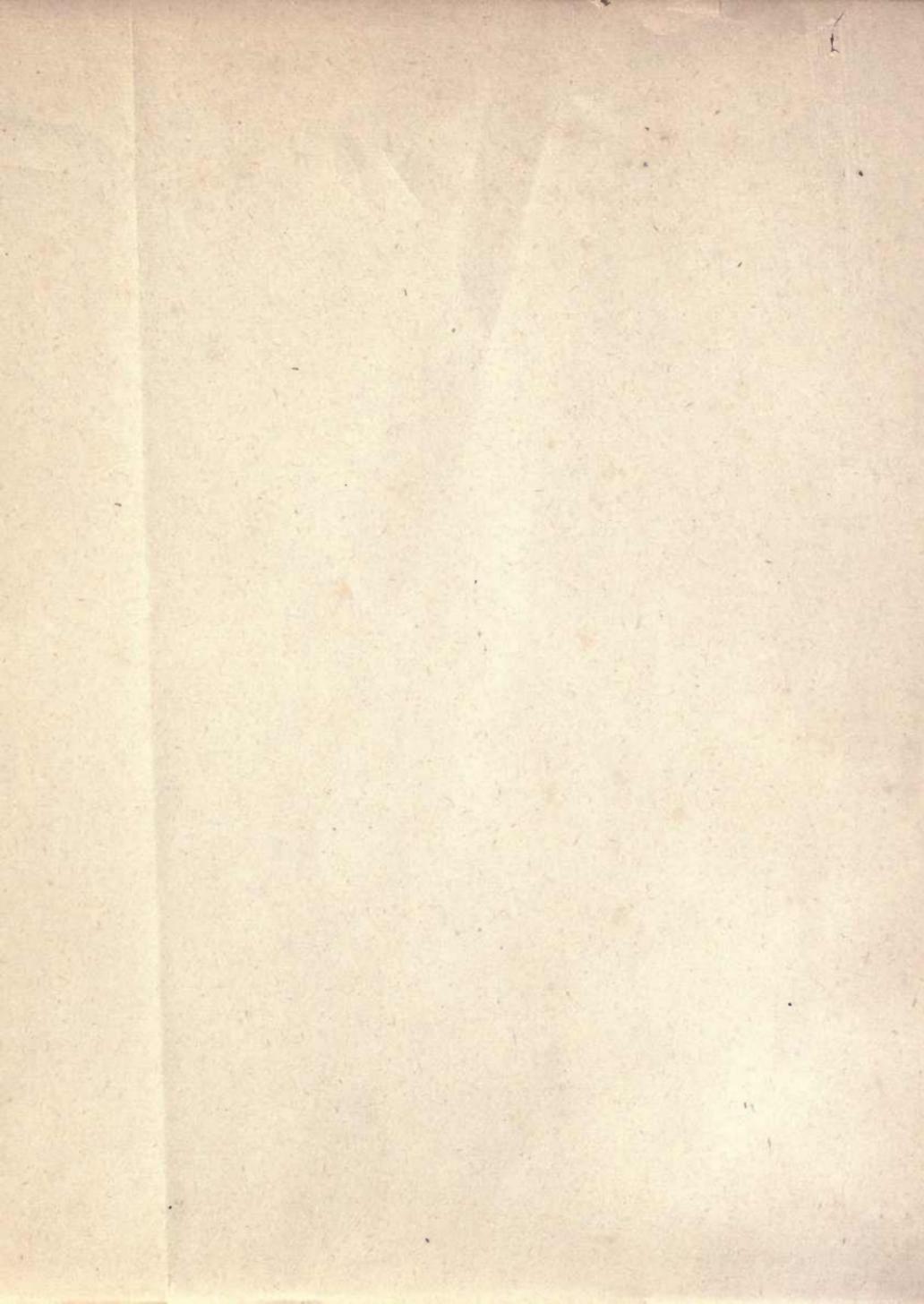
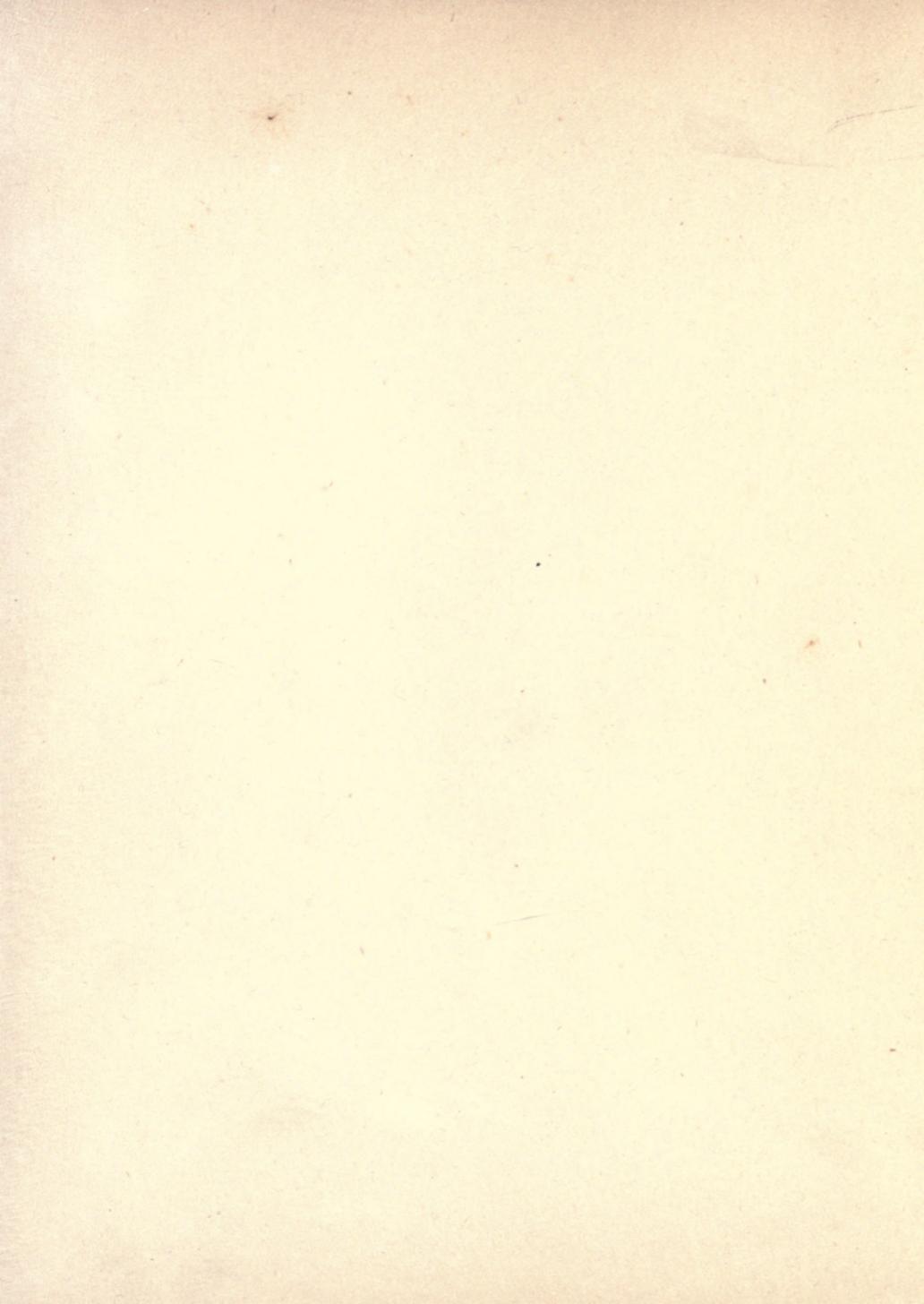




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# The Bells

By  
Edgar

Poe



# THE BELLS.

BY

EDGAR ALLAN POE.

---

ILLUSTRATED BY

DARLEY, McCUTCHEON, FREDERICKS, PERKINS,  
KING, RIORDAN AND NORTHAM.

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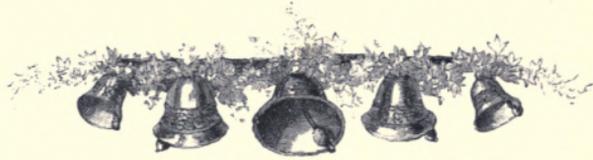
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# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

ENGRAVED BY JAS. W. LAUDERBACH.

	ARTIST.
Illustrated Title . . . . .	<i>R. Riordan.</i>
Head-piece . . . . .	<i>Charles P. King.</i>
Vignette . . . . .	<i>Charles P. King.</i>
“Hear the sledges with the bells” . . . . .	<i>F. O. C. Darley.</i>
“What a world of merriment their melody foretells!” . . . . .	<i>S. G. McCutcheon.</i>
“How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle” . . . . .	<i>A. Fredericks.</i>
“Hear the mellow wedding-bells” . . . . .	<i>F. O. C. Darley.</i>

449852



ILLUSTRATIONS.

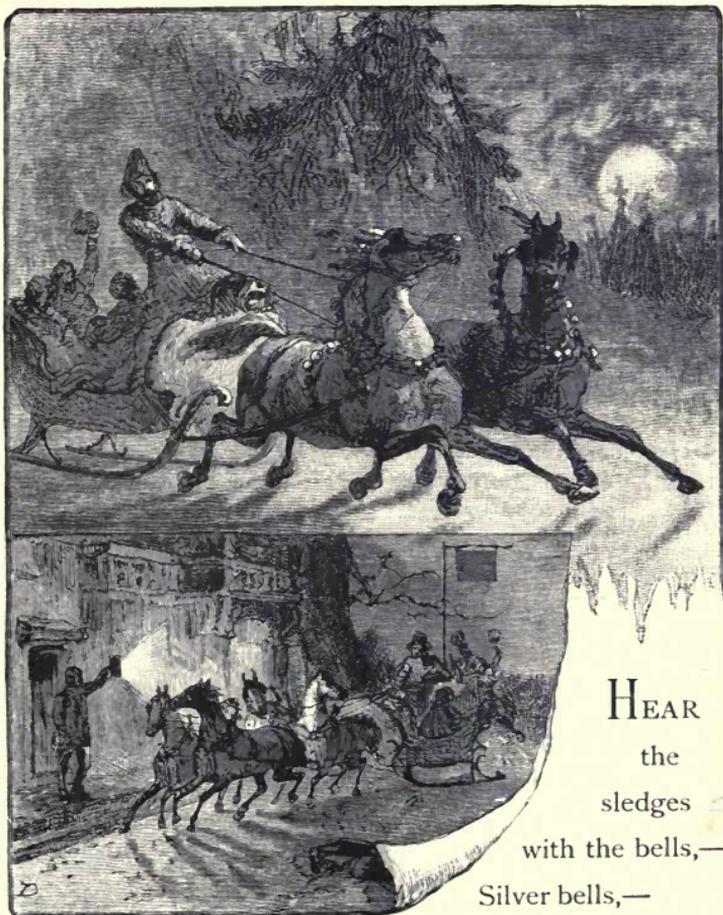
ARTIST.

- “Golden bells!” . . . . . *Charles P. King.*
- “From the molten-golden notes” . *F. O. C. Darley.*
- “Oh, from out the sounding cells” . *R. Riordan.*
- “To the swinging and the ringing” . *A. Fredericks.*
- “Hear the loud alarum-bells” . . *Granville Perkins.*
- “How they scream out their affright!” *R. Riordan.*
- “In the clamorous appealing to the  
mercy of the fire” . . . . *F. O. C. Darley.*
- “In a mad expostulation with the  
deaf and frantic fire” . . . *Granville Perkins.*
- “Oh, the bells, bells, bells!” . . . *Granville Perkins.*
- “Yet the ear it fully knows” . . *Granville Perkins.*
- “Hear the tolling of the bells” . . *F. O. C. Darley.*
- “In the silence of the night” . . *Miss C. A. Northam.*
- “And the people,—ah, the people” . *Granville Perkins.*
- “And their king it is who tolls” . *A. Fredericks.*
- Tail-piece . . . . . *Charles P. King.*



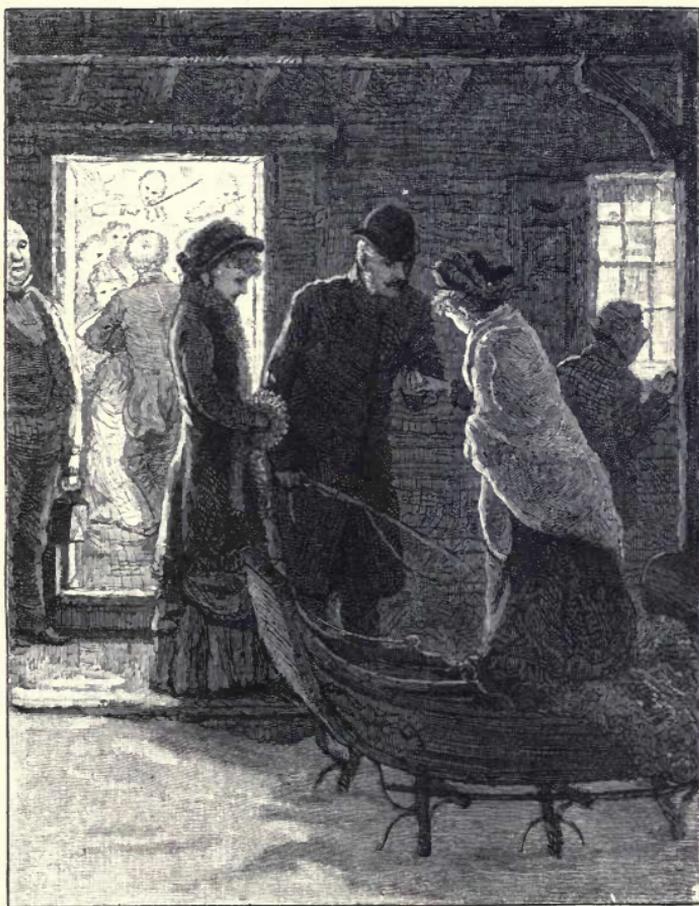






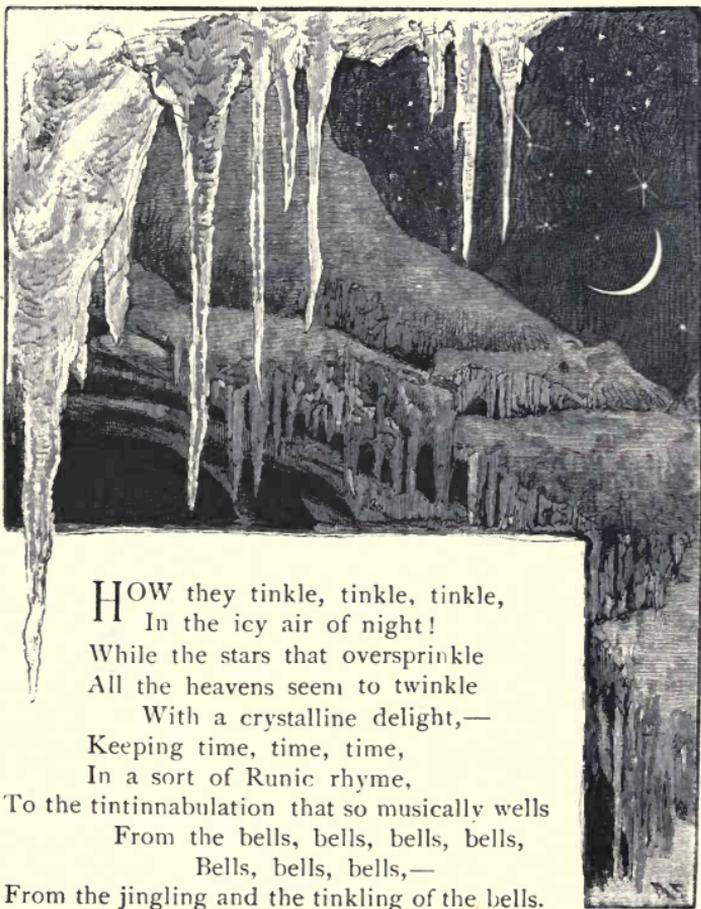
HEAR  
the  
sledges *drag*  
with the bells,—  
Silver bells,—





WHAT a world of merriment their melody foretells!





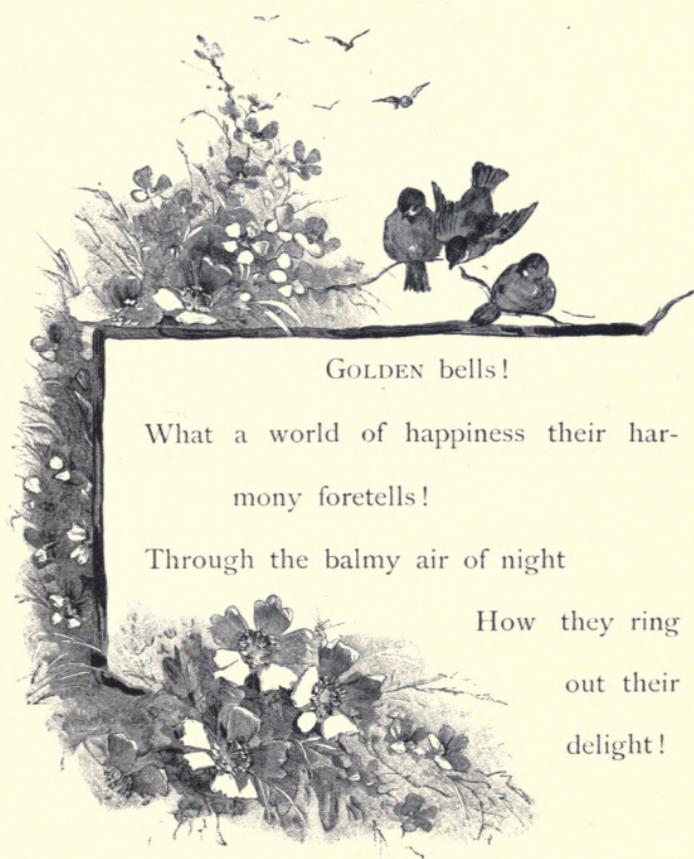
HOW they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
    In the icy air of night!  
While the stars that oversprinkle  
All the heavens seem to twinkle  
    With a crystalline delight,—  
Keeping time, time, time,  
    In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells  
    From the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
    Bells, bells, bells,—  
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.





HEAR the mellow wedding-bells,—





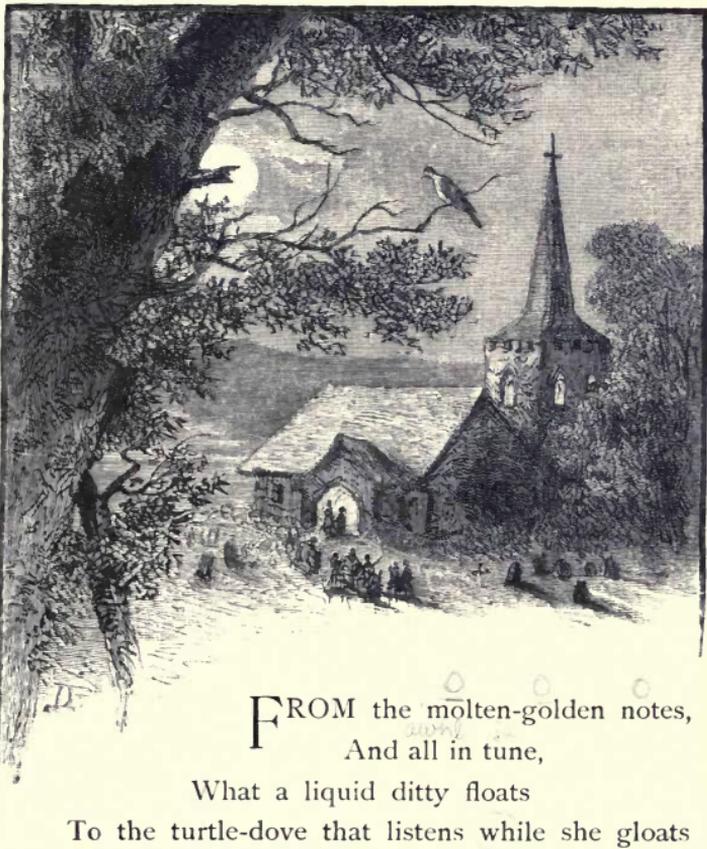
GOLDEN bells!

What a world of happiness their har-  
mony foretells!

Through the balmy air of night

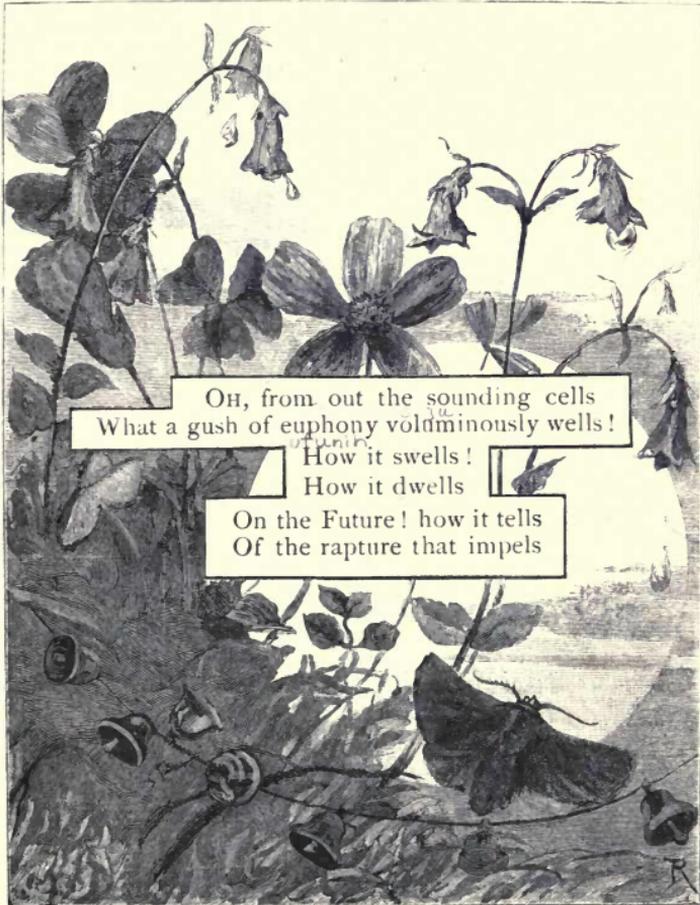
How they ring  
out their  
delight!





FROM the molten-golden notes,  
And all in tune,  
What a liquid ditty floats  
To the turtle-dove that listens while she gloats  
On the moon!





Oh, from out the sounding cells  
What a gush of euphony voluminously wells!

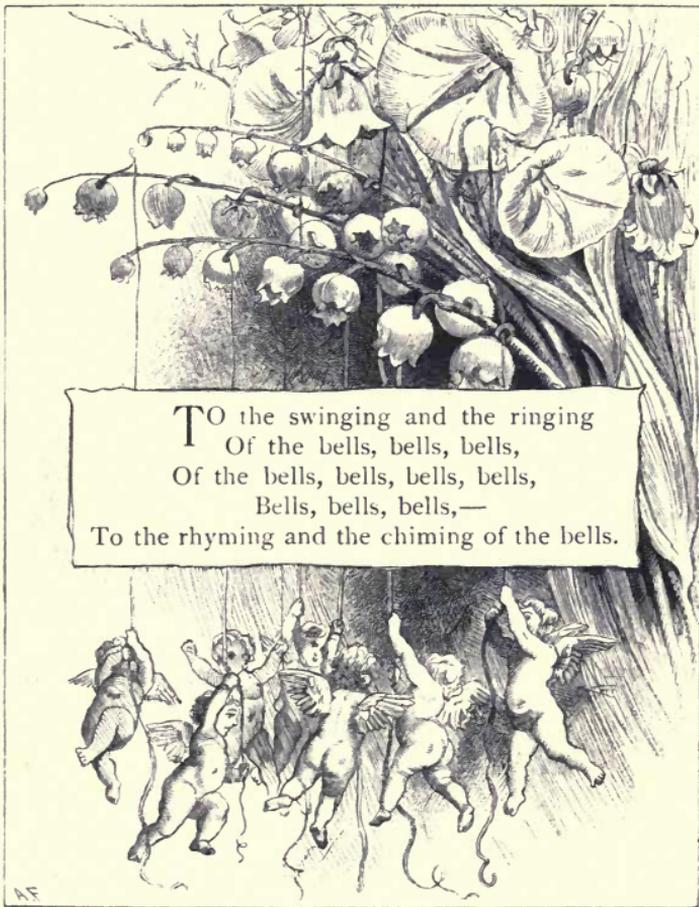
How it swells!

How it dwells

On the Future! how it tells  
Of the rapture that impels

R



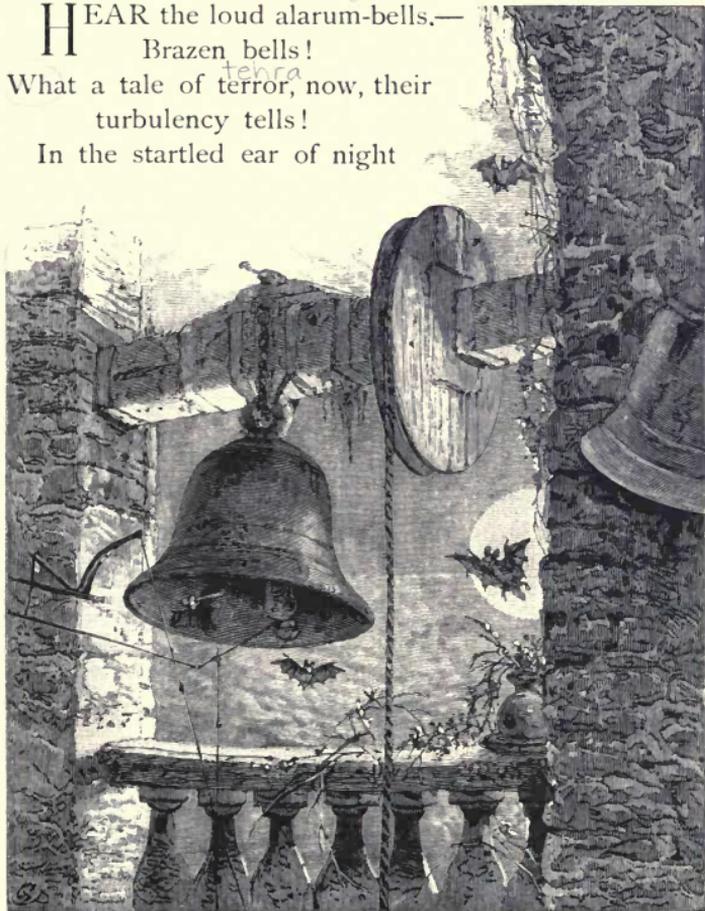


TO the swinging and the ringing  
Of the bells, bells, bells,  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells,—  
To the rhyiming and the chiming of the bells.

AF



<sup>alarum</sup>  
**H**EAR the loud alarum-bells,—  
Brazen bells!  
<sup>tehra</sup>  
What a tale of terror, now, their  
turbulency tells!  
In the startled ear of night







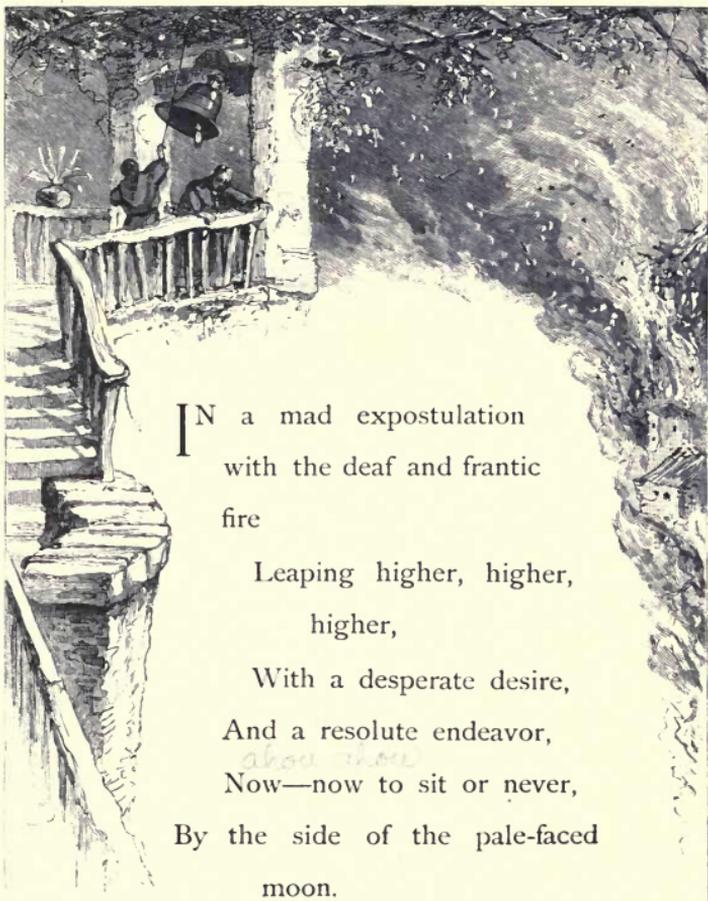
**H**OW they scream out their affright!  
Too much horrified to speak,  
They can only shriek, shriek,  
Out of tune,





In the clamorous appealing to the mercy of the fire,





I N a mad expostulation  
with the deaf and frantic  
fire

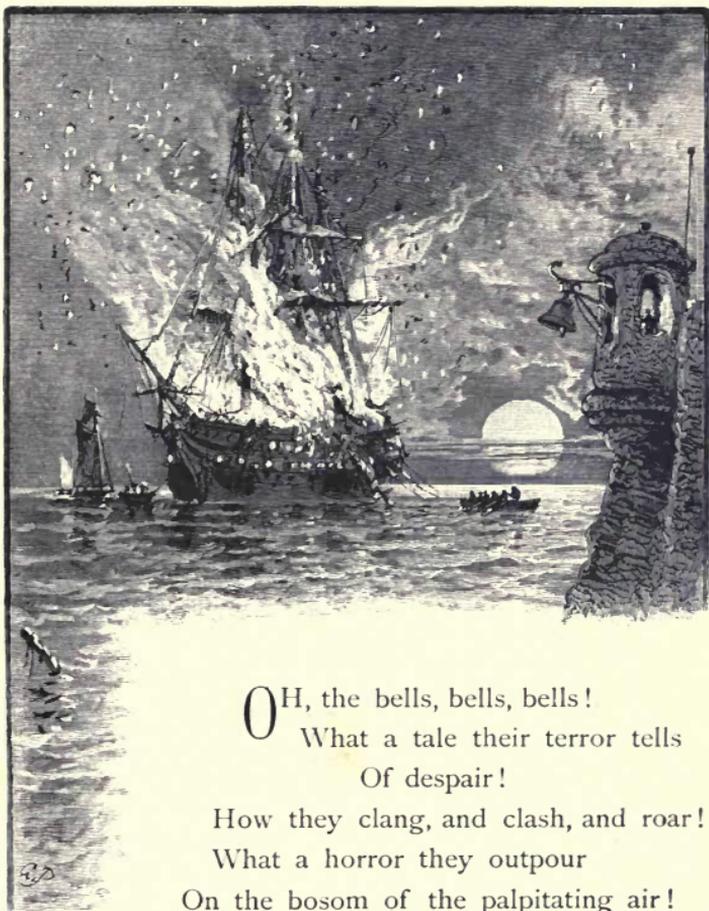
Leaping higher, higher,  
higher,

With a desperate desire,  
And a resolute endeavor,

Now—*about now* now to sit or never,

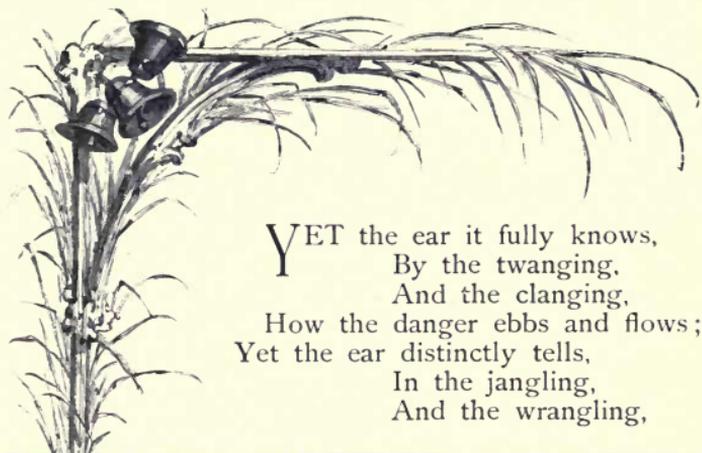
By the side of the pale-faced  
moon.





OH, the bells, bells, bells!  
What a tale their terror tells  
Of despair!  
How they clang, and clash, and roar!  
What a horror they outpour  
On the bosom of the palpitating air!



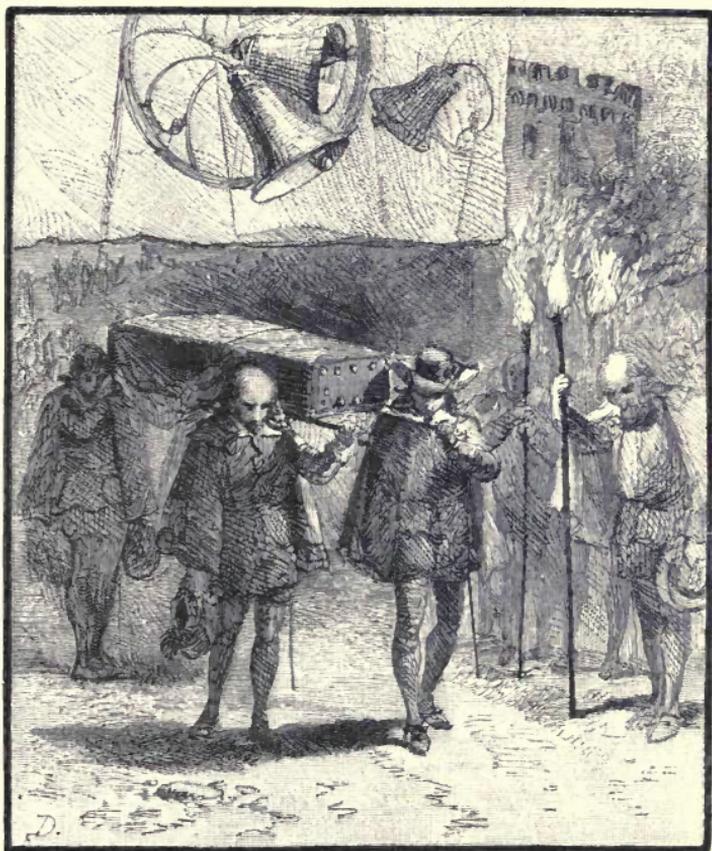


YET the ear it fully knows,  
By the twanging,  
And the clanging,  
How the danger ebbs and flows;  
Yet the ear distinctly tells,  
In the jangling,  
And the wrangling,



How the danger sinks and swells,  
By the sinking or the swelling in the  
anger of the bells,—  
Of the bells,—  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,  
Bells, bells, bells,—  
In the clamor and the  
clangor of the  
bells!





Silence  
Big  
The

HEAR the tolling of the bells,—  
Iron bells!  
What a world of solemn thought their monody  
compels!

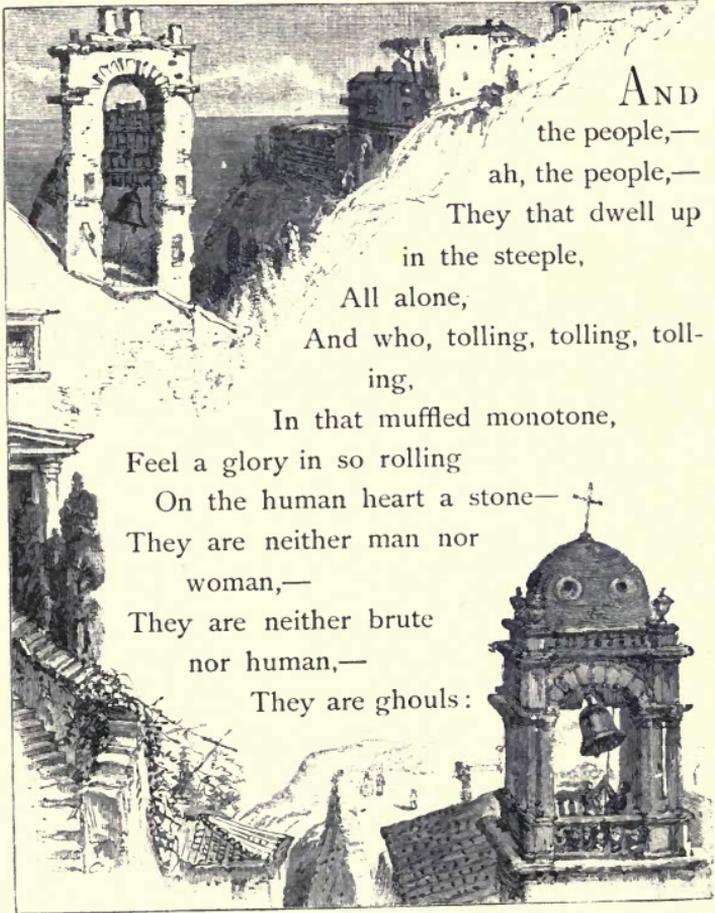




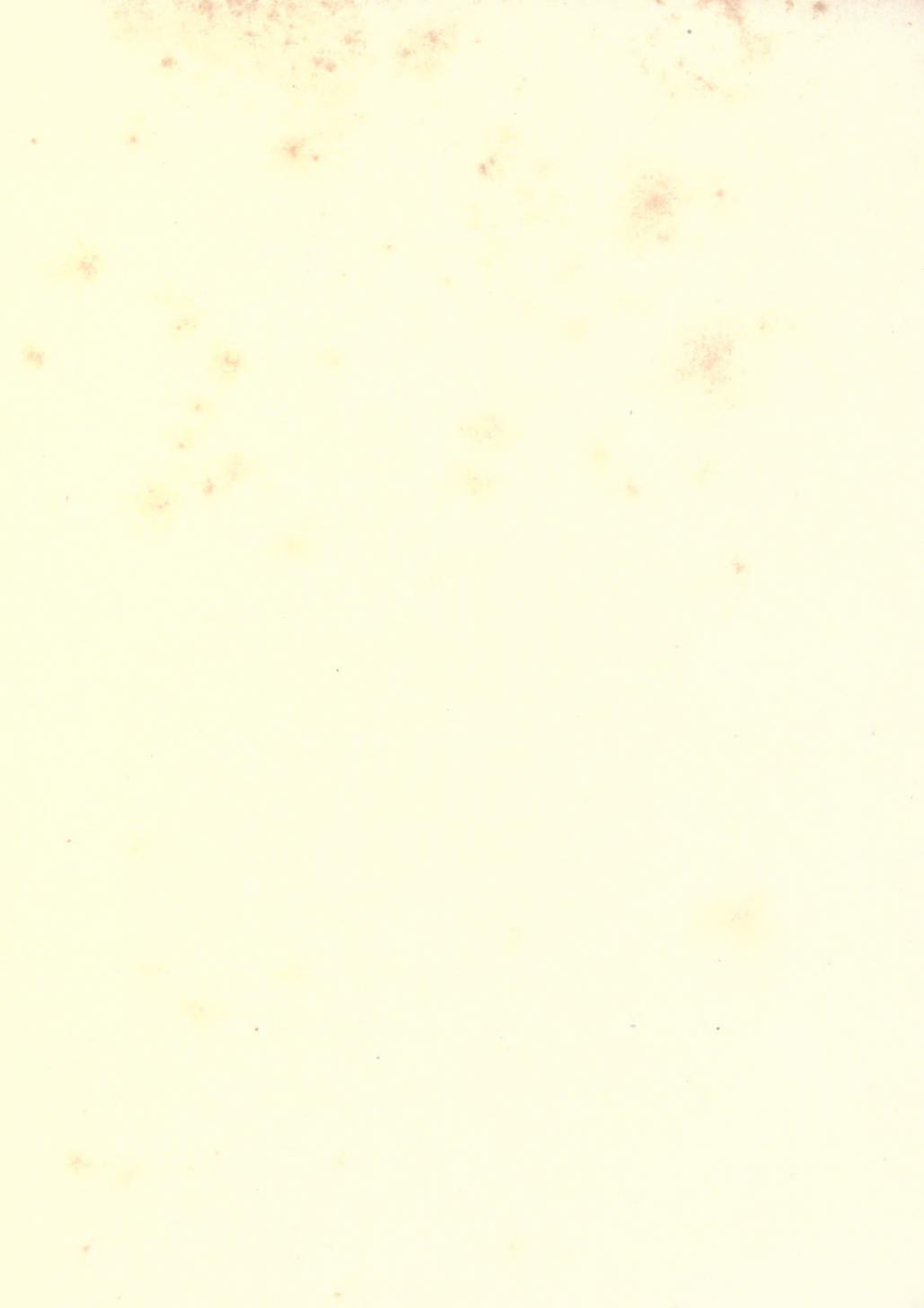
I N the silence of the night,  
How we shiver with affright  
At the melancholy menace of their tone;  
For every sound that floats  
From the rust within their throats  
Is a groan.

449852





AND  
the people,—  
ah, the people,—  
They that dwell up  
in the steeple,  
All alone;  
And who, tolling, tolling, toll-  
ing,  
In that muffled monotone,  
Feel a glory in so rolling  
On the human heart a stone—  
They are neither man nor  
woman,—  
They are neither brute  
nor human,—  
They are ghouls:



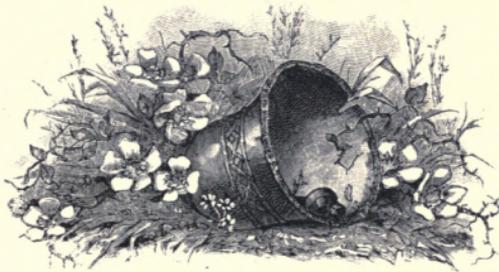


AND their king it is who  
tolls;  
And he rolls, rolls, rolls,  
Rolls,  
A pæan from the bells!  
And his merry bosom swells  
With the pæan of the bells!  
And he dances, and he yells;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the pæan of the bells,—  
Of the bells:



Rhythm  
Slow

KEEPING time, time, time,  
In a sort of Runic rhyme,  
To the throbbing of the bells,—  
Of the bells, bells, bells,—  
To the sobbing of the bells;  
Keeping time, time, time,  
As he knells, knells, knells,  
In a happy Runic rhyme,  
To the rolling of the bells,—  
Of the bells, bells, bells,—  
To the tolling of the bells,  
Of the bells, bells, bells, bells,—  
Bells, bells, bells,—  
To the moaning and the groaning of the bells.



9







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