

LONGFELLOW'S RESIDENCE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Few private houses in the United States are so well known as the residence of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, so often has it been described by affectionate antiquarians and enthusiastic pilgrims. It is not only the home of our most celebrated poet; it also surpasses in historic interest any building in New England, with the sole exception of Faneuil Hall. Its age, as compared with other Cambridge houses, is not great. It was built in 1759, by Colonel John Vassall, a firm loyalist, who led to England in 1775, his property in Cambridge and Boston having been confiscated. Its next occupant was Colonel John Glover, a bold little Marblehead soldier, who quartered some of his troops in the spacious structure. When Washington rode into Cambridge, on Sunday, June 2, 1775, he was greatly pleased with the appearance of the house, and having had it cleaned, he established himself therein during the same month. Martha Washington arrived at the house in December, and Washington remained in it till April of the following year. The southeast room on the first floor Washington took for his study, in which the councils of war were all held during the stay of the commander-in-chief in Cambridge. He slept just overhead, always retiring at nine o'clock. The spacious room behind the study, which Mr. Longfellow now uses for his library, was occupied by Washington's military family, as a rule a pretty large one. A general's "military family," in English parlance, comprised his whole staff. Washington was not averse to a certain amount of official splendor, and was luckily rich enough to carry out his whim in the matter of making his assistants a part of his ordinary household. Trumbull, the artist, complained rather sarcastically that he, for one, could not keep his head up in the magnificent society of the house. "I now found myself," he averred, "in the family of one of the most distinguished men of the age, surrounded at his table by the principal officers of the army, and in constant intercourse with them. It was further my duty to receive company and do the honors of the house to many of the first people of the country." But Washington was thrifty and frugal personally; and his generous maintenance at his own cost of a sort of court, was of great service to the colonial cause.

The owners of the house after the Revolution were Nathaniel Tracy (whom Washington visited for an hour in 1789), Thomas Russell, and Dr. Andrew Craigie, Talleyrand and Lafayette slept in it, and in 1833, Jared Sparks commenced to keep house within its historic rooms. Everett, and Worcester the lexicographer, also occupied it for a time, and Mr. Longfellow took up his abode in it in 1837. At first he merely rented a room, establishing himself in Washington's south-east bedchamber. Here he wrote "Hyperion," and "Voices of the Night." In the dwelling, in one room and another, almost all his books, save the two which date from his Bowdoin Professorship, have been produced. Longfellow had not long been an occupant of the house before he bought it. Its timbers are perfectly sound. The lawn in front is neatly kept; and across the street there stretches a green meadow as far as the banks of the Charles, bought by the poet to preserve its view. Mr. Longfellow himself, as he draws near seventy, is a fine picture of beautiful manhood. It has been remarked by his friends that his health has much improved since he delivered his poem, "Morituri Salutamus," at the 50th anniversary of his graduation. And all Cambridge, down to coal-heavers and hod-carriers, reveres him for his benignity, and reveres him, not only as a poet, but as a kind and gentle man.—Charles F. Richardson, in 'Harper's Magazine' for January.

THE FORESTS OF HONDURAS.

THE report made to Lord Derby on the timber of Honduras by Mr. J. F. Debrot, Vice-Consul at Omoa and Puerto Cortes, confirms statements as to the value of the woods, which have hitherto been regarded with some suspicion. The Vice-Consul gives a long list of woods produced in the country, most of which are, as the shareholders of the Inter-Oceanic Railway will be glad to hear, admirably adapted for railway sleepers. Thedye-wood fustic is described as nearly imperishable, as superior to oak and a substitute for teak in ship-building, and especially valuable for the knees of ships. There is a tree from the bark of which exudes the gum called dragon's blood, and pitch-pine grows in great abundance. The majority of the forests are owned by the government, though large tracts of land belong to private persons. The extent of timber-producing lands is estimated at about five thousand square miles, including a tract on the Atlantic coast, extending fifty miles into the interior, and about five hundred square miles on the Pacific coast. On the Atlantic coast, where the principal forests are, the rainy season lasts from nine to ten months, while elsewhere it is only six months in duration. In this thinly-populated country, with a rich and virgin soil, the life of the planter is a continual struggle against the encroaching vegetation, cleared patches in the forest sending forth spontaneously a new growth of trees, and the quantity of timber which might be cut in a year, not only without permanent injury, but with benefit to the forests, which in many parts are impenetrable, would be from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 superficial feet. The annual quantity actually cut is from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 superficial feet, of which all but 1,000,000 are exported. In the last ten years 45,000,000 superficial feet, more or less, have been shipped, at a value of about £700,000; and of this quantity, one-fifteenth went to the United States and the Continent, the rest to Great Britain. The woods exported comprised about 37,000,000 feet of mahogany, 5,000,000 cedar, 1,000,000 fustic, 1,000,000 Brazil wood, 100,000 rosewood, and 500,000 other woods. Exact statements, however, cannot be obtained, "as the continual revolutions and changes of government prevent compilation." After this it is not surprising to learn from Mr. Debrot that the capital employed in cutting and exporting timber is very small in comparison with

the capacity of production. There are no Acts of the native Legislature on the subject of forests.

HISTORY OF BELLS.

THE 'Iron Age' contains the following interesting account of the history of bells: "The superstitions, romance and poetry associated with the history of bells render them a study of much interest. As far back as their use may be traced, we find that fancy and imagination have been constantly employed to express the many emotions awakened by their tones. A remarkable antiquity is ascribed to the use of bells. In Egypt the feast of Osiris, it is said, was proclaimed by the ringing of bells, and in Cairo, at the present time, girls are accustomed to wear strings of bells about their ankles, practices similar to which have no doubt existed in that country for a long time. Among the Hebrews bells were used in the time Aaron, whose vestment was ornamented with small gold bells intermixed with pomegranates. An old writer solemnly avers then even Noah employed such an instrument to call his carpenters to work on the ark. An old painting also represents King David as playing with a hammer upon a number of bells before him. The authors of the works, however, must have drawn heavily upon their imagination. Bells hung on the necks of horses are also mentioned in the Bible by the prophet Zacariah. The ancient kings of Persia wore bells attached to their royal vestments. Bells were used by the ancient Greeks in their religious rites, and especially by the priests of Cybele. In time of war officers at certain times during the night went from sentinel to sentinel, ringing his bell, to which every sentry was obliged to respond. According to the statement of Æschylus bells were concealed within the shields of Grecian heroes. The "bellman" also marched before funeral processions; and bells were also attached to the necks of criminals to warn the people to avoid the spectacle of a man going to his execution. At Rome they were in constant use in domestic life, to announce the hours of bathing, business, &c. Ancient shepherds hung bells upon the necks of their flocks, the sound of which, it was supposed, helped them to become fat.

The practice of attaching a bell to the leader of a flock is a very old one indeed. Bells have also been discovered among the remains of many extinct tribes, such as Peruvians. It is thought that the bells that are described in ancient records were probably nothing more than little tinkling pieces of metal with no uniformity of shape. The introduction of bells into Christendom is generally ascribed to Paulinus, Bishop of Nole, in Campania; although it is stated by one writer that his part in the matter was simply the suspension of a large brass kettle, by striking which he announced the time of prayers. During the sixth and seventh centuries the use of bells spread throughout Christendom, and about the year 600, Pope Sabinian ordained that the bells should be used to announce the hours of devotion. During this period, also, hand bells were used extensively. The hand bell said to have belonged to St. Patrick was made previous to the sixth century, and is a four-sided bell made of thin plates of iron, fastened with rivets and brazed. It is still preserved in Belfast.

Church bells were introduced slowly, and those which were first made were of very small size. By the fifteenth century the art of founding had reached such excellence that bells of large dimensions were cast, as a bell cast in Paris in 1472 weighed 25,000 pounds. The introduction of church towers was probably coeval with that of church bells, the word belfry, indeed, being a compound of two Saxon words, *bel* and *frede*. The ancient bell-founders of England were an itinerant class of people, and frequently of doubtful character. There were certain ones, however, who ranked among the respectables, and even the wealthy classes of society.

THE FAITH IN ENGLAND.

THE Catholic faith has able advocates in England, who, thanks to the advancing intelligence of the world, have a greater chance of being heard now than at any former period. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Dr. Manning, Dr. Newman, Canon Oakeley, Monsignor Capel, and others too numerous to mention, are constantly bringing forward the claims of the Church, as the divinely-authorized teacher of the world. Even the attacks of such men as Gladstone advertise, so to speak, the Church to the nation, and cause many to read and study the Catholic doctrines who otherwise would pass them by with contempt. The Norths, Pitts, Butes, Palmerstons and Russels, Prime Ministers of the last century and a-half, did not care to give Catholicity even a thought, and the fact that an ex-Premier so distinguished as Mr. Gladstone deems it necessary to attempt to confute Catholicity, is in itself a proof that the Catholic Church attracts attention and commands respect in England.

The columns of the daily papers have lately been occupied with letters from Archbishop Manning and Lord Redesdale, touching Communion in one kind, and the recent refusal of a Protestant Bishop to permit the prayer, "*Requiescat in pace*" on a tomb, has also led to an animated discussion on the subject of Purgatory and prayers for the dead. As regards the former question, Archbishop Manning clearly showed that there was no divine command for the laity to receive both kinds, and that in all ages it had been lawful to receive either in one kind or both, as should be deemed wise by the Church, and the force of his arguments, as well as the clear testimonies he brought forward from the Scriptures, the Fathers and the Councils, made a great impression on the public. The letters which passed on the subject in the London 'Daily Telegraph' have been republished in pamphlet form and sold by thousands.

As regards the controversy on Purgatory and prayers for the dead, the Protestants have been obliged to admit that the latter practice was universal from the foundation of Christianity.—'Catholic Standard.'