

THE "AVE" BELL.

A LEGEND.

[Prince Edward Island, formerly Isle St. Jean, was first held by France. Several churches were erected by the sons of Gaul; one stood on Point Prim. Rev. R. B. McDonald, of Miscouche, in searching up the history of the early settlers, brought to light a legend current among a past generation, that the bell of the church which stood at Point Prim was under water, and was frequently heard to ring.]

Ere yet our Isle had changed the name
Which Cabot gave, of lasting fame;
While yet the oaks majestic grew,
And Mimmas drove their frail canoe
Adown Hillsboro's unnamed stream,
Like sporting elves in nightly dream,
And came or went as led their whim,
There stood, sea-guarded, on Point Prim,
To lift the mind above mundane dross,
A church that bore aloft the Cross.
Long had it stood and marked the way
Where *Port la Joie* then smiling lay.
Afar the sailor hailed its dome
When coming to a new-found home;
Afar it caught his eager glance,
And stirred fond thoughts of distant France;
For in its build 'twas quaint, yet fair,
Like chapel in *Chalons sur mer*.

To yet complete the pleasing spell,
He heard the pealing of a bell,
That came with soft and mimic tone,
Like what in youth he oft had known.
When fair Aurora yoked her span,
When Sol crossed the meridian,
When twinkled first the Vesper star,
The bell was heard at sea afar;
Then sailors knelt and softly prayed
To honor Mary—mother, maid.
The while, from vale and leafy hill,
Rose peans soft, and sometimes shrill,
As maidens young and matrons old
God's praises in their *patois* told.
And hobbling 'twixt the grass and wave,
There might be seen, with visage grave,
And look of stern, yet calm repose,
A man who murmurs as he goes,
Thrice daily to the church he hies
And thus he chants, with downcast eyes:

"Ave Maria! the tempest is near;
England is shaking her trident and spear;
Over the waters the boom comes across
Sadly freighted with fair Gaul's future loss.
Ave Maria! our chapel will fall;
Error will spread o'er this island a pall;
Murky and dense 'twill these shores enshroud;
Hasten, O hasten! a rift in the cloud.
Ave Maria! O mother most sweet!
Plead for thy children at Christ's sacred feet;
Grant, as a sign that 'mid darkness may tell
Of hope, that nought may still the 'Ave' bell."

Thus sadly sang the aged seer,
And those that heard were smit with fear;
None knew from whence the old man came,
Nor what his life, nor what his name;
They only knew that thrice a day,
'Mid snow, or sand, he went to pray;
And ever asked from Spring to Spring
That thrice a day the bell might ring.

One Summer eve, near Sol's decline,
The fishers' crew, in broken line,
Came madly skimming o'er the sea,
And shouting loud, "O flee! O flee!"
Huge hulls that seemed with guns to frown,
And bore the flag of England's crown,
Majestic cleared the peaceful tide,
And chased the boats which homeward hied.
The old man saw the fatal race,
And sang and hobbled on apace:

"Ave Maria! the tempest has broke,
And yield soon we must to England's proud
yoke;
Our homes will be harried, our chapel too—
O! grant that the bell may speak ever of you."
Straight to the church the old man went,
His breath and voice were well nigh spent.
The weak fled to the leafy wood,
But in the fort the stalwart stood.
The cannon boomed from ship to shore,
And backward went the sullen roar;
The startled walrus heard the sound,
And fleeing, ne'er again was found.

The horrid din had grown more fierce,
The fire-flash scarce the smoke could pierce;
The fort was levelled with the sand,
Then in the church was made a stand.
Balls rattled through the sacred pile,
And filled with rain the nave and aisle;
Struck altar, Crucifix and pier,
The reredos and statues near.
The sun set 'mid the cannon's chime,
And marked the usual "Ave" time.
The old man rang a joyous note,
And heeded not that bullets smote.
The graceful spire; 'e'en as he rings,
Soft to himself he plaintive sings:

"Ave Maria! I'll ring till I die;
Mother of Mercy, look forth from the sky;
Over this bell let not wild waters moan
As comes from their depths its hope-telling
tone."

Six cannon belched their smoke and fire;
One huge ball struck the swaying spire;
One hit the old man as he rang,
And, like the swan, he dying sang.
The belfry tottered, creaked and fell,
And 'neath the sea, sank with the bell.
The few survivors fled the scene,
And darkness drew o'er all a screen.

The graves are gone, and gone all dread,
The corn waves o'er the gallant dead.
Time's healing finger touched the scar
That once did our fair island mar;
The magic touch to beauty turned
What war had blasted and fire burned.
The tragic story few relate,
And fewer know the old man's fate;
His name, perchance, some one may ask—
His brother wore the Iron Mask!

He served his God through years of pain,
And asked one favor not in vain;
For ever since, as legends tell,
Morn, noon, and night is heard the bell.

C. O'B.
Indian River, P. E. Island.

The Government Outlook.

If any doubt has existed in regard to the Quebec Province going for the Dominion Opposition at the coming elections, that doubt is now removed. No one pretending to a knowledge of the situation in Quebec can now maintain that the Opposition can not carry Quebec against the Mackenzie Government. As regards Ontario, Mr. Blake himself has admitted in Parliament that, notwithstanding the use made of the Pacific Scandal, parties in that Province were nearly evenly balanced. We all know that in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia two-thirds of the people are against the Government. The same is true of Prince Edward Island, while in Manitoba and British Columbia, the Government have no friends. The outlook, as a whole for the Opposition, is certainly as cheering as need be. The country calls for the Opposition

policy; it is utterly sick of the Government and its Know Nothings and Do Nothings. The country is heartily with the Opposition on all broad questions of public policy; it is thankful to the Opposition for exposing and checking governmental corruption; and it will go hand in hand with the Opposition in expelling from power a Party who have abandoned every principle they ever professed and deliberately violated every guarantee that had been given for the proper working out of Responsible Government.—*Moncton Times.*

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MAYOR'S OFFICE,
City of Charlottetown, 30th April, 1878.

SEALED TENDERS, marked "Tenders for Lighting, etc., Street Lamps," will be received at the Mayor's Office, until noon of MONDAY, the 13th MAY next, from persons willing to contract for Lighting, Extinguishing and Keeping Clean the Street Gas and Oil Lamps. Form of Tender can be seen at this Office. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By order,
WM. B. MORRISON,
City Clerk.

April 30—pat 2aw t 13th

TENDERS.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
City of Charlottetown, 30th April, 1878.

SEALED TENDERS, marked "Tender for Repairing Street Lamps," will be received at the Mayor's Office, until noon of MONDAY, the 13th MAY next, from persons willing to contract for keeping the Street Gas and Oil Lamps in repair. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. By order,
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Ch'town, April 30—dy pat 2 aw t may 13

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