

brava (with their corresponding plurals) were always uttered in a tone of gentle encouragement. He was supposed to be a thorough musician, but not pedantic enough to intrude his scientific knowledge in general society.

Upon this easily-earned reputation, he had contrived to exist very comfortably for some time, and might have existed much longer, had he not, in an unguarded moment, been tempted to a display which, alas! proved fatal.

We had met to celebrate a birth-day, and, after a cheerful dinner-party, had adjourned to the drawing-room for a musical evening. My friend Clayton had taken a little wine, and, becoming somewhat excited, commenced an animated conversation upon the beauties of Haydn's "Creation." As he dwelt particularly upon one astounding effect in the chorus of "The heavens are telling," we ventured to inquire in what portion it was to be found, when he fearlessly declared that it was in the part where it "*went down amongst the flats.*" Having thus broken the ice, he gained confidence, and, in the course of the conversation, declared that he preferred diatonic keys to chromatic ones, because they were sharper. He then rushed headlong into a confused mass of formidable terms; and when a vocal duet was kindly volunteered by two of the guests, he particularly requested that the whole of the company would "*join in the bass.*"

He often shook his head and looked wise afterwards, but that one evening had sealed his fate forever. He has now, I am informed, glided almost imperceptibly into an unpretending amateur, and he has lately taken lessons on the *Cornet-a-pistons*.

The second case was that of a gentleman who, upon one solitary piece of information, had obtained a very tolerable character for knowledge of music in general. The first time I met him was at a small party, where a number of professors were present. In the course of the evening the conversation happened to turn upon the melodies of the back-woods of North America, when this gentleman, who had hitherto sat perfectly silent, rose from his chair, bustled up to the group, and, addressing himself to the person who had just spoken said, "I beg your pardon, sir, but are you aware of any great peculiarity about those 'nigger melodies?'"

"Why, sir," exclaimed the professor, "there is something exceedingly odd, and I may say, extremely characteristic, about them; but——"

"No doubt," interrupted he, "no doubt; but *can* you tell me the great peculiarity of them?"

"Why, really," returned the other, "at this moment I cannot call to mind any very decided and marked character by which to distinguish them."

"Very good," said the gentleman, looking round at the company, and rubbing his hands with an air of satisfaction, "very good, indeed, I can. The peculiarity of them is, sir, that they almost invariably *modulate into the subdominant.*"

Everybody was astonished. Such learning to come from a man who had regularly attended his counting-house from ten to five! He must have smuggled theoretical words into his office, and studied hard in the intervals of money-making. From that moment he became an authority. But his reign was brief. One evening, when he had delivered himself of his favorite fact (for which purpose he had dexteriously turned the conversation towards the back-woods of America), it unfortunately happened that a lady inquired what he meant

by "the subdominant." He evaded the question as long as he could, but the lady was inflexible, and he was at length compelled to acknowledge that he *couldn't exactly tell.*"

The truth was now apparent to all, and his downfall was sudden and complete. He was now greatly lowered from the pedestal on which he stood, but came down with a crash; a terrible warning to those ambitious individuals who risk exposure for the sake of a temporary notoriety.

It will be useless to multiply these examples; everybody acknowledges the evil; and it is a well-known truth that many discreet persons, who now pass for musical judges, are continually made to tremble for their own credit, by the mistakes of their incautious brethren, which have too evident a tendency to expose the shallowness of their common pretensions. To insure safety to all, therefore, I would advise that a code of rules should be drawn up, to which every one who practises the art of appearing musical should be required to subscribe. It might be even advantageous to adopt something like a masonic sign for the purpose of recognition. By these means a person would not only studiously avoid committing *himself*, but would charitably assist and support his brother in the hour of need, and a mutual understanding might thus be established throughout society.

These observations, are, of course, only thrown out as hints; and it is possible that not one of them may be deemed worthy of adoption. Of this, however, I am certain, that if something be not done, the time will soon arrive when the art I speak of will fall into contempt, and musical critics will be compelled to study music in their own defence.—*A. C. Lunn.*

EXCHANGES.

Thanks, *Rouge et Noir*, for the kind things you have said about us, and for the "right hearty welcome" which, in your December number, you have been so good as to extend to us. On our part, let us say, that the reading of your last and previous numbers has afforded us much pleasure. May those grievances, real or fancied, which militate against your "ever being happy again," be speedily removed; may you long continue to prosper as a college paper, and at length when the days of your existence shall have been numbered, may you rest with the sweet reflection that you have conscientiously acted up to the motto which you have adopted, "*Fortiter, Fideliter, Forsan, Feliciter.*"

Dear Musical Review, New York,—When we started our little journal with much hesitating and trembling, we ventured to address several of our first numbers to various papers, and wrote upon some "for review," upon others "exchange," for the latter choosing, generally, journals of a calibre about equal to our own. At the time we addressed our paper to you, we had seen only a fugitive copy, and had not noticed that you were a weekly journal. Our attention was first called to the fact by the arrival, a week after the first, of a second number, since which it has arrived regularly. This act of generosity has impressed us very much, and it is for the same that we wish to thank you. May the New Year bring you happiness and a large increase in your subscription list, a reward which your able and interesting pages well deserve.