

Mozart, the
"Devout Lover."

(John O'London's Weekly.)

When the Emperor Joseph II. once asked Mozart why he did not marry a rich wife, the great composer proudly answered, "Sire, I trust that my genius will always enable me to support the woman I love." But, in spite of his genius, the most brilliant in Europe, his wedded life was pitifully clouded by poverty and struggle before he was laid to rest in his pauper's grave.

Probably no musician has ever been more richly dowered than Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was cradled at Salzburg one January day in 1756. "Divine Mozart," Rossini dubbed him; "Mozart was a music made man," declared David; "Mozart is Mozart, as Allah is Allah," said Viardot. As a child of four this future "Master of Masters" composed music which his father, a noted violinist, called "so difficult that no one would be able to play it"; and at six he was able to play it; and at six he was able to play it; and at six he was able to play it.

She saw "Only a Little Man." In the Imperial Palace of Schonbrunn, we are told, this wonder-child once sprang into the Empress Maria Theresa's lap, threw his arms round her neck, and kissed her as a preliminary to telling her daughter Marie Antoinette, "You are nice; I will marry you." And when, a little later, Mme. de Pompadour haughtily refused the child's proffered kiss, he exclaimed, indignantly, "Who is this that will not kiss me? Why, the Empress kisses me!" Such was the boy whose marvellous skill on the clavier, organ, and violin, and his less wonderful compositions, made Europe ring with his fame before he had reached his teens.

Laughed at His Love-Making. Mozart had reached manhood before Love first came to him in the attractive guise of Aloisia von Weber, a beautiful girl of fifteen, with the promise of a glorious voice, to whom he completely lost his heart when first he set eyes on her at Mannheim. But his first passion was as ill-fated as it was ardent; for Aloisia only laughed at his love-making, while his father poured cold water on his ardour.

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dour. "Oh with you to Paris, and that soon!" he wrote to his son from Salzburg. "This is not the time for such follies, unless you want to ruin your career." And, thus, doubly discouraged, Mozart carried his heavy heart to the French capital to seek oblivion of his sorrow in hard work and the adulation that always awaited him. "I knew nothing of the greatness of his genius," Aloisia explained in later and wiser years. "I saw in him only a little man."

But if Aloisia was thus blind, her younger sister, Constance, had eyes to see the greatness in the "little man," and also the excellent quality that were allied to it; and it was not long before Mozart found the oblivion he sought in her sweet companionship. She had none of her sister's brilliance; but she had a sweetness

of nature, a sympathy and devotion, that appealed to him still more strongly.

But between them and their full happiness stood a stern guardian who, before giving his consent, insisted on the young musician signing a undertaking to marry Constance within three years, or "in the event of such an impossibility as that he should change his mind," to pay her a yearly sum of 300 florins. But Love laughs at guardians as at locksmiths; and the moment the guardian's back was turned Constance tore the document into shreds, and fell on Mozart's neck exclaiming, "Dear Wolfgang, I need no written promise from you. I believe your word."

An Unwelcome Guest. Thus, in spite of the guardian and of the opposition of Mozart's father, Wolfgang and Constance stood together at the altar one August day in 1782. And when the ceremony was over, Mozart says, "my wife and I, too, began to weep; upon which everyone, even the priest, was moved, and all who witnessed our emotion wept."

To Mozart and his bride they were doubtless tears of joy, and of a great relief that they had reached their haven at last. But both were fated to shed tears later in which there was little joy; for they quickly found an unwelcome and unwelcome guest in their home—and its name was Poverty. In spite of Mozart's fame and his transcendent genius, he was fated always to receive much adulation, but little gold. So poor, in fact, were they, within a few months of their wedding day that, it is said, a friend who called on them one cold winter day found them waiting to keep themselves warm, in the absence of fuel for the smallest fire.

The Reward of Genius. We read that one day, as he was composing, while she slept by his side, a noisy messenger suddenly entered. Fearful lest she should be disturbed, he rose so hurriedly that a penknife he had in his hand fell and buried itself in his foot. Although in great pain he stole quietly from the room to have the wound attended to; and, although he was lame for many days, his wife never heard of the accident. When, too, he left her asleep in the morning, he would leave some such tender note as this to greet her on waking: "I wish you good morning, dear little wife. I hope you have slept well, and that nothing has disturbed your rest. Be very careful while I am away, and keep all domestic troubles till I return, which will be soon."

And this devotion never wavered. On the fourth day of December, 1791, as he lay dying from fever, he gasped out, "Must I go, just as I am able to live in peace? Must I leave my wife and my poor children just when I should have been able to provide better for them?"

Just
Folks
Edgar A. Guest

THE FRIENDS WHO BACK YOU UP.

It's the friends who are behind you you depend on all the while. Not the friends you'll meet to-morrow or the friends of pomp and style; When you're up against a battle for a goal or silver cup, It's the old friends who are with you, for they always back you up.

You don't have to turn to see them, you just know that they are there. They follow where you're going and they're with you everywhere; You can center your attention on the work you have to do, For you know should danger threaten that your friends are back of you.

Afraid? Go forward bravely, you don't have to fight alone. There are good friends glad to follow and they'll make their presence known; Though the throng grows thick about you and your faith is sorely tried, Friends are coming up behind you and they'll battle at your side.

The new friend may desert you but the old friends never do. They'll share in every danger and they'll gladly see you through; You can face the world undaunted, you can fight when foes attack, And bank on the assurance that your friends are at your back.

Household Notes.

Avoid putting wet leaves of lettuce in a salad, as the dressing will not cling to them.

When cookies or cakes are sweetened with honey they are less likely to dry out.

Home-bottled fruit syrups are excellent to use in refreshing hot-weather beverages.

Chilled coffee is excellent sweetened with honey or maple syrup and served with cream.

When canning apples, the sweeter the syrup the quicker the apples become transparent.

A pinch of baking powder to every pint of beer is the rule when using sour milk and soda.

A good filling for brown bread sandwiches is eggs and dates chopped and mixed with cream dressing.

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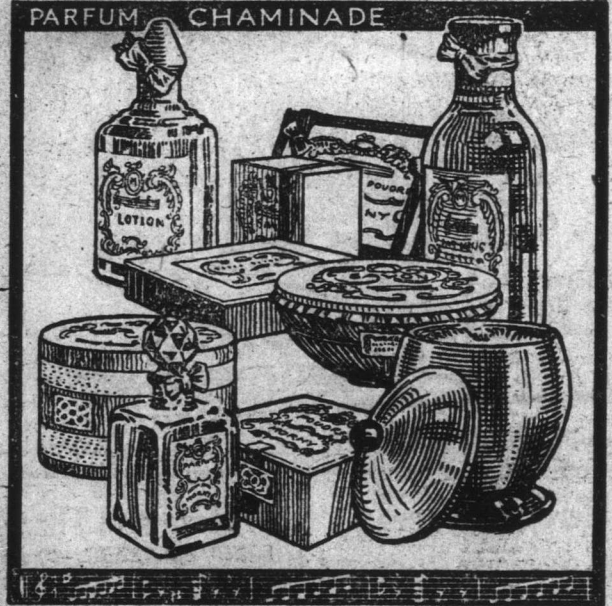
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THE CHANGEFUL SEA.



One day the sea's a brilliant blue, and easily it goes skidding; the next it has a sombre hue, it's motion slow, forbidding. One day I camp upon the shore and watch it as it surges, and there's such pathos in its roar

Foel like crooning dirges. Next day its message is so glad, it asks no mortal's pity, and I produce a pen and pad, and scribble a buoyant ditty. One day the waters run like wine, in froth and foam they're boiling; the next they have a dismal whine, as though they needed oiling. One day they're green, and everywhere the note of mirth's prevailing; the next they're darker than despair, and every wave is waiting. Old Neptune has a wondrous eye, that touches all emotions, and on it, like a house afire, he plays, among his oceans. Now sweeter than the lullabies of mothers, in the gleaming; and now the notes like thunder rise, along the octaves roaring. Old Neptune, in his moods, his mighty harp is thrashing; he has a song for all our moods, a note for every passion.

In making the temperance cocktail, everything should be thoroughly chilled, and combined in advance so that the flavors will be thoroughly blended.

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