

the journey, it is our Father who stands at the door to welcome us to His own home.—The Standard.

### Our Divine Accompanist.

When I was beginning a five-weeks' tour in Scandinavia, a considerable burden lay on my soul. It seemed so unlikely that any special impression could be produced by addresses delivered through interpretation! Besides which, I did not know how far my way of setting forth the truth would be consistent with the methods of thought characteristic of the religious people whom I might address.

Under the impression of these thoughts, I was taking my first meal in my friend's house in Copenhagen, when another gentleman, an Englishman, who had just returned from a town in Norway, happened to narrate the following incident. It had occurred in a hotel

where he was staying, in one of the most beautiful parts of Norway, much frequented by tourists.

A little girl was staying in this hotel with her parents, and was at that trying age when small fingers are beginning to find their way about the piano, striking as many wrong notes as right ones; and young nerves do not seem particularly sensitive to the anguish which such attempts are capable of inflicting on others. She knew one or two tunes sufficiently well to be able to make them out with one finger; and with these she made the guests familiar, to their despair.

But one day a brilliant musician came to the hotel, took in the situation, and sat down beside the small musician, accompanying her with the most exquisite improvisation. Each note of hers only gave him a new motif for chords of surpassing beauty, whilst the drawing-room, now crowded with people, breathlessly listened.

When the performance was over, the illustrious accompanist took the little maiden by the hand, and led her blushing around the company, saying, "Let me introduce to you, ladies and gentlemen, the young lady to whom you are indebted for the music to which you have been listening."

It was true. They were indebted to her for the music, because her efforts had led to his magnificent accompaniment; but his part in the joint performance had led to a deep impression, and it was he whom they were destined to remember.

It is difficult to describe how greatly that simple story helped me through the following weeks, and will help me so long as I live. At the best, one has only a very slight knowledge of the eternal harmonies, and can only strike out single broken notes of them, sometimes with long pauses between. The great new song, which is always breaking forth in the eternal spaces, is imperfectly apprehended; and even what is apprehended is imperfectly conveyed, through the inadequacy of human language. Sometimes it would seem that the celestial chords ring through our heart and brain, but how to express them we find not. But at such times God comes to help us. It is as if He supplies by the suggestions of His Spirit to our hearer's souls the deep things which ear hath not heard, because speech hath not spoken them.

Especially when repeating by translation I have been conscious of this. I have realized that my words were being deprived of a great deal that might seem attractive and even necessary; the personal element, at least, has been reduced to a minimum; but there has been so manifest an effect produced on my hearers that I have known that the hands of the Redeemer have been also laid on the souls before me, awakening responses in the bass of emotion and in the treble of volition, which will never cease to vibrate to all eternity.



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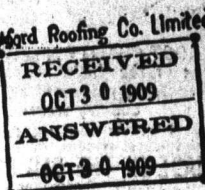
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