


EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

PRAISE.

usic has a mellowing and hallowing effect upon the human mind. Man evidently was formed to enjoy music and to be influenced by holy and heavenly melody. The best and most effectual music, is that used in song. Instruments have been constructed by man; and many of them produce sounds exquisitely melodious, tending to soften down the too highly tempered feelings and disposition of the soul, and to inspire man with a desire for mental pleasure; and with a disposition to advance the pleasure of all around him. But the human voice excels every other instrument of music to be found on earth, just as far as all the other works of God excel the works of man.

God, who has manifested his infinite compassion and love for man in the great work of human redemption; has appointed music as a means well adapted to give influence and impressiveness to the great truths of Revelation. The influence of music upon the emotions of the soul are well known to every one—"There is in souls a sympathy with sounds"—The soul is awakened, and invited by the spirit of the melody to receive the sentiment uttered in the song. Sweet affecting music, not the tone of the piano, nor the peals of the organ—but a melodious air, sung by strong and well disciplined voices,—such music reaches the fountains of thought and feeling; it tinges the emotions with its own hues,

whether plaintive or joyous; and it impresses upon the mind the sentiment which it conveys, whether it be religious, patriotic, or benevolent.

Some of the early legislators wrote their laws in verse, and sung them in public places. And many of the earliest sketches of primitive history are in the measure of lyric poetry. In this manner the memory was aided in retaining the facts; the ear was invited to attend them; imagination threw around them the drapery of beauty, dignity, or power; and then music conveyed the sentiment, and mingled it with the emotions of the soul. See what a power, and a charm, music gives to the theatrical performance—no play can be made attracting without it.—It was in view of the power of music, when united with sentiment adopted to affect the heart, that one said, "Permit me to write the ballads of a nation, and I care not who makes her laws."

But what subject so well adapted to the power and effects of music, as salvation? There cannot be found in all the resources of thought, material which would furnish sentiment for music so subduing and overpowering, as the history of Redemption. There is the life of Jesus, a series of acts, Godlike in their benevolence; connected at times with exhibitions of divine power, and of human character, in their most affecting aspects. And as the scenes of Christ's eventful ministry converge to the climax, there is the tenderness of his love for the disciples—the last supper—the scene in Gethsemane—the Mediator in the Hall of Judgement, exhibiting the dignity of