

his life. We are told that after supper he used to sing motets and hymns with his children and friends. In a work bearing the curious title, *The Prostration and Restoration of Dr. Luther by Music*, we read, "It was the custom of Luther, when the evening meal was done, to bring from his study his 'Partes,' and, with those who were inclined, to hold a *Musicam*. He especially delighted in compositions of the old masters with responses. A Gregorian melody or a chorale was also greatly appreciated by him. If he found an inaccurate or faulty part he corrected it on the spot." This power of detecting and correcting errors in part-writing appears to have been one of Luther's strongest musical accomplishments. It is authentically stated by the author from whom we have just quoted that not only was he able to point out faulty passages, but that "where it seemed impossible to rectify mistakes owing to complications, through incorrect copying, he re-wrote the particular bar, according to his own intelligence." As a composer we shall have to speak of Luther when we come to deal with his hymns; in the meantime it need only be said that in the inventing and setting of musical phrases to words he showed unquestionably high attainments.

To his theoretical knowledge of music, and his skill in the handling of his favourite musical instruments, Luther added an intense and passionate love of the art itself. What were his opinions on this head we know tolerably well from his celebrated Table-talk. Except theology, there is no art which can be placed in comparison with music, he says on one occasion; on another, "As for them who despise music, the dreamers and mystics, I despise them." Again, "Singing is the best exercise there is; we have nothing else at all comparable with it. I am glad that God has denied to those obstinate rebels of peasants a gift so valuable, so full of consolation; they do not care for music, and they reject the Word of God." Music he considered an absolutely indispensable branch of education. In a treatise dedicated to "all lovers of the art," he says, "I have loved music at all times. Whoever has mastered this art will be capable of anything else. Music is