

# A MUSICAL NATION

By RAYMOND RAYNE

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Among the many unpleasant tasks which fall to the lot of a concert agent not the least difficult is to decline the tempting offers of certain virtuosos without hurting their very sensitive feelings.

When Pan Ogle Trepanowski wrote to me from Poland in this sense, my first impulse was to indite a very firm refusal. Reading his letter a second time, however, I gathered from the mixture of English and what appeared to be Volapuk, in which his intentions were conveyed, that he was following on his heels with such truly artistic impetuosity that no reply could possibly reach him in time to prevent his departure.

All his qualifications were duly set forth. Of course his hair (he inclosed a photograph) and his names were unexceptional; the rest I did not go into. It was quite out of the question for me to run any pianoforte virtuoso on my own account, unless indeed it had been the Paderewski himself.

On the morning of the 14th I received a telegram couched in these terms: "Locomotive twelve hours permit that one encounters me to the station Trepanowski." On solving this— he had evidently got it word by word from a dictionary—I gathered that the professor was coming by way of Quebec on the 12 o'clock train, and wanted to be met at the station.

I went down myself and saw the train in. Pan Ogle was there—a private detective could not have missed him. He stood well over six feet and was broad even for his height. Despite the warmth of a summer's day he wore an immense fur lined overcoat with collar and cuffs of sable.

He spoke English rather worse than he wrote it, but fortunately understood fairly well what was said to him. He was full of questions about the series of concerts which he supposed I had already arranged for him. I avoided giving any definite replies as well as I could until we reached the house.

During luncheon I was saved any trouble by the artist's appetite, which was well sustained and did credit to my housekeeping. We retired to the music room, and I got Pan Ogle behind a big cigar before breaking to him that I had not yet arranged any concerts. I told him that many most deserving foreign artists spent their first decade in New York in playing for nothing at the functions of wealthy patrons of the art and in giving their services at charity concerts, or, in fact, wherever two or three could be gathered together to hear them. I said that was a popular error into which all Europe seemed to have fallen. I told him we were the most musical nation in the world. I sank my voice to a confidential whisper. I said, "The real reason we cannot get audiences is that for some time past listeners have been to a man (or a woman) better performers than those on the platform."

Pan Ogle looked incredulous. It was time to lead trump. I said, "I will wager anything you like that the first tradesman who calls at this house this afternoon will play you any one of Beethoven's sonatas you choose to name."

Pan Ogle laughed aloud. "You make what you call ze fun, is it not?" he asked. "I was never more serious in my life," I replied. I rang the bell, and the servant entered.

"Parkin," I said, "ask the first tradesman who calls to step up here."

"Mr. Blunt, the pork butcher, is downstairs now, sir," said Parkin. "Well, ask him to spare me a moment or two."

"Yes, sir," replied the impassive Parkin and disappeared. The door opened, and Mr. Blunt walked in. He was in his shirt sleeves and had on the blue apron which seems inseparable from the vending of pork.

"What can I do for you today, sir?" he said. "I have just started a new line of sausages which I can thoroughly recommend. I call them the Diminution brand merely for distinction. They taper toward one end, you see."

"I supposed a smile. "It was not in connection with your profession that I wanted to see you, Mr. Blunt. Do you play the piano?"

"Well, I do, sir, or, rather, I did. In fact, I very much wanted to go in for the music when I left school, but my father would not hear of it. He said there was no money in it. 'The music business is played out,' he would say. 'There are too many at it. But the art of making sausages will always provide a competency for the few.'"

"Quite true, Mr. Blunt," I assented. "Now, the professor and I are at issue as to the tempo of a movement in one of Beethoven's sonatas, and I should be greatly obliged if you would play it to us. It is the first movement of opus 3."

The pork butcher sat down deferentially on the piano stool, presenting a singularly unmusical spectacle. "I have not had any practice for months; still to oblige a customer," and he struck the commanding phrase which begins the introduction.

Before he had played many bars the pork butcher had disappeared and the artist was revealed. The colossal phrases of Beethoven's last sonata were given out with a certainty, a restrained force, a nobility of tone, an all compelling rhythm, which took the listener by the throat. Pan Ogle Trepanowski leaned forward in his chair and gasped for breath.

When the last chord had died away there was a hushed pause. Then the professor burst forth into a torrent of polyglot superlatives. He embraced the reluctant pork butcher. He demanded of me why such a player did not devote himself to the career of a virtuoso. I assured him that Mr. Blunt was a fair specimen of the public to whom artists had to appeal in America.

"I don't know whether you are aware of it," said Blunt, speaking to me, "but your two servants are capital hands at the violin and cello. They come around to my house for a trio sometimes when they get a Sunday off."

I rang the bell, and Parkin again appeared. "Mr. Blunt tells me you play the violin, Parkin," I said. "Please ask William to bring his cello and let us hear a trio."

"Yes, sir," answered Parkin, as placidly as if I had ordered whisky and soda. He returned almost immediately, bringing his violin. William followed him. Apparently disturbed in the act of blacking boots, his hands and arms bore unmistakable signs of his employment, this evidence being eked out by a large black smear down one side of his nose. He carried his violoncello in one hand and his bow in the other.

"You did not tell me you played the cello," I said to William. "I want you to show this gentleman how three Americans can play this trio of Smetana. Do you think you can manage it?"

I handed him the music which I had taken from the bookcase. He laid down his bow and rubbed his hand on his trousers before turning over the leaves with a gingerly thumb and forefinger. "It looks rather stiff, but I'll have a go at it, sir."

The technical difficulties of this romantic work of Smetana are extreme, even when they are familiar, but to render the composition at sight with the freedom and abandon which it demands might fairly be deemed impossible. Nevertheless on this occasion the astounded professor heard a performance wherein the complete mastery of the several instruments was surpassed by the unanimity and poetry of the rendering.

Trepanowski declared he had never heard such an ensemble. His admiration was so frank and general that I began to have scruples of conscience. It was too late to go back, however. I pressed him to play. He declined politely, but firmly.

I dismissed the performers with thanks for the exercise of their skill, the professor adding many compliments both intelligible and otherwise. When we found ourselves alone Trepanowski remained silent.

"It is merveilleux," he ejaculated at length. "What then are your public artists like?"

"You have heard D'Eugen?" I inquired in turn. "Ja, ja. He is magnifique!" "Well, he left America. Why did he leave England? You shall answer the question for yourself."

He gave another shrug. "I shall think; I shall write to you; one thousand time thanks."

I insisted on seeing him to the station. On the way he was wrapped in a gloomy silence. Only when we arrived on the platform did he recover a little. A harsh voiced porter was calling out the various stopping places of the incoming train. The professor touched him on the shoulder.

"My friend, what instrument do you play?" he asked sadly. The porter looked at him in surprise. "Chicago express," he said from sheer habit and passed on.

I parted from the professor with mingled feelings. I had begun to like him. When I returned home I found my three friends, H— S, F— H—, and T— W— (an intelligent public will fill the blanks), engaged on a Beethoven trio.

I heard from Trepanowski in due time, but his letter was dated from Poland. He had decided not to try his fortune in America.

**Ideals of Beauty.** Famous men and famous judges of beauty have differed very greatly in their idea of what constitutes it. Byron liked glossy hair clustering around a white, smooth brow; delicately arched eyebrows and glowing cheeks frequently suffused with blushes.

Spenser very explicitly described his style of comeliness. It consisted in "eyes like sapphires, teeth like pearls, a forehead like ivory, hair like gold and hands of silvery whiteness."

Shakespeare's beauties always possessed a very white and alabasterlike skin. Scott's heroines were generally soft eyed and pensive, with sweeping eyelashes and high, intellectual foreheads. Ben Jonson preferred a face characterized by simplicity of expression, flowing hair and "a sweet neglect."

Copper placed very high value on cheeks of damask. **Applied Dictionary.** Mrs. Mixitt, whose husband recently achieved wealth, and as a result bought 200 feet of books for his library, found much to interest her in the volumes. Especially was she taken with the dictionary, the study of which she found to be a great help to her in conversing with the cultured people whom she met at different places.

## HALL TREATMENT.

Some Suggestions For Decoration From an English Standpoint.

In the average home the hall receives but scant attention so far as decoration is concerned, tasteful ornamentation being reserved for the sitting rooms, while the entrance chamber is, comparatively speaking, neglected in this regard, says an English journal. It must honestly be admitted, however, that the ordinary narrow hall does not permit of very much furniture being put into it and is difficult to "make anything of" from a picturesque point of view. Nevertheless I maintain that even the most commonplace hall can be beautified at little expense if only the idea and taste are there to give instigation to pretty plans.

It would be possible to work a wonderful revolution in a commonplace hall by knocking down one of the side walls and throwing the hall and ad-

joining room into one, but this plan, charming though it be in result, is not one likely to be generally followed for many and obvious reasons, wherefore let us seek for a more generally practical idea for converting the commonplace into the picturesque.

We shall find very substantial help in achieving our ends from the old fashioned dresser, stained black oak and set out with willow blue crockery and quaint jars and vases and in the middle a bowl or flowerpot of beaten brass.

An umbrella stand might be contrived at one end of the dresser (the farthest from the front door for preference) by attaching to it a rounded piece of brass against which to rest the umbrellas and providing a japanned trough below.

Against the wall, on the farther side of the dresser, a carved oak hat and coat rack should be hung, and if there is space in the hall for a carved oak chair, so much the better.

Oak stained shelves for books or old china might, in view of economizing space, be fixed to the wall against the dresser on the side near the front door, and at the farther end of the hall curtains should hang against the door—if there is one thereabouts. An idea for a hall on those lines is suggested in the illustration.

**Wall Towels.** Many a housewife is sorely tried by the unsightly spots on her newly dyed towels, caused by thoughtless persons tilting their chairs back and leaning their heads against the walls. Several years ago we bought half a dozen fancy towels for the express purpose of hanging on the walls to protect such places as were most liable to be selected by the class of people above referred to. We crocheted a loop at the two corners on one side of the towel and fastened it to the wall with tacks through these loops, and we are always careful when rehanging to replace the tacks in the holes first made, so as to not further mar the wall. We have used these towels on the walls of our sitting room constantly for ten years, taking down from two to four times a year to launder, and we think the towels give the room a tidy, dressed up appearance that is very pleasing, besides saving all the worry about soiled paper.—Exchange.

**London Women's Club.** The biggest women's social organization in the world probably is the Ladies' Army and Navy club of London, which has a membership of 3,500. Those eligible to membership are the near relations of men who hold or have held commissions in the British army or navy. This largest and wealthiest of women's clubs has an annual revenue from dues alone of \$45,000, deriving also a yearly income of \$20,000 from the rental of bedrooms to members and \$10,000 from profits on its restaurant. It is said that it has a surplus over all running expenses of \$17,500 a year.

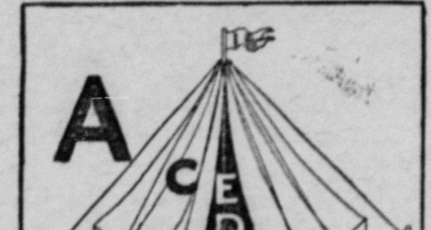
**Making a Salad.** An old Spanish proverb says that four persons participated in the creation of the salad. The prodigal contributed the oil, the miser the vinegar and the wise man pepper and salt, while a madman mixed the whole. This story gives a fair idea of the way the ideal salad is constructed. The oil must be used freely, the vinegar sparingly and the salt and pepper or other condiments wisely. Three tablespoons of oil to one of vinegar is the proportion usually given for these ingredients, but much depends on the strength of the vinegar.

**Furniture Polish.** In applying any kind of polish to furniture do not make the mistake of using too much. In most cases a little will go a long way. Do not put the oil or polish directly upon the wood. Rather put it on a cloth in strictly limited quantities. A soft woolen cloth, plenty of rubbing and a mixture of three tablespoonsful of linseed oil with one tablespoonful of vinegar will make a mahogany table shine like a mirror.



No. 251.—What States! 1. A lodging house; coloring matter; a girl's name. 2. Public avenue of travel; a feature of the face; earth. 3. A numeral; a vowel; to view. 4. A young woman; a form of the verb to be; a taste; a feature of the face.

No. 252.—A Well Known Maxim.



No. 253.—Substitutions.

By altering the final letter change flat surface to mechanical power and to a bank.

No. 254.—A Concealed Poet.

One word is concealed in each sentence. Each word contains four letters. When these words are curtailed eight new words will remain. Their initials, in the order given, will spell the name of a famous poet, while the initials will spell the name of its author.

1. He said that he yielded. 2. Although I desist, I will begin again soon. 3. The bird's egg soon hatched. 4. The wolf, Lobo, ate the poisoned meat. 5. The Arno flows through sunny Italy. 6. I will open the big door for you. 7. The apple on the table is mine. 8. If peace would ensue, then the bloody war would cease.

No. 255.—Charade.

ONE, TWO is an evil spirit; THREE never will crooked be; MY WHOLE is to exhibit That all who wish may see.

No. 256.—Transformations.

1. Transform prey into a flag in four changes, making a word at every change. 2. Transform yard into bolt with four changes.

No. 257.—Terminations.

Find words having all the same termination meaning a period of life or a time in the world's history. The dwelling place of a recluse. A charitable institution for the young. The dwelling of the ecclesiastical head of a parish. Another word of the same meaning. A large number of persons. Protection; help to one in an inferior position. A narrow road. A large parcel.

No. 258.—Half Square.

1. To drive or urge forward. 2. Furious. 3. Death. 4. The stone of certain fruits. 5. A masculine nickname. 6. A letter.

No. 259.—Anagram Verse.

In—dwell a little maid. She lived "far west on LARCH," she said. "The car I came on did but CRAWL; HONEST," she said, "or that was all it seemed, for they had LOST A WRENCH. And moved as if A SLOW TRENCH."

No. 260.—Decapitations.

1. Behead an animal and leave a cardinal point. 2. Behead a means of conveyance used only in cold countries and leave a ridge; behead again and leave a border. 3. Behead a workman's tool and leave a very poor dwelling. 4. Behead another tool and leave a company of sailors. 5. Behead an outer covering and leave a mischievous animal.

The Very Good Reason.

"See where they've formed a broomstick trust." "What for?" "To beat the carpet trust."

Nantucket.

There was once a man from Nantucket. Who kept all his cash in a bucket. But his daughter named Nan Ran away with a man. And as for the bucket, Nantucket. —Princeton Tiger.

Key to the Puzzler.

No. 244.—Prefixes: P-late. El-bow. A-base. T-able. E-aster. No. 245.—Charade: Ham, myrrh (hammer). No. 246.—Omitted Word: Cross. No. 247.—Diagonal Zigzag: James Russell Lowell. 1. Jessamine. 2. Amplitude. 3. Festivity. 4. Shrubbery. 5. Grossness. 6. Traveling. 7. Flotillas. 8. Furbelows. 9. Personnel. 10. Satirical. No. 248.—Picture Puzzle: Fortune teller. No. 249.—Primal Acrostic: Eugene Field. 1. Earth. 2. Uranus. 3. Grant. 4. Ende. 5. Nelson. 6. Emerson. 7. Franklin. 8. Isabella. 9. Elizabeth. 10. Livingston. 11. Dante. No. 250.—Geographical Anagrams: 1. Senegal. 2. Euphrates. 3. Tartary. 4. Hudson.

## HANDS AND NAILS.

Don't cut the nails in points, but let them be carefully arched.

Don't cut the cuticle or any part of the flesh around the nails.

Don't cut the nails too often, or they will become thick and ugly.

Don't cut nails without first holding them in warm water or sweet oil.

Don't use a file or emery paper on the flat surface of the nail, but only on the edge.

Don't visit your manicure too often. Too much manikuring is worse than not enough.

Don't polish nails without first rubbing on a little rose tinted paste. Use the palm of the hand to polish.

Don't dry the hands with a towel, but with a silk handkerchief, which absorbs moisture more readily.

Don't polish nails too highly. They should have only a natural gloss. Too much polishing makes them tender.

Don't neglect to press back the skin around the nail after washing the hands so that the crescent, or half moon, will show.

Don't forget that warm feet have much to do with white hands. When the feet are habitually cold the hands are always red or blue.—Exchange.

## Signs of Longevity.

The signs of longevity read from the feminine face are these: The eyes should be round and wide, not oblong and narrow, for such eyes denote weakness. The mouth should be full and well set. A small mouth is a bad sign. The chin should be square and firm. The nose, however, gives the most important indication as to the person's breathing capacity. A woman with a nose that is wide and full through its whole length and has open nostrils probably has good lungs and a good heart and will live longer than a person whose nose is pinched and whose nostrils are narrow. The secret of longevity is to have eight hours' sleep. Sleep on the right side, keep the bedroom window open all night, don't have the bed against the wall, eat little meat and see that it is well cooked, exercise daily in the open air, live in the country if you can, take frequent and short holidays, limit your ambition and keep your temper.

## Our Favored Women.

Probably if asked offhand in which country of the whole world are women employed in largest numbers in "gainful occupations" the man in the street would promptly answer, "In the United States," and feel sure he was right. But it is not so. On the contrary, there is a smaller percentage of women at work in the United States than in any other civilized land. Such is the testimony of the statistical year book of the German empire. According to that high authority, only 14.3 per cent of the total self supporting population of this country are females, while in Germany the percentage is 25, in England 27, in Italy 40, in Austria 47. Ralph Waldo Emerson said in substance that the standard of a nation's civilization and culture is fixed by the status of its women. If that is true, America, where women toil least and enjoy most, must be leading the march of modern nations.—New York World.

## Tablecloth Tips.

Finesse is not a safe guide either for durability or lasting beauty of table linen. Weight is the standard of price, and it is not advisable to buy table linen that weighs less than four and a half ounces per square yard. The comparative merits of bleached and unbleached nappery depend upon the use to which it is to be put. For common or rough use it is often well to buy the unbleached and also in the country or suburbs, where one can bleach it on the grass or out in the sun. Never buy a mixture of cotton and linen and beware of damask that is stiff and cracky, for it has probably been starched to make it appear of better quality than it really is. Good linen has an elastic texture. Some of the finer French damasks appear exquisite, but they do not pass the soap and water test creditably. Considering all points, Irish linen is far superior to any other.

WANTED.—Teachers.—We need at once a few more teachers for fall schools. Good positions are being filled daily by us. We are receiving more calls this year than ever before. Schools and Colleges supplied with teachers free of cost. Enclose stamp for reply. American Teachers' Association, J. L. Graham, Ltd., D. manager, 152 154 Randolph Bldg, Memphis Tenn.

WANTED.—Live agents to sell Dr. White's Electric Combs, patented Jan. 1, '90. Cure dandruff, hair falling out sick and nervous headaches, yet cost no more than an ordinary comb. Sells on sight Agents are wild with success. Send 50c for sample (half price.) Write quick. The Dr. White Electric Comb Co., Dedart, Ill. x-38

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CHOICE TIMOTHY SEED AND GRAIN. DRILLS AT ATTRACTIVE PRICES.

## McCalmont & Co.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

## PENN. R. R. NOTES.

Reduced Rates to the Sea-shore.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will run a special low rate ten-day excursion from Lock Haven, Bellefonte, Williamsport, and principal intermediate stations, to Atlantic City, Cape May, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Avalon, Anglesea, Wildwood, or Holly Beach on Sunday, September 10.

To Altoona.

From September 9 to 12, inclusive, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell, from all stations in Pennsylvania, special reduced rate, round-trip tickets to Altoona, good to return until September 13, on account of the meeting of the Society of American Veterans of the Philippine and China Wars, to be held at Altoona, Sept. 10 to 12.

To Centre Hall, Pa.

To accommodate visitors to the encampment and exhibition of the Patrons of Husbandry, to be held at Centre Hall, Pa., September 12 to 15, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell round-trip tickets from all stations in Pennsylvania to Centre Hall, Pa., at special reduced rates. These tickets will be on sale and good from September 11 to 18, inclusive, and good for return passage until September 12.

Reduced Rates to Baltimore.

For the benefit of those desiring to attend the annual session of the Sovereign Lodge of I. O. O. F. at Baltimore, Md. September 21 to 26, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell round-trip tickets to Baltimore from all stations on its lines, in this section and intermediate stations on the Northern Central, on September 19, 20, and 21, good for return passage until September 25, inclusive, at rate of single fare for the round trip, plus one dollar.

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The finest beverage of all. Formose Oolong, Japan, Young Hyson, Gunpowder, English Breakfast, Ceylon, and several grades of choice blends. We have them all grades at right prices—sometimes people discard tea because the goods they get do not meet their expectations. Just try our goods and see the result.

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## TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The undersigned having been restored to health by simple means, after suffering for several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease Consumption, is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure. To those who desire it, he will cheerfully send (free of charge) a copy of the prescription used, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Catarrh, Bronchitis and all throat and lung Maladies. He hopes all sufferers will try his remedy, as it is invaluable. Those desiring the prescription, which will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing, will please address, Rev. EDWARD A. WILSON, Brooklyn, New York.

WANTED.—Live agents to sell Dr. White's Electric Combs, patented Jan. 1, '90. Cure dandruff, hair falling out sick and nervous headaches, yet cost no more than an ordinary comb. Sells on sight Agents are wild with success. Send 50c for sample (half price.) Write quick. The Dr. White Electric Comb Co., Dedart, Ill. x-38