

Musical Jottings.

During the past fortnight there has been no musical event of note, save the concert given by the Ladies' Choral Society in the Institute Hall on Thursday evening, when the soloists were Miss Devlin (pianist) and Master Edgar Fawcett (violinist). As this concert took place at the time this paper was set up, an extended notice of the performance will be given in our next issue.

In reference to the question touched upon in our last issue relative to the matter of forming a permanent chorus in Victoria, the Musical Editor is in receipt of two letters sent for publication, but as both of them indulge in personalities and are wanting in that spirit of fairness which is essential in such a discussion, they have been consigned to the waste-paper basket. We have in Victoria an amount of musical talent that is remarkable for the size of the place, and yet, there seems to be no basis upon which the different factions (and there are dozens of them) could meet upon common ground. The statement is submitted that should it be possible to unite in one grand whole the available and capable vocalists of

Victoria, we would possess the finest chorus north of San Francisco. It may fairly be asked: "What is the stumbling block to the attainment of so desirable an end?" The answer to this is very simple. There are several persons who have acted as conductors in Victoria with more or less success, men of acknowledged ability, who at the same time have been unable to command the sympathy of the musicians of Victoria through some cause or other. It is suggested in good faith that if the different choir masters of the city would meet and fix upon the appointment of a man who would possess the necessary qualifications—and no doubt it is possible to make such a selection in Victoria—that the organization of a permanent chorus would become an assured fact. Mr. Charles Harriess, the well-known Canadian impresario, has conjured up a gigantic scheme for the development of choral singing on the English Festival plan. The sympathies of every one interested in the progress of music in this country will applaud Mr. Harriess's goal. But can it be said confidently, that such a scheme is at the present time at all feasible? Just imagine three hundred vocalists from this province going to Winnipeg to participate in a Pan-Canadian Festival at somebody's expense. But at the same

time it is possible, and the performances of the "Messiah" last year here when an excellent contingent from Nanaimo swelled the local chorus, to predict that the time is not far distant when we will enjoy a Provincial Festival, that it will not be long before we have the larger provincial towns represented in an annual Festival in our Capital City.

We have our fill of fish and bear stories, but the following will no doubt be of interest to violinists. It appeared in the Chicago Tribune: "A. B. Clark, the violin maker at Richmond, has completed a violin on the Strad model, on which he has been working for years, and which, if there is any virtue in age in connection with violins, ought to become a master work. The back is from an old Scotch commission table, known to be over 400 years old. The body is from an old log 3,000 years old, at least. It was dug out of a swamp in New Jersey and exhibited in 1876 and pronounced by scientists to be fully that old. It seems to be a variety of cedar." In this little tale, it will be noticed that a sharp distinction is drawn between the back and the body of a violin. Violins made from cedar selected from New Jersey swamps should possess a foggy, woolly tone, that could hardly be called penetrating.

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Correspondence.

FROM VAN ANDA.

To the Editor.

The fight against Orientals here has been fought and won by the whites; and we, who were aggressors, have to thank our friends who stood by us and our sympathizers. We have noticed your efforts in our behalf, and feel grateful for your encouragement.

Do you think the Royal Commission will take in Van Andas? Is so, we can furnish them with a few facts regarding these monopolistic pets of Asiatics. We have received the semi-weekly Victoria papers, and find the evidence given before the Commission to vary very much. One in particular, a Major Dupont, seems married to them. There is a Major Dupont in Victoria, who was in the employ of the Dominion Government, in the inland revenue department, and is superannuated, receiving over \$100 a month of the

taxpayers' money of this country. Is this the Chinese champion in Victoria, or is it some other Dupont? There is a street in Vancouver called Dupont, where the Chinese and people of questionable repute exist. Who is this street called after?

It seems a fitting combination that unfortunate women, who may have fallen through having to compete against John, or, rather, refusing to compete against him, should be forced into Dupont street, and there mix with their detested rivals. It is really a pity that laws exist to the effect of superannuating or otherwise assisting those amongst us who, virtually, refuse the right of those of the same flesh and blood as themselves to live honestly.

No reasonable man will deny that it is impossible for a white working man, or woman, to compete against Chinese; and the voice of the people should be made known to all Government officials, past and present, also their understrappers, saying: "Patronize your own, or give way to better principled servants." Our Provincial statutes are framed so as to give Government aid only to those who employ white labor; surely a Government servant should, also, come under that law. We, in Van Andas, have broken the back of the heathen in the mines. Tell the boys elsewhere to go and do likewise, and call on us if they need help.

Texada Island.

EARLY CLOSING.

To the Editor.

I want you to give a little "squeal" in The Outlook. It is early closing. We work fourteen hours a day in stores here, that is, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., which is rather hard for a fellow's health and also for all chances of any recreation. Lately the citizens circulated a petition to the storekeepers asking them to close for two hours a night three times a week, that is, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, to close at 7 p.m. It was not much, but meant a lot to us, as