
 Music and Morals 

Some one has said that music "is breaking into sound of the fundamental rhythm of the universe" and the definition is one full of meaning and of deep truth, for there is no other art so wide in its compass, so evidently a manifestation of God. Indeed music is a creation of God, a harmony loving God, the "greatest musician" whose world is full of the most beautiful melodies; man only can find this music and give it to the ears of his fellow beings. The planets and all the heavenly bodies move with a rhythm which, could it reach our ears, would doubtless be the sweetest music; every breath of air whispering in the tree-tops, every wave beating against a rocky shore, every insect humming its little life away, sings the song that the great Master has commanded. There is no other power so universal; music is as intelligible to the dweller in the far East as to the citizen of our Western America. If the soul be open to the communication it will tell the same story to us that ancient Greeks heard from strings of the Aeolian harp. It expresses the deepest emotions of life, universal emotions, those which have been and always will be instinctive to every human being. As Carlyle says, "The meaning of music goes deep. A kind of inarticulate, unfathomable speech which leads us to the edge of the infinite and lets us for a moment gaze into that." Perhaps it is part of that glory of heaven which Wordsworth maintains does not altogether depart from us during our sojourn in this world; and, if this is true, the music which we hear is probably only the smallest part of that infinite harmony, too delicate, for our dull senses to perceive.

This divine origin and depth of music gives then an ample reason for the great influence that it has upon lives of men. One chord from the organ can soothe and calm the heart, torn by trouble or anxiety; it can level the great moun-