

# THE ANTIDOTE

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## OUR PRIZE LIST

TO any one obtaining for us One Thousand new annual subscribers before 1st January, 1893, we will send one first-class Upright Seven Octave Piano-forte; for Five Hundred subscribers we will give one first-class ticket to Europe and return; for Two Hundred and Fifty subscribers, one first-class Sewing Machine; for One Hundred subscribers, a Gold Watch; or Fifty subscribers, a New Webster's Dictionary, Unabridged; and for Twenty-five a Silver Watch.

## MOTHS AND FLIES.

Human beings have been sometimes contemptuously compared to both worms and insects, and certainly we have known them to resemble the latter as they flutter round the dangerous candle, or buzz over the sticky paper laid to ensnare them. Seeing their fellows scorch their wings, or lying helpless on the trap, does not teach them any lesson, so that our friend Mrs. Micawber's observation that "experience does it," hardly holds good for experience, very generally does not do it, unless we except that which comes too late to be of service to the foolish victim. There are not many of us, who learn really from the misfortunes of our neighbors, and we believe, there was a large amount of truth "spoken in jest," when the late Charles Mathews in a humorous speech proposing his own health, stated, that having known the subject of the toast from his earliest infancy, he could affirm that he had always taken his own advice in preference to anybody else's. A merchant fails in business, or a farmer plants the wrong crops and suffers in consequence, but do any of the other merchants or farmers take warning? It seems to us, that broadly speaking, we have to answer in the negative, since failures arising from precisely identical causes recur year by year, and we

are forced to conclude that the singeing of another's wings or perceiving one of our fellows lying helpless, has very little more effect, than with the insects whose self-same folly we so heartily despise. The fact is that whether in legitimate business, or at the gambling table or betting ring, we are apt to wrap ourselves up in our own conceit, and refusing, in our wisdom, to profit by what we see around us, become even as the moths and flies.

To what does all this tend, some of our readers may ask? Only to suggest a little humility dear friends, and when we see a brother or sister whose wings of reputation have been seared, and he or she struggling in pain, let us not be too eager to fling a stone, since our houses are not very opaque, and it may be our turn next. Perhaps we may be accused of "persiflage" in thus dealing with human frailties, but it is the sinner not the sin for whom we crave mercy, and though we occasionally use the lash, we apply the scourge in a purely impersonal manner, feeling that we too belong to the category of moths and flies.

## MUSIC.

Those of our readers interested in music will be pleased to know of "The Etude," a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of music teachers, pupils and musical amateurs. From the fact that music is such an ever present factor in our every day life, all musical people will wish to keep up with the times and learn of the new inventions, theoretical ideas, and new ways of teaching, and to be informed of the doings of artists in the musical world. To also learn what is best and most desirable in new music. It may be truly said that all of this is a necessity to one who would keep up a musical reputation among his friends and acquaintances.

This magazine gives sixteen pages of each issue to the choicest piano music; many pieces having lessons by the most celebrated musicians, thus giving the player the best and most recent teaching ideas, the finest effects in expression, touch and of a finished rendition. As there are from three to five pieces

in each number of as many different grades of difficulty, every player can find music to suit his tastes and abilities.

The twelve pages of musical articles found in each number are helpful, practical and inspiring, especially to those ambitious pupils and teachers who are remote from the great musical centers, for they are written by the best musical authorities and writers of the whole world, there being more than a hundred contributors to the regular staff of the magazine. Send ten cents to the publisher, Theo. Presser, 1704 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa., for a sample copy. Subscription price, \$1.50 a year.

## Sympathetic Tones.

To the Editor of the "Antidote."

Dear Sir:—Let me thank you for the very liberal consideration given to my remarks on "Sympathetic Tones," published in your issue of last week.

I think you have misunderstood me on one point. When I referred to the notes A, D and G, in the first position, I meant A, D and G, stopped with the third finger in the first position. These notes are respectively an octave higher than the open strings A, D and G, in which they cause vibrations.

T.

N. B.—This was unavoidably crowded out of our last issue.—Ed.

## Origin of the Word "Whig."

Dear Mr. "Antidote."

As a discussion is going on in literary circles as to the word "Whig," I beg to send you the following:—

The earliest use of the word "Whig" in our literature is, I fancy, found in Greene's "Mourning garment," published in 1590.

"A bottle full of country whig,  
By the shepherd's side did lig."

"Lig" is a common old country word meaning lay and lie. Macbeth exclaims to the messenger who reported the advent of an armed force, "What soldiers, whey-faced?" Now note that "whig" and "whey" are practically the same word, and that a whey-faced, that is, a pale faced person, is several times used by Shakespeare to indicate a coward, and we get this clear inference that the epithet "Whig" was used as a term of reproach, implying cowardice. I heard it used in this sense during the Chartist agitations, when politicians of that school were constantly abused for lack of courage, and half-heartedness as reformers.

John Hague.

Montreal, July 17, 1892.