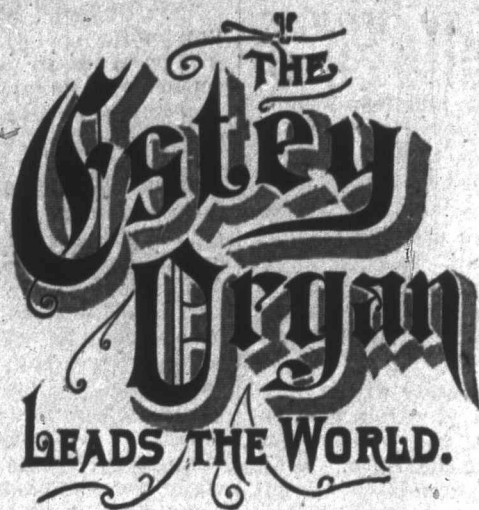


Not only that, but her parents take up the case, and sometimes the whole family leave the church. Then there is often the elderly woman, who has been the mainstay of the choir for many years, and her voice is failing; some notes are off pitch, and her singing is painful to listen to; yet she does not know it, and feels very acutely the slight, if you bring forward a younger singer. Sometimes the principal alto will take umbrage if you bring in another good voice. Then the young tenor, who imagines he is a coming Sims Reeves, gets mad and stays at home when he is most needed, because you have asked an older singer to take a part which needs expression. And there is the young basso profundo, with a voice like a foghorn, but whose ear is faulty. He is positive the choir would go to smash if he were to leave, and yet he it is who drags the whole choir down from pitch and you know it; yet you will bring a hornet's nest about your ears if you ask him to resign. The jealousy in choirs is proverbial. I heard a good lady say once that if ever there was a place in the world where the devil had free rein it was a choir.

Any man who undertakes to furnish a good choir earns his money. I need not speak of the outside influences in connection with choirs. You have the music committee to please, and the congregation also. Some want plain gospel hymns and others want grand anthems. Your ambitious soprano looks upon plain gospel hymn singing as beneath her dignity, not being aware that the true artist is the one who can sing such music effectively. The choirmasters of Victoria, as a rule, will bear comparison with those of any other city or town, and many of them are giving their services practically for nothing.

The trouble regarding the pro-



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duction of Martha by amateurs has been adjusted. Mr. Buck will give Il Travatore during Easter week.

The Victoria Minstrels will give another performance during holiday week.

Theatrical matters are dead in Victoria.

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