

## MUSIC.

**N**O instrument ever has been, or ever will be, I suspect, invented capable of even approaching the violin in extraordinary power and variety of expression. Its vocal singing; its smooth sliding; the impassioned power of a sweep from one end of the string to the other; its weird tremola; its pensive and velvety LEGATO; its clear, bird-like harmonic; its pearly staccato bow; its wailing chords; the mellow VOX HUMANA of its bass string; the flute-like sweetness of its third; and the ringing brilliance of its upper register, can scarcely be excelled even by the human voice.

The shortest note in the faintest whisper or the most noisy fortissimo, the most rapid run, or the swiftest chromatics can be executed with a precision and perfection attainable on no other instrument.

In another and more scientific sense the violin is the only perfect instrument. The piano cannot be tuned perfectly and the flute that will play in tune on all its keys has never yet been made. Where these and other instruments stagger and limp, the violin springs to the front without an effort. Volumes may be written on its majestic powers, but what good?

The violin reached perfection nearly 200 years ago—for except the sitting back of the neck, a little to increase the pressure of the strings, on account of our heightened concert pitch, and give greater command of the higher notes, and a slight thickening of the bass-bar, no alteration of importance has been made on the Cremona models—and at the same time became king of all. Its reign is undisputed and therefore needs no demonstration.

My own advice to the student is to be sparing in the number of lessons he takes, but to be certain that they are taken from a teacher with a position in the musical world, and one having that unmistakable grace of style by which a good player may be picked out by a deaf man.

Then again there is what I call the pernicious teacher. A man

who has formed a theory of his own in regard to the position of the instrument, or the handling of the bow; the man to whom all the great masters, such as Spohr, Balliot, David, Campagnoli, Kreutzer, Henning, Maza and the rest, are as nobody, and who deforms his pupils for life by drilling them into his own style, till they may actually be picked out without prompting in a crowd. A student is better without teaching at all than with lessons from such a master. One such blind leader of the blind I have in my mind's eye whose peculiar cat's-paw-like style of holding the bow I can recognize at a glance in any pupil who has had the misfortune to study under him.

Another teacher I have before me who holds his bow about two inches from the nut as if these two inches of hair were a superfluous incumbrance; and a third who thinks nothing of expending half of the pupil's time in teaching him to rosin the bow, and who always wastes, at least, half of the hour in "blethering" about himself and the feats he has done. Another I remember whose bow described a half-moon curve in crossing the strings; and how such a player could turn out a pupil with flexible wrist I am at a loss to understand. F. B.

The pupils of the Conservatory of Music will give a concert in the R. E. Church next Monday evening. They will be assisted by Miss MacGragor, who has during her residence in this city charmed many with her magnificent voice. This in itself should be sufficient to attract a large number.

The Mendelssohn Quintette Club gave one of their musical entertainments at the Victoria last Friday night to a fair audience. The concert was under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. The Quintette Club sustained their well-earned reputation as musicians of an unusual order of merit.

The W. T. Carleton Opera Company will be at the Victoria on the nights of the 22nd and 23rd.

On the 14th inst. the Clemenceau Case was presented at the Grand Opera House, Dubuque, Iowa.

Booklets, Christmas cards the Annuals, viz. Chatter Box, Infant's magazine, Boy's and Girl's Annual, Leisure Hours, Sunday at Home, and many others at Hibben & Co.'s.

The meeting at Government House last Thursday afternoon to form a Sir John A. McDonald memorial committee was presided over by Sir Joseph Trutch. Mr. Herbert Stanton was chosen secretary. After a long discussion it was decided that the Lieut.-Governor should appoint committees to collect in different parts of the province. The following committee was named for Victoria city: Messrs. Thomas Earle M. P., Sir Joseph Trutch, R. P. Rithet, E. G. Prior M. P., T. B. Hall, Hon. J. H. Turner, Hon. Dr. Helmecken and W. C. Ward, treasurer.

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