

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PIANO

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

HISTORIC STUDIES IN HOME FURNISHING

VII. BY MARGARET ANNEBEE

When Queen Elizabeth attempted to draw from Sir James Melville some unfavorable comment upon her Scottish cousin's performance upon lute and virginal, she parried her thrusts by declaring that "she played reasonably for a Queen."



Monochord. (From the "Theoria Musica" -1490- of Franchino Gafurinus.)

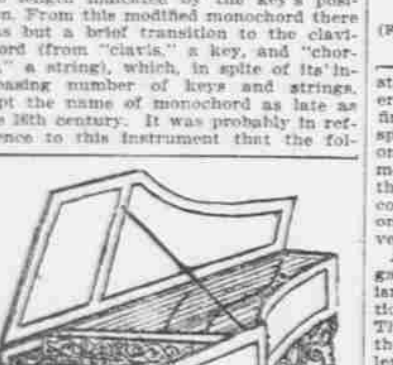
Science was unbroken save by the expressionless tinkle of the virginal upon which she was artlessly pouring out her soul.

Whichever the derivation of the name of the virginal, it is sufficient to know that it was the ancestor of the modern piano.



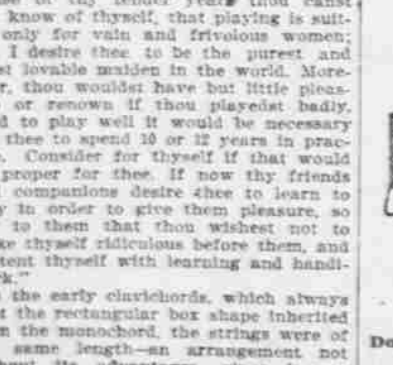
Italian Virginal, Sixteenth Century. (South Kensington Museum.)

Plucking the strings with quills or jacks. The clavichord traced its ancestry back to the monochord, a primitive instrument having a single string stretched over a soundboard.



Harpsichord. (From the permanent belonging to South Kensington Museum.)

The string of the modern instrument is thicker than the thickest bass string of the first piano, whose tension was correspondingly slight when wood offered the only resistance.



Harpsichord, End of the Sixteenth Century. (Museum of the Paris Conservatory.)

Young letter was written by the poet Bembo to his daughter.

and thinner strings and longer and heavier ones to the lower tones. Naturally the thinnest strings required the greatest length.

Despite the agreeable sensitiveness of the clavichord that "solitary, melancholy, unexpectably sweet instrument" there was a feeble tremulousness about it which led to a desire for an instrument whose strings could be excited to stronger vibrations.

The compass of the early keyboards was but four and one-half octaves, and in the old German instruments the coloring was reversed, the raised keys being white and the natural black.

maker, drove from the musical field both the sensitive clavichord and the notable rival. Patterned after the trapezoidal psaltery, whose sound was produced by plucking the strings, the new instrument was played like a dulcimer, by striking with small hammers.

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Although the modern instrument has gained steadily in strength and mechanism, its outward proportion and decoration have undoubtedly fallen from grace.

double spinet, end of sixteenth century. (Sehestedt collection.)

Like other forms of furniture, the piano was influenced by the reigning fashion, so that we find exterior construction succeeding fancy styles with which they were decorated.

TO PRISON FOR LIFE

SENTENCING OF BRESSI FOR KILLING OF KING HUMBERT.

The Penalty the Most Severe Under the Italian Laws for Murder.

MILAN, Aug. 29.—The trial of Bressi, the anarchist who, July 28, shot and killed King Humbert of Italy, at Monza, while His Majesty was returning from a gymnastic exhibition, opened here today.

Another Yaqui Uprising. SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 29.—The steamer Curacoa, from Guaymas, brings news of the activity of the Yaqui Indians in Mexico.

Obligatory Military Service. SANTIAGO DE CHILE, via Valparaiso, Aug. 29.—Obligatory military service has been approved by the Chilean Congress.

AT THE HOTELS.

THE PORTLAND. E H Libby, Lewiston. J H Ransom, city. W V Brady, N Y. M Macdonald, Portland. E J Lovegood, Chicago. F W Corwin, Portland. E J Skiffman, Chicago. Mr & Mrs E L Doran, Portland. C R Cannon & Jr, Portland.

Columbia River Scenery. Regulator Line steamers. Oakland street dock daily, except Sunday, 7 o'clock.

THE PERKINS. S P McCutran, St Paul. J M Casey, Clarinda. Ia. L M Johnson, N Y. Saml Richardson, Chicago. James Barnes, Jr, Seattle. A C James, Benton, Minn.

THE IMPERIAL. C. W. Knowles, Manager. S D Adair, Astoria. C C Duran, Boston. A J Browne, Spokane. Tony DeLuca, Seattle. J O Boschenko, do. Wm J Boschenko, do. Morton L Towner, Coe.

THE SHERMAN. Mrs Allen, Seattle. John Hill, Seattle. N B Foote, Westport. H Perkins, Drain. Huggins, Olympia. Mrs O. Isak, Wasco. Mrs S. Turner, Astoria. J West, San Fran.

THE SHERMAN'S SISTER DEAD. LANCASTER, O., Aug. 29.—Mrs. Mary E. Reese, sister of General William T. Sherman, and ex-Senator John Sherman, died today from the effects of a fall down stairs, which happened a week ago. Her husband, W. T. Reese, died years ago.

OF CONSCIENCE. RUSSELLVILLE, O., Aug. 29.—(To the Editor)—Does "every" vehicle not hertofore specified, under the new ordinance, include those of the suburban and farmer?

THIS MEDICINE is familiar in thousands of homes. For half a century it has had a permanent place as a family medicine. HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS. Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Flatulency, Biliousness, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, and Kidney Disorders. Sold by druggists and dealers generally, with a Private Revenue Stamp over the neck of the bottle.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE.

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PLEASURE TOURS FALL 1900. Round the World, Japan, Holy Land. Other tours to Europe and elsewhere. THOS. COOK & SON, 621 Market St., San Francisco.

WHITE COLLAR LINE. BAILEY GATZERT (Alder-street) Dept. Leaves Portland daily every morning at 7 o'clock, except Sunday.

WASHINGTON & ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. The first mail steamer "CITY OF SEATTLE" sailing from Seattle every 10 days for Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Tacoma, Astoria, and Seattle.

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Empire Line FOR Cape Nome. And Yukon River Points. S. S. "OHIO," 3500 Tons. Sails from Seattle on or about Aug. 29.

Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co. For Margera, Malin, ARBIDEV, Clatskanie, Westport, UNION, Clifton, Agate, Warrenton, Seaside, Prineville, Flavel, Hamlet, Forest, Gresham, Astoria, Gearhart, Park, Seaside, Gresham, Clifton, Astoria and Malin.