

BELLS OF SAINT MARTINS NEAR TRAFALGAR SQUARE RUNG THREE HOURS DAILY

(By M. W. Binney in Chicago News.)

London.—Every Saturday night the chimes of St. Martin's in the Fields, around the corner from Trafalgar square, are rung for three hours.

And do you know who pays for them? Well, maybe it is a bit of scandal I should not dig up, but then—Nell Gwynn pays for them.

You see when she and King Charles back around 1660 were getting a bit thick, she never forgot the days when she was a lonely waif of the streets, selling oranges to eke out an existence. And the only joy the ragged little thing had was to listen to those

chimes.

Nell was a very bad girl in some ways; told dirty stories on the stage that if she tried them in Detroit would have Potter and Baker dragging her off to the hoosegow. And they do say that she never went to church in her life. But she loved those bells.

Charles died and on his death bed he called his brother James in and said: "Let not poor Nellie starve." And James promised and Nell was given odds of money. She did not need it, as she followed her royal lover to the grave shortly after. And in her will she decreed that her body

should be buried in St. Martin's in the Fields where she had wandered as a half starved child. Further, and forever more, those chimes were to be rung in her memory three hours a week, that others who had suffered as she had might be cheered by the music of them. Parliament has the endowment fund left by her to pay for it.

Also she decreed that each night the bells were rung those who rang them were to be given a dinner consisting of a leg of mutton and the things necessary to go with it.

So, since 1687 those bells have been ringing, and something like 12,532 legs of mutton have been devoured. After careful research through the records of history it is the only endowed mutton ever known.

If the gay and light hearted Nell of the streets were to be in London today around her old stamping ground, she would put her lovely red head in her arms and weep. They've got women cops here.

Not nice neatly dressed women like we have in Detroit who move quietly about, no—women Cops. They are the funniest looking set in all London. They have uniforms copied after the men with funny flat helmets that look like those the lads wore in the trenches. And they wear big flat-footed shoes. And they are all old and acidulous looking.

They walk the streets to see that wicked men do not molest innocent girls—and "vice" versa—. As far as achieving anything they might as well carry a fire bell with them for they can be seen for ten miles. Every show in town has taken some kind of a comedy crack at them at some time or another. And if you don't want to get a sock in the jaw don't try to kid any of the Bobbies about them. It is a sensitive point.

They have no powers to arrest anybody. They are not constables. So they just walk the streets as though their feet were hurting terribly in their big shoes; just walk and glare at you. Every man is suspected.

And along Piccadilly Circus which is the lair of the Lorelei, they stand along the street, watching.

A hard faced girl flirts with a man.

"Here, here, now," says the police woman, "move along young lady and behave yourself, or it will be necessary for me to call a constable and have you placed under arrest."

The girl laughs merrily. "Aw, take a jump into the Thames," she answers.

"You, hussy," hisses the police woman, "you stay right where you are until I get an officer."

The girl stands exactly two seconds as the policewoman turns her back and then is gone. By the time the constable comes she is a half mile away.

That is one thing the London police seem hopeless to cope with, the problem of the streets. They have here the most perfectly organized traffic system in the world. All traffic experts admit that. They have the greatest criminal investigating department in the world. But when it comes to those problems that a little while ago stirred Detroit around Grand Circus park, they are lost here.

The uniform force is not interested; they are there to maintain order, and traffic, not to regulate morals. The Criminal investigating department has crime to look after and isn't interested. So they have these women, an innovation—and a joke.

First Typist—The idea of you working eight hours a day! I wouldn't think of such a thing.

Second Typist—Neither would I; it was the boss who thought of it.

THE DROWSY LAND

(This Time of the Year)
Wild geese, the clouds above the grove
Drift in a fantailed swirl of mauve
Beyond, a strip of Peking blue
Binds the sky to the drowsy land
As an ankle band
To a lily shoe.

But the countryside is the view to hold

In this drowsy land.
Groups of trees, friendly and old
That bind the temples to Peking
On hills patch-titled, whose gold-brown sheen
Sunset will gleam.

Farmer loads go by with song
On ribbons of roads shining and long
That bind the temples to Peking
Like ribbons to a May pole gay;
And bells a lay
Of temples sing.

Burnt orange ears of corn on thatch
The copper sunlight vie and catch
Or golden kernels on stone mills
Are ground and rolled
By some blindfolded donkey old
Home from the hills.

And punctuating the whole terrain,
Here and there
Are circles of smooth and hard
Packed earth
Where blue clad men with lyric mirth
Are throwing golden clouds of grain
Into the air.

Now priests intone their even song
With bell and gong;
Only the calls of boys are heard
Upon the hill,
Of the shepherd late, of bird to bird
Of crickets and cicadae shrill.

Suddenly the sun flares a high good-by,
And at his command
The mirage of a volcano appears in the sky,
Making upon the drowsy land
A benediction of great rose shadows.

—JEANETTE SEARIGHT in Christian Science Monitor.

Howell—Do you believe that love is blind?
Powell—Say a bat has perfect eyesight compared with it.

Brown (approaching friends in cafe)—Having duck for dinner eh? What kind?
Brandon (working hard)—Decoy I should say.



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