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NOTRE DAME, INDIANA.

When in May, 1866, the Statue of Notre Dame was blessed here by Archbishop Spalding, in presence of five other Rt. Rev. Bishops and an immense concourse of people, the bells of the new chime, or at least six of the largest, were freely rung in full peal, to the delight of all present. The following day, at the solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament, around St. Joseph's Lake, the same beautiful sounds, electrified, as it were, for two hours, all who attended the grand ceremony. Never will the memory of these two glorious days be obliterated at Notre Dame. The bells of the first chime in the United States had never before delighted, to such an extent, two large American assemblies of pious worshippers. The venerable Bishop Timon of Buffalo, among the rest, was so charmed with the harmony and rich sounds of the new bells, and their wonderful effects for miles around, that he wished, before he left, to obtain an account of the various weights of the twenty-three bells composing the chime, the cost of the whole, etc., etc., and the residence of the founder in France, with a firm determination to send him an order, on his return to Buffalo, for even a larger chime; a resolution which, we all know, he carried out immediately, to the great delight of the city, and which, ever since, is enjoyed there, by day and by night, as the richest aerial music in the New World. The chime of Buffalo includes 44 bells; there is nothing to equal it in the States. It has added not a little, as all say, to the enjoyment of the citizens in that already famous city. By itself, it would immortalize the name of the saintly Bishop, who enriched his beautiful Cathedral with this grand and perpetual rehearsal of pious hymns and tunes of what is admitted to be most exquisite in church-music; thus hourly and most sweetly charming all

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ears and bringing home from on high, with real rapture to the soul, recollections of the purest joys, filling the air with the choicest praises of God, of the Blessed Virgin and of most popular saints, at a time when luxurious voices and lascivious airs from theatres are heard on every street, and repeated everywhere in private circles. What a consolation for Christian hearts to hear from the skies, heavenly accents, angelical invitations, to rise from the low walks of vice to the true aspirations of innocence and virtue! Each time the chime fills the atmosphere, is it not to say, to each and to all, *Sursum corda?* "Your hearts on high!"

But to return to the modest chime that came first from Bollée's celebrated foundry in France, and has been for many years entirely eclipsed by the larger chime of Buffalo, we beg to state, that a few days after the memorable occasion of May, 1866, above alluded to, the large bell (3,000 lbs., cast in Cincinnati), which had served for a basis to the other 23, was found materially altered in sound; on close examination, a crack, at least a foot long, was discovered in it, probably the result of the long and heavy ringing, just mentioned. Not a few said it was a trick of Satan, as in St. Benedict's life—others added that Satan should not be allowed to rejoice in his success. Meanwhile, to ring it any longer was out of the question. To replace it, however, was a heavy expense—too great for the resources of the Institution. The dilemma became embarrassing; for the chime, without a basis, could no longer be used. A wise head, trusting more than the rest in the Blessed Queen of the place, suggested that the broken bell be replaced by another, four times, or even five times larger, positively declaring that, while few persons would feel inclined to subscribe anything for an ordinary bell, many would be delighted to contribute for the acquisition of an extraordinary one, especially if they were offered the assurance, that, by subscribing a certain amount their names would be cast on the bell. The wisdom of the counsel was admitted, and fully justified by the result. In a few months the list of generous donors was filled and the new bell (16,000 lbs.) was ordered at Bollée's foundry. The following year, the bell was sent, with its clapper 500 lbs. in weight—multitudes gathering to look at it wherever it stopped. The first founders of bells in the country came to ex-

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amine it, among them Mr. Meneely himself from Troy, State of New York. They were all struck with the clearness of its marvellous sound. reverberating for full two minutes as Mr. Meneely himself proved it to his own astonishment. With a favorable wind, it has been heard twenty-four miles, South, and twenty-seven miles, West. In calm weather, it is an enjoyment for miles around, to pause and listen to such a magnificent voice, passing over hills and valleys, as the Psalmist has it, like God's own voice over mounts and waters: "*Vox Domini super aquas.*"

But the more delighted every one here feels with the wonderful sound of this great bell, the more keenly is also felt by all the disproportion between it and the modest original chime. Ever since the casting of the new bell, Mr. Bollée himself has been urging the complement of the work, by the casting of a set of bells "*in keeping with the finest one,*" as he writes, "*that ever left his foundry.*" In a recent letter of last December, he sent a plan, or scheme, of a new chime based on our present Bourdon, which he *solemnly and repeatedly declared would be the first chime in the world*, giving at the same time the positive assurance that he is willing to forego all profits and be satisfied with covering his expenses. The new chime is to consist of 63 bells; the first one weighing $\frac{3}{4}$ of ours, (12,000 lbs.) This new plan includes a large cast iron cylinder 13 feet long and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter, upon which to set all hymns and tunes and airs desired. The plan is most elaborate, and contains all the late improvements rewarded by the French Government, placing Mr. Bollée at the head of all bell founders in the world. As a corresponding part of the cylinder is a key board, patented equally to Mr. Bollée, and on which a pianist or an organist, can play, with the same ease, as on his own instrument, any piece of music he wishes, and be heard miles off. On each bell, there are three hammers securing to the artist all tones and half-tones of the musical scale.

The best friends of Notre Dame are unanimous and urgent for accepting an offer that might never be made again. They unhesitatingly declare that the same method that covered the cost of the Bourdon, will fully meet the expenses of the new and grand undertaking. The largest bell being here already; the tower also being declared by Mr.

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Bollée, sufficiently large and strong; they say, it would be unpardonable, on our part, to refuse a chance, as rare as it is precious, to erect here a monument, which will delight and immortalize every name it will bear. Of the $30,000 to be paid to the founder, not one cent, they say, shall be left to our charge; and those who speak, show by their generous offer, that they mean what they say.

Every donor of even $5 will be inscribed on the list of benefactors, to share in the benefit of the Perpetual Daily Mass, founded here in 1879. Twenty-five dollars and over, will entitle a name to be cast on one of the bells, with the amount subscribed; the highest subscribers being chosen for sponsors (126 in number); beginning with the highest to be sponsors of the largest.

To swing in full peal the present Bourdon, of 16,000 lbs., four strong men are required; and if the ringing is to continue more than ten minutes, they must be replaced by four new hands. Who ever hears it for the first time, declares that no idea can be formed of the sweet and strong harmony with which it fills the atmosphere for miles away. If such is the result of one bell alone, what will it be when this bell will be supported by five others, forming an additional weight of 35,116 lbs.? Literally for five miles all around, (and often many more), the bells of Notre Dame will command an attention, which no civilized being could fail to yield; nay, they will create a universal admiration and delight People will come from a distance to listen to them. Again, last but not least, the site of the tower between two beautiful lakes and near the banks of St. Joseph's River. How appropriately can we not apply to it the words of the Royal Prophet? "The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of Majesty hath thundered, the Lord upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is in power; the voice of the Lord in magnificence. . . . The voice of the Lord shaketh the desert and in His Temple all shall speak His glory. The Lord shall sit King forever!" (Psalm, xxviii.)

Who could remain indifferent in this magnificent undertaking?

No time should be lost: names, clearly written, should be sent at once.

Very respectfully, etc.,

E. SORIN.

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