

All great pageants have their lubricous side. At the last at Windsor, the "beef-eaters," in scarlet and gold, with their knotty joints protruding in all kinds of shapes beneath their white silk hose, their sad and sorrowful countenances contrasting with the wreath of red and white roses encircling the round flat cap of black velvet belonging to their costume, their stiff white ruffs standing out against their sturdy beards and wrinkled chin—all presented a mirth-inspiring aspect which would have been most precious to an caricaturist. In solemn silence they stood before the buffet where the \$2,000,000 worth of gold plate was piled up, with Iippo Sahib's footstool, a tiger's head of gold, with eyes of rare and brilliant gems, and that cynical monarch's golden bird, whose eyes are of diamonds so brilliant that they seem to light every object around, and whose claws are of pearl, pronounced by Rundell & Bridge, the great jewelers of the last generation, as being too valuable for any London goldsmith's tools to touch.

ANOTHER MONSTER BELL.—St. Paul's Cathedral, London, will at an early date be provided with a new bell, that may well rank among the monster bells of the world. It was cast on the 23rd day of November last, in the factory of M. Taylor, of Loughborough. The smelting occupied 8½ hours, and the casting, four minutes; but only after six days the cast was sufficiently cool to issue from the mould. The dimensions of the bell are, height, 2.692 m.; diameter, 2.896 m.—(0.91 meter = one yard). It has not yet been weighed, but it is presumed that it may be classed between the bell of Olmutz (18,182 kilog.), and that of Vienna (17,980 kg.). Next comes that of Erfurt, 13,260 kg., of Seuss, 13,200 kg., and of Paris, 12,190 kg. The St. Paul Bell will cost about 75,000, *frs.* in which is comprised the cost of putting it *in situ* in the northwest steeple of the church.

AN INDIAN BRONZE.—The Hindoos possess a remarkable ability for making alloys of iron, copper, zinc and tin. Let us cite the *biddery*; the alloy is called *biddery* where it is mostly prepared, and is most encountered in all its purity. The eminent qualities of this alloy are, that it is non-oxidizable in air, even if the latter is charged with humidity, under the burning tropical sun. It is perfectly malleable and does not crack, except, perhaps, by violent blows. Objects of art manufactured from this alloy, are colored black by plunging them into a simple solution of saltpeter and sal ammonia, or sea salt and blue vitriol. One recipe for preparing the alloy reads as follows: 16 parts copper, 4 lead and 2 tin, melted together. Zinc is combined with this mixture in a proportion of 3 to 10. Dr. Hamilton gives another formula: zinc, 126 parts; copper, 460; lead, 414 (without tin). These parts are finely broken, and enclosed in a crucible with a mixture of beeswax and resin, to prevent calcination, and to simply effect fusion. The fusing alloy is run into an earth mold, and shaped into the desired form. To give it a black color, a solution of sulphurate of copper is used.

CORRECTING BRITTLE GOLD.—As soon as a gold ingot shows sufficient ductility to withstand the first two or three annealings without breaking, and if by the effect of this first test it gives indications of brittleness, by the appearance of cracks and fissures upon its surface, recourse must

be had to a sort of mold casting, what the French call "brassage." This operation is easily performed. It consists in taking a soldering coal, sufficiently large to receive the ingot, preparing it thus with a file that a deepened half-round hollow is worked in. The ingot is now heated upon a coal to nearly white heat, and in this condition it is laid upon the prepared coal, and covered with borax at all points, to facilitate the melting, which is about to be undertaken; the thus prepared ingot is exposed to the influence of a heavy wick of the soldering lamp, and by aid of a somewhat long blowpipe, the flame is directed upon one end; the fire is maintained until the surface begins to melt, whereby all cracks disappear, without raising the temperature sufficiently, however, to either shorten the ingot or separate it into several parts. The requisite degree of heat will be recognized, as soon as the bar begins to give way, and begins to conform to the smallest angles of the coal, as well as by the rainbow-hues which begin to appear upon its surface, and finally, by the union of the cracks, which disappear in proportion as the angles of the bar conform to the angles of the coal, under the heat of the flame. When the ingot has reached this degree of heat, in its entire extent, the operator may be assured of its malleability.

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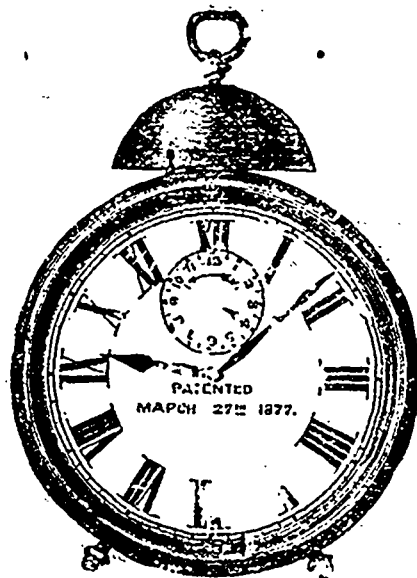
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