WHERE MUSIC WILL HOLD SWAY

ONE of the 12 societies that will take part in the Norwegian Sangerfest at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, August 27, is the Norwegian Singing Society, of Portland.

Neither money nor work has been spared to make this coming event a success. Already $2500 has been secured for the entertainment of visiting singers and their friends. There will be singing by the great chorus of 300 voices under the leadership of Professor Carlo A. Speratti, as well as by the different societies separately, for the Everett cup, which is now held by the Seattle Singing Society. This will no doubt be one of the greatest musical treats during the Lewis and Clark Exposition, and will be appreciated by all lovers of high-class music. Some of the masterpieces of Kjerulf and Grieg will be heard on this occasion.

DOMAIN OF MUSIC.

The members of the Temple Beth Israel choir will have a vacation all this month.

The position of tenor soloist at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church choir has not yet been filled.

As formerly, there will be a mixed quartet and chorus next season in the choir gallery of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Miss Kathleen Lawler, solo soprano of the cathedral choir, is teaching through the Summer months at Gray's River, Wash., and has a large class of vocal pupils.

J. Adrian Epping, the baritone soloist, has gone with his family for a month's outing to Cannon Beach. Mr. Epping expects to have many fish stories to tell on his return.

Miss Edwina Maetick, solo soprano of the First Unitarian Church, is the life of the Portland musical Summer colony at Seaview, Wash. She sings her songs with excellent taste.

Miss Maude Watts, soprano, from Scappoose, was the soloist at a recent concert in the Oregon building, Exposition grounds, and was very successful in her selections. She has a pleasing voice.

The spread of music in elementary education in England is indicated by the fact that a London manufacturer the other day received an order for 102 pianofortes from the Lancashire County Council for use in their schools.

Under the management of Miss Ruth Maxwell, Mrs. Anna Selkirk Norton, the well-known contralto, contemplates starting on a concert tour through portions of California in October. Mrs. Norton is already engaged as soloist at the Channing Club concert, in San Francisco, October 2.

Programme of organ music to be given before the 7:30 o'clock service this evening at the First Presbyterian Church, by Harold V. Milligan, organist of Calvary Presbyterian Church: Finale, "Fourth Sonata" (Guilmant); "Chanson Triste" (Tchaikowsky); "March of the Magi Kings" (Dubois); "Largo" (Handel).

Hans Richter has taken a great interest in a young Englishman, John Harrison, who was working not long ago as a cotton-spinner in Lancashire, and is now an opera singer. On coming to London, Harrison gained success as a baritone. A course of training, however, placed his voice in the proper register and he developed a true tenor of power and sweetness. Richter assigned to him minor parts in the Wagner operas.

Major and Mrs. Davis, of Vancouver Barracks, gave a musicale at their quarters at the barracks last Friday evening, the singers being Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, Mrs. Davis and Dom J. Zan. Songs were sung in English, German and French, and Mrs. Bauer and Mr. Zan sang several duets. Mrs. Bauer was the accompanist. The occasion was a very pleasant success, and those who took part sang well. Many guests were present.

There will be no more rehearsals of W. H. Boyer's Exposition oratorio chorus until August 30. So many singers are out of the city at present and others entertaining Exposition visitors that it was decided to have no more rehearsals at present. The next oratorio recital under Mr. Boyer's direction, Sunday afternoons, at the Exposition, will take place there some time in September, when there will be sung Rossini's "Stabat Mater, a "Te Deum," by Sullivan, and "Beautiful Willamette," by Father Dominic.

Miss Ella Pearl Hungerford, soprano soloist of this city, expects shortly to study with one of the best voice teachers in New York City. Miss Hungerford was born in Detroit, Mich., and began to study music when she was a very little girl. In the year 1898 she made her home in Spokane, but ill-health interfered a good deal with her studies. Five years ago she came to reside in Portland, and for the length of time she has pursued her vocal studies, Miss Hungerford has made remarkable progress. Her voice is a most promising one and she uses it well.

The board of managers of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church has completed its musical arrangements for the year. During the month Mrs. Edward Drake will preside at the organ and Mrs. J. S. Hamilton, the well-known Gospel soloist, will lead the singing. Several special soloists will also render numbers. Miss Lorna Munger, of California, will render "Face to Face" this morning, and Miss Alice S. Lewis will sing this evening. Next Sunday Miss Anna Ditchburn will sing at both services. Beginning with September, the following quartet will conduct the music: Mrs. Susie Gambel Whitehurst, soprano; Mrs. Virginia Spencer Hutchinson, contralto; Walter J. Gill, tenor, and George H. Street, bass. William H. Wilder will be organist and musical director.

"Valley of Willamette" is the title of the latest song, words and music by Francis James McHenry. The song is highly spoken of, and it would not be surprising to learn later that it has proven to be one of the hits of the year. Mr. McHenry is an enthusiastic admirer of the Second Oregon Regiment, and as the story of the song is that of a soldier boy, he has paid the boys a neat compliment in dedicating the song to them. The title page is charmingly illustrated by D. Bradley. The great public favorite, Thomas W. Ray, will sing the song a full week at every performance at the Lyric Theater, commencing tomorrow.

Clarence Eddy, the noted organist, was invited last Wednesday to look over the new organ at Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, and expressed himself as delighted with the quality of tone and pronounced it one of the finest organs in this part of the country. Mr. Eddy has been engaged for two organ recitals at Trinity Church, which will be given August 17 and 18, upon his return from a tour which will take him through the larger cities of Washington. Mr. Eddy will be assisted by Mrs. Grace Morel Dickman, who is the contralto soloist of the Rutgers Presbyterian Church of New York City.

The music at Festival Hall, Exposition grounds, Catholic day, was most excellent and reflected great credit on Rev. Father Dominic, of Mount Angel, who had the programme in charge. Father Dominic conducted the "Gloria" from Gounod's "Messe Solennelle," with full chorus of the combined Catholic Church choirs of the city; also a "Haec Dies" of his own, a most beautiful and masterful composition. Mrs. Walter Reed sang Liddle's "Abide With Me," her full contralto completely filling the large auditorium, and winning her many congratulations for her artistic singing. Rev. Father Placidus, of Mount Angel, proved himself a most accomplished musician by his efficient accompaniments on the organ and the piano.

Dierke's Band, now playing at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, is the most popular, best equipped and most artistic of all the musical organizations Portland has enjoyed for a very long time. That is the universal verdict of crowds attending the Exposition, and the management did a stroke of good business when it selected such a competent bandmaster in the person of Charles Dierke. By what he has done with his band, Mr. Dierke shows that he is one of the great musical conductors of this country. His cultivated work and that of the members of his band is above the ordinary. The rythm is perfection itself, the shading exquisite and the climaxes overwhelming. The band, in addition, presents many novelties not met with at Summer concerts, and students and music-lovers generally are advised not to miss attending the Dierke Band concerts, as the Portland public may not have a similar opportunity for years. The members of the band are different from every-day musicians—they make their living, it is true, by music, but many of them own property in New York and San Francisco, and they play in Dierke's Band because they are musical enthusiasts, many of them are Mr. Dierke's personal friends, and all came out here to see the Pacific Northwest. That is why such admirable musical work is being accomplished. The players are educated musicians and belong to a happy family. Mr. Dierke has spent money liberally to accomplish such satisfactory results.

The following is a translation from the Dresden (Germany) Vachrichten newspaper containing a report of a recent musicale in that city, in which several Portland people took part:

"A musical soiree was given by Leo Charles Sparks and Franz Armbruster, the American artistes, in their apartments, Wednesday afternoon last, and was largely attended by members of our foreign colony. The programme was opened by Fraulein Charlier, of Christiania, who sang Norse folksongs and the 'Elizabeth Aria,' from 'Tannhauser.' Miss Brown, of Portland, Or., gave Hugo Wolff's 'Verborgenheit' with great success, and also pleased her audience with several negro songs, 'Elizabeth's Prayer,' sung by Miss Hortense Kimball, of Salt Lake City, received hearty applause, her work being particularly warm and sympathetic. Miss Cleland, daughter of Judge Cleland, of Portland, sang several songs by Franz. Miss Ure, of New York; Fraulein Pick, of Prague; Miss Franklin, of Portland, and Mr. Gee, of Tangier, followed, and the delightful programme was closed by the American prima donna, Miss Davidson, of Saratoga, N. Y. All of the participants left the most favorable impression and justify the brightest hopes for brilliant futures."

Sir Edward Elgar, the well-known English musical composer who is at present visiting this country, has in an interview spoken of American National airs in a manner that should bring American resentment about his ears. Sir Edward is reported to have said: "The English national anthem is the silliest thing imaginable; the words are stupid and some of the lines won't rhyme, and altogether the man who sings it and thinks of what he is saying can't respect himself. The music is good enough, because it was stolen from the Germans. Your National hymn is even worse than England's. You haven't got any regular, legitimate National song, but you have four which seem to rank about equal in popular estimation. There is 'Yankee Doodle,' which has words that are stark idiocy, while the music would set the teeth of a buzzsaw on edge. Then there is 'Hail Columbia,' which is nearly as bad in every way as 'Yankee Doodle.' The 'Star Spangled Banner' is a song that begins so low and goes up so high that nobody can sing it, which is the only advantage it has. And there is 'America,' with words that run a little smoother than ours, but are every bit as silly. In fact, I dont' know anything more exasperating than the first verse of 'America.' It is enough to turn a cag against milk. I suppose the reason for the badness of national hymns is that they have sort of grown up without any proper attention being given them when they were young."

Eight-year-old Beatrice Evelyn Wilson, of Port Townsend, Wash., is a pianiste of unusual talent who will surely be heard of soon in the big musical world. She was piano soloist at a musicale given by the Illinois Society at the parlors of the Soule Brothers Piano Company, last Wednesday evening. She played without music several classical selections, surmounting with ease more than ordinary difficulties. Her touch is a sure one, and she also displayed profound musical understanding. The little girl is an excellent pianiste now, but what sort of an artiste will she be when she gets older? She had the distinction of being the youngest pianiste who played at the St. Louis Exposition, and was selected from dozens of young pianistes who were thought to be prodigies. Her parents contemplate taking their little daughter to Chicago, where she will receive instruction from Theodore Sturkow, the noted Bluemian pianist. At last Wednesday evening's recital, musical numbers were also contributed by Miss Anderson, of Salt Lake City, and Miss Vida Williams, Miss Nancy Beale and Miss Bingham, of this city.

THE BIRKENHEAD DRILL

High Courage and the Part Religion Plays in It.

Providence (R. I.) Journal.

From some of the comments on the sinking of the Japanese cruiser Takasago, the full story of which has only within the last few days been published, though the catastrophe occurred last December, one might be led to infer that there was never before so admirable a display of courage in the face of inevitable death. It was indeed a heart-touching proof of the heroic possibilities in weak human nature.

On an intensely cold night, with a gale blowing and thick snow falling, the cruiser, off the entrance to Pechili Gulf, struck a mine that blew a six-foot hole in her hull, through which the water rushed with a tremendous force that plainly doomed her. There was no help in sight. The captain, on the forebridge, summoned the crew and quietly addressed them, after ordering each to provide himself with a life preserver. "No one must leave the ship," he said, "until she sinks. We will together share the fate of the vessel." There was no flinching, no whimper. They sang the national anthem and their favorite naval song, gave rousing banzais for their Emperor, smoked a little, and calmly, drawn up in due order, waited minute by minute in silence, while the waves rose higher and the snow fell thicker, until the ship lifted herself with a convulsive shudder and plunged to the bottom. Nearly 400 lives were lost. It was a brave meeting of death.

But of course it was not unprecedented. If we seek other examples of calmness and coolness in the face of sudden peril we need not go back as far as Thermopylae, where the Spartans, happening to be combing thehir long hair when the Persians arrived, took time to finish before they picked up their arms. If we seek other examples of steadiness and orderly compliance with the regular rules of discipline in the face of certain death we need not go back even as far as the case of the Birkenhead, the British troop steamer that was wrecked off the Cape of Good Hope in 1852, when the men on board, after putting the women and children in the boats, formed on deck at the word of command and, in full dress uniform, with colors flying, went down at their posts, 450 of them never to rise to life again.

There are later examples than these. Barely 15 years ago the crew of the American Vandalia faced death in a tropical hurricane in the harbor of Samoa in the same splendid spirit shown by the men of Nippon last December off Pechili Gulf. Of all the ships there gathered only the English Calliope had engines strong enough to work out to sea. As she crawled past the Vandalia, lying shattered on a reef, the Yankee crew of the latter manned the wreck, the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," above the roar of the storm, and brave men about to die saluted brave men toiling to life and safety. There was another example 12 years ago, when the British warship Camperdown, having accidentally and fatally rammed the Victoria during maneuvers in the Mediterranean, the men on the doomed vessel, under Admiral Tryon's orders, kept steadily at work trying to close the water-tight compartments and discharge the other appointed duties of the moment without panic or disorder, till Admiral and all went down together.

And surely there is new reason for holding the Japanese in high esteem now that they have shown that they, too, are ready to stand to the Birkenhead drill when occasion comes. Still, we must not forget that these Orientals are supported in such crises by assurances that the men of the West do not have. With a contempt for life which Christianity has not very strongly impressed on its followers and with an unquestioning belief that to die in the service of one's country or religion gives one sure admission to heaven, the Oriental, except for the physical recoil under an impending stroke, can feel nothing but eagerness and pleasure in waiting such a death as came to the men on the Takasago. On the contrary, perhaps none of those who went down on the Birkenhead, the Vandalia or the Victoria were yet really ready in their hearts to exchange earth for heaven, while many of them must have been in grave doubt whether for them death was to be the door to everlasting bliss or to eternal torment.

No one would wish to belittle the courage shown by the Japanese on shipboard or on the battlefield. But, after all, he is not the bravest man who feels no fear, but he, rather, who, feeling it all the time, yet grits his teeth, overcomes the impulse to cowardice and moves steadily forward to whatever perilous work or fatal duty may be imposed upon him.

The Lobster.

London Chronicle.

In letters from Sir Walter Scott to William Clark, of Eldin, under date of September 10 and 30, 1792, are found allusions to the word "lobster" as a playful sobriquet for the redcoat officers and soldiers of the British army. In this case a boiled lobster is meant, as per evidence of the following couplet, once familiar to the English street boys, and quoted whenever a rifleman in green was seen walking arm in arm with a soldier in red:

"There goes two boiled lobsters claw in claw,
One is boiled and t'other raw."

Monopoly of Mistakes.

Boston Transcript.

Irishmen frequently declare that the best bulls are really made by Englishmen, and an example quoted in the current issue of an English journal devoting itself to just such things may tend to corroborate their contention. They have no desire for a corner in that branch of the livestock market.

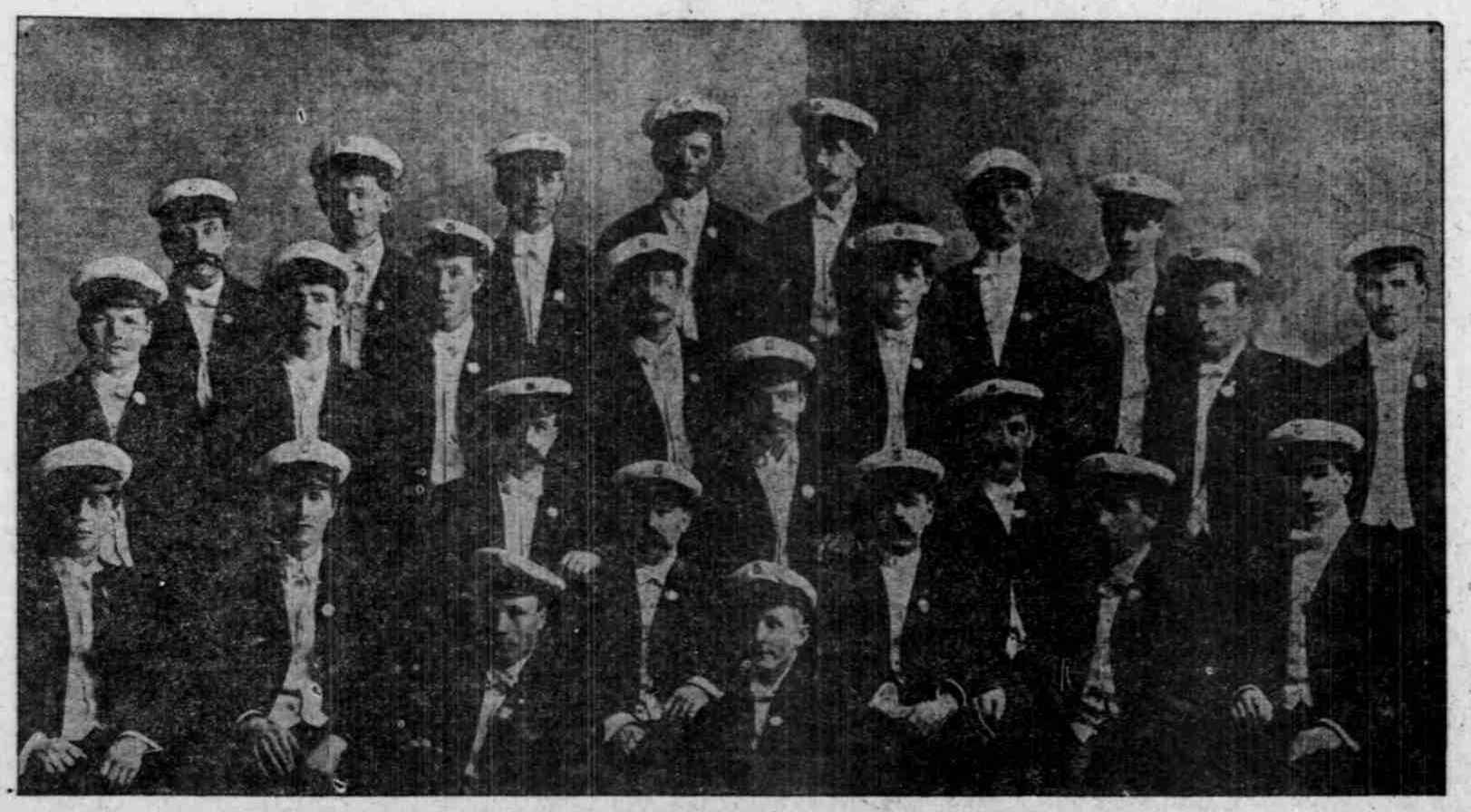
The late John Hollingshead was certainly a typical Englishman, and yet, in his book, "The Story of Leicester Square," he achieved the perhaps unique feat of perpetrating a double bull in a single sentence. On page 16 he wrote: "When Lord Mohun was killed he was living in Macclesfield House, Gerrard street, Soho, at the back of Leicester House, a site now occupied by the defunct 'Pelican Club.'"

It's a good one. And yet one may wonder whether it equals the saying of a British member of Parliament who announced that "Our young men are the backbone of the army, and it is high time they were coming to the front."

But both these fall behind that forcible simile employed by another member of Parliament—this one necessarily an Irishman. He was describing the rapacity of a certain set of plutocrats, and he said in the warmth of his disapproval: "If you were to banish them to an uninhabited island, it would not be an hour before they would have their hands in the pockets of the naked savages."

In Northern New Zealand recently a native woman deserted her husband and ran away with another man. A native court fined the deserted husband horses, cattle and money for "lack of marital authority in not being able to retain his wife."

THE NORWEGIAN SINGING SOCIETY OF PORTLAND



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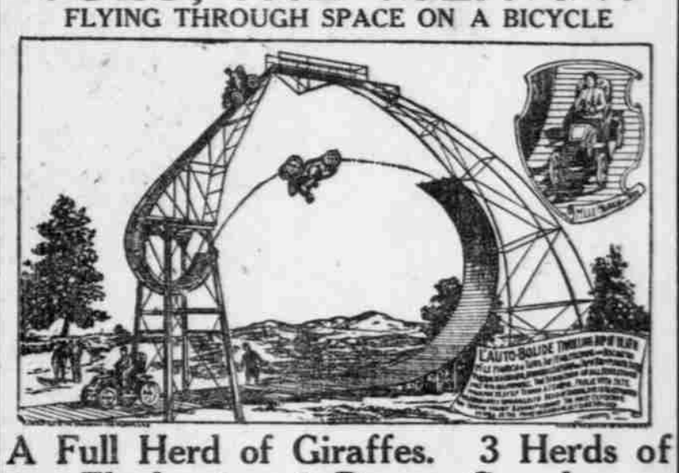

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