

This condition of things is not a result of the lack of musical talent among the people, but rather results from want of training and practice. As a rule there is an abundance of latent musical talent in the people, but it has been neglected. It only needs to be drawn out and cultivated. In cities, on the other hand, the tendency is in an opposite direction. There we find a tendency to elevate unduly the musical part of the service and to relegate to a secondary place the reading of the Word, the counsel of the minister and the calling upon God in prayer. The music, in fact, is made everything; the rest of the service, little or nothing. So far has this tendency carried the people that the service of the sanctuary, in too many cases, appears more like the opera than the solemn worship of the great Creator.

Now who is to regulate this ill-balanced and anomalous condition of affairs? The regulation lies to some extent, nay largely, with the minister. He should have sufficient acquaintance with music to enable him to know what place in the service of the sanctuary the psalmody ought to occupy. In cases where the service of praise is defective

he should take such measures as are at his command to improve it, and it is precisely in such cases that his knowledge of music will serve him in good stead. Very many are the ways, as anybody can readily see, in which the minister might make use of his knowledge of music to improve the singing in his congregation. Again in a congregation where the tendency is to make the praise service a mere musical entertainment, the minister should be on his guard. He should know what really good singing is, and what is proper and becoming in the house of God. He should be able to see where true praise ceases and opera begins, and when he sees the praise of the sanctuary in danger of being reduced to mere opera, he should call a halt forthwith.

The question, then, that this consideration suggests is: Where can we get the necessary instruction in music? And we answer: Right here in the Presbyterian College of Montreal. Here we have the opportunity of attending lectures in music, and of receiving, free of cost, that instruction for which, at another time, we might have to pay a goodly sum, if we should be able to secure it at all.