

POPULAR BALLADS.

HOW THEY ARE COMPOSED, MANUFACTURED AND SOLD.

Writers of Rhymes Set to Music and Some of Their Incomes—How Many of the Ditties Come to Be Written.

[Philadelphia Times.]

To enumerate the songs that have sprung into popularity within the past fifteen months by a reference to their individual sales would constitute an invidious comparison, for the sale attending an ordinary song is like a leaf, which, tossed by the gale, flutters a moment into prominence, and then passes as quickly away.

It is universally conceded that, without the aid of the itinerant minstrel and the professional stage singer, very few, if any, of the popular airs now so familiar to us would exist. A catchy ballad or song brought out before an audience by a competent singer seldom fails to create a desire to imitate.

Very few, if any, of the modern writers of song music are so fortunate as to be the recipient of any income on their works. On the contrary, the song composer is a type of the struggler of whom poets have sung and judges have spoken.

With the exception, possibly, of two New York publishing houses, Philadelphia embraces the largest and most extensive publishing marts in the Union. More than one-third of all the cheaper grades of sheet music, foreign reprints and music books printed in the United States are issued in this city.

Although the songs that find the most favor with audiences at the present day, especially patrons of the light opera, are the topical or local ones, very few of them reach a large sale.

With the theme of the day "The song dies away."

The writer, on a recent visit to different publishing houses, was surprised to find how numerous and slight were the themes employed for musical creations. Any and almost every subject is utilized for the text of both vocal and instrumental manufacture.

The competition and rivalry in modern songs, against the sales of which innumerable means are employed to thwart their popularity by those who challenge and depreciate it, and others, who frequently go so far as to boldly imitate title, words and music, has succeeded in greatly depleting the profits which would otherwise accrue to their copyright holders.

Occasionally a writer who has sufficient confidence in his work will, as in the case above mentioned, copyright and personally control his composition and "trust to luck" for a good income. The chances for success, however, are invariably so meagre that such projects nowadays are considered hazardous, as evidenced by the numerous adventures in this respect and the few hits made—about 2 per cent. only of the many songs copyrighted by their authors realizing what might be termed a profitable return.

Tabac de Paris. [Foreign Letter.]

Paris has a market for cigar stumps. It is open for business daily from 8 to 10 o'clock. The stumps are worth from 15 to 25 cents per pound, according to length. The sellers are mostly poor old men and women and ragged gamins.

Dead Branches. [Exchange.]

Professor C. E. Bessey, of Iowa, claims that dead branches are detrimental to the trees. The escape of moisture takes place from a naked dead surface constantly, a condition detrimental to the tree's welfare.

They Can Stand It. [Jud Lafagan.]

John Swinton's Paper. A dog that knows where to find a bone is wiser than a scholar who has not learned how to make a living.

Dickens' Reckless Mischief.

A lady in the Englishwoman's Magazine tells this story of his wild and reckless fun, and it is matched by many others. They were down on the sea shore in the moonlight, and had been dancing there. "We then strolled further down to watch the fading light. The tide came rippling in. The night grew darker, starless, moonless. Dickens seemed suddenly to throw his arms around me and ran me down the inclined plane to the end of the jetty till we reached the toll-post. He put his other arm around this, and exclaimed in theatrical tones, that he intended to hold me there till the sad sea waves should submerge us."

"Here I implored him to let me go, and struggled hard to release myself. 'Let your mind dwell upon the column in The Times wherein will be vividly described the pathetic fate of the lovely E. P., drowned by Dickens in a fit of dementia. Don't struggle, poor little bird, you are helpless.' By this time the last gleam of light had faded, and the water close to us looked uncommonly black. The tide was coming up rapidly, and surged over my feet. I gave a loud shriek, and tried to bring him back to common sense by reminding him that my dress, my best dress, my only silk dress, would be ruined."

The Lottery in Italy. [Palermo Correspondence.]

In Italy the weekly lottery has become almost a second nature to the people. Books are published to guide the choice of numbers with reference to dreams and events, both ordinary and extraordinary. If you dream of a cat, you are bound to play this number, if of a dog, to play that, combining the two numbers in a way which the book duly describes.

Pretended Admiration. [Leland's London Letter.]

When will the world be honest and cease shamming to itself? In music, as in art, the great majority pretend to admire a hundred times as much as they feel or understand. People appeal to the multitudes in Albert hall drawn by the love of classical music, but the poor souls would go as soon to see or hear anything.

One Who has Seen Much of War. [Pall Mall Gazette.]

"If you ask nine out of ten of your acquaintances at the present crisis what they would propose to do if the Russians should take Herat, the reply is, 'Why, turn them out, to be sure, but once the Russians are established there, what does 'turn them out' mean? Why, 50,000 British soldiers with 50,000 native ones, 200 guns at least, 300,000 baggage animals of all sorts, and 100,000 camp followers; and this force to march from Quetta, 500 miles distant from Herat, through a country very scantily provided with food, and having, on arrival at Herat, to fight a battle with an army which we know can and will fight, and in a carefully-selected position; and this battle may decide the fate of India; for, if lost, where are we to retreat to?"

Fig Growing in the North. [Chicago Tribune.]

Figs are said to have been cultivated in Maryland for the last twenty-five years as follows: "From the 16th to the 20th of November dig a trench around the trees, cutting away about half the roots they have made during the season, bend down the branches to the ground in the form of a cross, and cover them with earth from three to four inches in thickness. In spring uncover them from the last to the 10th of April." The same plan has been successful in Michigan. The trees in tubs may also be wintered in a ventilated cellar.

Sea Island Cotton. [Chicago Times.]

There is so little demand now for the famous sea island cotton of South Carolina that few planters have sold their last year's crop. It was formerly used to adulterate silk, but the demand has ceased without any apparent reason, except by means of improved machinery other cotton may be used for thread and other purposes as well as the long staple.

She Appreciated It. [True Hittings.]

Gus de Smith and Miss Birdie McGinnis were taking a moonlight stroll on the beach at Galveston one night last week, when Gus remarked: "How pale the moon looks to night."

Clumsy Fingers. A young man never thoroughly appreciates what big hands he has, and how clumsy his fingers are, until his young lady asks him to button her glove.

THE TOBACCO HABIT.

The Universal "Hankering"—Growth of the Cigar Business—Open Air Treatment. [Globe in Boston Globe.]

The tobacco habit is one of the forms of both relative and stimulation which seem to be regarded by the rudest as well as the most accomplished beings. Something in man impels him to be happier. The rude Mexican pounds the century plant till he can get fermentation in it, and then he drinks himself drunk. The methodical Chinaman who has a duty for every day in the year, and saves his money better than the miser, had the citadel of his nature stormed by opium, and against the command of his government and his religion, he sits down and smokes himself into stupefaction.

Nothing more remarkable in the United States than the growth of the cigar business. Before the rebellion Havana manufactured the best and probably the most of our cigars. After the duties were made high the cigar-making business was transferred within our revenue jurisdiction, first to Key West, and then to New York. The war itself was provocative of the smoking habit as it multiplied excitement and left hundreds of thousands of men in tents waiting for battle, and there they smoked because they had no other form of enjoyment. So the growth of tobacco was introduced into our northern states, and now the north raises the best smoking tobacco for cigars, and the tobacco interest in some of the western states amounts to millions per annum.

The Special Train. [Chicago Herald "Train Talk."]

A special train, consisting of an engine and one car, was running over the road. It made fast time. None of the passengers were visible at the windows. As the whistle sounded for the crossing there was a mournful lingering note before his car glided away in the distance. Even the bell was hollow and solemn, and as little as could be like the sharp, cheerful clang of the average locomotive bell. The wheels seemed to moan along the track, and never a coil nor a calf by the side of the track kicked heels into the air in playful fear. Not even a dog measured speed with the engine, skipping along the furrow as dogs delight to do.

Test of Pronunciation. [Exchange.]

The following rather curious piece of composition was recently placed upon the blackboard at a teacher's institute, and a prize of a Webster's Dictionary offered to any person who could read it and pronounce every word correctly. The book was not carried off, however, as twelve was the lowest number of mistakes in pronunciation made.

Anti-Dyspepsia Diet. [Cincinnati Commercial.]

In a lecture entitled "From Anvil to Pulpit," Rev. Robert Collier says: "My father had \$4.50 a week to keep his family on, and we got along with surprising regularity. I was the eldest of the family of children, and was always glad of that. At that time provisions were not nearly so cheap as now; there were no cheap schools, and the schools then were not very common, and such as they were you had to pay for them. Yet that good mother made that income stand good enough for all. We lived on oatmeal and milk in plenty, with just a bit of meat when we could get hold of it, a mug of tea and white bread on Sundays, and that was the rest of the time. My mother would make soup on Sundays, and would say to us boys, 'Now, boys, he who drinks the most soup shall have the most meat.' We would drink as much as we could carry; then she would say, 'Well, you can eat any more, we will save the meat until to-morrow.' With such a training as this it is no wonder that I hardly know what you mean by indigestion."

Secretary Chase's Wit. [Philadelphia Record.]

When the late Chief Justice Chase chose to unbend himself he could be witty as well as wise. At a social gathering at his house during the war, the subject of taxation having been mooted, a distinguished naval officer present said he had paid all his taxes except the income tax. "I have a little property," said he, "which brings me in a yearly rental, but the tax gatherers have not spotted it. I do not know whether I ought to let the thing go that way or not. What would you do if you were in my place, Mr. Chase?" There was a merry twinkle in the eyes of Secretary Chase as he answered archly: "I think it is the duty of every man to live unspotted as long as he can."

Her Pertinent Suggestion. [Merchant Traveler.]

Mr. Eozoen was troubled by a cat on a neighboring roof, and one night he jumped out of bed, picking up a pistol, started for the scene of action, walking his wife by his movements. "What's the matter?" she inquired. "Cat," he answered, briefly. "Gun," he replied, savagely. "O, dear, take care, take care." "Care, thunder! What do I want to take care for?" "Care will kill a cat, darling," she whispered, and dodged under the cover.

A Son of Dickens. [Exchange.]

The son of Charles Dickens, who was at first reported killed at Fort Pitt, but who has happily escaped, went to Manila some ten years since, and was made inspector of the mounted police. He was afterward promoted to be chief inspector. He is described as a plucky, dashing officer, inheriting some of his father's literary tastes, but fonder of adventure and open air life.

Tupper's Poverty.

Martin Farquhar Tupper is not only very poor, but is very much in debt, and is daily pestered with dunning creditors, so that he manages to meet with his "Proverbial Philosophy."

The banking capital of the United States, to-day is \$78,000,000.

Orpheus C. Herr.

The author of "The Mackerel Brigade" is being rapidly forgotten of men. Do you remember after he had married Adah Isaac Menken, and accompanied her to San Francisco, what a bubble of talk there was about it? He resembled Mr. Newell (Mr. Herr was a much handsomer man, of the perfect blonde type and most cultivated in his manners. He is of a very aristocratic family, who repudiated his claim to their emency after he had wedded poor Menken. It is well known that it was a genuine love marriage on the part of the poet author, even if like many another it was finally unfortunate.

Herr never regained his vivacity of spirits or his literary position after that fateful silence and its eventual separation. He did her just after her death by giving to print the only truthful account of her unfortunate life. He lives now in New Jersey. Long since, after a dreadful illness, he was reconciled to his family, but he was never just himself. He is old now beyond his years; his yellow hair is turned a dusty gray; his mustache, that curled around the corners of his eliminate mouth in a wonderful artistic way, is white and long. The whole face is one of pain and sadness, he stoops in the shoulders, and he was an Adonis in figure, is morbidly silent and reticent. He writes a little, not much for print, is an inveterate cigarette smoker, and paces up and down some favorite walk or room by the hour, buried in his own gloomy reveries.

The "Unkindly Cut" too poor Newell is that western paper are copying his "Mackerel Brigade" papers without giving him credit, and even endeavor to so mutilate them as to be made "original."

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As the whistle sounded for the crossing there was a mournful lingering note before his car glided away in the distance. Even the bell was hollow and solemn, and as little as could be like the sharp, cheerful clang of the average locomotive bell. The wheels seemed to moan along the track, and never a coil nor a calf by the side of the track kicked heels into the air in playful fear. Not even a dog measured speed with the engine, skipping along the furrow as dogs delight to do.

The section men seemed to bow their heads as they stood one side, above and below the track. The smoke from the locomotive was densely black and lingered dismally over the one car like a cloud. Presently the whistle sounded, longer and more sadly than ever before. The bell dinged almost in muffled tones. The wheels moved slower and slower, as if groaning deeply, a d train came to a stop. By the side of the track was a little cottage. The dog lay crouched upon the porch. He did not even rouse to bark. The sun was setting behind a western cloud, and the chickens were walking solemnly to their roost.

At the end of the car stepped three or four men. They lifted slowly and cautiously, a stretcher upon which lay a sheeted form. They walked up to the house, but in hand, as the pump of the engine worked to and fro, sighing. The door opened, the stretcher was carried in, and women were heard weeping and wailing. Another railway man, brave and unflinching in the hour of danger, had been carried to his home.

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COMPARATIVE WORTH OF BAKING POWDERS.

Table comparing the worth of various baking powders. Columns include brand names like ROYAL (Absolutely Pure), GRANT'S (Alum Powder), RUMFORD'S, HANFORD'S, REDHEAD'S, CHARM (Alum Powder), AMAZON (Alum Powder), CLEVELAND'S, PIONEER (San Francisco), CZAR, DR. PRICE'S, SNOW FLAKE (Gruft's), LEWIS, PEARL (Andrews & Co.), HECKER'S, GILLET'S, ANDREWS & CO. "Regal", BULK (Powder sold loose), and RUMFORD'S, when not fresh.

REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT CHEMISTS

As to Purity and Wholesomeness of the Royal Baking Powder.

"I have tested a package of Royal Baking Powder, which I purchased in the open market, and find it composed of pure and wholesome ingredients. It is a cream of tartar powder of a high degree of merit, and does not contain either alum or phosphates, or other injurious substances. E. G. LOVE, Ph.D."

"It is a scientific fact that the Royal Baking Powder is absolutely pure. H. A. MOTT, Ph.D."

"I have examined a package of Royal Baking Powder, purchased by myself in the market. I find it entirely free from alum, terra alba, or any other injurious substance. HENRY MORTON, Ph.D., President of Stevens Institute of Technology."

"I have analyzed a package of Royal Baking Powder. The materials of which it is composed are pure and wholesome. S. DANA HAYES, State Assayer, Mass."

The Royal Baking Powder received the highest award over all competitors at the Vienna World's Exposition, 1873; at the Centennial, Philadelphia, 1876; at the American Institute, New York, and at State Fairs throughout the country.

No other article of human food has ever received such high, emphatic, and universal endorsement from eminent chemists, physicians, scientists, and Boards of Health all over the world.

NOTE—The above DIAGRAM illustrates the comparative worth of various Baking Powders, as shown by Chemical Analysis and experiments made by Prof. Schedler. A pound can of each powder was taken, the total leavening power or volume in each can calculated, the result being as indicated. This practical test for worth by Prof. Schedler only proves what every observant consumer of the Royal Baking Powder knows by practical experience, that while it costs a few cents per pound more than ordinary kinds, it is far more economical, and, besides, affords the advantage of better work. A single trial of the Royal Baking Powder will convince any fair minded person of these facts.

While the diagram shows some of the alum powders to be of a higher degree of strength than other powders ranked below them, it is not to be taken as indicating that they have any value. All alum powders, no matter how high their strength, are to be avoided as dangerous.

Walter W. Bayard, DRUG STORE.

Has opened a Drug Store in the room lately occupied by W. H. Wilkenson on Allegheny street, and will keep constantly on hand a full line of DRUGS, MEDICINES, TOILET ARTICLES, &c. I have TUBE PAINTS for Kensington Work. ALL ODORS OF PERFUMERY and SACHET POWDERS. Telephone in the store, and all orders shall receive my prompt attention. WALTER W. BAYARD. Prescription Prepared at all Hours, Night or Day.

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Quick Railway Time.

Rockford, Ill., Jan. 1880. This is to certify that we have appointed Frank P. Blair, sole agent for the sale of our Quick Train Railroad Watches in the town of Bellefonte.

ROCKFORD WATCH COMPANY.

BY HOSMER P. HULLAND, Sec. Having most thoroughly tested the Rockford Quick Train Watches for the last three years, I offer them with the fullest confidence as the best made and most reliable time keeper for the money that can be obtained.

I fully guarantee every Watch for two years.

FRANK P. BLAIR, No. 2 Brockerhoff Row. All other American Watches at reduced prices. DIGHTON, Jan. 27, 1882. The Rockford watch purchased Feb. 1879, has performed better than any Watch I ever had. Have carried it every day and at no time has it been irregular, or in the least unreliable. I cheerfully recommend the Rockford Watch. HORACE B. HORTON, at Dighton Furnace Co.

TAUNTON, Sept. 18, 1881.

The Rockford Watch runs very accurately; better than any watch I ever owned, and I have had one that cost \$150. Can recommend the Rockford Watch to everybody who wishes a fine timekeeper. S. P. HUBBARD, M. D.

This is to certify that the Rockford Watch bought Feb. 23, 1879, has run very well the past year. Having set it only twice during that time, its only variation being three minutes. It has run very much better than I ever anticipated. It was not adjusted and only cost \$20. R. F. BRYANT,

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The oldest and best appointed Institution for obtaining a Business Education. For circulars address P. DUFF & SONS, To impart a Practical Business Education, for many years and with great success been the aim of Duff's College, No. 49 Fifth Avenue. The faithful student has here facilities for such a training as will qualify him for an immediate entrance upon practical duties in any sphere of life. For circulars address P. Duff & Sons, Pittsburgh, Pa. Duff's Bookkeeping, published by Harper & Bro., printed in colors, 400 pages. The largest work on the science published. A work for bankers, railroad, business men and practical accountants. Price, \$2.00.

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Satisfaction guaranteed in all cases. I would be pleased to have you call, and examine specimens of work. Instructions given in Painting. VERY RESPECTFULLY, C. P. Hilder.

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Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cut stomach? If so, send at once a package of Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for CHILDREN. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it mothers, there is no other like it. It cures colic, wind, flatulency and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN. It is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists, or, direct to the world, Price 25 cents a bottle. S-7-ly

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In presents given away. Send me 5 cents postage, and by mail you will get free a package goods of large value, that will start you in work that will at once bring you in money faster than anything else in America. Throughout the \$200,000 in presents with each box. Agents wanted every where, of either sex, of all ages, for all the time, or spare time only, to work for us at their own homes. Fortune for all workers alike is assured. Don't delay. H. HALL & Co., Portland, Maine.