

WORLD'S OLDEST CLOCK.

At Salisbury Cathedral, the oldest mechanical clock in the world returns to duty. Built in 1386, when Chaucer was alive, and before the pendulum was invented, it has a folio and verge escapement which may look clumsy to us now; but when this clock was made, it was a work of genius.

Mr. T.R. Robinson, a well-known clock expert, found the mechanism where it had been thrown away in 1884 as so much scrap metal. He was asked to restore it to its original form - and now it's working as well as ever. The clock has no dial - it merely chimes the hours, which in the leisurely Middle Ages was quite enough.

When the hour approaches, the striking mechanism is released, and a butterfly-shaped governor controls the speed of chiming.

Mr. Robinson and his craftsmen had to replace less than a dozen worn parts, but they made exact replicas of the originals, and used the original methods - for the mediaeval genius who made this clock nearly 600 years old, had few technical resources to call on - only the blacksmith, and his own native wits.