

altars, bells, &c., was usually performed by the suffragan bishops, who being very insufficiently paid by the prelates for whom they acted, demanded large sums for the performance of these services. The Diet did not hesitate to denounce such exactions as "contrary to the Christian religion;" and they required that bells should be consecrated by ordinary priests, without charge.*

We will now proceed to give an account of the ceremonies observed at the consecration, or baptism of a bell.

The bell is suspended by timber-work, in a convenient part of the church, so that the officiating persons may easily have access to it, in every direction.

The bishop and clergy having put on their robes, the bishop having moreover the mitre on his head, and the pastoral staff in his hand, proceed to the spot, where the bishop is seated in the episcopal chair. He remains sitting, when the lessons from Scripture are recited: during prayer, he stands, with his head uncovered.

The service begins with the recitation of the following Psalms, viz., the 51st, 54th, 57th, 70th, 86th, and 130th. The bishop then blesses the salt and water.

"The Exorcism of the Salt.—I exorcise thee, O creature of salt, by the living † God, by the true † God, by the Holy † God; by that God, who by the Prophet Elisha commanded thee to be cast into the water to cure its barrenness; that thou mayest by this exorcism be made beneficial to the faithful, and become to all them that make use of thee healthful both to soul and body; and that in what place soever thou shalt be sprinkled, all illusions and wickedness and crafty wiles of Satan may be chased away, and depart from that place; and every unclean spirit commanded in his name,

who is to come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. Amen.

Let us pray.—O almighty and everlasting God, we most humbly implore thy infinite mercy, that thou wouldst vouchsafe by thy power to bless † and to sanctify † this thy creature of salt, which thou hast given for the use of mankind: that it may be to all that take it for the health of mind and body; and that whatever shall be touched or sprinkled with it may be freed from all uncleanness, and from all assaults of wicked spirits, through our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

The Exorcism of Water.—I exorcise thee, O creature of water, in the name of God † the Father Almighty, and in the name of Jesus Christ † his Son our Lord, and in the virtue of the Holy † Ghost; that thou mayest by this exorcism have power to chase away all the power of the enemy; that thou mayest be enabled to cast him out, and put him to flight with all his apostate angels, by the virtue of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who is to come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. Amen.

Let us pray.—O God, who for the benefit of mankind hast made use of the element of water in the greatest sacraments, mercifully hear our prayers, and impart the virtue of thy blessing † to this element, prepared by many kinds of purifications; that this thy creature made use of in thy mysteries, may receive the effect of thy divine grace, for the chasing away devils and curing diseases; and that whatsoever shall be sprinkled with this water in the houses or places of the faithful, may be free from all uncleanness, and delivered from evil: let no pestilential spirit reside there, no infectious air: let all the snares of the hidden enemy fly away: and may whatever envies the safety or repose of the inhabitants of that place be put to flight by the sprinkling of this

* Fasciculus Rer. Expetend, i. 365.