

lic worship in the early Christian times. The introduction of them for that purpose is assigned by some writers to the latter part of the fourth century. Palinus, Bishop of Nola, is said to have been the first to introduce them. Their use in Churches and Monasteries soon spread. They were introduced into France and England about the year 550 A.D.; and they rose so rapidly into such high esteem that a bell tower soon became to be a regular part of every ecclesiastical edifice. The bells first used in Ireland seem to have been hand-bells. One of them, which is believed to be as old as the year 552, is still preserved in Ireland. They were made of thin plates of hammered iron, and bent into a four-sided form, and fastened with rivets and bronzed. Perhaps the most remarkable is that which is said to belong to St. Patrick called the