

THE TROUBLESOME CHOIR.

Some people imagine it is no task to conduct a choir and have it always ready for any demand, either funeral or festive. They fail to take into account the hours of time consumed at home and at practice, besides the services of the day, when all are expected, rain or shine. They fail to realize that good singing is brought about by a judicious selection of voices with appropriate music and careful training, and to bring out the voices, execute the music and train the choir calls for labor, if it be not actually of the hands. Vexatious and contrary singers must be brought to terms, and people of ordinary ability and high notions must be shown their mistake and be brought down to the common level from which all start, and gradually be elevated or brought out strictly on merit. It is no easy task, individually or collectively, to accomplish all this, too frequently regarded as a pleasure to be sought by the singers for pleasure's sake, or good of the cause. If a leader is fit for his work he will devote such time at home to planning and seeking to find opportunities for self-improvement, besides paying much attention to the personal characteristics of his singers. The weekly practise must take place on some day other than Sunday, and usually calls for two or three hours of exasperating labor in a cold church on Saturday evening, followed by the service of Sunday morning and evening. Perhaps the leader has been on time and kept waiting for an hour before enough singers arrive to make up the desired number of voices; or maybe the hymn or anthem for the morrow has been poorly executed, and has to be "done" over and over, finally winding up in a storm of indignant inquiries of "How many more times must we do this?" or, "Are we to be kept all night?" etc. Perhaps the whole party has been retarded by the late arrival of an important singer whose only excuse is she "went for a little walk and forgot about the practice." Do not these annoying things count?

If there have been other leaders than the present one, how many of the ex-leaders will refrain from severely criticizing every effort of the present choir? I know of a case where a good deacon formerly led a choir, and gave it up after some years because he failed to get satisfactory music from his singers, and personally, aided as a good deacon should, in the selection of his successor. This accomplished Deacon B— sat in his pew with an air of resignation too beautiful to be perfectly true. The new leader constructed a fine choir and gave better music than had been heard there for many a day. Deacon B—

could stand anything but the success of the new music and began to find fault in the regulation style. He was given the cold shoulder and things went on thus until one unfortunate day the tenor "broke" on an easy solo, and although quickly recovering, the act caused confusion. This was a catastrophe Deacon B— had been foretelling so long it had been forgotten by all but himself. It was a study to see his face at the moment he realized the difficulty in the gallery, and as quick as he recognized the nature of the proceeding he quietly bent forward with an expression of malicious satisfaction upon his features hard to describe, and then in the pew, with his wife and friend gazing at him in astonishment, he deliberately clapped his hands and rubbed his knees, giving abundant evidence of his feelings, and said triumphantly, "I told you so!" This same choir had four or five young women, all promising singers, they being members of the very church they sang for, who were working girls, but always neat and ladylike. They were prompt, studious and attentive, and many times helped through right nicely when the high-toned soprano failed to appear. Their position was well known to every church member, and especially, to the Music Committee who had looked them up, urging them to join the choir. After certain festivals, where the services of the choir were in demand, had been held, and, so to speak, the orange sucked dry, a vast deal of complaint seemed to spring up. There was something wrong it was quite evident, and ere long the pastor put in his appearance, and fencing with the leader for a while, said:

"I understand you have some working girls in the choir?"
 "I believe so," said the leader, "and they are the most promising singers of the lot."
 "Yes, yes," said the good man, "I am glad to hear that, but er— er— don't you think you can get some one to take their places on Sabbath days? They could continue to attend the weekly practices, you know."

"What is the objection to them as long as they are good singers, and some of them church members?" asked the leader, adding, "and they are all respectable."

"I know," hastily said the pastor, "I know all that, but they work for a living."

"Brother," said the leader, "is that your idea?"

"No, not exactly," replied the pastor; "many have spoken to me of it."

"Well, you may tell those who sent you," said the now angry leader, "that I expect these girls will go to Heaven like any other Christian, and they will have to sing with them there. They may as well get used to it here."

It is needless, almost, to add the girls did not go until the whole choir went, which was merely a question of time.—Sel.

On this side, and on that, men see their friends drop off, like leaves in autumn.

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Geo. V. Rand.
 Wolfville, May 1st. 1884.

W. & A. Railway
 Time Table

1884—Summer Arrangement—1884.
 Commencing Monday, 2nd June.

GOING EAST.	Accm. Daily.		Exp. Daily.
	A. M.	P. M.	
Annapolis Le've	5 30	1 45	
14 Bridgetown "	6 25	2 23	
28 Middleton "	7 25	2 57	
42 Aylesford "	8 32	3 30	
47 Berwick "	8 55	3 43	
50 Waterville "	9 10	3 50	
59 Kentville d'pt	5 40	10 40	4 20
64 Port Williams "	6 00	11 00	4 33
66 Wolfville "	6 10	11 10	4 38
69 Grand Pre "	6 25	11 22	4 46
72 Avonport "	6 37	11 35	4 54
77 Hantsport "	6 55	11 55	5 08
84 Windsor "	7 45	12 45	5 30
116 Windsor June "	10 00	3 10	6 50
130 Halifax arrive	10 45	3 55	7 25

GOING WEST.	Exp. Daily.		Accm. M W F daily.
	A. M.	P. M.	
Halifax—leave	7 20	2 30	
14 Windsor Jun—"	8 00	3 30	
46 Windsor "	9 15	11 00	5 35
53 Hantsport "	9 35	11 30	6 03
58 Avonport "	9 48	11 50	6 20
61 Grand Pre "	9 56	12 06	6 33
64 Wolfville "	10 05	12 24	6 46
66 Port Williams "	10 10	12 36	6 55
71 Kentville "	10 40	1 25	7 10
80 Waterville "	10 58	2 02	
83 Berwick "	11 05	2 17	
88 Aylesford "	11 18	2 40	
102 Middleton "	11 48	3 47	
116 Bridgetown "	12 23	4 52	
130 Annapolis Ar've	1 00	5 50	

N. B. Trains are run on Eastern Standard Time, One hour added will give Halifax time.

Steamer Secret leaves Annapolis for St. John every Tues Thurs and Sat. p. m.
 Steamer New Brunswick leaves Annapolis for Boston every Sat. p. m.
 Steamer Cleopatra leaves Yarmouth for Boston every Wed. p. m.
 Through tickets may be obtained at the principal Stations.

P. Innes,
 General Manager.
 Wolfville, 30th May 1884

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