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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

"TO SLEEP-PEROHANCE TO DREAM-AY! THERE'S THE RUB.

I dreamed that I stood in a lone, dark wood, Where giants of old had roamed O'er the carpet green; in the silver sheen Of the sparking lake that lay between The forest grin and the river broad, Where narrowed the brook to a rearing flood. Whose waters surged and feamed.

I dreamed that the wood had for years been dead, Its skeleton arms were bare. No songeters fitted from limb to limb, There wandered no deer through its arches dim, But withered and dead was each towering head; And the fractured boughs, from which life had fled, Were bleaching in hundreds there.

I dreamed that the ghost of the ages past
Came towards me, gliding slow;
And a breath of wee went meaning through
That elient wood, and a phantom crew
Passed through the dead trees like a summer breeze,
When the weary plowman takes his ease,
And the evening sun is low.

I dreamed that I heard a whispered word,
Like the sough of the sobbing wind;
"Twas a dreary sigh, that went drifting past,
Like the ghost of a shrick on the wintry blast,
And the moaning breath still whispered "Death
Of all that hath life on this prey old earth
Not one shall be left behind."

I dreamed that the fear that my time was near Like poison affected my blood;
It grew thick and chill: despite my will My breath came feeble and feebler still, My sight was dim and my reason awayed, My utterance failed e'en while I raised A petition for help to God.

I dreamed that a silence profound and deep Settled down on my throbbing brain; And into my sleep there began to creep Sweet visions of home, that like billows did sweep All the grisly phantoms of night away. As mists are dispersed by the "orb of day" And I woke to life again.

I dreamed no more: from the calm lake's shore I watched the swallows dart;
The glorious sun above my head,
Beneath the a flowery carpet spread,
The birds 'mid the branches warbled and trilled,
My eyes, as I listened, with tears were filled,
And with gratitude my heart.

NEMO.

Hantsport, March 1892.

DRAMA VERSUS MUSIC.

The Editor of The Critic.

Sir,-Permit me as one interested to ask a question through the medium of your valuable columns as to the relative merits of the above, i e, their merits as educational factors.

On the occasion of our Philharmonic and Choral Societies' Concerts, a message was sent to the "powers that be" of our Windsor Ladies' College asking that the young ladies be allowed to attend these concerts, and offering a rate accorded to the students at the Collegiate School. If my memory serves me well, the answer conveyed to me orally by our Secretary was to the effect that the authorities in charge deemed it inadvisable to create a precedent in the matter of allowing students to attend outside entertainments.

Judge of my surprise when I find quite a number allowed to attend and enjoy the dramatic entertainment given by the students of Kings College on Monday last. I do not intend to decry the merits of the performance, still less would I call into question the educational power of the stage, but is this discrimination in the matter of entertainments on the right side ?

The object of teaching should be to awaken the critical faculty, and opportunities of developing it are certainly essential. The critical is necessarily antecedent to the creative. A syllogism holds no less in music than logic, comprehension, comparison, conclusion. How attain the second if no opportunity is effered?

I will not suppose for an instant that an intentional sneer was implied by the refusal of the authorities in re the young ladies taking advantage of such musical environment as we have. Even were this so the names of the artists who have graced our programmes would be a sufficient offset to such an idea.

Among the advantages claimed by the Halifax Conservatory of Music we

find the fact of a musical environment prominently urged.

It may be claimed that the students at this Windsor institution are, musically, too young to be benefitted by attending these concerts, but the fallacy of this is apparent when we remember the infinite worth of the early calling into being of the critical faculty.

The opportunities enjoyed by the students here are limited to an occasional musical evening, the closing recitals, possibly a solo, vocal or instru-mental, by the teachers, necessarily of rare occurrence in a large school with a limited staff.

To view this matter from a broader stand, oint, even the recitals are often a means of retarding true musical progress. The pupils who are to play have to devote much time to conquering technical difficulties, time that could be better spent in obtaining analytical knowledge, and so lead them to understand and enjoy the work they are undertaking.

This widespread custom of teaching pupils showy pieces may be termed the art of musical mnemonics rather than the art of teaching music.