

VOL. VII.

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"THE VOCAL STUDENT."

Mme. Melba on the Etymology and Rewards of a Musical Career.
Mme. Melba addresses students of music in an instructive, practical paper in The Ladies' Home Journal. She tells in her article on "The Vocal Student" of the necessity of securing a thoroughly competent teacher, of practice, and the care of the health; emphasizes the importance of being trained musicians as well as vocalists, talks of the monetary value of a musical training and of the monetary rewards of a capable singer. Mme. Melba says: "To a girl properly trained and qualified the profession of a vocal teacher is one of the most remunerative. Good teachers are scarce and in great demand, and so the fees are large as excellent income may be obtained. Next comes the career of the church singer. Every church has its choir, and in the majority of cases the soloists composing it are paid, and often well paid. Engagements as a drawing room singer can be secured in large cities when one has talent and facility, and when the voice is not sufficiently large for its possessor to become a concert singer.
"The fees of the successful concert singer are large; she is constantly in demand; her repertoire is of songs, not of entire roles, and is more easily acquired; her expenses are limited to the cost of a few evening gowns, in the place of scores of costumes. For the opera singer there is plenty of hard work, but for that there is the compensation of being associated in many cases with the famous acts of the world, whom to know is a liberal education."

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Wit of a Scotch Lassie.

This luscious asylum story comes from Glasgow: Two councilors of that city were taken over a large asylum the other day by one of the patients, a safe man. He had led them to a room to display a view from a window, when some one shut the door, with his self setting lock, and the three men were prisoners. The patient alone preserved his composure. While the councilors clamored to be released he remarked:
"If I were you, I would be quiet."
"How coming, the councilors grow desperate. Beads of perspiration stood on their brows, and they fairly yelled.
"If I were you," repeated the patient soothingly, "I would keep quiet."
"But we're no daft," pleaded one of the visitors.
"Hoos, mon, that's what I said maeel when I was brocht in!"—New York Tribune.

Labor and Wealth.

Labor in some form is the means by which the true wealth of a nation is increased, and it ought to be the means used to increase the wealth of any individual. The varieties of labor are so numerous that every healthy man and woman can choose from among them, but to try to obtain money, much or little, without rendering in some way a fair equivalent for it is to live a life of dependence, which is equally disgraceful and under whatever guise it may seek to hide itself.—New York Ledger.

Servant Law.

It will surprise most people to know that there is an English law to punish servants who invite their friends into their masters' houses. It seems the intruder can be charged with being "unpainted person," and the servant who admits them with aiding and abetting them.—L. M. N. Queen.

The first spelling book printed in this country was entitled "The American Spelling Book," by Noah Webster.

It was issued in 1783, and for considerably more than half a century was the standard work used in all American schools.

Musical African Warriors.

Kisawa volunteered to send two men with me to Kasembi; did not suggest any pay; told of two of his young warriors and gave them instructions. They clapped their hands after each sentence to signify their acceptance of his instructions. Two others have come of their own accord. The only baggage of one is two sticks, upon each of which are threaded four dry rows of fruit, which rattle. The youth owning this property has long hair plaited into ropes, which fall to his neck and form a screen to his eyes. He is constantly keeping the rattle going and singing (principally about me) in a most flattering manner, in which performance his friend joins, but the latter confines himself to singing. He has other use for his hands, which carry two baskets full of manioc flour, a banghi pipe and spore rattles. For the first hour they staid at my heels. All the time they kept up the rattling and singing and told me it was what they came for, and that they would thus entertain me until we reached Kasembi, four or five days off. I spoke to them firmly, but kindly; told them their music was excellent, but must be heard at a distance to be properly enjoyed. The distance I pointed out was about ten miles away. My musical friends took the hint good naturedly, but at times they break out into their boisterous entertainment.—Globe in the Heart of Africa" in Century.

His Idea.

"I want to see Mr. Yerkes," he declared as he entered the North Side office of the street railway magnate.
"Mr. Yerkes is very busy just now," answered the clerk.
"Yes, but this is of the greatest importance. I have an idea that in a certain contingency will add thousands of dollars to the revenues from his business."
"Suppose you tell me about it."
"Well, I don't know about that. You might steal the idea and get the credit for it. Then where would I be?"
"There is no danger of that."
"I can't see Mr. Yerkes?"
"Not today."
After a pause:
"You seem to be a pretty honest looking chap. I will tell you about it if you will come over in the corner and promise not to steal the idea.
The conditions having been complied with, the stranger unfolded his scheme.
"You know those tunnels under the river which are used by the cars?"
"Yes; what of them?"
"Well, my idea is exactly this: If a cyclone should strike Chicago, there wouldn't be any other place where the people could go and be safe. If there should be a cyclone, Mr. Yerkes could charge the people admission to go in the tunnel and stay until it was over."
Chicago Times-Herald.

The Christian Attitude of Prayer.

The commonly received Christian attitude of prayer, with bended knees and the palms of the hands brought together, is simply emblematic of abject submission. The hands thus placed cannot be used in defense. They simply say "Don't strike," just as the thrown up hands of the unarmed horseman on the plains say "Don't shoot!" to approaching savages or outlaws. If to the kneeling attitude is added a head thrown forward, with eyes on the ground, the suggestion of abjection is complete. For the Christian to take the classic figure of the "Praying Boy" in the log gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts. He illustrates the pagan attitude. He stands at the utmost height of his young manhood and looks straight up to the sky, his arms are sent straight upward, and his extended palms seem to be taking trustfully the good things that the gods send. There is much that is beautiful—nothing abject or cowed about it. The praying pagan boy seems to represent better the spirit of Christianity than does the kneeling monk with the bony, clasped hands.—Boston Transcript.

Letter after letter, telegram after telegram passed, but no money came.

Money enough to buy that story. So he has written to all his friends and critics and has explained the circumstances and now awaits as cheerfully as possible the weekly slaughter of the red Indians of his youthful brain.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Stubborn Gentleman.

Robert Chambers told me he was once talking with a man of red, rugged genius, who came to a sorrowful end. He said to the genius: "The population of this world is about 1,300,000,000 human beings. The little religious body to which you belong contains perhaps 800,000. Of that number not 800 could give an intelligent account of its creed. Yet you think its creed sets out vital matters. Is it consistent with your belief that God Almighty would permit just 800 of his creatures to know those things and keep all the millions ignorant of them?" The genius considered for a minute's space, then replied, "Yes, I think it quite right that God should do that." Whereupon the good Robert Chambers said very resolutely, "Then I'm tremendously sorry for you." And he never spoke to the genius save on transient incidents any more.—Longman's Magazine.

Reproachful.

"I haven't anything new to sing to you tonight, Georgia."
"Well, give me something old then."
She broke into a refrain that was "a song of the day" 17 years before.
"That's very, very old, Clara," he remarked at the close.
"Yes, Georgia, I sang that to you the night we became engaged."—Boston Globe.

In the fifteenth century the beer gallon measure of England was a fourth larger than the wine gallon, to allow for the froth. The present legal yard was instituted in England in 1760.

The largest egg is that of the ostrich. It weighs 3 pounds and is considered equal in amount to 24 hens' eggs.

A VALEDICTION.

[For music.]
Fast falls the night, but not for thee
"Twill fade like that of yesterday.
When once again along the sea
The limousine glides of morning stray,
Thou wilt have passed to fields untraced,
To meadows of perennial May,
Where never veers the vernal green
Nor float the vernal flowers away.

If e'er I think of thee as gone,
If e'er I dream of thee as sped,
"Twill only be in winter woe,
When leaves lie hewn and flowers have fled.
But when, across the sea has shown
Its welcome to the world of spring
Still by my side thou'lt wander on
As though these seas had taken wing.

Still beneath day's dialling beams
Greet each new flower that May unfurls,
Still mix thy warms with the stream's
And blend thy music with the merle's.
Then, as in vernal drama,
The sun's first rays receding slant,
Beneath, as of old, the wood have tears
The nightingale's awaking chant.

Fast falls the night, but not for thee
"Twill fade like that of yesterday.
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The limousine glides of morning stray,
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AMERICANS AS MUSICIANS.

Mme. Calve Says They Have the Characteristics of the Conquering Race.
Mme. Emma Calvo contributes a paper on the "Conquering Race in Music" to The Ladies' Home Journal, in which she especially addresses students of vocal music. She tells of the training required for the operatic and the concert stage, the imperativeness of character, the value of suggestions, etc., and pays this tribute to Americans: "The Americans have, it seems to me, in the field of music, and especially in the field of vocal music, all of the characteristics of the conquering race. They are possessed naturally of the most exquisite voices, which, when properly cultivated and trained, are almost unrivaled. They have indomitable energy, perseverance and pluck. They stop at nothing and are deterred by no trouble and prevented by no obstacle.
"Poverty, weariness, exertion, hard work—none of these living specters which fright and terrify the average art worker has terrors for them. Their physique and their temperament seem made for art and to surmount discouragement, and the success which they so rapidly achieve, in the field of both operatic and concert singing, is testimony to their natural fitness for accomplishment and to their ability to excel. They seem, in fact, to be most lavishly fitted by nature for the parts they are assuming. To these gifts of voice, energy, pluck and perseverance they frequently add a beauty of face and grace of form and movement which the public recognizes as most important factors in the success of the singer's career. They have, too, the temperament which makes great artists and great actresses, the artistic feeling which has for its standard perfection and which is satisfied with nothing less."