



All ages and climes have felt the subtle power of music. It's magic has been sung by all bards of the nation. Poets have made it their favorite theme. Soldiers on every battlefield of the world have been rallied by its martial strain. Many a weak, discouraged soldier has become brave while listening to, as Shakespeare puts it, "the silver sound that comes with speedy relief for grieved heart and oppressed mind." The bag pipes, crude, as some of us think, have power to quicken and arouse the dullest Scotchman and under their spell many a gallant Highlander has pressed forward to his death. The effect of music upon health and disease is incalculable.

No home should be without music, for it is better than medicine. For instilling ambition in the lazy and the indifferent, it is almost magical. Careless boys are stirred to sudden enthusiasm by the playing of some lively march. Watch the people on the street, the next time you hear the band; unconsciously they step out. Individuals who have lost heart are fired with a sudden determination to go again into the battle of life and win.

How much brighter the world appears when you get up from your seat after a good concert. Music seems to clear away the clouds. It is almost divine. The part it has played in the religions of the world can never be estimated. A beautiful Puccini or Handel's grand oratorio possesses more power than many a sermon.

From the earliest ages the power of music has been recognized and used in many ways, yet it is only recently that its influence has been studied. In one of the large hospitals in New York, a splendid organ has been placed. One day after everything was completed, the big organ pealed out a beautiful selection from Schubert. As the beautiful tones of the organ vibrated through the wards of the hospital, weary, pain-racked patients ceased their restless tossings to listen to the music. There they lay listening and as the tones grew softer, a sweet peace stole into the throbbing brain and aching bodies and lulled one after another into peaceful sleep and physicians and nurses quietly watched. Nature's restorer could do for them what medicine had failed to do. It is not to be supposed that music can cure disease but it will affect the mind so that Nature will be given a better chance to effect a cure. If the weary patient can be lulled to sleep in this simple way, it is a more potent remedy than narcotics which deaden the senses.

If the languid, depressed patient can be stirred until he forgets his troubles, music is certainly a means of natural healing. There must be tact shown in the selection of the music. What is wanted is cheerful, wholesome song. The patient must be studied and the music adapted to suit the case.

The power of music can be felt in the home when all are well. The children are influenced to be gentler and quieter in their play. We all know how after a day of hard work, either in the field or shop, the school or home, it is a diversion from the day's routine to sit quietly and listen to the beautiful strains of Mendelssohn and Beethoven, or even the simple melodies of the old ballads of Scotland and Ireland, played or sung by some members of the home.

Don't, therefore, if you have an instrument in your home, keep it closed but cultivate whatever talent there is in your family. If the boys are going into life to earn their livelihood by their hands, give them an opportunity early in life of acquiring some knowledge of music. You will never know the hours of pleasure they derive from even a slight knowledge. It will help to keep the mind and life from becoming warped and sordid in the battle of life. Have music in the home. Nothing brings greater pleasure or makes a happier home.

Owing to certain members of the cast being unable to spare the time, the Portage la Prairie amateurs found it necessary to abandon their projected trip to Brandon.

The local talent of Burnside were seen to advantage in a concert given on December 11th, the principal contributors being Mr. and the Misses Hood, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Webster, Mr. Langridge, and Mr. Lowry.

The series of Sunday concerts given at the Walker Theatre are increasing in popularity and as a good portion of the receipts are handed over every week to local charities, the hospitals and the Children's Aid Society are receiving very welcome additions to their finances.

A sacred concert was held at Stonewall on the 18th, when the following music was rendered: Anthems, "The Bethlehem's Shepherds" — Emerson;

"The Angel's Song"—Lorenz. Solo, Miss Card. Hymns, "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "No is He in Yonder Stall," "As with Gladness."

A highly successful concert was held in the Linnel Lodge, Summerberry, on Monday, December 9th. A capital programme was given, the artists being Miss Minnie Leckman, Miss E. Greenless, Messrs. P. L. Bauch, D. McCowan, E. Simmons, P. Stacey, C. G. Lewis, H. P. Gorst, H. C. King, H. Shannon and T. Burns.

The production of "The Egyptian of Pompeii," given at Grenfell on December 10th, drew a large house. "The Egyptian," taken by J. de Stefani; "Tone" by Miss Helen Scott being the strong parts, but Miss Roland as Nydia, the blind girl, won her audience. In fact, not a single part lagged and the scenes were admirably progressive culminating in the "Eruption of Vesuvius."

Soldiers of Fortune, Blue Jeans, An Enemy of the King and Camille were given excellent presentations by the stock company at the Winnipeg Theatre and capacity houses were the order throughout the month. The New Year attraction will be "The Earl of Pawtucket" which met with such spontaneous approval when presented at the same playhouse three years ago. The repertoire for January includes a number of the very best plays.

At Brandon on the 18th a very creditable performance was given of the favorite comedy drama, "A Prince of Lairs," Miss Augusta Perry as Mobe, the Grecian queen of three thousand years ago, caused much amusement by her peculiarities and affectionate ways, while Jere McAuliffe as the Prince of Lairs, easily proved his claim to the title, his "eccentricities" causing endless trouble and keeping him in distress the whole evening. The other players were each well adapted to their parts and gave painstaking and effective rendition to their respective roles.

During December the local playhouses have been offering sumptuous fare to their patrons, and extra good attractions were secured for Christmas week. The great event from a musical standpoint was Kubelik's recital early in December at the Walker and as it will be many years before Winnipeggers can again have the pleasure of hearing the exquisite playing of this virtuoso, the huge theatre was packed at each recital. The attraction for the festive season was "The Vanderbilt Cup," which was very acceptable to the holiday crowds.

The teachers and pupils of Park school gave a very creditable concert at Brandon on Friday, Dec. 20. The programme was as follows: Chorus, "O, Canada, Beloved Fatherland," Instrumental solo, Ruth Hughes. Recitation, Jean Watson. Chorus, "Star of Evening," Duet, "Stars Trembling Over Us," Belle Falconer and Mae Rose. Reading, Marion White. Recitation, "The Widow of Windsor," Ross Banning. Piano and violin Duet, Katie Shirriff and Reggie Cummings. Chorus, "Rule Britannia." The farce, "Box and Cox," concluded the entertainment.

A concert was given at St. Mary's Hall, Portage la Prairie, on the 17th. The full programme was as follows: Selection, Instrumental, Mrs. Gee; Solo, "Won't You Come Over to My House," Miss Daisy Turner; Solo, "Flight of Ages," Mr. Mappin; Solo, "The Bridge," Miss Beatty Hawley; Duet, "The Twins," Messrs. Williams and Brooker; Solo, "When the Heart is Young," Mrs. Gee; Solo, "Out in the Deep," Mr. Riddle; Recitation, Miss M. Macmorine; Selection on violin, Mr. W. Galway; Instrumental, "Golden Rod," Miss Lottie Turner; Comedietta, "Strategy," Mr. Jasper Campion; (A Lawyer), B. R. Brooker; Mr. Charles Twist (A Lover of Laura's), L. Skinner; Mr. Geo. Walker, (A Would-be Lover of Laura's), H. D. Maguire; Mary Bowman, (A House Maid), Miss Kane; Miss Laura Campion, Miss Blackford.

Explicit.

A Dutch woman kept a toll-gate. One foggy day a traveler asked, "Madam, how far is it to A—"

"Shoost a leetle ways," was the reply.

"Yes, but how far?" again asked the traveler.

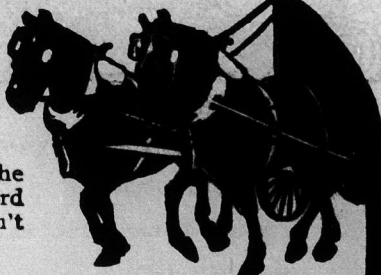
"Shoost a leetle ways," was the reply.

"Madam, is it one, two, three four or five miles?"

The good woman ingenuously replied, "I dinks it is."

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