

to begin it is by forming and educating choirs of boys. I may say, then, to you, members of the St. Cecilia's Society, that you have the approval and the sympathy of all the clergy in your efforts to foster liturgical music.

All honor, then, to the German Catholics of the United States from whom this movement had its beginning and who are still its chief, in many places, its only supporters. One of the brightest pages in the history of the Church is the gallant struggle of Catholic Germany to hold the faith, to propagate its doctrines, to defend its liturgy and to keep up its practices immediately before, during and since the Reformation ; and one of the most interesting chapters in the great work of Janssen "*Geschichte des Deutschen Volkes seit dem Ausgang des Mittelalters*" is that in which he describes the revival of ecclesiastical music among the faithful Catholics of the Fatherland by Obrecht, Fink, Rham von Fulda, and others, in the fifteenth century. The singing societies of Mainz, of Arberg and of Nürnberg in those days annually sang a Mass and contended for a prize on St. Catharine's day in the city of Nürnberg. The spirit of song lives and acts in the German Catholic people. Through it they express the earnestness of