

→SELECTED.←

COLLEGE SONGS.

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF SOME OF THE MORE FAMILIAR ONES.

COLLEGE music can hardly be called original, so far as composition is concerned, for it is almost universally an adaptation of some old air to new words. One of the earliest student songs that became popular in this country was "Benny Havens, O," so named in honor of a Mr. Benjamin Havens, who kept a small mercantile establishment in the vicinity of West Point, wherein he supplied jorums of punch and other commodities to the truant cadets at unseemly hours of the night. The air was one to which, in later years, the Irish, "Wearing of the Green" has been sung. Almost every Eastern College had a local song of its own, sung to the tune of "Benny Havens."

For the introduction of the College song proper in this country we are, more than to any other man, indebted to Mr. Storrs Willis, who is now a resident of Detroit. After graduating in the Yale Class of '41 he spent six years in Germany, and on his return took up his abode for awhile in New Haven, and taught the students there the Latin song of "Gaudeamus," which he had learned among the German universities. "Gaudeamus" soon came to be regarded by the Yale boys with about the same feeling as Englishmen have for "God Save the King," or the French Republicans for the "Marseillaise." It is sung on all occasions of festivity and of sorrow, and it has served more than once as a veritable war song when battles have been impending with the "townies."

Harvard was not slow to catch the singing spirit, and in the course of a few years the students of all the later Eastern Colleges had extensive repertoires of song, which they gave in society halls, in all accidental gatherings on the College grounds, and most of all, perhaps, while indulging in the classical pastime of sitting on the fence. One of the most beautiful of all was another imported Latin song, "Lauriger Horatius," which made its appearance at Yale about the year 1850. A dozen years later some Southern students gave the air to the words, "My Maryland," which became the most popular of the songs of the rebellion. The original "Lauriger," as well as "Gaudeamus," "Integer Vitæ," and several other of the best College songs, was arranged and published in short form by Mr. Willis, and of late years they have been frequently republished in collections of College songs, sometimes with and sometimes without permission and acknowledgement.

"Fair Harvard" is given the place of honor at Cambridge, and "The Lone Fish Ball," "It's a Way we have at Old Harvard," "Upidee," and "Ba-be-bi-bo-bu," appeared among the less solemn songs, and George E. Root's "There's Music in the Air" among the sentimental ones. Of the early "nonsense songs" that came into vogue were "Shool," "Co-chache-lunk," and "The Sheepskin" (to the

tune of "A Little More Cider.") These have been supplemented by others, until their number is legion.

Operatic airs are made to do service, as in the case of the "Trumpet Song," I Puritani, which is frequently joined to the words of secret society songs, and sometimes to the Latin words of "Lauriger," and such odd conjunctions as "Mary had a little lamb, shouting the battle cry of freedom," are not uncommon. The wearisome old "Grenville" is divorced from "Far from mortal cares retreating," and made almost tolerable with the words, "Saw my leg off, short," the two final notes of each strain of the tune being omitted. The "Menagerie" has done good service, with the well known chorus

The elephant now goes round, the band begins to play,
The boys around the monkey's cage had better keep away.

The "Derby Ram" and "Bingo" are adaptations of old English school songs, familiar to young Britons generations ago. The song of "Peter Gray," in its original shape was a serious song called "Pleasant Michigan," of which the last word in the refrain was lengthened to "Michigan-i-a-a-a." The burlesque "Vilkins and Dinah," borrowed by some of the colleges from the old Bowery Theatre, was in like manner a rustic sentimental song of the old school, called "Sir William and Diana." "Springfield Mountain" was familiar in Western Massachusetts before the College boys took it up. The air to which Kirke White's hymn, "When marshalled on the nightly plain," is usually sung has a singular effect when the words of the "Three Crows" are deaconed off to it, after the fashion of "Bo-hunkus."

If there is any music in this country outside of the well-worn Ethiopian melodies, now out of fashion, which can be said to constitute a distinctively American school, perhaps there is none better entitled to be so reckoned than that composite product of the musical geniuses in the schools of America now known as College songs.—*Am. Paper*

CLASSICAL TRAINING.

THE discussion which has been going on for the last twenty years as to the respective merits of the classical and non-classical education, has received a really important contribution from Germany. Before 1870, a thorough classical training was essential to admission in the Prussian universities—such a training as was furnished at the gymnasia. Those pupils who had prepared at the "real-schools," in which a scientific or practical education is given, were obliged to go to the universities outside of Germany. In 1870 the Government, against the protest of the professors, opened the doors of the Prussian universities to non-classical as well as classical students. After ten years' experience, under the new system, the philosophical faculty of the University of Berlin have made public their impressions as to the result of the change. The paper which embodies these impressions received the signatures of all the scientific as well as of all the classical members of the faculty; and will have, therefore, very great weight. It declares that even in advanced mathematics the students who have received a classical training, though less quick at the beginning, show a clearer insight into abstruse mathematical relations, and in the end decidedly surpass the non-classical students. The professor