



TOWER OF THE COLLEGE CHAPEL IN WHICH KATE KENNEDY'S BELL IS RUNG EVERY EVENING.

## KATE KENNEDY'S BELL.

By a simple and unique act of benevolence, a lady, Catherine Kennedy by name, has succeeded in gaining for herself a fame which has endured nearly four centuries and a half, and bids fair to last as long as the institution which she contrived to help shall be preserved among us.

The principal college of St. Andrews University in Scotland, that of St. Salvador, was founded by Bishop Kennedy in 1456, and the object of the foundation was the training of young men in those studies which would fit them for undertaking the duties of the higher callings in life which they intended to pursue. At this early date it was usual for students to live within the college walls, and dine together in a common hall, a custom which has been maintained at Oxford and Cambridge to the present day, though in most European countries the rule has been discarded, and students are allowed to live at home with their parents, or find rooms for themselves in private houses in the University town. When Bishop Kennedy's college was finished, and had received its complement of students, an unexpected trouble presented itself, which greatly perplexed the worthy founder and baffled all his efforts to overcome it.

The trouble arose in this way. The young men were all expected to be in college by a certain hour in the evening, so that they might have time to prepare their work for the following day, and the college gate was closed against such as happened to stray too far afield, and who found on their return that they had broken the rule of the house, a breach of discipline for which they had to appear on the morrow and be reprimanded by the Bishop. In modern times such an irregularity is inexcusable, inasmuch as students are provided with watches which tell them how the time is passing; but in the fifteenth century neither the students nor the Bishop himself possessed a watch, the very good reason being that this serviceable article had not been invented. As it was, much heart-burning was felt by the young men who found themselves shut out of the college at night, and had to remain in the cold until such time as they were suffered to enter, while their guardian, the Bishop, was kept in a perpetual state of irritation through the conduct of his charges, who set discipline at defiance by their frequent habit of putting in a late appearance. For all parties concerned, it was a fortunate circumstance that the Bishop's establishment was managed by a kinswoman,

who bore his name and was probably his niece, and to whom mainly fell the task of soothing his troubled mind by such means as her affection and ingenuity could devise.

To Catherine Kennedy the credit of finding a remedy of the evil, which was the source of so much trouble to the students and her uncle, has been unanimously assigned. It occurred to her that if only she could find money enough to procure a large bell, have it hung in the college tower, and get the gate-keeper to ring it some time before the door was closed, the students would have due warning to return from their rambles, and would only have themselves to blame if they arrived late. By what means Catherine was able to collect money enough to purchase a bell of sufficient size to answer her purpose no record has been preserved; but in the management of the Bishop's large household she probably could secure a goodly sum by her economies; she had also her own friends and those of the students to help her, and the Bishop himself must have heartily approved of her object and aided her with a liberal contribution. Somehow Catherine succeeded in getting her bell; in due time it was raised to its place in the tower, and its strong, commanding voice began to be heard, giving timely warnings to such students as might be roaming that they must hasten back at once if they would escape censure for disobedience. The bell answered its purpose perfectly, and, at the present day, both by the townsfolk and by those whom it was specially intended to benefit, it is usually called "Kate"; sometimes, however, it is honoured with the fuller title, "Kate Kennedy."

Catherine Kennedy's bell has always been an object of personal interest to the students of the University, and there have been occasions when their admiration of its donor has become so keen that they have mustered in procession and masqueraded through the streets in her honour. But as such excitement sometimes led to unseemly tumult and disorder, it was found necessary to forbid these public demonstrations of feeling. But still, though no parade and jubilation any longer take place, it not seldom happens that what time the bell rings strong and clear on the evening air, the thoughts of those who hear it travel back and centre about her who caused it to be placed in the old college tower; and thus, though her heart has mouldered into dust for centuries, her name lives and her kind act is not forgotten. M.