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[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WELFARE.]

The Dying Soldier.

The sun has set beyond the wintry sky—
The stars are twinkling forth—how cold and dim
They seem to shudder in the concave sky,
At these dead faces—pale and grim—
They sing my requiem hymn.

Vain thought! what know you burning orb
Fair,
Of wandering dreams which madden human
clay—
Onward ye glide, above the twilight air,
While you red pool that bath'd brave hearts
to-day
Reflects your shining ray.

How cold the wind is—how it moans along,
Through the torn drum, and shot dismounted
gun—
Hush! is the revel now—and hush! a song—
For many a brave there dawns no morrow's
sun—
Hark!—"Balklava's won!"

"Huzza!" I heard an English cheer—"tis
sweet
To hear one's native tongue—once more—
"Huzza!"

What do they say? list—hark! they say
"retreat!"

Alas! I may not cheer—the sabre away
Of Russ is crush'd to-day.

"Huzza!"—but I am dying—on my heart
I feel the chill of death—where was I—oh,
Addressing ye pale stars! and thus we part—
Fast from my side the purple blood-drops flow,
Pierced by a Cosack's blow.

You stars are shining on the brook which falls
Beside my father's mansion—far away,
In white-cliff'd Albion—on the banner'd walls
My picture hangs—and oh! how oft to-day
It prompts hearts to pray.

Yes! ye are twinkling o'er my gray-hair'd side,
When day dreams flash like the sunlit foam
Sweet o'er my spirit with a torrent's power,
Then burst like the spray shower.

Pale watchers of the skies! ye are the same
That glitt'ered on my path when 't was a boy,
I read in your vague page the sunlit foam
And with dim visions thrill'd my soul with joy—
Bright dreams without a shadow.

Ye are unchanged—but changed is my youth's
home—
Where I have lived a lifetime in an hour—
When day dreams flash like the sunlit foam
Sweet o'er my spirit with a torrent's power,
Then burst like the spray shower.

Hark! 'tis the sound of rushing feet,
Hark! hark! 'tis the crash as the squadrons
meet—
Hark! 'tis the cheer of the stern buzzer,
As he strikes at the lightning bolts of the czar,
And bathes his blade in the tide of war,
You Cosack spur his coal-black steed,
His lance bends like a broken reed—
The Crescent gleams like the moon in the sky,
While the banner of England waves on high—
The bayonet flutters and flaps as of yore,
When stained in Britain's dust and gore,
'Tis the Cross of Bremen that gleams in the sun
As erst it gleamed over Ascodon,
When Richard Hagenstent fought and won—
Hark! 'tis the peal—the artillery's crash,
The whirling smoke and the hissing flash,
The bayonet and the sabre slash,
Huzza! the plumes of Albion wave,
Like snow wreaths on the air.

My soul but wonders! I am with the dead
Not in the rush of battle—do I rave
The stars above me and the earth my bed—
Around me laughter and men without a grave
The beautiful—the brave.

Methought I led the charge and cheer'd them
on,
To what—to how their fellow mortals down
A swifter for the freak—the vision's gone
Hark! 'tis a living groan—a ghastly frown
Tush! for this world's renown!

Where am I? in the stars, or on the earth?
Alas! I rave—for flashes come and go,
And my brain reels with light—my father's
heart
Did I see my father?—No! oh! no!—
I did but fancy so.

Well! was not this my childhood's dream—to
die,
With broken sabre in my red right hand,
The river ark ebbing a victory!
And I have proclaimed through far Albion's
land
The feats of my proud hand?

Alas! for human fame—how dark, how chill!
How sickening to my soul—Oh! would it mine
To win the laurel'd Caesar's—would it mine
My Spirit once again?—I would resign
The bubble for some wine—

Or water—Oh! for one pure draught again
Of the pure Thames—Oh! Father! God in
Heaven—
My spirit wanders—fever burns my brain:
Oh, God! and must I die, and unforgiven—
Lose earth as well as heaven.

My sister! did I dream of home? Ah, no!
'T was yonder trooper groping mid the dead,
How glory is his face—how dark with we—
Poor comrade, how that sabre-gash has bleed—
Thou'rt sped, stern brave, thou'rt sped.

My sister! I shall never see thee more,
So shall I slumber by the Exine wave,
And thou shalt read of Balklava's gore;
But never may'st thou see thy brother's grave,
Amid the fallen brave.

Farewell! I may not see thee till that day
When God shall summon up his sleeping
dead,
And shall I meet thee then? I may—I may,
And it may be to part—for I have led
A sinful life, and died.

Where shall I fly?—the hour of death is come.
Hark! hush! who whisper'd to my shrinking
soul—
What thrills my pulses, like a muffled drum,
When throbs the morning air with its long roll—
'Soldier! would'st thou be whole?"

Who speaks?—Oh! thou eternal God of light!
'T is Jesus—'tis the crucifixion, who bore

The cross of old, Oh! beautiful and bright—
Oh! thou strong Saviour! Jesus Christ, restore
My innocence once more.

Thou dost—thou dost—thy blood was shed
for me,
For me, foul-hearted, hardened son of earth—
Hail! King of glory—hail! my spirit's free—
Oh! wondrous love!—Oh, mystic "second
birth!"
This is a sceptre worth!

Farewell, vain dreams of fame—England fare-
well—
Farewell, my father, and my father's home—
My sins are pardon'd me—I hear the swell,
The crash of heavenly music, or 'ye dome
Where God's bright angels roam.

Oh! blessed Christ!—my strength was spent
for naught—
My years had flown in vain—vainly I die,
I might have told the souls that thou brought
With thy dear blood, of fairer words on high,
And won them to the sky.

I dare not view that past—Bless God 'tis gone,
Thou hast atoned, my Lord, and all is well—
I see the bright glory of the dawn
Of endless day—come, ISAIAH—
The earth recedes—farewell!

Guyboro', Feb. 12, 1855.

Church Music.

MEANS. EDITORS: You will much oblige
a subscriber and a constant reader, by pub-
lishing the accompanying *thrilling* remarks
on Church Music. They are well written,
and smack considerably, both as to matter
and style, of an old book that belonged to
father, called "Diakonia of Devils." The
importance of *Congregational singing* in the
public worship of Almighty God was ac-
knowledged among the Baptists, almost un-
iversally, fifty or sixty years ago; but the
signs of the times seem to indicate a strong
desire, on the part of some, to abandon the
principles and usages of our fathers; and I
am by no means certain but that choirs and
organs, bass viols and flutes, will win the
day. Let us try to put off the evil day as
long as possible.

AN OLD-FASHIONED BAPTIST PASTOR.

The following letter from one of the mis-
sionaries of the Prince of Darkness to his
master, upon the subject of Church Music,
was intercepted by some contributor to the
New York Musical Review, in which it ap-
peared:

In obedience to the commands of your In-
fernal Highness, I have the honor to report
the progress and present state of the im-
portant enterprise committed to me, namely,
that of obtaining control of the church music
in America, and subverting it to the service
of your Highness. In performing this duty,
I am able to congratulate you, my Highness,
and the bright prospects for the future. It
has been necessary to proceed with some
caution in this work, in order to avoid, as far
as possible, alarming those righteous persons
who, acknowledging no allegiance to your
Highness, might otherwise desert our purpose.
I am in a state of entire triumph, with re-
gard to the musical portion of Church ser-
vice, as could be desired. In order to quiet
their consciences I have suggested to them,
that as they do not understand music, they
have no duty with regard to it; that should
they leave it to those who have knowledge,
with a little caution, I believe that your
Highness has nothing to fear from them—
They seem quite willing that you should
shape their music as you please. Indeed, a
large majority of church-goers, and even
members, seem greatly delighted with the
changes which have already been effected
by the agents of your Highness, and are dis-
posed heartily to second any future efforts.

I have the honor of reporting that the in-
troduction of opera-singers into church choirs,
desired by your Highness, has been so well
accomplished, that there is even a competi-
tion among congregations as to which
authorities and the assemblies of church
music has steadily progressed, with marked
effect, in furthering your Highness' ends—
Opera airs, dances and negro airs, have from
time to time been cautiously introduced with
impunity. It was necessary to move with
much circumspection at first, and according-
ly I attempted to revive thoughts of conspi-
cuousness in only some airs whose secular
associations were not so unmistakably on
your Highness' side as might otherwise have
been desirable. Thus the "Auld Lang Syne"
was one of the first set to sacred
words for use in social religious gatherings,
and its success has been complete. Some
of the more confirmed in their opposi-
tion to your Highness, have undoubtedly
used this air without much detriment to the
worship they were paying your Highness'
great Enemy; but it was a step in the right
way even with them, while, with others, it
has served to revive thoughts of conspi-
cuousness and other associations most favor-
able to our cause, just at a time when it was
most important to your Highness to destroy
certain religious impressions which had been
made. Other secular airs have from time
to time been introduced with entire success.
It is true that some stubborn foes have op-
posed a warning voice, but I have raised
against them the cry of "fanaticism" "illib-
erality," etc. I have asked "if the devil
should have all the good music?" and simi-
lar questions, which have often silenced your
foes. Your Highness will, I trust, excuse
this liberty with your august name, in con-
sideration of my loyal purpose.

The introduction of such as music of possi-
ble of your Highness' favorite school of music,
the theatrical and its adjuncts, has not been
lost sight of. I have reported the success-
ful introduction of opera singers in the place
of the Asaphs, Hermons, and Jeduthahs, as
leaders of the worship of those who have
withdrawn from the assemblies of your High-
ness. The consideration of the disap-
probation with which your Enemy must re-
spond to such worship, cannot fail to be a source
of infinite satisfaction to your Highness—
As the number of this class of public singers
is small, it is of course impossible that many
churches should be supplied with them.
Now, however, laboring in a similar work,
whose results promise to be much more ex-
tensive. This is the general introduction of
the music of the opera as church music—
An important step in this direction has been
attained in the insertion in books of psalm-

tones recently published, of various familiar
airs, as well as sacred. I have been encour-
aged to succeed in getting in Jullien's
Prima Donna Waltz, as well as many
others.

It has, of course, been necessary to affix
to them sacred words, as yet; but the time
will soon come when even these may be
dispensed with, and words more congenial
to your Highness' taste be introduced—
Meanwhile, I have the satisfaction of report-
ing that even now the words are not very
important, from the fact that the majority of
church-goers give their chief attention to
the music. This absorbs their attention so
completely that when it is of a sufficiently
light and frivolous character, and especially
is surrounded with secular associations, your
Highness has little to apprehend from words.

In addition to this, I am happy to state
that there are some who openly advocate
music without any words at all, holding up
the idea that art is the principal object of
worship, and that perfection in art is the
great thing to which all efforts in church-
music should be directed. That your Ma-
jesty will approve of this sentiment, I doubt
not, since whatever tends to debase Deity
must have a favorable influence on your
Highness' cause.

The practical effects of having the opera-
tic and dance-music and singers in the church,
will at once occur to your Highness. Thus,
whilst the first time is performed, a portion,
at least, of the audience will be reminded
of the idea that art is the principal object of
worship, and that perfection in art is the
great thing to which all efforts in church-
music should be directed. That your Ma-
jesty will approve of this sentiment, I doubt
not, since whatever tends to debase Deity
must have a favorable influence on your
Highness' cause.

I have the satisfaction of assuring your
Highness that I have large expectations of
what may yet be accomplished. So differ-
ent from the whole subject of the singing
service those usually active and watchful en-
emies of your Highness, the clergymen, that
I apprehend you need to fear little from
them. They may be easily quieted with a
mere sensual musical effect, so that if the
music goes smoothly, and helps to draw
a full house, they are satisfied. Beside, I
have been successful in many cases in bring-
ing up the bitter opposition of the people
to any interference on the part of the mis-
sionaries on this subject; so that for their own
security, it has become necessary in many
places for them to give up the singing exer-
cises entirely into the hands of the occupiers
of the organ-loft. Your Highness has well
remarked that if you can gain entire ac-
cendancy in the music-gallery, you need not be
afraid that you can easily neutralize any
efforts against you which are made in the
pulpit. If I can now succeed in introducing
a foreign language, as the Latin or the
Italian, I may then soon use the opera text;
the dresses and dances may soon follow,
rendering your success complete. It seems
almost too much to hope, but when what has
already been done is considered the idea
does not, after all, seem so preposterous.

There is one movement, which is in-
teresting to your Highness, and which I well
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much of an increase in the amount of prayer
for these millions? God has been encour-
aging to prayer. There has scarcely been
such an instance in the history of the church
of his making it appear what great things
he is ready to do for Zion, if only their faith
should prove equal to the exigency. Have
we understood the language of his providence,
or have we, on the contrary, taken it
for granted that he would carry forward this
work, even if his people should not make
known to him their requests? Some impor-
tant considerations on this matter are con-
tained in a letter from Mrs. Cummings, dated
Fall-chen, July 1, 1854. It is with pleasure
that I have watched the effects of the re-
bellion upon the mind of the Christian public
at home. Its inconceivable importance in
relation to the evangelization of China seems
to be felt, and I am persuaded her spiritual
wants will not be neglected in the future as
they have been in the past. And yet do
Christians make it the occasion for earnest
prayer, as much as they ought? Do they
realize, as the exigency demands, that prayer
is to a great extent the only instrumentality
they can employ in the present state of
things for the recovery of that nation, and
to effect more glorious results in their behalf,
than in the approaching crisis? God in his
providence is shaking the old foundations.

In doing this he is employing an agency
which he has raised up, not in the heart
of the church, but in the heart of the
empire, and he has so committed the work
to it, that in active efforts his people can
have but little part in it. He is thus in
effect saying to them, "China's redemption
I offer to you, not so much in return for
your means and agencies, as for your prayers,
and at the same time, more astounding in
their effects, than Earthquakes. Depend-
ing, as we know they do, upon the ex-
pansive gases afforded by the internal heat
of our planet, they sometimes amount only
to a slight tremor of the surface of the earth,
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