

Hearing the Bells.

In a hilly locality a bell will not be heard half so far as if the land were level, or nearly so. A bell will be heard a great deal further lengthwise of a valley than over the hills at the sides. It is frequently the case that bell rooms are lower than the surrounding buildings and trees, and these obstructions break the sound and its free passage to a distance. It is frequently the case, too, that towers have small windows or openings, with the lower boards so close together as to almost box up the sound. In cities the noise of steam and horse cars, manufacturing establishments, carriages and carts rattling over the pavements, etc. is so great that bells are not expected to be heard at any considerable distance, and this is the reason why, in all cities, several bells are used for fire alarm purposes, it being impossible for one bell, no matter how large it may be, to be heard above the thousand and one noises incident to every large place. The largest bell ever made in this country weighed 22,000 pounds and before it was fractured, hung on the City Hall, in New York. On one or two occasions this bell was heard up the Hudson river thirteen miles, in the night, when the city was comparatively quiet. Water is a good conductor of sound, and aided materially in making the bell heard as above mentioned. It is a great mistake to suppose that bells can be heard in proportion to their weight; that is a bell of 2,000 pounds will be heard twice as far as one of 1,000 pounds. This is not so, for the reason that the larger bell does not possess anything like twice the resonant surface of the smaller one. What is gained and admired in the larger bell is its deep, majestic, dignified tone, which it is impossible to secure in the smaller one, the weight of the bell always governing its tone. A bell of 100 or 200 pounds, in an open belfry, on a school house in the country, is frequently heard at a long distance, out of proportion, apparently, to one of 1,000 pounds in a church tower near by; and instances of this kind frequently cause no little comment in the way of comparison. One reason for this is, that the small bell has a sharp, shrill, penetrating sound, that must of necessity, be heard a great deal further in proportion to its weight than the low, mellow "church-going" sound of the church bell.

The same principle applies to the whistle of a locomotive, and it is heard a long distance simply because its tone is shrill and penetrating. When hung stationary and struck, or tolled, bells will not be heard, as a rule, half as far as when swung. The swinging motion throws the mouth of the bell up, and not only carries the sound off but imparts to it a richness that is always absent when the bell is at rest and struck. A great deal is to be gained by ringing it properly, throwing the mouth well up, and not lazily jingling it. It is not physical strength that is required in ringing a bell so much as "getting the neck" of catching the rope just right, particularly on the "down pull." The windows in the tower should be wide open as possible, and the tower should be ceiled just above the windows.

A young vestryman connected with a church at Pittsburg the other Sunday by mistake sent the following letter to the rector to read among the announcements supposing it to be the notice of a temperance meeting: Dear John, I am sorry I can't let you come to see me as frequently as usual, but papa and mamma think I should not receive even my very dear friends during the Lenten season. It's awfully disagreeable, if not positively cruel, but then you know we Episcopalians can't go back on Lent. I shall see you oftener than usual, I hope, when the holy season is gone. Yours with friendship.

A young American, who has been in Paris for a year studying medicine, was visited by his father. Like a dutiful son, he parades his paternal conscientiously

through the city, and points out its architectural lions. Finally they halt before a many-pillared building. "What is that lordly pile?" asks the old man. "I don't know," replies the youth; "but there is a sergent de ville." They cross over, and put the question. "That, gentlemen," says the officer, "is the Medical School."

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