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Mendelssohn And His Conquest of Hearts.

(John o'London Weekly.)

"He was always failing in love," Stratton, one of Mendelssohn's biographers, tells us; "but no breath of scandal bedimmed the shining brightness of his character."

And few men have been better equipped for the conquest of hearts. Handsome and courtly, bubbling over with the joy of life, full to the last of boyish, generous impulses, he was, as his adoring sister Fanny says, "the darling in every house, the centre of every circle." And to this equipment of charm he added a rare versatility of accomplishments. He was a clever artist, an adept at chess and billiards, at riding and swimming, and athletics in general—an "Admirable Crichton," in fact, of gifts and graces; while in his own particular art he was so gifted and precocious that at seventeen he wrote his Overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—"a wonderful fabric of harmony and instrumentation."

From Flower to Flower.

It is thus small wonder that we find him plunged in one love affair after another, even before he had emerged from his teens. Now it is Josephine Lang, a pretty schoolgirl of fifteen, who enslaves him while he is teaching her double-counterpoint; now he loses head and heart no less completely to Delphine von Schaaroth, and dedicates one of his earliest compositions to her.

When, in 1831, at the age of twenty-two, he travels to Italy, he takes his recaptured heart with him and promptly loses it to an English girl, "a bundle of mischief and witcheries" whom he first sets eyes on at a dance at Tortona. Thus, like Beethoven, he flits light-heartedly from flower to flower, coquetting with each, just long enough to extract its sweetness, then fluttering to another—with the gay, irresponsibility of youth.

Bewitching Blue Eyes.

Mendelssohn, in fact, was a "spoiled child of Fortune," born to the easy conquest of hearts, petted and idolized from the cradle to the grave, and carefully sipping every cup of pleasure that was held to his lips. "He was never tried," says Sir George Grove, "by poverty or ill-health, or a morbid temper, or neglect, or the peridy of friends, or any of the other great ills which crowded so thickly round Beethoven, Schubert or Schumann. Who can wish that he had been? that that bright, pure, aspiring spirit should have been dulled by distress or torn by agony?"

But he was not fated to carry an uncaptured heart through so many assaults on it; and his hour of danger came, in 1836, when, at twenty-seven, he was already famous throughout Europe as a brilliant composer and conductor. During a visit to Frankfurt he made the acquaintance of the widow of a French clergyman, still young and beautiful enough to win his homage and affection. But it was not from the widow that his real danger came; it was from her second daughter Cecile, whose beauty and charm soon made a complete and final conquest of him.

And, indeed, one cannot wonder when one reads Elise Polko's description of Cecile:—"To the present hour she has always remained my beautiful ideal of womanly fascination and loveliness. Her figure was slight, of middle height and rather drooping, like a flower heavy with dew; her luxuriant brown hair fell in rich curls on her shoulders; her complexion was of transparent delicacy; her smile, charming; and she had the most bewitching deep blue eyes I ever beheld, with dark eyelashes and eyebrows."

"My Head is Quite Gladly."

At last the conqueror of half-a-hundred hearts was himself laid low—not a little to his amazement. In fact, he was so bewildered by his sensations that he went away for a month to Scheveningen, to make sure that he was really in love at last—only to return to Cecile more helplessly infatuated than ever. On the 9th September, 1836, he put his faith to the test and was accepted, whereupon he sat down and wrote to his mother—"My head is quite giddy from the events of to-day; it is already late at night, and I have nothing else to say; but I must write to you, I feel so rich and happy." Six months later Felix and Cecile were made one at the altar of a Frankfort church, the prelude to ten too brief years of ideal union.

It is impossible to imagine anything more charming than the glimpses we get of their wedded life—the simple, almost childish delights of the honeymoon, as recorded in their journal, "in which they both sketched and wrote humorous nothings"; the idyllic life in their "private paradise"—"eating and sleeping," as he tells us, "without dress-clothes, without visiting-cards, without carriage and horses, but with donkeys, with wild flowers, with music-paper and sketch-book, with Cecile and the children."

A Perfect Union.

"We have early strawberries for

breakfast," he wrote in 1844; "at two we dine, have supper at half-past eight, and by ten we are all asleep. The country is covered with pear and apple trees; then the blue hills, and the windings of the Maine and Rhine bound them one to another."

"I have still a wish to form," Mendelssohn wrote to a friend about to marry, in 1841; "it is that you may be like me, who feel every day of my life that I cannot be sufficiently thankful to God for my happiness."

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Peeps Into Palaces.

The other day, an eager public was informed the ex-Kaiser had discovered his true vocation as a tailor's cutter, and the fierce light that beats upon a throne has just illumined a matrimonial adventure of His Majesty of Greece. Popular taste in literature is fickle, but a volume purporting to disclose the personal history of monarchs is always assured of readers.

One is mildly interested to learn that Julius Caesar loved to oil his hair; later, he became bald, and the man of to-day whose locks are scanty perceives that a considerate Roman Senate allowed the conqueror of Gaul to wear a laurel wreath to cover the deficiency. Napoleon had a weakness for dress, simple but tasteful, and we are informed that his familiar grey coat was of excellent cut and texture. Out of the £800 a year he set apart on his wardrobe, a generous proportion was spent on white breeches, one spot on which meant rejection.

In direct contrast to the many uniforms possessed by the ex-Kaiser, Frederick the Great had one for state occasions, and it lasted him all his life. Ordinarily he was shabby, and had a curious habit of carrying snuff loose in his waistcoat pockets.

Royal gluttons are by no means uncommon. William of Orange was an excellent trencherman, and would sit five or six hours at table. Napoleon paralyzed his faculties by failing to digest a shoulder of mutton stuffed with onions, and, in consequence, lost the battle of Leipzig. Frederick ate enormously, and, in keeping with his snuff-taking, was passionately fond of pepper. Every dish came to the royal table as hot as possible, a circumstance which led a guest to remark that a certain pie looked and tasted "as if it had been baked in hell."

An orgy of ripe peaches and new ale proved fatal to King John, of Magna Charta fame, and the invincible Armada was dispatched by a Spanish monarch whose digestion had been ruined by over-indulgence in pastry.

Lord Robert's antipathy to cats is well remembered, but, centuries before, Henry III, of France had a similar dislike, and could not remain in a room with the domestic tabby. The sight of an apple made Ladislaus, King of Poland, tremble violently, while Ivan II, Czar of Moscow, must perforce have led the life of a recluse, for he fainted regularly at the appearance of a woman.—Tit Bits.

Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart is spending several weeks at Eaton's Ranch in Wyoming, where she is plunging deeply into the vacation pleasures of riding, hunting and fishing. The famous writer is now the proud grandmother of a girl baby, Mary Rinehart, Jr., whose grandfather




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Important Announcement.

I have much pleasure in announcing that on and after Monday next, September the 6th, Mr. P. J. McCarthy, the well known vocalist, pianist and musician, will be at my shop every morning from 11 to 1.30, and every afternoon from 3 to 6, to try over new and standard music for intending purchasers.

As I import practically all the music that is published in the musical centres of the United States, the stock will contain all the most up-to-date publications in fox-trots, one-steps, waltzes, jazz music and popular songs. Added to this I will keep a full line of standard vocal and instrumental music, also the celebrated Century and McKinley editions, with teaching pieces a specialty.

Teachers and pupils will no longer have any trouble in selecting, as Mr. McCarthy will be there to recommend, illustrate and help them. Our outport customers will appreciate this service, as orders will be carefully selected and promptly attended to.

Charles Hutton

RELIABLE MUSIC HOUSE.

berts Rinehart, Jr., whose grandfather on its mother's side is George H. Doran, the publisher.

Prince Carol of Rumania, who gave up his claims to right of succession to the throne in order to marry a poor girl, and who is now visiting in this

country, is a famous walker. He has a mechanical device attached to one of his heels to register the distance he walks during his outings. He also is fond of aviation and sightseeing from an airplane is part of his programme while visiting here.

A soldier presented himself at the Commonwealth Treasury in Melbourne and said: "I am a 20 pound note and want to be cashed." He stated that he had swallowed the note at Fleurbaix when he expected to be captured. He remembered the number, and the note in question turned out to be the only one missing from a particular issue which had been called. The man was given a new note.

Dr. Murdock, mayor of Rainy River, Ont., who, a few days ago, was fined \$2,000 and ten days in jail for violation of the Temperance Act, has again been fined \$2,000 on a similar charge.

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