

and lifted on to the car carrying the relic, that they could feel the bell they could neither see nor hear.

"In another little town school children came out with great armfuls of flowers which they pelted piously at the relic. It was the most wonderful trip I ever took in my life. I shall never forget it."

It is probable that no bell in the world has been associated with any more events of importance to the people than this famous old bell of Independence Hall of Philadelphia.

The bell was ordered brought to Philadelphia from England in 1751 to be used to call together the sessions of the assembly of Pennsylvania and to announce the openings of the courts. It did not arrive, however, until late in August, 1752.

At that time on it was inscribed in large letters, "By the order of assembly of the province of Pennsylvania for the state house in the city of Philadelphia, 1752; proclaim liberty throughout the land unto the inhabitants thereof."

Soon after its arrival it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper and had to be recast. This was done by Pass & Stow in Philadelphia, but it had to be cast again, then rehung in 1753.

In the afternoon of August 27, 1753, the bell was rung for the first time to call the assembly together. It was at this session that the assembly resolved to make and continue the issue of province money, notwithstanding the order of the lords justices of the crown.

It was again rung May 17, 1755, to convene the assembly and on February 3, 1757, it was rung to convene the session when Franklin was sent to England to state the grievances of the colonists. From that date until 1765 it was rung to gather the members of the assembly to discuss questions which eventually led to the war of the revolution.

On October 5, 1765, the bell was muffled and tolled when the ship "Royal Charlotte," bearing stamps for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland, came up the Delaware river. On October 31, 1765, when the stamp act became effective, the bell was again muffled and tolled.

On July 30, 1768, it was rung to call a mass meeting of citizens to consider conditions which were becoming critical because of the actions of England. It was again rung for a meeting September 27, 1770, again February 4, 1771, and on October 18, 1773.

At 10 o'clock the morning of December 27, 1773, it was rung and the largest crowd ever assembled to that time responded. The people filled the state house and the square. A resolution was passed protesting against the landing of the tea ship Polly, and the tea ship did not land.

When the port of Boston was closed June 1, 1774, the bell was again muffled and tolled, and on June 18, 1774, the residents of Philadelphia met at the ringing of the bell and pledged the city to the common cause