

"I remained firm, however, and as soon as Roland got his books through the press, and realised his first instalment of profits, we were married and took rejoicing possession of our pretty cottage home—(yes, home, for Roland bought it with his own money)—a neat and tasteful cottage with a good garden, such a place as could not be obtained in town short of £1000. Never had we known, until then, what was the full (earthly) meaning of the word happiness. We were in perfect sympathy with each other, and whether it was labour or not with us, it was always enjoyment. The hollow in my heart was gone, and so were the sadness and the pallor from Roland's face. The income which he received from the sale of his books was sufficient to supply our not numerous wants, and he therefore would not consent to what had been my plan of opening a school.

"No, no, Adele," he said, with that exquisite smile, a little mischievous now, if the truth must be told. "No, no, my smart and enterprising lady, I am aware that you made up your mind to become my wife, in the face of a conviction that you would be obliged to work for us both. I owe you eternal gratitude and honour for your generous courage and love; but allow me to disappoint you in that regard. You have worked faithfully for the good of others; now is your time of rest and peace. You may devote yourself to the work of rendering me happy—for you know you love that work—but for the rest, my love, the man on whom you "have thrown yourself away" will see to that." And he did."

THE GREAT BELL AT MOSCOW.

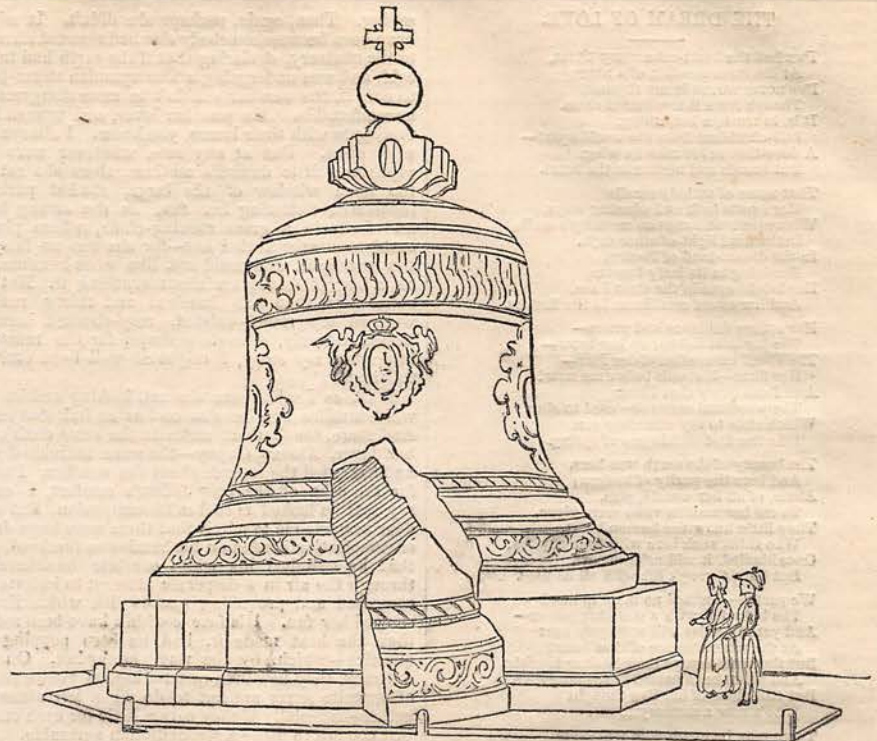
Big Ben the Second of Westminster has closed his brief career, and the question has been agitating in the papers, "Do we or do we not know how to make a bell?"

"Is the bell in the ground well bedded?
Is the mould well set and steadied?
Skill and diligence to pay,
Will it issue fair to day?
Should the cast not hit,
Should the coping split;
Ah! perhaps while hopes elate us,
Now, e'en now, mishap awaits us!"

Mishap has befallen Big Ben, but whether in the casting or high up in belfry with the

"— crazy palace clock
And the bewildered chimes,"

it is hard to say. Mishap seldom happens at Mears's



THE GREAT BELL AT MOSCOW AS IT NOW APPEARS.

foundry, everything being conducted on soundly scientific principles, and some of the best and finest modern bells in the world have been there cast and finished.

Russia, among the countries of Europe, has been long celebrated as possessing enormous bells. The largest of them has been described by Dr. Clarke as a mountain of metal, and is called by the Russians *Tsar kolo kol*, or king of bells. From the metal of

which it is composed it is said that thirty-six bells as large as the great one in St. Paul's could be cast. The height of the bell is 21 feet 4 1/2 inches; its circumference, ten feet above the extremity of the lip, is 67 feet 4 inches; its diameter is 22 feet 5 1/2 inches; and its greatest thickness 22 inches. It is said to have been given to the Russians by the Empress Anne, and its value merely as old metal is estimated at about £60,000, an immense sum to lie waste, for the bell has never sounded a single note. This monstrous mass of metal was for nearly two centuries allowed to be partially buried in the sand of the pit in which it was moulded, an object of interest to visitors and of deep reverence to the natives.

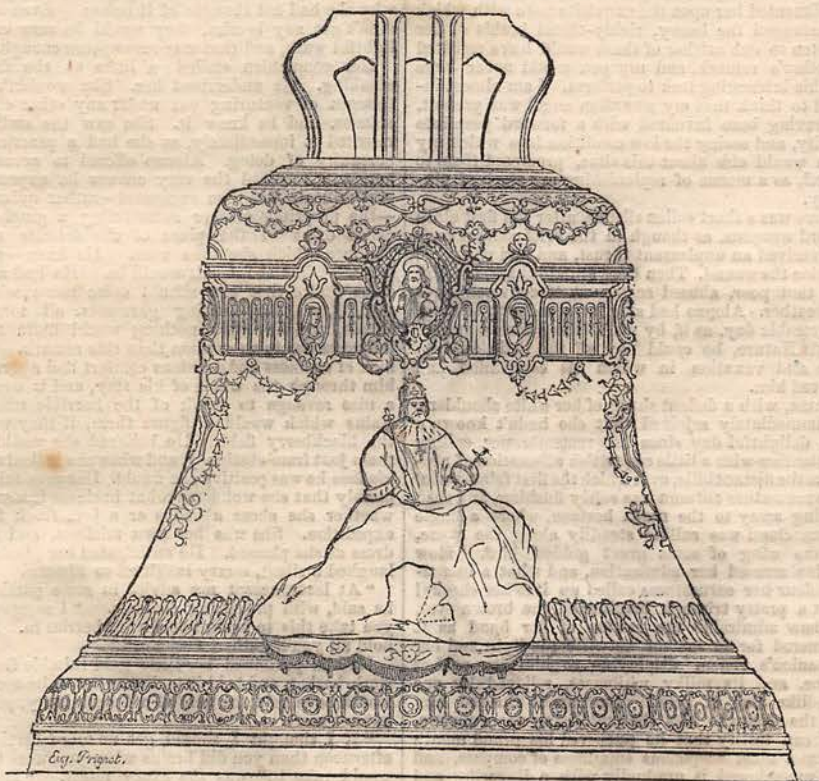
The bell is now exposed to public inspection in the centre of the grand square of the Kremlin, on a magnificent block of granite. It is covered with interesting bas-reliefs; there are unfinished portraits, larger than life-size, of the Czar Alexis Michaelovitch and the Empress Anne; between these portraits, on two ornamental entablatures surmounted by angels, are inscriptions not easily decipherable. The upper part is enriched with figures intended to represent our Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the Evangelists. The friezes, both at the top of the bell and on its outer lip, are of a highly artistic character, very elaborately executed.

According to the popular tradition, the metal of which this bell is composed contains a certain quantity of gold and silver, which the wealthy threw into the crucible at the moment of casting; its white appearance, which distinguishes it from other bells, favours this tradition. Many persons wishing to satisfy themselves as to the truth of the story would have been glad to test, by analysis, the composition of the metal, but the veneration entertained by the people of Moscow for their great bell prevented any such examination. At length, however, when the bell was removed to its present position, and surmounted by a cross, some fragments of it were detached and submitted to analytical investigation, which gave the following result:

Copper	84.51
Tin	13.21
Sulphur	1.25
Loss	1.03

100.00

The loss is attributed to zinc and arsenic, which could not be traced. The story of the precious metal cast in at the founding of the bell is therefore devoid of truth, but it is not improbable that an exhibition of the sort might have been made by the wealthy to excite the admiration of the ignorant and superstitious.



THE GREAT BELL AT MOSCOW AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED.