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#### Music Born of Sorrow.

There is no nation naturally musical, according to Henri Bidou, critic and historian. If a nation is musical, he says, it is because it has passed through such tribulation that it has been driven to express its sorrow and anxiety in its airs and compositions. Bach, he declares, is the culminating expression of sufferings induced in Germany by the Thirty Years' war, fifty years before Bach's time.

"People sing 'like cowards,'" he continues, to keep up their spirits in bad moments, and he finds that the real countries of music are nearly all frontier provinces exposed to external vicissitudes.

England he finds exempt to a large extent from the occasions in which poets "learn in suffering what they teach in song" because it is protected from invasion by the girdle of the seas. Music, then, he argues, is not an art of peace; it originates in strife and anxiety, not in tranquillity and concord. The overprosperous countries, he discovers, "not only have no history; they have no music."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

#### By the Author.

Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian poet, who gained the \$40,000 Nobel prize for literature, is a well known figure in London society, and to a London correspondent he said recently:

"In India the little children babble worse at the age of five or six. We are not like you. With you, if a full grown man or woman suddenly manages to write a few rimes the thing is deemed almost a miracle.

"I sat in a magazine office the other morning while the editor opened his mail. He tossed a letter to me.

"That's the sort of thing I'm continually receiving," he said.

"The letter ran:

"Dear Editor—The poem enclosed is original in me, and I had no help in thinking out same. It is a true poem. I wrote it myself, and there is more where it came from if I had any inducement to think same out. You may say 'Original' at the top of same, for every word is by

"THE AUTHOR."

#### When Soldiers Were Flogged.

It would have needed a very alluring form of advertisement indeed to attract men to the English army a hundred years ago. Writing of that period a writer says: "Flogging was almost universal. The maximum number of lashes were gradually reduced from 1,500 to 300, but the notion that discipline could not be maintained without summary punishment continued to be believed, and Wellington himself dealt with flagrant cases by hanging the culprits upon trees in the public roads. One result was that only men belonging to the lowest classes would join the army." In 1771 a sentinel in the guards was flogged in St. James' park so severely that he subsequently died raving mad. His offense consisted of saying that "there was no more encouragement for a good soldier than for a bad one."

#### Too Much Cavity.

One afternoon an esteemed citizen went into a barber shop to have his briars reaped, but no sooner had he taken a seat in one of the chairs than he dropped off into heavy slumber. Apparently the shave artist was having his own troubles in manipulating the customer, and after making several attempts he thoughtfully paused.

"Excuse me, sir," said he, gently shaking the man in the chair, "but would you mind waking up? I can't shave you while you are asleep."

"Can't shave me while I'm asleep," exclaimed the victim, with a wondering expression. "Why not?"

"Because," explained the barber as softly as possible, "when you fall into slumber your mouth opens so wide that I can't find your face."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

#### Easy Time.

The man who learns many languages does not always enlarge his mind. A porter in a Swiss hotel who spoke many languages with equal facility and inaccuracy was once asked what was his native tongue. He replied that he did not know, but that he spoke all languages.

"But in what language do you think?" asked the persistent questioner.

"I neva tink," was the prompt reply. —Youth's Companion.

#### Lacked Tact.

"A fellow told me today," confided Mr. D'ippie, "that I didn't know enough to pound sand. He said that I was the blamest idiot he ever saw. Now, what do you think of that?"

"I think it was dreadfully tactless of him," exclaimed Miss Keene indignantly. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

#### Considerate.

"And would you marry me if I were a poor girl, working for a living?" asked the heiress.

"Darling," responded the accepted suitor, "it wouldn't be fair. You'd be doing enough in supporting yourself." —Philadelphia Ledger.

#### The Forbearing Waiter.

"That waiter didn't thank you when you gave him a quarter."

"I didn't want him to. I was grateful to him for holding the coin up so that every one in the room could see it was only a quarter." —Washington Star.

#### Sure Protection.

Customer (trying on dress suit, jokingly)—I hope I'll never be mistaken for a waiter. Waiter—When in doubt, keep your hands in your pockets! —Judge.

It is well to learn to work intensely. —Charles W. Elliot.

#### Ashes of the Great.

The city republic of Florence gathered her famous dead at Santa Croce, save "the all Etruscan three," Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio. England has made Westminster abbey the burial place of such men as Chaucer, Spenser, Newton, Darwin and Tennyson, besides a baker's dozen of kings. But in America the ashes of the great are scattered far and wide. Washington rests at Mount Vernon, Va.; Lincoln at Springfield, Ill. The tomb of Paul Jones is an inspiration to students in the naval academy at Annapolis. Poe sleeps at Baltimore; Mark Twain in old Trinity churchyard, surrounded by towering skyscrapers which embody his philosophy of life and government. Is not America's way the best? England and Florence make things harder for the tourist, but is he the chief person to consider? Since our heroes come from all the land is it not best that their ashes return to the soil from which they spring, till youth in every neighborhood has some reminder of public service and noble work? —Chicago Journal.

#### The Torment of Cold.

I thank heaven that I know what it is to be cold, to be cold from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot, to be cold from the cuticle in to the heart, and from the heart to the soul. I thank heaven for it, because, knowing this, I have a new revelation of the possibility of suffering, and I am able to find a paradise in a common wood fire.

Knowing this, I declare to you there is not a more pathetic sight in the world than a poor man who is thoroughly cold from week to week. It is the refinement of torture.

It does not gnaw like hunger, which presently becomes a sort of insanity and relieves itself. It is a dead, unbliss, icy torment. I used to see men in the army whose silent endurance of cold brought more tears to my eyes than all the hunger and all the wounds. —Sidney Lanier.

#### A Candidate's Revenge.

French electors occasionally have some home truths thrown at them by candidates who fail to secure enough votes. At one general election M. Albert Normand, a chemist and druggist, who was a candidate for deputy from Montagne, received only six votes and issued an address thanking "the six electors who showed their confidence in me. They are the only solvent citizens in the constituency, and I beg to assure them of my esteem. As for the others, I hereby give them notice that in future all attempts to obtain credit at my establishment will be relentlessly refused. During the last nine years they have robbed me of about 3,000 francs in bad debts, which I have taken no steps to recover. Yet when an opportunity is afforded of showing their appreciation of my leniency I meet with the basest ingratitude."

#### Carlyle and London's Noises.

No one has ever inveighed against the noises of London with such picturesque emphasis as Thomas Carlyle. When Augustus Hare met him for the first time at a dinner given by Lady Marian Alford most of Carlyle's conversation ran upon the sufferings attached to a London residence. "That which the world torments me in most," he moaned, "is the awful confusion of noise. It is the devil's own infernal din all the blessed day long, confounding God's works and his creatures—a truly awful hell-like combination, and worst of all is a railway whistle, like the screech of 10,000 cats and every cat of them as big as a cathedral." Against this diatribe may be set the fact that Carlyle spent the last forty-seven years of his life in London without any compulsion to live there.

#### Helping His Temper.

The sun was blinding, clouds of dust were blowing everywhere, and Jones was most decidedly off his game. It really "put the lid on it" when, just as he was struggling to play his ball out of a quarry, a benevolent old lady passed by with a companion. She halted in evident surprise and pointed with her umbrella at the earnest golfer. "Dear me, my love," she remarked in audible tones, "what a very respectably dressed man that is breaking stones!" —Argonaut.

#### He Admired Her Judgment.

She—Oh, Fred, dear, you are so noble, so generous, so handsome, so chivalrous, so much the superior of every man I meet, I can't help loving you. Now, what can you see in plain little me to admire? He—Oh, I don't know, dear, but you certainly have very good judgment. —London Tit-Bits.

#### She Knew.

The teacher had given the class a talk on household pests.

"What, now, is the greatest foe the housewife has?" he asked.

Up went one little hand.

"All right, Mary, what is it?"

"A husband," came the quick reply. —Philadelphia Ledger.

#### Away From Home.

"He is one of those near vegetarians."

"What is a near vegetarian?"

"He never eats meat except when he is invited out." —Pittsburgh Press.

#### Force of Habit.

"Why did she want to set her husband's will aside?"

"Merely because it was her husband's and she had got in the habit of setting it aside." —Houston Post.

We must not take the faults of our youth into our old age, for old age brings with it its own defects. —Guthrie.

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