice, and then it is but the striking of a large mallet twelve times against the sides that announces to them that it is now. However, this is not his fault, for if he were to attempt to ring in the ordinary manner of bells, he would simply toll his death

knell, and that of the tower along with him; while with the tranquillity which he now enjoys, he may repose in his "easy dignity" for many years to come. We believe it was in January, 1845, that he mounted his throne.

The next two English bells on our list are the "two Toms," Tom of Oxford, and Tom of Lincoln. The former hangs in a tower over the western gateway of Christ Church College. Of this tower we give a representation.

It originally hung at Chiseny, where there was a large abbey, now no longer existing. In fact, it is now no longer possible even to trace its site, for close to where the monks of old copied manuscripts, shut up in their quiet and noiseless cells, or sung anthems in the solemn choir of their cathedral, railway passengers jostle one another, porters rush about with luggage, and ever and anon the wild and shrieking engine, as it dashes into the station, tells of the busy, tolling age in which we live. A strange contrast to the past!

From this abbey the bell was removed to Christ Church Cathedral, and from thence to its present position, having previously been re-cast, with additional metal added, by a founder named Christopher Hodson, as appears by an inscription upon it, with the date 1680.

Every evening Great Tom has an important and responsible duty to perform, namely, to give 101 strokes in honour of our ancestors, who founded that number of studentships in the college, and to tell living members that the gates are about to be closed.

Great Tom of Lincoln was recast by Messrs. Mears, as late as 1835, and an additional ton of metal added, but it is still some way behind Great Tom of Oxford, both as to size and weight.

We should have concluded our list of the largest English bells with a notice of the great bell at St. Paul's, London, had we not received more than one indignant protest from Exeter men for having omitted mention of the Great Peter of Exeter, to which they agree in giving the weight of 12,600 lbs., thus making it heavier than Great Tom of Lincoln. It seems that it originally belonged to Llandaff Cathedral, and that Bp. Courtenay obtained it in exchange for five smaller bells in 1434. The inscription states that it was recast in 1676.

The great bell of St. Paul's, London, was originally cast in the reign of Edward I., and was hung at Westminster Hall gate, to notify the hour to the judges. It was first called "Edward of Westminster," and afterwards "Westminster Tom." William III. gave it to the Cathedral of St. Paul, whither it was brought on New Year's day, 1699. Since then it has been twice re-cast, with additional metal. It now measures 10 feet in diameter, and 10 inches in thickness of metal. The tone is very fine, in the musical note A, concert pitch. The hour is struck on the bell by a large hammer, which is drawn up by a wire in the clock-works, and falls on the outside brim of the bell by its own weight. The clapper, which weighs 140 lbs., is only used to toll on the death of one of the royal family, or of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Dean of St. Paul's, or the Lord Mayor.

And now we have arrived at the end of our list of the great bells, and at the end of our allotted space in this Number.

Selections.

The *Daily News* correspondent sends the following document which has just emanated from the office of the Inquisition, having for its object to establish a system of social and domestic espionage. It has not yet, we are told, been officially promulgated in Piedmont, but has been busily circulated by confessors among women:—

"EDICT OF THE HOLY OFFICE."

"We, F. R. Thomas Vincent Airdi, of the Order of Preachers, Master in Sacred Theology, and in the towns and dioceses of Ancona, Osimo-Cignoli, Jesi, Sonigaglia, Loreto and Recanati, Macerata and Tarentino, and other lands and localities annexed, Inquisitor-General of the Holy Apostolic See especially appointed against heretical depravity;

"Being desirous, as imposed by our holy office, that the Catholic faith (without which, as the Apostle Paul writes to the Jews, it is impossible to please God) should be in our jurisdiction maintained pure and immaculate from all heretical contagion; and experience might have proven unto us that many persons from malice, others from disobedience, and finally others from ignorance, do not fulfil the strict obligation they are under of denouncing to the Holy Office the malefactors which come under its attributions, and that serious inconveniences and errors result there-