

tains of difficulty which sometimes rise up before us like impassable bearers. The battle-song fills the soldier with high-born courage, the national anthem causes the heart to swell with loyalty, and the sacred hymn brings a deeper feeling, softens the sensibilities as no sermon ever could. There is nothing which has such power to play upon the emotional strings of man's nature, nothing which is more likely to move him to action. Hence the question of how music effects the moral life, whether it raises or lowers the ideals, makes man better or worse, is of extreme importance.

Long ago Confucius, realizing the great power of music, said, "Desire ye to know whether a land is well-governed, whether its people have good morals? Hear its music." The same test might be applied quite as well today, for we find a great difference in the music of people of different countries. The barbarous Dahomians make a hideous noise by beating on drums, which sound they no doubt call music; the less civilized the race the more discordant are the sounds which they produce. It is only the cultured lands which have achieved real harmony. Indeed, we are told that music is a valuable element in the progress of civilization because it prepares the heart for all else that is beautiful, that through it we learn to appreciate other arts, to enjoy nature and to feel more sympathy for one another. Some say that savages, these same Dahomians, are great lovers of music and give this as proof that melody has no moral influence. But this is unreasonable for it can hardly be expected to counteract all evil passions; and we should rather give due credit to the great tendency toward softening the temper and leading up to a higher plane.

Further than this however, back of the fact that it is a badge, a symbol of civilization, we may consider the influence of music for good or bad by the source from which it springs. It gives utterance to the life and soul of the man who is called its composer, therefore, it would seem that unless that man has lived a clean life he could not pour out from his soul anything good or anything better than he him-