The GLORY of VENICE RESTORED

THE task of restoring the old campanile or bell tower of St. Mark's at Venice is nearing completion, and it is confidently expected that the bells of San Marco will break their echo years' silence and again ring out on St. Mark's day, April 25, 1911.

The restoration of this famous tower—which collapsed suddenly on July 14, 1902, after a proud existence of 1,013 years—has proved a greater undertaking than anticipated, some of the details presenting technical difficulties. The intention was to reproduce the old tower as faithfully as possible, and with that object in view the bricks, of which there are over a million, were specially selected and laid. The bricks are each 12 inches long, 6 inches wide and 2 inches deep, and the clay is twice mixed to secure homogeneity. These bricks, however, contained salt, which threatened to turn the tower white, and such an outcry was raised among the Venetians that the work was suspended while all the clay was held. It was found that by prolonged soaking in water the salt was removed.

The new campanile, nearly 45 feet square at the base and 350 feet high, including the pinnacle in the form of a pyramid, the summit being crowned by the figure of an angel with spread wings. The foundations of the ancient buildings were found to be good, but none too wide, so that considerable strengthening had to be effected. No scaffolding has been used, a sliding platform being contrived to rise with the progress of the building.

The shaft, which was completed last December, is composed of an inner and an outer shaft, between which is a spiral staircase of 325 steps, leading to the belfry. The inner shaft is of brick, and the outer of Istrian stone, the latter being in blocks of from 1 to 2 tons each. The inner shaft is built round a square core, which is filled with rubble and mortar, and the outer shaft is bonded to the inner by means of the steps. The bells, which are to be hung in the belfry, are of the following weights: 12 tons, 6 tons, 3 tons, 1½ tons, 1 ton, and 15 cwt. The largest bell, which is known as the "Marangona," is the one that rang out the hours for the workmen, and the "Nona" that announced the hour of noon. The "Trottiera" is the bell that was rung when the Doge went to the Senate, and the "Mezza Terza" that announced the meeting of the Great Council. The "Pregadi" called the Senators together, and the "Maleficio" was rung when criminals were executed. The huge "Campanone" is the bell that was rung on the election of a Doge, and the "Renghiera" that announced the death of a Doge. The "Mezzana" was rung to announce the election of the Procurators of St. Mark, and the "Trottiera" was rung when the Doge went to the Senate. The "Pregadi" called the Senators together, and the "Maleficio" was rung when criminals were executed. The huge "Campanone" is the bell that was rung on the election of a Doge, and the "Renghiera" that announced the death of a Doge. The "Mezzana" was rung to announce the election of the Procurators of St. Mark, and the "Nona" announced the hour of noon. The "Marangona" is the bell that rang out the hours for the workmen