

sung that is out of place; and choirs exist which are more remarkable for pyrotechnical displays of voice than for rendering religious chant. Such choirs cost enough to give good music. Sometimes that portion of the pews which clamors for them does not pay enough to support them. Yet they have been supported sometimes from human respect to the detriment of more important interests. Churches that have no parochial schools have often high-priced choirs that from one end of the year to the other are inflicting on the ears of the people parodies of Church music and spreading a false taste for them among the people. This false taste was becoming prevalent in this country. With the increase of numbers and of wealth our churches were becoming infected with it. We can say with Horace:

*« Postquam cepit agros extendere victor et urbem  
Latior amplecti murus, vinoque diurno  
Placari Genius festis impune diebus ;  
Accessit numerisque modisque licentia major. »*

ARS. POETICA, v. 208, CH. SEP.

The Cecilia Society was organized in time to correct this evil tendency. The decay of simplicity began with the increase of wealth and of power. Against similar abuses which have crept into the Church choirs and into