

were suffering the pangs of perfect starvation, so that the stoutest heart melts and the most grasping hand is opened. In all this you may see the first germ of the musical modes and their close relation to the versatility of common language, and how acutely the human ear is constructed for the discrimination of different sounds, so that a succession of one order produces the most exquisite pleasure, and a succession of them in another order produces the greatest uneasiness, if not positive pain. The perfect adaptation of music to the subject is, therefore, very evident; for nothing is so essential to the proper effect of music. How much was Burns indebted to Mr. Thomson, who, by his sound judgment, poetic learning, extensive information, and musical lore, was in his own place as essential as the bard in acquiring the popularity and immortality which have been so justly assigned to Burns. The sweet and natural strains of Tannahill owe very much to the most appropriate and original music assigned to them by the distinguished R. A. Smith. There is, however, this difference between common and sacred song—the matter and music in the former is a fixture made with skill and great care once for all, but in the latter the preceptor must daily select and adapt his tunes to the matter and measure of the appointed psalms with musical skill, sound judgment, and good taste. The whole of this letter would exceed due limits, were I to finish the latter half of it; I shall, therefore, resume it in my next communication. I have in the preceding part addressed chiefly one class of your readers, and I have intentionally avoided scientific terms by not assigning musical reasons for the peculiarity of the modes. As golfers and cricketers may be divided into the agile and non-agile, the clumsy and stiff, and the supple and active, so the human race may be divided into three classes in relation to music. First, a small class of non-descriptors who want the essential attributes of human nature, and dwell either in the confines of musical nonentity, or within its gloomy region; I mean those who have no musical ears. In the opposite extreme there is a second very large class, many of whom have youth and vigor, good ears and voices for correct time and tune, but they know nothing of music as a science; they have more extensive attainments than the feathered songsters of the sylvan groves, but they have made their acquisitions in the same way, and their melody, though sweet, is sometimes as artless and wild. And there is a third class, who possess all their natural gifts in a state of high perfection, with the advantage of scientific cultivation, and I purpose to address those in my next letter.

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THE easiest and best way to expand the chest is to have a good, large heart in it; it saves the cost of gymnastics.

THE greatest hero is not he who subdues nations, but he who conquers himself.

## Forty Years Ago.

### Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia.

THIS, it will be readily admitted, is a very solemn and important subject of inquiry in every country, and among the members of every society. It requires a considerable amount of information, and much local knowledge, to narrate the events occurring thirty or forty years ago, in our nearest neighborhood. We all know many of the events which have been passing around us for the last few years, but in this enlightened age, and in the midst of a very stirring and fluctuating population, it demands no small strength of mind and vigor of memory to recall, without very ample materials, the exact state of society and its varied interests twenty, thirty or forty years ago. And yet this, though confessedly difficult, is both a delightful and profitable exercise. It revives many pleasing scenes, renews our acquaintance with many excellent persons who have long since passed into the world of spirits, and furnishes many subjects for serious meditation and improvement. There were, it is well known, thirty, forty, and fifty years ago, not a few as enlightened citizens in Halifax and Nova Scotia, as able and upright merchants, as generous and liberal friends, and as pious and devoted christians, both men and women, as are to be found among us at the present day. Although they have long since left our world, and a new, a second, and third generation is springing up among us, yet we delight to cherish their excellent characters, recall their good deeds to memory, and to encourage their posterity to imitate their noble and praiseworthy example. There is much to be learned from the past. Besides the marvellous events and glorious achievements recorded in history, every aged man and woman in this community can recollect many family occurrences, and delightful interviews and conversations, which ought to be held in lasting remembrance. Volumes might be written on this subject. Some of our best and worthiest characters, whose names may be soon forgotten, might receive justice at our hands, and the wisdom and experience of past ages be preserved and transmitted to coming generations. The missionaries of the Protestant churches in Europe, in Africa, and India, have been highly recommended for their piety and zeal, and for their self-denying exertions. Our missionaries, in Nova Scotia and other parts of America, for such they truly and worthily were, who laboured by night and by day in their master's cause, often with very small recompense or reward from their people, have been overlooked and forgotten. Well do I know those who bare the burden and heat of the day, thirty and forty years ago in Nova Scotia, most of whom have long since given account of their stewardship. They were almost all of them excellent ministers, and laid the