

The counsel for the prisoner admitted that he had committed the offences to which he had pleaded guilty, and said he must take the severe punishment inflicted for such crimes; but he asserted that he was not guilty of forgery, for if it were true, as the prisoner asserted, that Johnson had given him authority to use his name, the prisoner would not be guilty of forgery in using it as a signature to these transfers, although Johnson might not be in any way cognizant of the purposes for which it was used. The learned counsel said, that the use of feigned names was very common in Stock Exchange transactions—which it is to be feared is very true, and affords great cover for fraud.

The Jury found the prisoner "Guilty," and Mr. Justice Erle sentenced him to 20 years' transportation for the larcenies, and 14 years' for the forgery. These periods are concurrent.

The amount of the prisoner's forgeries and frauds has been ascertained to be about 28,000*l*.

2. LOSS OF THE LYONNAIS.—On the 1st instant, the screw steamer *Le Lyonnais* left New York for Havre: she was an iron vessel. There were 39 cabin passengers on board, and the steerage passengers and crew are estimated at 150 persons. Late at night on the 2nd, some 60 miles from the Nantucket light-ship, the *Lyonnais* was run into by the bark *Adriatic*, bound for Savannah. The after part of the steamer quickly filled with water. The *Adriatic* was little damaged: she continued her course, and put into Gloucester. Her people said they did not know the steamer had suffered much; they thought she continued her course. It was not so. The two

after-compartments of the *Lyonnais* were full of water, but the fore part of the vessel remained out of the water. Attempts were made to save the ship, but they were fruitless. Next day, the people abandoned her in the six boats—only one of them a life-boat—and on a raft which had been constructed. The weather was bad; one boat was swamped, but the people got on the raft. There are contradictory statements as to how the boats were provisioned and provided with instruments. Only one boat has been heard of; it contained the second mate, some passengers, and seamen—18 in all. A passenger and a seaman died from cold. The rest existed in misery till the following Sunday, when they were rescued by the Bremen bark *Elise*.

7. "BIG BEN" OF WESTMINSTER.—At the foot of Westminster Bridge, a structure rises to the height of 300 feet, which has been described as "the grandfather of kitchen clocks," but which is the clock tower of the Palace of Westminster. The bell which is to announce to the assembled legislators and to all who may hear it the passage of time, has arrived at its foot, and has since frequently surprised the most distant inhabitants of the metropolis—north, south, east, or west, as the wind may set, by its unearthly vibration. This great bell, which has been designated "Big Ben," in perpetual memory of Sir Benjamin Hall, during whose presidency as the Chief Commissioner of Works it has been cast, was founded by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of Boston. Its designer is an amateur of scientific repute, who has paid much attention to the theory of bell-founding, Mr. Edmund Beck-

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ett Denison, Q.C. The materials of which it is composed are copper and tin, mixed in a proportion which an analysis of the best-toned ancient bells has shown to produce the richest sounds. Its weight is 15 tons 18 cwt. 22 lbs., or nearly 16 tons—much heavier than any of our cathedral Great Toms. It is of beautiful shape. When fairly landed at Westminster, it was suspended on a “cat-gallows” at the foot of the clock tower. Its tone has been tested at uncertain intervals by a very inartificial method. A hammer of 12 cwt. is so placed as to strike the outer rim; this is drawn back by a rope pulled by a gang of labourers, and allowed to fall on the bell. Under these very unpropitious circumstances, the effect of Big Ben is portentous and heart-rending. Sometimes the sound is the undefined murmur of a lamp-shade when a blue-bottle runs his head against it; at others, there is a full, strong, but tremulous vibration, that causes the heart to sink into the boots; and then, sometimes, a rich, full, clear, and satisfactory volume of sound. As bells, like poets and artists, are to be judged by the best and not by the worst of their efforts, it is to be hoped, that when Big Ben has been properly hung, and is struck in an artistic manner, his tones will be always such as these last. The designer proposed that the musical notation of Big Ben should be E natural. To the great satisfaction of all musical theorists, this was the exact note uttered by the monster.

It is stated that Big Ben had a predecessor who, after announcing many of the most striking events in the history of England for four centuries, still survives in a state of transmigration, and has,

for the last two hundred years, announced the decease of monarchs and the hourly passage of time to myriads of sober citizens and gaping rustics, all unconscious of its mystic ancestry.

The famed Great Bell of St. Paul's was, in a previous state of existence, Great Tom of Westminster. It is said, that down to the Revolution, there stood in Old Palace Yard, a handsome clock tower, built in the reign of Edward I., out of a fine imposed on a delinquent Chief Justice. In allusion to this origin, if true, the chief duty of Westminster Tom was to summon the judges and legislators below to their duties, and to warn them of the manner in which they ought to be performed by the motto on its rim, “*Discite justitiam moniti et non temnere divos.*” The tower had fallen into ruin, and after the Revolution, William III. presented the bell to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who re-cast it; and it has since that time distributed its rich sound over the vast area of the metropolis from the south-west tower of the great Protestant cathedral.

8. MURDER AT ERITH AND SUICIDE OF THE MURDERER.—A body, which proved to be that of Mr. George Carter, was found at a secluded spot in the immediate vicinity of Erith, under circumstances inducing a suspicion that he had been barbarously murdered.

The murdered man was the son of a market gardener, residing in the neighbourhood of Battersea, and having unluckily come into the possession of some property by his father's death, had been since living an idle life. He was known to be contemplating a voyage to the gold diggings of Australia. On the morning of Saturday, a la-