

SONGS AND SONG-WRITING.

A SUBJECT FULL OF INTEREST TO LOVERS OF MUSIC.

Words and Music Must be Fitted—Songs in Ancient and Modern Times—Story of a Noted Song.

At a meeting of the New York Historical society, Chief-Justice Daly read an interesting paper on "Songs and Song-writing." A song he defined as a piece of verse fit to be sung. Rhythm, he said, was not only required, but was often a positive obstruction. What was necessary was that the words should be fitted to the music. Great poets were seldom good song writers, and great composers were seldom able to create song music. In the one case Shakespeare and in the other Handel was an exception. As an illustration, the lecturer cited the song of the lady in the tower in "Quentin Durward." This he pronounced an exquisite piece of verse, but Bishop, the great English composer, found it impossible to set it to music, although Miss Stevens, afterward Countess of Essex, desired to sing it. The great bulk of the songs which had become popular were, he continued, written to music already existing. Burns' and Moore's melodies were notable examples. Moore was accustomed to play an old air on his piano over and over until he became thoroughly imbued with its spirit, and then the music suggested the subject. In this way the noise and confusion original with the music of "The Carnival of Venice" was changed into the quiet of "Row gently here my gondolier." "Scots wha hae" was once the slogan, "Hay tatty, tatty," to which the Scotch fought at Bannockburn. The measured beat of the drum is still recognizable in it. The original airs were either dancing tunes, funeral walls or religious chants. Some combined two of these characteristics. "Garryowen," one of the most rollicksome of airs, when played slowly became one of the saddest.

One of the earliest known Egyptian hieroglyphics had the exact form of a guitar. These people had seventeen different musical instruments, including all the three divisions viz., of concussion, wind and string. A harp was discovered in a Theban tomb, with catgut strings, which, on being touched after a silence of over 3,000 years, yielded the old familiar sound. Champollion translated from Egyptian hieroglyphics a song sung by the ancient thrashers. Two similar songs have been unearthed from the cuneiform writings of the Babylonians. Except as to the Greeks, who had as many songs as we have, and the early Christians, who had devotional songs, all evidence as to the subsequent existence of popular song is merely fragmentary until the end of the tenth century, when the troubadours made their appearance. These were lyric poets who carried their art to a perfection that has never been surpassed. Their songs were nearly all love songs, but were artificial compositions above the comprehension of the people. They were an aristocratic class, and included kings in their number. The troubadour had, as a rule, two attendants, one to compose the music and the other to sing the song. They were succeeded by the Trouvers of Northern France, who wrote for the people at first but afterward became exclusive, like the others. Contemporary with these were the Minnesingers of Germany, the purest and sweetest singers of all. Later on flourished the Jongleurs, minstrels, harpers, or gleemen, as they were variously called, and comprising two classes. One sang songs in combination with juggling and the exhibition of animals on the village green. The other went from castle to castle and always met with a willing reception and a liberal reward. Their wandering life afforded them all the conditions necessary to express their joys and sorrows of all degrees of society. Such songs as the German folk-songs could only originate in countries having national music. To Italy the world owes most of the improvements that have been made in both vocal and instrumental music. Yet as a people the Italians never had any national music. It was only peoples with a diversified country and a diversified climate who produced songs with character. The nature of the musical instruments of the people also produced an impression on its songs. Incidentally, the lecturer said that the first information as to the use of the violin showed that it was an English instrument; that "Yankee Doodle" was originally an old sword dance, and that the Portuguese and Spanish Jews used as part of their service—a chant sung 3,000 years ago. He narrated the history of "Eileen Aroon," better known as "Robin Adair," which he claimed to be one of the finest love songs in existence. "Eileen Aroon," which signifies "sweet pearl of my heart," was written by one Carroll O'Daly, an Irish knight. O'Daly loved the daughter of a neighboring chieftain, Eileen Cameron, who returned his love. Her parents were opposed to the match, and O'Daly having gone abroad, made her believe him untrue, and secured her consent to marriage with his rival. O'Daly returned on the day before the wedding. On learning what was about to take place he composed the song, and, next day, disguised as a harper, sang it to the bride. In response to the question, "Wilt thou go or stay with me, Eileen Aroon?" she contrived to whisper that she would go, and they fled together and were married.

Robin Adair was a young Irishman of good family, who was graduated from the Dublin University as a surgeon, and set out on foot for London about 1760. On the way he had the good fortune to set the leg of an English countess who had been thrown from her carriage. Through her offices he was introduced into English society, and eventually loved and was loved by the daughter of the Earl of Albemarle, who learned the air from him and wrote the new words. The lovers being separated by their difference of station, the lady pined until the earl was compelled to consent to her marriage with Adair to save her life. Her disease had gone too far, however, and she soon died. Adair became surgeon to George III, and was knighted, but to his death, at seventy years of age, he always wore mourning for his bride. A lady friend who had heard her sing "Robin Adair" wrote down the words and music and gave them to Brahms, a celebrated English tenor of the period. No other song except "Home, Sweet Home," ever had such popularity.

The lecturer analyzed the song characteristics of the various nations, singling out the Poles, the Germans, the English and the Irish as superior song producers. The French songs were, he thought, too artificial; modern Spanish songs were without character; of the Scotch songs, the earlier ones were much the better; in those of other nations he found various excellences, but, as a whole considered them crude or monotonous.

Chopping Down a Tree.

How a tree is chopped down in the Maine woods is thus described by the Boston Transcript: The chopper works upon one banded knee. Before beginning to cut, he has looked to see which way the tree is inclined. For this he steps back a short distance to where he can see to its very top. If he is in doubt he lifts his axe by the end of the helve and lets it hang freely suspended. This gives him a plumb line by which he measures the inclination of the tree. But it is not enough to determine in what direction the tree will fall most readily. It may be that large trees are standing right in the way of its falling on that side, and against these the tree will be lodged. It must be carried to the one side or the other, and herein consists one of the mysteries of woodcraft—the skill to guide a tree in its fall. He will direct it with the greatest ease. Having decided where he wants it to go to avoid the risk of lodging against other trees, or of being broken by falling on uneven ground, or to have it lie so that the logs will be convenient of removal, the chopper first undercuts the tree, that is, he cuts upon the side toward which he will have it fall, and in such a manner that the line of the kerf shall be exactly at right angles with the line along which the tree is to lie. If the tree stands nearly perpendicular, and has no inclination to fall as he wishes, the chopper cuts a little beyond the heart on that side. By doing this he removes the base when the tree is ready to fall, and rests upon a base of but an inch or two in breadth, so much from the center of the stump. The effect of this will be very great in moving the base so that the center of gravity will fall on the side desired. Though he works in so cramped a posture, the chopper cuts the stump so level and so smooth he thinks his little boy could spin a top upon it.

Having undercut the tree with the greatest care, the woodman now changes his position a little, but remains on the same side, rests on his other knee, and shifts hands, that is, wields the axe with the other hand forward. He now cuts upon the other side, leaving the stump two or three inches higher according as he wishes to gain advantage for the last few strokes. The work goes on with little concern until the base is no thicker than a plank and quite as even, then a blow is aimed full at the center, and the chopper looks quickly at the top to note the effect. If he perceives a tremor in the trunk, or if a bit of bark or moss is loosened from its hold, he knows now every stroke will tell, and he aims these with the greatest precision. Soon as ever the top bows to its fall he marks the direction in which it is moving. If he wishes to bring it more toward him he strikes a blow upon the further edge; if to carry it further from him, the blow is given upon the side that is nearer. These last strokes need to be given with great nicety. If feeble, they will fail to effect their purpose; if too great force, the tree will be severed from the stump upon that side, and then all control of it is lost at once, and it plunges blindly forward. A tall tree like the pine is broken from the stump by a force acting quite differently from that which is applied in the case of shorter trees. In its descent the pine acquires at its top a centrifugal force so powerful as to lift the tree from the stump and carry it forward five or six feet before it reaches the ground. When it does come to the earth the top and the butt strike at the same time, and the tree lies half buried in the snow.

An Army of Working Women.

Every night of this wintry season, under the darkness of 6 o'clock, you can see trudging through the streets of New York, to their boarding houses or other quarters, thousands and tens of thousands of young working women. They have been toiling from early daylight at some one or other of the hundred industries through which they find scanty means of livelihood. They are now in the horse cars and elevated trains; they crowd their way along Nassau street and City Hall park; they swarm through the Bowery; they march in long procession up Second and Third avenues, Sixth and Eighth avenues, and other lines of busy travel and traffic on the East and West sides of the island. They have been variously employed through the day as:

- Dressmakers, Seamstresses, Lace workers, Tailoresses, Collar makers, Necktie makers, Kid-glove makers, Shoe fitters, Photographic colorers, Fringe makers, Feather workers, Milliners, Base-buff hands, Candy packers, Cashiers, Toy makers, Umbrella makers, Straw sewers, Hair workers, China painters, Piano-action makers, Nurses, Housekeepers, Carpet makers, Perfumery makers, Costumers, Gold-leaf workers, or in scores of other industries, where their labor can be made available.

They turn out an army 100,000 strong, for that is their number as near as can be ascertained from the imperfect statistics that have been compiled. No accurate census has ever been made of these working women, but the Protective Union, which keeps a free registry of those seeking work through its agency, has thirty thousand names on its books, and as many more are on the rolls of the Women's Christian association and other organizations. At least as many more, it is estimated by those best informed, are seeking employment and livelihood through their own individual efforts, so that 100,000 is likely to be below rather than above the actual number of women bread-winners in this city.—John Swinton's Paper.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Many cows in France are fed upon beet-pulp. An investigation into the physiological effects of this food show that it causes the milk to increase in quantity but deteriorate in quality.

A new fiber for paper-making has been discovered by Mons. Reynaud in Algeria. It exists in the dwarf palm, a great enemy of the agriculturists. The plant is full of fiber, and means have been found for utilizing the whole of it above the roots.

For several years past the Swedish government employed an entomologist to assist the farmers in distinguishing and destroying insects that prove hurtful to the crops. The demand for his services has been so very great, and the work he has done has been so useful, that the office of government entomologist is to be made a permanent one.

A simple and useful belt has been invented by Mr. Arnott, of the Lyceum theatre (London), having for its object the fastening of doors of theatres and other public buildings, so that they can be opened by mere pressure against the door from the inside, and not at all from the outside, dispensing with all other fastenings, which cause so many accidents in case of panic. One advantage is, that being once unfastened it cannot be rebolted by accident.

The Albany Evening Journal says: "A large proportion of the molding sand consumed in the foundries of the United States is dug out of the hills of Albany county. It is said that everything in soluble metal, from a Krupp gun to a heel plate for a lady's shoe, has been cast in Albany sand. Quantities of it have been exported as ballast. The annual shipment of sand obtained hereabouts from this city is estimated at from 75,000 to 100,000 tons, the price paid for it, delivered on board the cars or boats, being about \$1.25 per ton.

According to Professor Newton it takes 100,000,000 years for meteors, though falling at the rate of 3,000,000,000 fragments a year, to increase the diameter of the earth one inch.

Waste of the World's Forests.

When the forests of such a country as Cyprus were destroyed, said Mr. Thistleton Dyer, in a discussion in the British society of arts, it was like a burned cinder. Many of the West Indian islands are in much the same condition, and the rate with which the destruction takes place when once commenced is almost incredible. In the Island of Mauritius, in 1835, about three-fourths of the soil was in the condition of primeval forest, viz., 300,000 acres; in 1879 the acreage of woods was reduced to 70,000, and in the next year, when an exact survey was made by an Indian forest officer, he stated that the only forest worth speaking about was 35,000 acres. Sir William Gregory says in Ceylon the eye, looking from the top of a mountain in every direction over an unbroken extent of forest. Six years later the whole forest had disappeared. The denudation of the forests is accompanied by a deterioration in the soil, and the Rev. R. Abney, who went to Ceylon on the eclipse expedition, calculated, from the percentage of solid matter in a stream, that one-third of an inch per annum was being washed away from the cultivated surface of the island. In some colonies the timber was being destroyed at such a rate as would soon lead to economical difficulties. In Jamaica nearly all the timber required for building purposes has already to be imported. In New Brunswick the hemlock spruce is rapidly disappearing, one manufacturer in Boiestown using the bark of 100,000 trees every year for tanning.

In Demerara, one of the most important and valuable trees, the greenheart, is in a fair way of being exterminated. They actually cut down small saplings to make rollers on which to roll the large trunks. In New Zealand Captain Walker says he fears the present generation will see the extermination of the Kauri pine, one of the most important trees. All these facts show that this is a most urgent question, which at no distant date will have to be vigorously dealt with.—Popular Science Monthly.

The Terror of the South.

JASPER, Fla.—Mr. Boardman W. Wilson, traveling for A. G. Alford & Co., dealers in Firearms and Cutlery, Baltimore, was prostrated here, with the "break-bone fever," he asserts that in his own, as well as in the case of others, the only thing found to relieve this painful malady was St. Jacobs Oil. This wonderful pain-cure has the indorsement of such men as Ex-Postmaster General James, Senator Daniel W. Voorhees, and an army of others.

An Interesting Patent Suit.

Nelson Lyon of Albany, N. Y., has recovered judgment of \$2,447.10, against G. T. Fisher & Co., in the U. S. circuit court, at Detroit, Mich., for an infringement of Lyon's Patent Metallic Heel Stiffener. This contrivance is one of the most useful of modern inventions, and has achieved a remarkable sale—over \$750,000 worth, the testimony showed, having been sold since the patent was granted, being a grand total of 3,888,000 pairs. The invention consists of a nest metal plate fastening to the outside of a boot or shoe heel, arranged to prevent the counters from breaking over and the heel from wearing down unevenly. The attorney-general of the United States declared the Lyon patent invalid on account of an informality in the application. This was afterward corrected by the commissioner of patents, in accordance with a special act of Congress authorizing it. Action was commenced in May, 1889, a perpetual injunction was obtained in December, and the case was referred to a master, who reported the damages as \$3,534, but on motion the court doubled the same, and directed judgment to be entered against defendants for such double damages, with interest and costs.

Lead pipes were first used for conducting water in 1252. Butter Havers everywhere are refusing to take white, lardy looking butter except at "grease" prices. Coffee is not worth anything but gilt-edged butter, and buyers therefore recommend their patrons to keep a uniform color throughout the year by using the Improved Butter Color made by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. It is the only color that can be relied on to never alter in the butter, and to always give the perfect color. Sold by druggists and merchants.

The favorite amusement of the emperor of China is to split a top. We always keep Plo's Cure for Consumption in the house.

Fire Alarm.

I have been a sufferer suffering a long time with kidney troubles, causing severe pains in back and sides, and from the time I was ordered by the Chief of Fire Department, Mr. Ira Wood, formerly of Syracuse, who had used Hunt's Remedy with wonderful success, I commenced using it, and found speedy relief in a short time, and it has completely cured me of the pains in the back. I have recommended it to others in the department, that have used it with great success, and I do not hesitate to recommend it to any one troubled with kidney, liver or bladder troubles. H. KIRKLAND, Sup' Fire Alarm, Syracuse, N. Y., June 12, '83.

Fireman's Trouble.

I have been troubled a long time with kidney weakness, a great proportion of the time with severe pains in the back. Having heard Hunt's Remedy recommended very highly for troubles of the kidney and urinary organs by Ira Wood, ex-chief of the fire department of Syracuse, and having been cured of my kidney disease, I at once purchased a bottle and used it, and have not been troubled since; and I know of many others here in Syracuse that have used it and recommended it as a great medium for the kidneys, and I do not hesitate to say that it is a remarkable medicine. JACOB WOLFORD, Member of Syracuse Fire Department, Syracuse, N. Y., June 11, 1883.

Get the Original.

Dr. Pierce's "Pellets"—the original "Little Liver Pills" (sugar-coated)—cure sick and bilious headaches, sour stomach, and bilious attacks. By druggists.

There are no dairy schools in Ireland. A startling fact. Heart disease is only inferior in fatality to consumption; do not suffer from it, but use Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator. It has cured thousands, why not you? \$1 at druggists.

Denver has an overplus of physicians.

The Doctor's Indorsement. Dr. W. D. Wright, Cincinnati, Ohio, sends the following professional indorsement: I have prescribed Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs in a great number of cases, and always with success. One case in particular was given up by several physicians who had been called in for consultation with myself. The patient had all the symptoms of confirmed consumption—cold night sweats, hectic fever, harassing cough, etc. He commenced immediately to get better, and was soon restored to his usual health. I found Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs the most valuable expectorant for breaking up distressing coughs and colds.

Walnut Leaf Hair Restorer.

It is entirely different from all others. It is as clear as water, and an infallible indicator of a perfect Vegetable Hair Restorer. It will immediately free the head from all dandruff, restore gray hair to its natural color, and produce a new growth where it has fallen off. It does not in any manner affect the health, which sulphur, sugar of lead, and nitrate of silver preparations have done. It will change light or faded hair in a few days to a beautiful glossy brown. Ask your druggist for it. Each bottle is warranted. SMITH, KLANE & CO., Wholesale Agents, Philadelphia, Pa., and C. N. CHITTENDEN, New York.

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"Five years ago my life was a dread all the time from heart disease; since using Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator, the English language would fall me in telling the good I received."—Kate Musgrove, Coloma, Ind. For sale at druggists.

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