

## BRUGES AND ANTWERP BELLS

Little Hope That the Germans Will Spare Them

To the Editor of *The Republican*:—

Recalling particularly Longfellow's "Belfry of Bruges," Victor Hugo's lines written upon a Flemish window pane, describing the Mechlin bell music, and D. G. Rossetti's verses on the carillon at Antwerp, I think many of your readers may be interested in a letter which I have just received from the well-known bell founder, E. Denison Taylor of Loughborough Eng.:—

Mr Taylor writes: "William Wooding Starmer has sent me a letter in which he says that he has received information from someone who has been in Malines the whole time of the German occupation that the Germans have taken away the carillon, and that Cardinal Mercier wrote a vehement protest which was read in all the churches. If this is so it is very sad, and I am afraid there is very little hope for the bells of Bruges and Antwerp."

This is the first authentic news about bells that has been received from Belgium since the German occupation.

WILLIAM GORHAM RICE.

Albany, N. Y., July 24, 1918.