

creatures God has made—birds, children, and angels. Oh, the shame of degrading music! Oh, the shame of degrading that which God made to be the medium by which the angels would tell the world that a Redeemer had come! Oh, the shame of so mating it to words as to fire sensual passions and stir the mind to evil thinking! Oh, the dishonor of making music a vehicle of cant and hypocrisy, the utterance of prayers when there is no praying, the voice of reverence when there is no reverence, the expression of love when the heart beats with no love! "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." I sometimes think there is no place where that commandment is so often violated as in the church; sometimes by ministers uttering prayers when there is no prayer in their hearts; sometimes by choirs singing words of praise when there is no praise in their hearts.—*Lyman Abbott.*

Band Tournament.

It beats all how united the musicians and musical journals are, all over the country, on the question of the efficacy of band tournaments as a means to promote the interests of music in general and the bands in particular. So far as we know, there is not a single journal that has not admitted the value of the movement in its main features, if we except the *Metronome*, and even this much-esteemed collaborator is not really opposed to the plan: it only makes much of a few little points of difference, mainly, perhaps, to be conspicuous. Now a new paper has broken out in Sweetser, Ind., called the *Brass Band*, and proposes to champion the cause for all it is worth. A welcome to you *Brass Band!* the more the merrier. The publisher, Mr. J. T. Pugh, declares his intention of organizing an association in his vicinity, and calls upon the bands to correspond with him on the subject. Step right out and get your committee, brother. Don't wait for people to write ideas! If you work spry you can have an association working in a few weeks and get a tournament this fall. If you want a copy of the By-Laws of the Massachusetts Association as a guide, send to *The Leader* for it and you may have it by return mail. These rules will apply just as well to district or county as to State associations.

At a meeting of the Knights of Pythias Grand Lodge, held at Wichita, Kansas, in May, a prize was offered for the best band, and many bands from all over the State competed. The Hutchinson Second Regiment Band took the first prize—one hundred dollars. This is one of the old-fashioned kind of contests gotten up merely as a matter of amusement for the Knights, and can offer but little real ad-

vantage to competing bands, while it leaves the old wound of jealousy and unfair dealing open; but it at least proves the immense interest the general public take in the bands and their concerts.

This Hutchinson Band is a member of the Kansas Association, which held its meeting June 1, 2, and 3. This association, it will be remembered, does not believe in contesting, and meets only for social purposes. From this point of view at least, this first meeting was a perfect success. Fifteen bands were present, and concerts were given in a park near the city, to which the people flocked twice each day, paying a fee of twenty-five cents each time. This makes it a financial success. It might be urged against contesting in this association that the bands are too small, as the largest among them, outside of the Hutchinson Band, had but fifteen members, while there were several with nine and ten, and two even with but six.

This may cause a smile in some of our Eastern towns, but it should be remembered that these bands of six men come from towns that may not be five years old yet; and they are full of push and energy, and the proportion of musicians to the population is very much in excess of any Eastern city. A band is one of the earliest institutions to materialize after the charter and the postoffice. There was not a band present at this reunion which will not in five years be doubled, and some of them will be quadrupled. These reunions will urge them forward greatly, but contesting would a great deal more. However, they will surely come to that in a short time.

At the business meeting held in the morning of the last day, Elmer May, of the Hutchinson Band, was chosen president; E. McBrien, of Sedan, vice-president; P. D. Lamocaux, of St. John, secretary; A. Allen, of Medicine Lodge, treasurer; and Mr. Oscar Cupps, of Kingman, was chosen musical director.

The date of the next reunion was set for the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after the 15th of May, 1892, and the place was decided upon Kingman.

Matters are moving forward with relation to the Massachusetts Association fully as well as could have been expected, and a good deal of interest is developing where a few months ago all was apathy. Here the all important feature will be the contest. It is true we have better bands here than anywhere else in the country, and finer lines will be drawn between them; and there is no reason why we may not expect to see the very best tournament that has taken place in the country. Massachusetts is a stirring place and the amateur bands are quite busy, and it takes a long time to get them to stop and think

long enough to understand what the tournament scheme has to offer them. It is a fact that we meet musicians every day who have to be told what the plan embodies; yet when they do understand the matter they invariably agree that it is a good thing and they they will talk it up with the boys. A few croakers say, "It can't be done," not knowing that it has been done. Why, Mr. J. B. Claus, the president of the association, says that a few years ago he acted as judge at a tournament down Boston harbor, which was attended by twenty thousand people; and that was gotten up in a hurry by a merchant who wanted to make a little money, and he did it too. What has been done can be done again. The people are sure to support this thing well. The musicians have but to do their part and great benefit will accrue to all.—*The Leader.*

* TRADE NOTES *

Miss M. Drew Ingall, of Ottawa, has just brought out an original and unique convenience in the way of a "Lesson Check." Upon the face of the check are found spaces for name of pupil, subject, day and time of lesson, teacher, college, school, etc. The check is to be brought to each lesson, filled in by the teacher, and may be sent to parents as a report of the terms work, there being space for remarks as to punctuality, perfection of recital, etc., or the reverse. We think the leaflet would be of great value to teachers. It may be ordered from Miss Ingall, at Messrs. Orme & Sons, 113 and 115 Sparks St., Ottawa, for a reasonable figure.

"The Wild Bird's Confession" is the title of a new song for mezzo-soprano, with violin obligato, *ad lib*, just published by the Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers Association, 68 King St. West. The words and music are by Mr. S. T. Church of this city, author of the famous song "A British Subject I was born, a British Subject I will die."

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