







How it started





A PORTION Prome Myhlyrung

OF THE

PAPERS RELATING TO THE GREAT CLOCK

FOR THE

NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER,

Printed by Order of the Bouse of Lords,

WITH REMARKS.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

A PORTION OF THE PAPERS CONNECTED WITH THE GREAT CLOCK.

1844, March 29.

C. Barry, Esq., to Mr. Vulliamy,

Dear Sir. Great George-street, Westminster, March 29, 1844. I small be obliged by your informing me whether you would be disposed to furnish me with a plan for

the clock which will be required for the New Palace at Westminster. I propose that the clock should strike the hours on a bell of from eight to ten tous ; and, if practicable, chime the quarters upon eight bells, and show the

time upon four dials about 30 feet in diameter.

As I cannot undertake to promise that you will be employed to make the clock in question, I beg to know, in case you should be disposed to furnish me with the information which I require, upon what terms you would do so, both in the event of your not being employed, as well as in that of your being appointed to execute the work. I shall require a full description of the work, with all the necessary explanations and calculations, and complete work'n; drawings of the clock and all its parts; also a drawing of the clock as it would be in place in the clock-

Tour Business Case and Objectives

The dials, 30 feet in diameter, are the largest I am acquainted with, excepting a skeleton dial at Malines, on which the time is shown by only one hand, which makes one revolution in 12 hours. The dial of St. Paul's clock, which is only 18 feet diameter, is the largest in this country that is furnished with a minute hand. A few of the clocks in Flanders strike on large bells, but they require to be wound every day, and in some instances

To be the better enabled to do what you require, I should go to Paris expressly to examine the Hotel de Ville clock, from which I apprehend some useful information may be gained. I should also examine the clocks at Liscoln Cathedral and York Minster, both which strike on very large bells, particularly in relation to the proportion the weight of the hammers bears to the bells they strike upon. This will be attended with considerable pecuniary expense; moreover I shall have to pay for copying drawings, &c., which it is impossible I could find

I should, therefore, propose, if I am employed to make the clock, to be paid one hundred guineas for the specification, calculations, working and other drawings, which sum, I am sure, will not more than cover my disbursements; but should I not be employed to make the clock, then to be puid an additional hundred guinear for my time and trouble.

To make such a set of drawings, calculations, and specification, &c., as I propose, will occupy some time, and to make the clock will be the work of two years. This is sufficiently accounted for by the circumstance that all the patterns must be made on purpose.

(Signed) I am, &c., B. L. Vulliamy.

1844, April 10.

No. 3.

C. Barry, Esq., to A. Milne, Esq.





Developing the new tour





Clock spaces

Story spaces













Retail Opportunities







Next steps





Welcome to **the Big Ben** Virtual Tour

The iconic Elizabeth Tower is one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world, housing a unique clock mechanism and the famous bell: Big Ben.

For the first time ever, you can explore inside. Take a look around.





Thank you



Houses of Parliament Westminster SW1A 0AA

+44 (0)20 7219 3000 @ukparliament parliament.uk

Any Questions?



Houses of Parliament Westminster SW1A 0AA

+44 (0)20 7219 3000 @ukparliament parliament.uk