

The ominous Raven with a dismal cheer
Through his hoarse beak of following horror
tells,
Begetting strange imaginary fear,
With heavy echoes like to Passing Bells."

There are some minor laws and regulations with respect to the mode of ringing the Passing Bell in our Parish churches, and indeed in those of most European countries, which may be noticed here, for the information of the general reader. When a person dies, immediate notice is given to the Clerk, or Sexton, who causes to be rung in consequence, a greater or less bell, according to the rank, age, or youth of the parties. Thus a grandee has always the aid of the greatest bell, the soul of a very old person is allowed the same privilege, the common people a smaller one, and a lesser bell still for children. But whatever may be the rank of the parties the rule for the mode of ringing the bell is not changed, sex alone determining this. At first the bell is what they called tolled, that is the clapper hits only on one side of it, and the wheel has but little play, the sound of tolling being deep and mournful; after tolling a while, they raise the bell by a larger play of the wheel, and the clapper hits the two sides alternately as the wheel revolves backwards and forwards, this was ringing it out; they then lower it again, and give three solemn strokes three times repeated for a man, and two or three times repeated for a woman.

When a ringer dies they honour his departing spirit, with a dumb peal, the clappers of all the bells being muffled so as to give them a dull sound.

There is this passage, in Shakespeare's *Henry the Fourth*, Part II.

"And his tongue
Sounds ever after as a sullen bell
Remembered knolling a departed friend."

Some Antiquaries think that the Soul Bell or Passing Bell was originally intended to drive away any demon that might seek to take possession of the soul of the deceased. In the cuts to those Horæ which contain the service of the dead, several devils are waiting for this purpose in the chamber of the dying, to whom the priest is administering extreme unction.

Many weak persons feel uncomfortable at the sound of the Bell at eight o'clock in the evening, commonly rung in most parishes which is a remnant of the Curfew, merely because its dismal and measured strokes resemble those of the Passing Bell. A gentleman mentioned to us the peculiar melancholy effect which it had on him, when he first left home, and heard it from the steeple

of Bury St. Edmond's the first night of his journey.

In Ray's Collection of Old English Proverbs we find the following verse:—

"When thou dost hear a toll or knell,
Then think upon thy Passing Bell,
When the bell begins to toll,
Lord have mercy on the soul."

MORE AMERICAN BENEVOLENCE.

Arrived in this port this (Saturday) morning, the James from New York, with a cargo of Breadstuffs—a free gift to the suffering poor, and consisting of 114 brls Indian meal, 143 brls flour, 2031 brls of meal and flour, 4 brls bread, 2 do. provisions, 3 boxes and 39 bags peas—consigned to the central relief committee, Dublin.—*Limerick Chronicle*.

Say to pleasure—gentle Eve I will have none
of thy apple.

BIRTHS RECORDED,

AT ST. MARY'S.

SEPTEMBER 3, Mrs. Ware of a Son.
5, Mrs. Crowley of a Daughter.
5, Mrs. Calahan of a Daughter.
5, Mrs. Drew of a Son.
8, Mrs. Wallace of a Daughter.
8, Mrs. Foley of a Son.

MARRIAGE RECORD.

SEPTEMBER 4, Matthew Reid to Sarah Magennis.

INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

SEPTEMBER 10, Catharine, Daughter of Matthew and Mary Connolly aged 2 months and 6 days.

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