

different instruments. Blanco White's was very small. Poor gentleman ! Night after night any one walking in the silence of Merton lane might hear his continual attempts to surmount some little difficulty, returning to it again and again like Philomel to her vain regrets. With Reinagle, Newman and Blanco White and frequent trios at the latter's lodgings, where I was all the audience. Most interesting was it to contrast Blanco White's excited and even agitated countenance with Newman's sphinx-like immobility, as the latter drew long, rich notes with a steady hand."

Canon McNeill of Liverpool, the celebrated anti-Catholic, attempted at one time to arrange a public debate with Dr. Newman. The great man sent word that Canon McNeill's well known talents as a finished orator would make such a public controversy an unfair trial of strength between them ; because he was himself, he said, no orator. His friends, however, had told him he was no mean performer on the violin, and if he agreed to meet Canon McNeill he would only make one condition, that the Canon should open the meeting and say all he had to say, after which Dr. Newman would conclude with a tune on the violin. The public would then be able to judge who was the better man.

Though early initiated into the mysteries of Beethoven, music of a high order did not appeal to him at once without study ; Brahms, for instance. When he was in Rome in 1883 he wrote home :

" This last week we have heard the celebrated *Miserere*, or rather the two *Misereres*, for there are two compositions by Allegri and Bali, so like each other that the performers themselves can scarcely tell the difference between them. One is performed on the Thursday and the other on Good Friday. The voices certainly are very surprising ; there is no instrument to support them, but they have the art of continuing their note so long and equally well that the effect is as if an organ were playing, or rather an organ of violin strings, for the notes are clearer, more subtle and piercing, and more impassioned (so to say) than those of an organ.

" The music is doubtless very fine, as every one says, but I found myself unable to understand all parts of it."

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