

ST. AUGUSTINE'S

**An Old Bell For A
New Church**

The old bell which until recently was hanging in the old St. Augustine's bell tower will soon be erected in the tower of the new St. Augustine's nearing completion in Meehan Street.

The bell was taken down recently and transported across the road to the new church on a four wheel trolley.

It was no mean job to get the bell down from the top of the present St. Augustine's bell tower but this was done without any damage to the bell or furnishings in the church.

It is now resting for the time being on heavy timber beams in front of the new bell tower in which it will eventually be hung.

WEIGHS OVER TON

The bell weighs well over a ton, and is solid bronze. It bears the inscription in Latin: "In memoriam. Rev. Caroli (Charles) Lovat who departed this life on 28th June A.D. 1858." The maker of the bell has left his imprint: "J. Murphy, founder, Dublin, 1867."

The bell is about 3' 6" high, with a base of similar dimensions. At the top of the bell the diameter is about 2'. There is one slight crack at the bottom which is superficial and will not affect the tone. On one side of the bell is an Irish harp and spray of shamrocks.

The bell will be hung in a 68' tower nearing completion, and about 8' from the top. A recess was built into the brickwork to take the bell, and the structure has been specially strengthened to take the ton weight.

It is not anticipated that there will be any major difficulty in erecting the bell. As compared to the old St. Augustine's bell tower there will be plenty of room to erect the necessary tackle to lift the bell.

INTERESTING HISTORY

The bell has an interesting history which is narrated in a letter from Miss M. Beatrix Clarke, of Manly, whose father, the late Francis Clarke, a surveyor, and member of the State Parliament, gave up his seat to Sir Edmund Barton when Federation was established.

She states that the bell's history was told to her many times by Miss Mary Ellen Hanly, niece of Father Hanly, afterwards Dean Hanly, a chaplain to the Good Samaritan Convent, Rosebank, Sydney, where he died in 1896.

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When Father Hanly was stationed at Yass, an Englishman, his wife and son had a property in the district. The wife and son were in England, the son finishing his education at Oxford or Cambridge.

One day Father Hanly received word that the son had been killed while hunting. It was a very hard task for Father Hanly to break the news to the father, as the son was an only child.

BEREAVED PARENTS' GIFT

Later the mother returned to Yass, and the property was sold. Before leaving for England the parents of the dead son were so grateful for the comfort and consolation Father Hanly had given them in their sorrow, that they gave him a sum of money.

With that money Father Hanly bought the bell for St. Augustine's, and it was his pride to know that on certain mornings, according to atmospheric conditions, it could be heard as far away as Bowring.

The writer says she cannot remember the name of the English people but the father was of high military rank, and she is quite sure Father Hanly purchased the bell. His niece Mary Ellen was his housekeeper from the age of 18 years. At that time the Dean was stationed at Penrith. Miss Hanly died in 1944, aged 84, and her only sister was a nun in the Good Samaritan Convent, Glebe, in 1952.

EARLY CHURCH RECORDS

Miss Hanly lived with the writer's family for over 40 years. She had a scrap book of cuttings about the early church and other matters, and she loaned this book to the late Monsignor Hartigan. He thought it might be useful to him as he was writing a history of the early church in southern districts. This book would probably be found among his papers, and possibly be of use to someone else who might carry on the work.

"It is the patient labour of ordinary men and women, repeating their monotonous daily tasks, always a little better, a little more intelligently which made our world—not perfectly, but livable in and a few steps above the savage. Laboriously, stone by stone, they built the fort. It is up to us to hold it."

—I. A. R. Wylie.