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"Home, Sweet Home"

That the words of "Home, Sweet Home" were written by "an exile from home" is easily inferred. John Howard Payne was in Paris struggling with disappointments and failures in his efforts to establish himself as a playwright translator of plays. In Scribners for October is begun a series of letters between Payne and Washington Irving written at this period and showing Payne's condition and sorrowful moods. The letters were discovered in a box of papers unearthed by the consul at Tunis at the request of a niece of Payne. They had been left over as a valueless after the sale of Payne's effects there. Payne's letter-books, later secured by his grand-nephew, who edits these letters, give his side of the correspondence.

Mention is made of "Clari," the opera in which "Home, Sweet Home" appears, and Irving congratulates his friend on the success. Sir Henry Bishop made the music while Payne was under contract to supply plays for Covent Garden. The music of the song is an old folk song, arranged by Bishop at Payne's request, when an extra song was needed in one of the scenes. These

words, written by the struggling and lonely man out of his own "Heimweh," are probably more generally known to those who love the English tongue than any words outside the Bible—and this is more than can be said of any of Irving's writings.

This letter of Payne's explains itself:

My Dear Irving—If I could convey to you an idea of the pleasure it gave me to find you still remembered there was such a being, it would I am sure, be some recompense for the trouble of which I have unknowingly been the cause. I am so isolated, and my feelings are become so distempered by annoyance, that these electrical thrills of early and national association, are at times the only things that can revive the consciousness that I belong to a world and have my friends and my relations and my country like other people. I am unused to any sudden touch of joy and it o'er comes me."

The letters from Irving also gave glimpses of what Payne's moods were at this period, and how his friend strove to keep him in good heart. Payne had won a great success as an actor in America. But his popularity waned as he

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