MUSIC HATH CHARMS TO SOOTHE THE ANIMAL BREAST

By Dr. James Weir, Jr.

My fox terrier has shown me time and again that he not only loves music but that he also possesses the power of musical discrimination. Certain musical keys are agreeable to him, and certain other keys are exceedingly distasteful. When I execute compositions on the piano that are written in the key of F sharp he will lie on the floor of the music room for hours at a time, seemingly listening to the music with much enjoyment. When I play a march, waltz or polka that is written in the key of B flat he will immediately show that the music is disagreeable to him by running about the room and by going out as soon as the door is opened.

Again, when the music is pleasing, he will sometimes utter howls "in tune" or in accord with the fundamental note of the key in which the composition is written.

My attention was first directed to this power of musical discrimination in dogs by the actions of an exceedingly intelligent collie, the property of a neighbour. This dog lived next door to a church, the bell of which sounded G natural. Whenever this bell was rung the collie would utter howls in accord with G natural. Sometimes though rarely, his howls would be in the note of G natural itself.

Very frequently dogs will give utterance to cries that are not in accord with the key note. At first I attributed this to dislike, but recent observations lead me to believe that these false notes are due to lack of skill.

At first glance this power of musical consonance in dogs seems to be due to phenomenal intelligence. On mature consideration, however, we discover that it is the result of a natural law and one that we observe in many ourerent genera and species of the animal kingdom.

I refer to the law of imitation. We observe it in some form or other in birds, monkeys, dogs, sheep, cattle, even in insects. In the lower races of man it is strikingly evident. The dog's bark is a direct result of this law.

This animal, in its wild state, is mute; its barking has been evolved by its domestication, its association with man. Our primitive ancestors, when they first tamed the dog, talked to it; the dog endeavored to answer its master in kind. Hence, originated barking. Romones even ventures the assertion that it is "only an anatomical barrier and a psychical accident that forbid speech to the dog!" In point of fact, dogs, like parrots, have been taught to speak words, by phrases even, and the above quoted author instances one animal whose vocabulary contained over a hundred words.

The Dog and the Echo

Dogs have discovered that pleasing and mysterious phenomenon the echo, and seem to elicit from it a wonderful fund of enjoyment. When I first advanced this idea, it met with quite an amount of opposition. Of recent years, however, observers, both in this country and abroad, have concurred with me in this matter.

If a dog which is in the habit of "baying at the moon" be closely watched, it will be noticed that while giving his nocturnal concerts, he will occupy the same spot or spots night after night, furthermore, if the observer will experiment he will also discover that an echo is invariably to be heard from such spot or spots. Of course, barking, in a dog is often excited by the barking of another dog; consequently the observer must take this fact into consideration when making observations and experiments.

I noticed that one of my dogs, a spaniel, was in the habit of crawling under a certain honeysuckle bush whenever he gave a serenade. The closest observation on my part failed to discover an echo, and my theory seemed to be in danger of refutation. Finally it occurred to me to occupy the dog's position beneath the bush and then try for an echo. With much difficulty I at length succeeded in getting beneath the honeysuckle, whence I sent forth several howling barks. Greatly to my satisfaction an echo was heard coming from some buildings a quarter of a mile away. Owing to some peculiar acoustic conditions or environments the echo was not to be heard save from this one spot beneath the bush. The dog had evidently discovered this echo by accident and he was alone in knowledge, for not one of the other dogs ever sang his solo from this spot.

My fox terried ranks the piano above all other musical instruments. Its timbre seems to be especially pleasing to his ears. The violin comes next in his power of pleasing, followed by the organ. The flute, piccola and flageolet rank about the same, but the cornet—in fact, all brasses, no matter what the key may be—are not all agreeable to him. The dog is remarkably intelligent and has heard good music since his earliest infancy, hence, perhaps the phenomenal powers of discrimination in the matter of harmonious tonal vibrations.

A Dog That Detested False Notes

At one time there lived in my town a large Portugese bloodhound which was owned by Lieutenant Conway of the United States Navy. A short time before Conway's death, while talking of the phenomenal intelligence of this dog, he informed me that this animal possessed such a discriminating ear for music that he could at once tell when the bugler of the ship made a mistake in sounding the various ship's calls. On one occasion when the musician was sounding "lights out" or some other call, one of his shipmates stuck a pin into him. In his pain and surprise, the bugler made a false note. The dog, which was some distance away, uttered a dismal howl and at once went below. Repeated experiments after this occurrence demonstrated the fact that the dog could really tell when a mistake in the calls was made.

The actress, Aimee, once owned a King Charles spaniel that was peculiarly susceptible to music. On one occasion, this animal escaped from her dressing room while the actress was "doing her turn" on the stage, and, for a few moments, held the boards in defiance of his mistress and the stage hands, who tried to capture him. He rushed here and there about the stage in a wild and fantastic dance, uttering howls and sharp yelping barks. He was finally captured by the villian in the play, who fell on him, thereby nearly squeezing the life out of him. His mistress explained to the audience in her queer English, that the "mooseck always made 'im crazee and inflame. She told me that the dog had always shown a fondness for music. The majority of dogs are "music deaf"," only the favored few possess musical discrimination.

Two Singing Mice

Several years ago a "singing mouse" lived in my father's library; it was my privilege to hear this little musician on several occasions. My father was in the habit of taking lunch about 11 o'clock at night, and he would invariably throw the crumbs to his tiny visitor. Shortly before lunch time, the mouse would make his appearance, and, sitting erect on its haunches, begin its tuneful little song. I use the word tuneful advisedly, for there was a great deal of melody in the simple theme which made up this creature's musical effort.

Its song, in timbre, bore some resemblance to that of the canary. There were, however, no cadenzas, though I noticed passages in which there were both ascending and descending scales of four notes. There was also considerable thrilling, which made the song most bird-like in character.

Not long since a singing mouse took up its abode beneath the mantelpiece in my bedroom. I heard it sing on unmerous occasions, but its song was not so pleasing, nor was it so well rendered as that of my father's little songster.

Mice frequently show that they are influenced by music. The organist of the First Presbyterian Church of this town (Owensboro, Ky.) gave me a remarkable instance of this fact. In relating his experience with a music-loving mouse, he said:

"When I lived in Cuba, N. Y., a mouse dwelt beneath a bookcase in my music room, and I often performed the following experiment: Seating myself at the piano, I would begin improvising softly. In a few moments the mouse would come from beneath the bookcase, approach the centre of the room, and standing on its hind feet, listen intently to the music. A loud chord on the piano would send it scampering away to its home. I would then resume my pianissimo improvisation and the mouse would soon return to its former station near the centre of the room, only to vanish again as soon as the loud chords were "struck."

Mice Charmed by Music

In a highly interesting and valuable letter to me, Miss Ada Sterling tells of her experiments with some music loving mice. Miss Sterling was house hunting, and while standing in one of the rooms of a vacant house, "planning certain things and humming softly to myself," she writes, "a shadowy something caught my eye, and I discovered a little mouse, very young evidently, then another, and another, until four were near, I did not attribute this tameness to music, and in surprise turned to see if there were others about. Instantly they scampered off, my action having frightened them.

"When I finally arrived at the conclusion that music had attracted them, I sat down and began to hum, this time with an open sound instead of a closed tone In a second the little creatures were out again standing perfectly still as if the song gave them delight. Gradually I swelled the tone, and yet they were undisturbed until I became too bold and gave a clear, sharp, full sound, and at once frightened them.

"I experimented in this way for more than a month, never missing my audience, and by this time the little creatures, grown so fat and bold as to cause serious damage, were ruthlessly caught and killed."

A celebrated violinist once told me that, owing to his poverty, he had been compelled, at one period of his life, to dwell in an old and dilapidated house which fairly swarmed with rats. He noticed that these animals were "peculiarly susceptible to minor chords or to composition played in minors, and that quick, lively music would bring them forth from their lurking places in great numbers. A few abrupt dissonant chords would, invariably, send them scurrying to their holes."

A violinist of Louisville, Ky., Mr. Karl Benedik, informed me that he repeatedly noticed that several mice, which lived in his room, were influenced by the music of his violin. In experimenting with them he discovered that "when he played an andante movement pianissimo, they appeared to listen with pleasure; but when he played an allegro in quick tempo and forte, they would immediately run away."

The legend of the "Pied Piper of Hamlin" is by no means confined to Europe. It appears, in some form or other, in the myths and folk lore tales of certain Asiatic races; of the Tagols and Dyaks, and of several tribes of the Malayan Archipelago, thus showing that almost everywhere mice and rats are found, people have noticed that they are influenced by music.

Quail That Sought out Singers

This paper does not especially deal with those natural musicians, the birds, insects, and frogs, whose songs constitute so much of the aesthetic in nature; but the following instance of the love of music in a bird is so unique that I will relate it in detail, just as it was told me by a prominent attorney of my city.

This gentleman, early in life, lived in the country, and, on one occasion, succeeded in rearing two quail from eggs placed beneath a brooding barn-yard hen. These birds grew to maturity, and became so tame that they ran about the premises with the utmost freedom. they seemed to enjoy the caresses of the children and other members of the household.

My Informant has musical tastes, as have the other members of his family, consequently it was their custom to give nightly concerts. "We were in the habit," said he, "of going to the stile, some distance from the house, and there singing to the accompaniment of the violin and guitar.

"The quail roosted on a dresser in the kitchen but, as soon as the music began, they left their perch and flew to the stile, no matter how late in the night it might be, and there they would stay, perched on the shoulders of the musicians, until the concert was over; they would then return to their roost in the kitchen. They seemed to be passionately fond of the singing voice, and would seek out a singer, wherever he or she might be, whenever they heard the sound of singing."

A Spider and an Organist

One day, while listening to the organist of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, I saw a spider descend and hang from its silken strand just above the hands of the performer. The organist was playing the tender and appealing second movement of chopin's "Marche Funebre," and the spider, as was afterwards demonstrated by experiment, was completely enthralled by the music. Viol d'amour, flute and vox humana stops were being used, and the character of the tones was low and melodious.

The musician suddenly dropped his hands to the great organ, and burst into one of Guilmant's loud and brilliant marches. All parts of the great instrument were coupled—diapason, bourdon, pedals and all, and the music poured from the pipes in thunderous peals, fairly racking and shaking the walls of the church. The spider at once turned and rapidly made its way to the ceiling.

The following day I experimented with the same insect and discovered that such compositions as "Traumarei," the "Cradle Song," the intermezzo of "Cavaliera Rusticana," when played pianissimo, would always entice it from its den in the ceiling, while loud, bravura music would send it scurrying back to its lurking place.

Professor Reclain, of Leipsic, during a concert at one of the theatres, saw a spider descend and hang just above the orchestra while a violin solo was being rendered. As soon, however, as the other instruments joined in the insect rapidly ascended to the ceiling. When the violin resumed its solo the spider came down again, but only to run away when the full band chimed in in support of the violin.

The Music Loving Lycosid

One summer not long ago a large black lycosid had its den in my piano. This spider evinced musical discrimination in a remarkable manner. When ever I played lullabies, or rather low melodious compositions, the insect would come out on the music rack and seemingly listen with much enjoyment. But whenever I executed loud marches or rollicking ragtime songs the creature would plainly show that it was not pleased. It would run here and there over the music rack, its palpi vibrating so rapidly that they could hardly be seen, and would finally disappear within the piano, whence it could only be drawn by a return to a different kind of music.

Again, on one occasion I was confined to my room by illness for four of five weeks. During my enforced confinement I became well acquainted with another lycosid which lived beneath a table. This spider learned to know me personally, for when the servants or other visitors entered the room she would immediately run to her den beneath the table. But whenever I came in after taking my constitutional in the hall she would run out on the table and wait till I gave her a fly or other insect. She would take her food from my fingers, and would even make her toilet while perched upon the back of my hand.

Experimentation with this spider showed that she, too, possessed musical discrimination in a marked degree. I used the paper and comb mouth organ, and a toy called, I believe, a "bazoo," in making my experiments. The last mentioned instrument acts on the principle of the paper and comb, and the timbre, or quality of the tonal vibrations, is the same in both.

Loud, allegro compositions seemed to be exceedingly disagreeable to the spider for whenever I would produce such on either of the instruments she would run about the table in a hurried and disorderly manner, and would finally take refuge beneath it. But whenever I played low, andante selections she would remain quietly on the table, and from all appearances would seem to be enjoying the music.

Are Spiders Aesthetic

The question arises, did these spiders have an aesthetic appreciation of music, or was their enjoyment or their disgust strictly material? Inasmuch as aestheticism is, fundamentally, a sensual product, it is, per se, material in quality; yet when we remember that some of these insects plainly showed that they were voluntarily attracted or repelled as the music was agreeable or disagreeable, we must admit that they evinced aestheticism in its refined and immaterial sense. This fact is further emphasized when we remember that these insects undoubtedly showed by their actions that they could discriminate between the different forms of musical composition.

There is no question but that spiders evince aestheticism in decorating their webs. Some years ago, in the American Naturalist, I called attention to a spider which spun a beautiful ribbon-like web which it used as promenade, a pleasure resort. It would not take food when it was promenading on this silken highway. All insects caught in it were released and thrown away. Its hunting or trap web was some three or four feet from its pleasure resort, and when on this trap web it would eat voraciously.

Not long ago a druggist showed me a web that had been beautifully decorated by a spider. The little creature had spun her web immediately above an open box of logwood dye. Every strand of this web had been strung with small scales of the dye so that it glistened in the light like brilliant passementerie. While we were looking at this strikingly beautiful object we saw the spider descend to the box, seize a bit of the dye ascend to her web and affix the shivering flake to one of the strands, thus showing conclusively that she had voluntarily made her home "a thing of beauty and joy forever."

The musical discrimination of spiders shows that here, too, these little creatures are the fortunate possessors of a refined aestheticism.

Brother Gardner

He Invents a Dream Book For The Lime-Kiln Club—By M. Quad

"My frens," said Brother Gardner, president of the Lime-Kiln club, as he rose up in his place at the last meeting of that famous organization, "I have been doin' my best for de last ten years to convince de cull'd race dat dar was nuthin' in dreams and signs. I has spoken and I has written. I has eben threatened to suspend members of dis club who persisted in believin'. Findin' dat it did no good to talk and write, and dat de cull'd man and woman woul'n let go of deir superstishuns, I has adopted anodder course.

"I hold up to your view a pamphlet. It am entitled: 'Brudder Gardner's Dream and Sign Book. All Dreams Explained. All Signs Interpreted.' At de close of de meetin' I shall be happy to supply any or all of you wid dis pamphlet, at de sum of twenty-five cents. For your enlightenment, and dat you may know what you am buying, I will read off a few of the contents:

As to Dreams

"If you dream dat you saw a white hoss chasin' a black cow ober a green meadow toward a blue barn, it signifies dat de next time you go out arter poultry a policeman am gwine to be dar to nab you. I have de names of one hundred persons who have dreamed dis dream and been collared 'kase dey didn't obey de warnin'.

"If you dream dat you saw a possum in de top-limbs of a persimon tree, and dat you couldn't climb up arter him on account of having two wooden laigs, it signifies dat your aunt am gwine to expire and leave you money.

"To dream dat you am traublin' over a stony kentry in rain and darkness, and dat you suddenly ran agin de horns of a cow and was tossed up into a mulberry tree, signifies dat you will surmount your present trubbles and come out on top.

"If you go to sleep wid three dogs under de bed and de baby cryin' wid de colic and de old woman lickin' de rest of de chill'en and dream dat a watermillyon you am bringin' home suddenly turns into a yaller cat who spits in your face, look out for yourself. Burglars am gwine to break into your cabin, lightnin' am gwine to strike de chimney and your landlord am comin' around for de back rent and act mighty ugly about it.

"To dream dat you am skatin' on ice in de summer signifies dat good luck am comin' to you next winter. At de very least, your uncle will die and leave you a mewl.

"If you go to sleep thinkin' of angels and golden harps and dream dat you am a member of de legislature and have been offered a price to vote for a sartin bill, be mighty keerful for de next two weeks. Sich a dream signifies danger. Don't sit under a dead tree nor walk across a shaky bridge.

"Brudder Calamity Jones of dis club dreamed one night dat he was ridin' through de darkness and rain on de shoulders of a witch woman, and dat she suddenly kicked up and frowed him off into a quagmire where he was sucked down. He come ober to my house at 3 o'clock in de mawnin' to ask me to interpret dat dream. I told him dat it signified a change of luck and de very next day he found a diamond ring in de road.

"To dream dat you am trabblin' on foot and have stopped at a wayside hotel kept by a red-headed man havin' a cross-eyed wife and a yaller-eyed dawg, and dat in de night de landlord came up to your room an killed you wid a crowbar, signifies dat your ole woman am thinkin' of runnin' away wid a cull'd man who am attached to a side-show of a circus.

"To dream of falling from a great height and comin' down on top of a picket fence and havin' three pickets run through your body, would seem at first sight to signify a calamity. Dat am a mistake, however. It signifies dat you will meet a cull'd man from de ikentry and invite him to shoot craps wid you and clean him outer $25. Try and dream dis dream as often as you kin. It will enable you to lib widout hard work.

"One night, six months ago, Brudder Waydown Bebee, of dis club, went to sleep doorin' a thunder storm and dreamed dat he had turned into a spotted dawg and was about to be killed for pork. De butcher already had him by de hind laig, and de water was ready to scald de bristles off of him, when he awoke in a cold sweat. It was jest midnight, and at de same minit an owl hooted and a dawg howled. Brudder Bebe started for my house on a dead run to ask me to explain. In five minutes I figgered it out dat he had sunthin' comin' to him, and lo! only three days had passed when one of his chill'en sot de house afire wid match and it was burned to de ground. Brudder Bebee had about a hundred dollars wuth of furniture. It was insured for four hundred and fifty, as might have been expected from sich a prudent man as him. He got ebery dollar of it from de insurance company, and dat's de reason his fam'ly am now wearin' diamond pins and libin on de fat o' de land.

As to Signs

"As to signs," continued the president, amid most profound stillness, "you have 'em yere in plenty, and you should commit each and ebery one to memory.

"If you see a black cat chasin' a white dawg along de road and dey pass a cock-eyed man as dey go, dat is a sign of a hard winter to come. Look around you and locate de nearest woodpile or coal yard.

"If a yaller dawg howls at midnight under your winder and won't go away after you have pelted him wid sticks of wood, but keeps right at it until you go out and threaten to hit him wid de whole front fence, make up your mind dat a calamity am at hand. You may be arrested befo' you get home wid de next chicken or watermillion, or one of de chill'n am gwine to fall down de well or off de roof.

"If de sun comes up in de mawnin' like a ball of fire, and de wind am from de west, and a humpbacked man passes your cabin wid a bunch of catnip under his arm, don't leave de house dat day. It am a sign of mad dogs. Sit on de doahsteps wid a pile of brickbats beside you and be prepared to die game.

"If you sit down in a canary-colored street kyar wid a red dashboard and find yourself between a clubfooted woman and a knock-kneed man, git right out as soon as possible, and befo' de conductor has taken up your fare. To remain dar am to get a hoodoo on you.

"If you am saunterin' out some evenin and by accident approach a field in which dar am a watermillion patch, squat down by de fence and wait for a sign. If a whippoorwill breaks into song near by, it's all right, and de biggest melon in dat patch amyours. If, instead, a cricket gives seven loud chirps don't you git aber dat fence. If you do, de owner will fire a charge of salt into you and let his bulldog make a meal off'n your laigs.

"If you hear a tickin' in de wall while you am lyin' in bed, don't be two seconds gittin' out o' date. If you continer to lay dar and de ticker continers to tick, you will be invitin' a stroke of paralysis.

"If you am standin' at your gate and a red-headed white man comes along and offers you half a dollar to drive a black cow to a sartin place, turn away from him in scorn. Dat cow will kick a fat woman and git into a lawsuit, and de white man will beat you outer de price.

"If you am sittin' on de fence in de arternoon and wishin' you was rich, and three crows fly over you and you hear a horse whinny at de same time, go right off and buy a ticket in a lottery. You am shore to hit de capital prize and have money to burn for eber after.

"Dat's all, my friends — all until you git de book. We will not break de meetin' in two and you can gather 'round me and pass up your money. If you will persist in believin' in dreams and signs, take mine and no other. Dey am jest as good as anybody's, and my old woman needs de money to buy new goose feathers for de beds and porous plasters for her lame back."

MR. BRYAN ON INDIA

His Strictures Have Neither the Approval of the British Nor the Native Press.

To the Editor of the Sun:

Sir—About two months ago you published a letter of mine in which I endeavored to point out not only the incorrectness but the unwisdom of Mr. Bryan's attack on British rule in India.

I am now in receipt of my Bombay mail, from which I learn that Mr. Bryan's comments have aroused the greatest indignation among the English officials. His statement that the government of India is as arbitrary and despotic as that of Russia is characterized by a high official as a bit of impertinence of which no great statesman would have been guilty. "What," my correspondent inquires, "would be thought of me if I, as an Anglo-Indian statesman, traveled through the Philippines and then declared in a London paper that I thought the tyranny of American rule in those islands was worse than that of Russia? It would arouse the greatest indignation throughout the United States and it would give rise to great ill feeling on the part of Americans."

The Times of India, which is published in Bombay and which is considered one of the best Anglo-Indian papers in the country, says: "Mr. Bryan's article is made up of blustering ignorance. He came to India, as he went to the Philippines, intending to condemn what he saw in order to discredit imperialism."

A military officer in the great cantonment of Rawpul Pindee writes: "Rudyard Kipling dealt with such globe trotters as Bryan in his memorable verses beginning, 'Paget M. P. was a liar.' Mr. Bryan saw scarcely anything of India, and did not consider what might be the effect of his remarks."

Strange to say, the vernacular press of India, which is not always loyal to British rule, attacks Mr. Bryan and says that whatever may be the shortcomings of England's rule in India, it is certainly very far in advance of that of Russia in Turkestan. The Indian Spectator, which is a paper edited by educated natives and published in the English language, says that Mr. Bryan's statements are simply "trash."

A friend of mine, who is a magistrate on the northwest frontier of India, wishes me to call attention to the fact that while the lynching of negroes is a common occurrence in Mr. Bryan's country, the lynching of natives in India is absolutely unknown; and that while the Chinese are excluded from civil rights in the United States, there is nothing to prevent a Chinaman settling in India, or even in England, with all the rights granted to the natives of those countries.

A missionary paper in India calls Mr. Bryan's attention to the fact that in India all the natives have equal rights, from the high class Brahman to the low class Shudra, and from the bigoted Moslem on the northwest frontier to the liberal Bengali of Calcutta.

I consider Mr. Bryan's remarks most unfortunate at the present time. As I remarked in my former letter, you will not find any Anglo-Indian who cares to hold a brief in defence of British rule in India. It is always under the fire of criticism. And if Mr. Bryan had employed his giant intellect in trying to solve some of the problems of British rule in Hindustan, and had given some wise suggestions as to the best way of carrying out reform, he would have earned the gratitude of the British government. As matters now stand, he has simply injured his own reputation. It is evident from his speech in Madison Square Garden that if he were to become chief executive of this country he would withdraw American rule from the Philippines and through a country which was conquered in the name of liberty into the utmost confusion. About three months ago I traveled with a surgeon who had just arrived from Manila, and he assured me that as matters now stand the government of the Philippines is very similar to that of New York city.

It is said that the great "presidential possibility" is growing fast. And it is not improbable that since he breathed the air of old England, which he still regards as the land of tyranny, he has grown somewhat, so that there is really no knowing what his opinions on Imperialism may be two years hence. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain at one time held precisely the opinions of Mr. Bryan, and was a radical of radicals. But at the mature age of seventy he is an imperialist to the manner born. There is hope for Mr. Bryan before he reaches the seventieth milestone.

T. P. H.

Brooklyn, September 5.

Protest of an American Missionary

To the Editor of the Sun:

Sir—In looking over my morning paper, the India Daily News of August 4, I see quotations from a letter of William Jennings Bryan concerning the oppressive rule of the Indian government.

Will you permit me a few words in reply? First, I wish to say that I came to India in 1883 from New York state as a Christian missionary, and that I am still serving in that capacity. Secondly, that I came here thoroughly prejudiced against British rule in India, and began my work in that frame of mind, and often freely expressed my opinion to educated native gentlemen whose acquaintance I formed during my first year in India. These men were willing listeners. I have been in different parts of India and think I know something of the country and its people. I do not pretend to say that the Indian government is ideal. There are some things I would correct if I could, and I think the government itself wishes to do the best thing for the people so fast as it sees the way.

With reference to taxation, there is one thing which must have escaped the notice of Mr. Bryan. It is that incomes are taxed. If a man has an income of $35 per month he is taxed a certain sum, and the larger his income the greater is his tax. As the great mass of the people have a salary less than the amount fixed, the burden of taxation rests on the few. Salt, a necessity, also is taxed slightly.

Now, no one would pretend to say that the East India company, which was the opening wedge for England's entrance into India, was a benevolent enterprise. The company came here to trade and to make money. All students of history know how this company by growth and other natural processes was merged into the Indian government. It was by a kind of evolution. Those of us who believe in a divine overruling Providence see the hand of God in this history. But by whatever way England came here, she is here to rule and here to stay. The question which Mr. Bryan raises is not a new one. Even some English statesmen affirm that England is exploiting India for the sake of England's sons. I do not agree with these men, nor with Mr. Bryan. Of course, a man has a right to form his opinions of a country by merely passing through it and seeing but a very small part of it, but it takes what we Americans call a good deal of cheek to express such unqualified opinions on such a deep and far-reaching subject as British administration in India with such a superficial knowledge.

India is left to one of four alternatives: To be governed by England, or by some other foreign power; to govern herself as a whole like the United States, or to be divided into small self-governing provinces. If India were governed by some other foreign power would she be better governed? Could she form a federal government like the United States? One almost smiles at the thought of how she would proceed. Could India be divided up into small provinces, each with its own government? She tried this for a thousand years in different ways, and was so corrupt with deceit, treachery, bribery and oppression that it paved the way for British possession, and, in fact, made British possession desirable.

When Lord William Cavendish Bentinck was about to have enacted the law forbidding the burning of widows, the educated wealthy class opposed the measure. I was in Calcutta about the time of the passage of the Bengal Tenancy Act. This act let me briefly explain. The land of India is held for the most part by zemindars. These are large landholders. They may have a thousand or ten thousand acres of land each. This land is let to tenants, and a man may have any number of tenants. Formerly the zemindars not only collected the rent from their tenants, but many things were made an excuse for collecting extra rents, and in this way the poor tenant was ground into the very dust. The law stepped in and said that these things must cease. Were the educated, English-speaking zemindars pleased? On the contrary they most bitterly denounced the act. It was a most serious innovation if a landholder could not make his tenants pay the cost of a wedding or a pilgrimage or a funeral or the building of a temple. But the act went the force just the same.

One more incident. Possibly fifteen years ago the government proposed to raise the age at which a girl could lawfully be married to twelve years. Formerly it had been any age from six to ten. These children were married, mind you, to mature men, sometimes 20 years old and sometimes 40. On the eve of the passage of the bill I was in Calcutta, and such great public demonstrations of protestation I never saw in any country. These mass meetings were addressed by native gentlemen in high standing. If India is to govern herself it will be the educated and wealthy class who will govern. In view of the facts just stated, should we expect that they would govern the country in the interests of enlightenment, justice, progress or morality?

Let the people of India have a government of their own, and England withdraw, and the wheels of industry would stop, commerce would be blighted and general education would cease. Bribery, corruption and oppression would abound and chaos reign. How do I know? Because I know the character of the people.

Z. F. GRIFFIN.

Calcutta, Aug. 5.

HISSING IN FRENCH THEATRES.

"They hiss in the French theatres with the help of a hollow key," said Richard Harding Davis. "Paul Bourget once told me an odd incident based upon this hollow key hissing.

"A playwright—call him Duval—had the unhappiness one fine night to sit through a most unsuccessful production of his latest play. The house resounded with jeers and hisses, and a young man, turning to Duval, said:

"'By Jove, how I'd roast this miserable piece if I only had a hollow key.'

"'My dear sir,' said Duval, 'I am happy to be able to accommodate you.'

"And he handed a hollow key to the young man, who at once hit up a fierce and continuous hissing. Just then a critic appeared.

"'Duval,' he said to the playwright, 'I am sorry for you. Poor fellow, you don't deserve this.'

"The young man with the key looked amazed and ashamed.

"'What! Are you Monsieur Duval? I beg your pardon a thousand times,' he cried.

"'You owe me no apology,' said Duval. 'Lunch with me tomorrow.'

"The young man accepted the invitation, and at the end of the luncheon next day, when the coffee, liquors and cigarettes were brought on, he drew a bulky manuscript from his pocket and begged leave to read a comedy to Monsieur Duval, for he was a playwright, too.

"Duval consented, and listened attentively to the reading. At the end the young man said:

"Well, monsieur, what do you think of it?"

"Duval smiled as he replied:

"Could you oblige me with the loan of a hollow key?"

Use Lever's Dry Soap (a powder) to wash woolens and flannels,—you'll like it. 32

QUEER MANNERS AND SUPERSTITIONS

In Mohammedan countries women are not admitted beyond the doorways or mosques.

The Chinese do everything backward from a European point of view. Their compass points to the south, instead of the north. The men wear their hair long, while the women coil theirs in a knot. The dressmakers are men, and women carry burdens. The spoken language is not written, and the written language is not spoken. Books are read backwards, and any notes are inserted at the top. White is used for mourning and the bridesmaids wear black.

In Russia it is unlawful to give kisses in public. A kiss in the street is penalized by a fine of $3.75, and on a tramcar by a fine of $5. Declaration of love on a post card renders the sender liable to a fine of $2.50.

A curious custom is still in force at Norwich, in virtue of which, on three days in the year, any one can claim a substantial meal for nothing. The only qualification is that the applicant shall repeat aloud in St. Giles' church a prayer for the sovereign's health. Afterwards they partake of a meal of broth, beef and bread, finished off with a liberal allowance of beer.

A very interesting account is given of the strange customs of the Bedouins of the Sinai Peninsula in Lord Cromer's annual report on Egypt and the Soudan. If a man kills another in time of peace, the relatives of the murdered man, beginning from the father to the fifth generation, have the right to revenge or pardon against the receipt of "blood money." This latter is fixed at forty-one camels. If the murdered man was of the same tribe as the murderer the latter, or his near relatives, have to give a girl in marriage to one of the victim's relatives without receiving the usual dowry. When she gives birth to a child she is free to go back if she chooses. In the latter case the marriage must be renewed and the usual dowry paid. Five camels may be substituted for the girl.

In many of the Greek islands diving for sponges forms a considerable part of the occupation of the inhabitants. The natives make it a trade to gather these, and their income from this source is good. In one of the islands a girl is not permitted to marry until she has brought up a certain number of sponges, and given proof of her skill by taking them from a certain depth. But in some of the islands this custom is reversed. The father of a marriageable daughter bestows her on the best diver among her suiters. He who can stay longest in the water and bring up the biggest cargo of sponges marries the maid.

In Belgium all cows over three months old are to be seen wearing earrings. Breeders are obliged to keep a record of all cattle raised by them, and each animal has a registered number, which is engraved on the ring fastened to its ear.

In Denmark girls insure against becoming old maids.

There is a belief amongs the South Sea Islanders that no man can enter paradise who has lost a limb, and for this reason a man will often die rather than submit to amputation.

The married and unmarried women of the United States of Columbia, South America, are designated by the manner in which they wear flowers in their hair, the former wearing them on the right side, and the latter on the left.

The Pekin barber instead of waiting for customers goes out to seek them. He carries his shaving apparatus and a stool with him and rings a bell to attract the attention of likely customers. The man who wishes to be shaved hails the barber, who places his stool on the ground for the customer's use, puts a bowl of water on the little stove he carries, and proceeds with his work.

Norwegians have a primitive way of breaking up old, worn out wooden ships. They take them to exposed rocky parts of the coast, and after anchoring them, leave the breakers of the next storm to smash them to pieces. After the storm the floating fragments are picked up and sold for firewood.

Both men and women in Lapland dress precisely alike. They wear tunics belted loosely at the waist, tight breeches, wrinkled leather stockings, and pointed shoes, their whole appearance, in short, is identical at least to the casual observer.

The public executioner of Austria wears a pair of new white gloves every time he carries out a capital sentence.

THE MAKER OF LAST WEST.

"Kit," in Woman's Kingdom, in referring to the recent tour of the West by the members of the Canadian Women's Press Club, concludes as follows:

"When one sits down quietly to look back upon such a trip, the first thought is the immensity of the work the Canadian Pacific has accomplished. The great railway has actually created our great West. Wherever it ran towns and cities sprang up like mushrooms. The best-equipped railway in the world today, the Canadian Pacific will go down to history as the maker of the Last West. When the C. P. R. does anything, how well it does, it! It took a party of presswomen through the country, and if we had been a royal party we could not have been treated more magnificently or generously. To add to our pleasure we were placed in the charge of the C. P. R.'s most efficient officers, Mr. Geo. H. Ham. No words can express the thoughtfulness and care of Mr. Ham for his party, and it takes a mighty clever and tactful diplomat to manage a party of forty women, please each one, and leave with each one the sensation that she was in particular the most carefully considered. No little girl—and there were some young and timid little presswomen, who have not as yet earned their spurs, but are well on the way toward that feat,—no little girl was too shy or unknown in the great newspaper world, to be forgotten by George Ham. He would find her out, single her out for some little treat or distinction. Can you wonder that we all loved him collectively and individually. We gave him a gold-headed umbrella to remember us by—(also a lot of trouble)—and we would have each given him a heart if he had wanted it. For it was Mr. Geo. Ham and the Canadian Pacific that made the trip really glorious, and our deep gratitude to that splendid corporation, and its clever, kind and diplomatic officer, cannot be expressed by any words any one of us may write. It is our only way, however, and the words are written with a warm and affectionate pen.

"As to the West—I feel its golden glory shining still upon me. I shall never forget the warmth of the Western welcome—the grip of the Western handshake."

PREPARATIONS FOR ANNUAL EXHIBIT

The Exhibits Are Now Com cing to Arrive in Goodly Numbers

MANY MORE STALLS ARE REQ

Broncho Busting Competitio Attracting Considerable In terest in Interior

The annual exhibition under the pices of the British Columbia Ag tural association will be formally ed to the public this after at 3 o'clock. Hon. R. McBride, mier, and minister of mines for the vince, has been asked to open the in the absence of Lieut.-Governor T muir who is unable to attend the tion owing to the presence of the g nor-general in the province.

Everything is practically ready the opening although of course are many of the exhibits yet to be ed in position. During the last few many of the exhibitors have been b engaged in arranging their exhibits, the hall has now got quite a few of exhibits in place. The carpenters also been kept busy and have practi ly completed their labors. The hall is already presenting a holiday pearance, and when all the exhibits in place and the decorations com it will be a beautiful picture. The de ators have not been behind their fe workmen and have arranged the m

M. C. FEELEY

At the Fall Fair.

flags and long rows of bunting in a ve artistic manner.

The feature of the main buildin however, will be the electrical displa Special attention has been given to th necessary article, and several hundr lights have been installed. The arch over the main doors will be outline with many colored lights while the i terior of the hall is hung in all direc tions with long strings, while sever arc lights have also been installed. B the addition of these lighting facilitie it is expected that there will be a mu larger attendance during the evenin than has ever been experienced. Ye terday the hall and the grounds p sented a very busy appearance.

In the hall the exhibitors were a ranging their displays, the electrician and carpenters were also busy. In th yards it was a case of everyone work ing.

One gang was arranging the canva coverings over the stalls for the shee and horses, while the carpenters wer rushing to completion another 40 stall which it has been found necessary t erect to hold all the horses that are en tered in the competition. Never in th history of the show has so many horse been placed on exhibition and it is safe to say that the display of cattle and stock that will be seen at the exhibition will be as great as that shown at the Dominion fair in New Westminster las year. Entries for stock have been re ceived from all parts of the province and as far east as Calgary. The new stalls will be erected to the south of the machinery hall and it is expected that they will be ready for occupancy when the stock arrives.

The first big lot of stock is expected to arrive at the fair grounds this after noon. According to a despatch from an agent of the association on the Main land, the steamer Charmer will leav New Westminster early this morning loaded to the rail will cattle, horses and other live stock.

An endeavor is also being made to have the bronchos from the Interior brought down on the same steamer. Never in the history of New Westminster has such a large number of stock left that city on one steamer and it is safe to say that it will be one of the most valuable shipments that has ever been made. Besides the livestock there will be a good collection of farm produce and it goes without saying that the exhibits that will be received from the Mainland will be strong competitors in all the classes in which they are entered. The well known exhibitors W. H. Ladner, A. F. Maynard, Pemberton Stock Co., W. H. Wilkerson, J. H. Halhead, Bishop & Clarke, and the Inverholme Stock Co., have all made entries and the class of the stock that is usually put on exhibition is well known. In most cases every animal is a thorough-