

From the Musical Review.

MUSICAL ANECDOTES.

MRS. HEMANS'S PRAISE OF MUSIC.—“Mrs. Hemans spoke with enthusiasm of the many admirable descriptions of its effects to be found in the works of our great writers, themselves not remarkable for any extraordinary attachment to the art; in particular, of one passage in Valerius, which I had long treasured—that which describes the Roman soldiers, at the door of the prison where the Christian captives are confined, listening to their evening hymn, and speaking of the music ‘which they had heard played many a night, with hautboy and clarion, and dulcimer, upon the high walls of Jerusalem, while the whole city was beleagured.’ She repeated the rest of that fine passage: ‘I never heard any music like the music of the Jews. Why, when they came down to join the battle, their trumpets sounded so gloriously, that we wondered how it was possible for them ever to be driven back. And then, when their gates were closed, and they sent out to beg their dead, they would play such solemn, awful notes of lamentation, that the plunderers stood still to listen, and their warriors were delivered to them, with their mail, as they had fallen.’ There is no free-masonry so intimate and immediate, I believe, as that which exists among the lovers of music; and though when we parted I could not tell the colour of her eyes and hair, I felt that a confidence and a good understanding had arisen between us, which the discussion of no subject less fascinating could have excited.—*Chorley's Life of Mrs. Hemans.*”

THE CHOICE OF MUSIC.—In regard to the choice of proper music for a lady to sing, it need only be observed, how many most delightful airs are to be found in the compositions of the old masters, of so simple and exquisite construction, as to excite every degree of pleasure and delight the mind is capable of receiving. If we examine the music of the last century, or even farther back, we shall have good reason to believe that the ladies were better musicians than ours of the present, notwithstanding our boasted improvements and refined taste. It was then deemed a necessary part of education to be able to sing their part at sight, and from the beautiful simplicity of their compositions, I have no doubt but the effect was equal to what could be wished for, and that their manners also were as unaffected as the style of their music. Let our daughters then be taught music so as to understand what they perform, and perform no more than what falls within the compass of their execution.

NATIVE MUSIC.—The serenading campaign at Louisville, Kentucky, has opened with great spirit. The favourite air of the young innamorati who “fly by night,” sighing beneath the casements of their lady-loves, is worthy Anacreon or Tom Moore. We publish it for the benefit of our own serenading amateurs.

“Who dat live in dat brick house yonder,
Jang malang go lay!
Past twelve o'clock, and a starlight morning,
Jang malang go lay!”

Oh! I wish I was a jay bird sittin' on a bench tree,
Jang malang go lay!
I could den see de girl dat I love,
Jang malang go lay!”

“That strain again! It had a dying fall.”

MODESTY OF JOHN SEBASTIAN BACH.—John Sebastian Bach united with his distinguished talents and science as singular and praiseworthy a modesty. Being one day asked how he had contrived to make himself so great an organist, he answered, “I was industrious; whoever is equally sedulous, will be equally successful.” And one of his pupils complaining that the exercise he had set him was too difficult, he smiled and said, “Only practise it diligently, and you will play it extremely well: you have five as good fingers on each hand as I have; and nature has given me no endowments that she has not as freely bestowed upon you. Judging by myself, application is every thing.”

BETHOVEN'S SINFONIA EROICA.—It is not generally known that Bethoven intended to have dedicated his “Sinfonia Eroica” to Bonaparte, entitling it the “Sinfonia Napoleon.” When the news, however, arrived, that the first consul was about to assume the title of emperor, the bluff musician exclaimed:—“Oh! he is making an emperor of himself, is he? then he is no better than the rest of them. He shall not have my sympathy!” Shocking old radical! No wonder he died poor.

A MUSICAL DOG.—An amateur flute-player had a terrier dog, that would sit listening to his master's performance for an hour together; but if he played “Drops of Brandy” rather rapidly, the animal would jump upon his knees, and push the flute from his mouth! The temperance society ought to have presented this sober dog with a silver collar.

TALEBEARING.—Keener than the assassin's dagger, deleterious as the poisoned bowl, are the baneful effects of an uncurbed disposition for talebearing. The noble few who conscientiously avoid “talebearing, backbiting, and spreading evil reports” merit and obtain the approbation of the wise and good; and happy would it be for the community at large, if the number of these could be augmented. The ladies have it greatly in their power to

discourage or abet this propensity to detraction, either in their own or our sex; and as the helpless female is often a sufferer by the indulgence of this unprincipled conduct, it becomes an imperious duty in them to make common cause and with one accord discourage it. Never let the soft lip of beauteous woman uncloset to utter a tale of injurious tendency, or her affectionate bosom be the depository for the dark whisperings of evil report. Let her spurn with high-souled dignity the miscreant who would pollute her ear with the failings or follies of another, and thus do *her part* towards banishing from society this pest of social life.

From the Sheffield Iris.

THE QUEEN'S CLEMENCY.

We have been favoured by a correspondent with the following interesting anecdote, which we believe to be strictly authentic:—

During the first days after Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, some sentences of Courts Martial were presented for her signature. One was of *death for desertion*—a soldier to be shot. The young Sovereign read it—paused—look up at the official person who had laid it before her. “Have you *nothing* to say in behalf of this man?” “Nothing,—he has deserted three times.” “Think again, my lord,” was her reply—a reply deserving gratitude and love from all posterity. “And,” said the gallant veteran, as he related the circumstance to his friends, “I, seeing her Majesty so earnest about it, said, ‘He is certainly a very bad soldier; but there was somebody spoke as to his character, and he may be a good *man*, for aught I know to the contrary.’” “O, thank you for that, a thousand times,” exclaimed the Queen; and, hastily writing “Pardoned,” in large letters, on the fatal paper, she put it across the table, with a hand trembling with eagerness and beautiful emotion.

Englishmen, bear in mind the command of your youthful Queen, and “*think again*,” before you sanction the avenging penalty of death. “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves; vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.”

The annexed lines were written soon after hearing, on what was considered indubitable authority, this account of one of Queen Victoria's first acts of sovereignty:—

THE WHITE ROSE OF ENGLAND.

O, plant the White Rose o'er my grave!
My sire, were of the White-Rose stem,
When, on the wild war breeze to wave,
The wrath of man gave Nature's gem.
The garlands of her blushing foe
Ere long entwined around that tree;
But still I love the rose of snow,
And claim it for my ancestry.

For it was worn by him who gave
The guantlet of the rightful heir,
When the last Marmion's broken glaive
Called Dymoke's sword to flash in air.
Champion of England! on thy helm
Long tossed the white rose, fair and free;
That stainless flower! though blood o'erwhelm.
The battle-plain, no spot on thee
To tell the madness of mankind,
That tore thee from thy thorny guard;
Like Peace from War—O, safely bind
The prize achieved in struggle hard!

The White Rose blooms on England's throne:
Sweet bud of beauty, flourish there!
Mercy and Peace be all thine own,
In maiden grace so young and fair!
No Salique Law will England know,
She glories in a female reign;
Long in her sea-girt empire glow
That guarded flower without a stain!

Sweet Lady, in whose cheeks' soft blush
The white rose and the red now blend,
Think of the tides of blood that gush,
Their voice of power when Sovereign lend
To urge along the frantic joy
That nations take the murderous strife,
And still, as now, that hand employ
In granting, not in taking life!

NEWSPAPER WRITERS.—One of the earliest reporters of parliamentary speeches was Dr. Johnson, who made all think and speak in his own pompous and measured phraseology, and who made all, like the objects seen through a tinted glass, if not exactly alike in outline and dimensions, of the same colour and presentment. To him succeeded the elder Woodfall—a name which still has its worthy representatives in our literature. Among the reporters of the present century we may enumerate Sir John Campbell, Mr. Sergeant Spankie, Sir James Mackintosh, Sergeant Talfourd, Mr. C. Dickens, (“Boz,”) and other not unhonoured names; while nearly every name of literary eminence for the last fifty years has here, as well as in France, “dabbled” in newspaper writing.

THE FEMALE CIRCLE.

From an excellent work entitled “Fireside Education.”

CORPOREAL PUNISHMENT.

As connected with this question of motives, there have been also much doubt and discussion in regard to punishments. Corporal punishments have been altogether discarded by many as degrading to human nature, and injurious to the subjects of such discipline. But I am disposed to think that He who recommends to parents not to spare the rod, understood this subject better than these modern reformers. It may be that Vicessimus Knox, that prince of pedagogues, who laid an average of fifty lashes a day upon the backs of his scholars for some forty years, and Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was a great friend to flogging, and some others, have quoted Solomon in behalf of a severe system of youthful discipline. If so, it is not the first time that Holy Writ has been wrested from its true meaning, and made the instrument by which men have vindicated their own misdoings. But the truth here, as in many other cases, lies between the extremes. Corporal punishment is seldom necessary; but almost every parent, who has dealt faithfully with his children, has found some occasion when the injunction, “spare not the rod,” came with the emphasis of inspiration to his breast. It may be that the actual necessity for this form of punishment never occurs in respect to some children; but almost every child, before he is thoroughly trained in obedience, has at least one sharp struggle with his parent, in which some decisive and humiliating mark of disapprobation is demanded.

HOME EDUCATION.

There are two mistakes current in society, both of which have been incidentally touched upon, but which deserve to be placed more directly before the reader. The first is, that the whole duty of a parent, so far as respects education, is discharged by sending children regularly to school; the second, that although parents must attend to the physical and moral culture of their offspring, that their minds, at least, may be left wholly to the schoolmaster. The reader may feel that the former of these propositions has been sufficiently noticed, and I therefore remark only that school instruction never can supersede the necessity of vigilant parental teaching at the fireside. If a comparison were to be made between the two, I should not hesitate to attribute greater importance to home education than to school education; for it is beneath the parental roof, where the heart is young and melted by the warmth of fireside affection, that the deepest impressions are made; it is at home, beneath parental influence and example, that the foundations of physical, moral and mental habits are laid; it is at home where abiding tastes are engendered; it is at home where lasting opinions are formed.

CORRECTING CHILDREN IN ANGER.

There is another common error, which may need to be noticed—that of correcting a child hastily, and harshly, and then, feeling that injustice has been done, to compensate him by some soothing sugarplum or kinated apology. It is not easy to conceive of anything more likely to degrade the parent in the eyes of his offspring than such inconsiderate folly; nothing more sure to destroy his influence over the mind, to harden the young heart in rebellion, and make it grow bold in sin. In proportion as the parent sinks in his esteem, self-conceit grows up in the mind of the undutiful child. Young people as well as old, pay great respect to consistency, and on the contrary, despise those whose conduct is marked with caprice. The sacred relation of parent is no protection against this contempt. Those, therefore, who would preserve their influence over their children, who would keep hold of the reins that they may guide them in periods of danger, and save them from probable ruin, must take care not to exhibit themselves as governed by passion or whim, rather than fixed principles of justice and duty.

PARENTAL PARTIALITY.

There is another fatal danger in family government, from which I would warn every parent, and that is partiality. It is too often the case that fathers and mothers have the favourite child. From this two evils result. In the first place, the pet usually becomes a spoiled child; and the “flower of the family” seldom yields any other than bitter fruit. In the second place, the neglected part of the household feel envy towards the parent that makes the odious distinction. Disunion is thus sown in what ought to be the Eden of life, a sense of wrong is planted by the parent's hand in the hearts of a part of his family, an example of injustice is written on the soul of the offspring by him who should instil into it, by every word and deed, the holy principles of equity. This is a subject of great importance, and I commend it to the particular notice of all parents.

MERIT.—Nothing but merit can call forth great love, and nothing but perfection perfect. The sun's image must be full and perfect, if we wish the spot it strikes on to take fire.