

our churches does not express any feeling at all. It is merely a touch of this and a flourish of that, and an indefinite piping and harping that means nothing—a mere jumble of musical sounds.

Oh, if our average choirs could but be persuaded to stop murdering anthems,—music that never was designed to be sung anywhere but under the lofty arches of some grand cathedral and by thoroughly trained singers,—and would give us instead, in softened tones and with distinct utterance, a verse or two of some sweet heart-hymn, how many thousands of hitherto disgusted worshippers would rise up to call them blessed. Better still, let the hearts of those who lead us in the service of song be filled with the spirit of faith and love, and their every note will awaken responsive echoes in listening hearts, and the strains they sing will be to every devout worshipper a holy baptism of sound.

Our space will permit only a very brief reference to the use of musical instruments in the service of God's house. There are some who strongly object to their use ; but such persons should remember that in ancient times instruments were used by divine appointment. Thus we read in the Scriptures :—" He set Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with psalteries and with harps according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet ; for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets." Now it is not necessary we should plead for the use of these same instruments in divine worship. God has placed a power of music in material substances, and it is for man to discover which of these substances will best give forth the tones of religious emotion ; and experience has thus far proved that there is no instrument for this purpose equal to the organ. Not only will its varying tones express almost every religious emotion of the soul ; but it has this peculiarity, it cannot well be used for any other purpose. It will not go forth to battle and it would figure but poorly in the music of the dance. Like the holy Nazarite, it cannot leave the house of the Lord ; therefore, let it be consecrated to the service of the Lord forever.

It were impossible to leave a subject like this without a thought reaching on to the world to come. We have always been wont to regard the strains of music as entering largely into the worship of the skies ; nor is this to be wondered at when we remember the numerous allusions in the scriptures all pointing in that direction.