

Mr. I. S. Loos, our musician and bandmaster. Now let us diverge.

In the middle '50s of the nineteenth century there arrived in New York City from the German "Fatherland" a lad some eighteen years of age—a musician of unusual ability, considering his age. A few years after his arrival in New York this young German, E. H. Straubel by name, became the director of the famous Eastman band which became historical later on as being the one that escorted the remains of the "martyred president," Abraham Lincoln, on the last sad trip which ended at the tomb.

The next record that we have of Mr. Straubel is of his appearance as contrabassist in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. In this great organization he remained and played double bass for 35 consecutive years. Old age crept upon him and finally he was pensioned by the Philharmonic Society for long and distinguished services and retired. A few years later he sold his famous bass to Ruthyn Turney, of whom Mr. Loos acquired it.

When writing of this famous instrument and how he came to possess it, Mr. Straubel said that he secured it from a fellow-countryman who played bass in New York many years ago. The man was old and feeble and the old Rotterdam instrument being a heavy one he wished to trade it for a lighter bass. So he and Mr. Straubel traded. To quote Mr. Straubel: "We both knew that the instrument that I received in the trade was the best, but we neither knew at the time that it was a famous Wrent bass, of Rotterdam." Later on Mr. E. Tubbs, an old man and a well-known authority on such matters, proved the identity of this instrument for Mr. Straubel and stated that so far as he knew there were but two other Wrent basses in existence, and they were in the British Museum in London. This instrument was played in the great Philharmonic Orchestra of New York by Mr. Straubel for more than thirty years.

A testimonial as to the authenticity of the bass, written by E. Tubbs of New York City, is in the hands of Mr. Loos, as is also a testimonial to its authenticity and value by Paul F. Kissner, well-known authority of Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Kissner places its value at \$1,500. The instrument is in splendid condition; it is perfect as regards model; the varnish is intact; the tone is the "last word" in quality and power. Mr. Loos possesses a treasure, rare and priceless.