

AT THE HOME OF WHITTIER.

In November, 1879, the Jubilee Singers gave a concert in Amesbury, the home of the Quaker Poet. The following extract is from a letter of F. J. Loudin, Esq., describing a visit to Mr. Whittier, written for a Kavenna, Ohio, paper:

Being about to depart, we sang a slave song, among the sweetest.

"Singing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home,"

and ending with the benediction,

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
The Lord lift up his countenance
Upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen."

As Mr. Whittier listened to this he stood with bowed head, the tears rolling down his cheeks. It was with great difficulty that we could sing so deeply were we touched by the experience of this hour now closing. I shall never forget the expression upon that illumined face at that parting moment. He stepped forward and shook hands, but so deep were his feelings that he did not speak until he came to the two last. I was the last to shake hands with him, and he said, "Good bye; God bless you all!" I left my album, in which he promised to write. I called the next morning just as he was finishing, and spent about a half hour with him. He showed me an old key to a slave-pen in Richmond, which had been sent him by some General, at which time, said he, "I promised it should never be used for that purpose again." I found that Mr. Whittier had written the following in my album:

Voice of a people suffering long,
The pathos of their mournful song,
The sorrow of their night of wrong!
Their cry like that which Israel gave,
A prayer for one to guide and save,
Like Moses by the Red Sea's wave.

The blast that started camp and town,
And shook the walls of slavery down—
The spectral march of old John Brown

Voice of a ransomed race! Sing on
Till Freedom's every right is won,
And slavery's every wrong undone!

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

AMESBURY, MASS., 11 BOW, 7-1879.

We look upon this as the most memorable and pleasant experience we have ever had in America.

(Signed,) F. J. LOUDIN.

EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE ON "MUSIC."

BY MR. COLON BROWN, OF ANDERSONIAN UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.

"As to the manner of their singing it must be heard before it can be realized. Like the Swedish melodies of Jenny Lind, it gives a new musical idea. It has been well remarked that in some respects it disarms criticism, in others it may be truly said that it almost defies it. It was beautifully described by a simple Highland girl—"I filled my whole heart." Such singing (in which the artistic is lost in the natural) can only be the result of careful training.

"The richness and purity of tone, both in melody and harmony, the contrast of light and shade, the varieties of gentleness and grandeur of expression, and the exquisite refinement of the piano, as contrasted with the power of the forte, fill us with delight, and at the same time make us feel how strange it is that these unpretending singers should come over here to teach us what is the true refinement of music, and make us feel its moral and religious power."

REV. C. H. SPURGEON'S OPINION OF THE JUBILEE SINGERS.

I am not sufficiently acquainted with music to be able to find fault with the songs I have heard this afternoon and what is more, I hope I never shall be; but I am sufficiently acquainted with music to be able to say, that I never so enjoyed music in the way of performance.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

The following letter appeared in the *Ithaca (N. Y.) Daily Journal*:

MADAME—I can most cordially recommend the Fisk Jubilee Singers. I heard them in Montreal in December, where they sang repeatedly to overflowing and most enthusiastic houses. Again I heard them in Boston with no less interest, where they sang to most flattering audiences. In February they sang six evenings in Syracuse and there were those who heard them with increasing delight on every occasion. Having heard them five times this season, and thinking that the last was the very best, I am sure that I shall not err in advising you to secure them. They will give you such delightful harmony and melody in their song, born of sorrow and hope, as you will not forget. They recall the days now happily passed and give us experiences that another generation cannot know or understand. You may arouse all expectation—they will meet it. Mr. Loudin's bass voice is very fine. All are superior in their way. I like them best in their genuine plantation songs. You are at liberty to use my name or letter, as you please.

Very respectfully, A. F. BEARD,
Pastor 1st Cong. Church, Syracuse, N. Y.

YORKVILLE, Ont., Sept. 20, 1881.

HENRY CUSHING, ESQ.,

My Dear Sir—Since you called on me sweet memories come to me of the last visit of the Jubilee Singers to Toronto. If I could, and were to describe my enjoyment at those concerts, many would smile at my effeminacy. Whether I was in the body I could not tell. Waves of wondrous music rolled over me, stirring the deepest depth of my soul; then flowed the softest, sweetest celestial music, as if issuing from Paradise, transporting me to a state of exquisite happiness.

I know of nothing that will so enoble, and purify, and unfold such glories of the concert of the Jubilee Singers, to the Christian.

If such music, on this sublunary sphere be so sweet—"What must it be yonder?"

Is this egotism? I am truly grateful I never uttered an unkindly word, or did an unkindly act to the colored man.

My pleasure was so meagerly expressed to you yesterday that I felt I would like to send this note.

Truly your friend, GEO. SCOTT.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER

WRITTEN BY REV. DR. W. H. H. ADAMS, PRESIDENT OF THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY AT BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

Last July the Jubilee Singers gave a series of twenty concerts for the benefit of the Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, Ill.

The following extract is from a letter of Dr. W. H. H. Adams, President of the University, in the *Bloomington Daily Pantagraph*, July 20, 1880:

"The Fisk University Jubilee Singers closed their engagement with the Wesleyan University on Saturday night last, and on Monday left for the East.

It has been our pleasure to listen to them several times, and it has been a rare treat. They furnish an entertainment that must interest all thoughtful persons. Persons of the highest musical taste will find a culture of voice and musical art of a very high order to engage their thought, and persons without this taste will find a moral expression and a musical elocution that amounts to real eloquence. Add to all this the fact that this Company of Singers have always been in the service of moral ideas and intellectual culture—and that it is to them a sacred calling and life work—and it gives them a place occupied by no other company.

They are a company of scrupulous conscientious men and women.

Well, they are gone. Their concerts have won them many friends, and have won too, many friends to the Wesleyan.

(Signed,) W. H. H. ADAMS.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. J. H. VINCENT.

The following letter was written by Rev. Dr. J. H. Vincent, under date of Sept. 7th, 1882.

Too much praise cannot be awarded the original Fisk Jubilee Troupe of Singers. They are beyond all praise. For artistic finish, for native simplicity, for that peculiar magnetic power which wins and charms, and holds, for spiritual earnestness that tells in the expression of the face as well as in the tones of the voice, this company has no equal. They have spent two seasons at Chautauqua, and I want them again for 1883.

J. H. VINCENT, New Haven, Conn.

THE JUBILEE SINGERS IN THE "OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE."

From the Boston Sunday Herald, Feb. 1, 1880.

***** On Thursday were assembled on the platform of the Old South Church, Old Bull, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes and the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a remarkable combination of talent, all of whom brought the very best fruits of their genius.

***** This music was perfect, as well as that furnished by the Fisk Jubilee Singers (whose wonderful power and pathos in rendering their songs has been acknowledged all over Europe as well as here,) who sang some of their best selections, including Mrs. Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Gospel Train," and "I've been Redeemed," as they only can sing them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson read his "Concord Hymn," Oliver Wendell Holmes his "Dorothy" (with portrait illustration.) * * * Seldom, if ever, has so fine an audience been seen in the "Old South."

'BEFORE QUEEN VICTORIA.'

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll were among the friends who gave the Jubilee Singers an early and hearty welcome to Great Britain. It was while spending an evening at Argyll Lodge as their guests, that the singers had the honor of appearing before the Queen. At the Duke's request they sang for her, first, "Steal Away to Jesus," then chanted the "Lord's Prayer," and sang "Go Down, Moses." Her Majesty listened with manifest pleasure, and as they withdrew, communicated through the Duke, her thanks for the gratification they had given her. There was no stage parade nor theatrical pomp in the scene; but the spectacle of Britain's Queen coming from her palace to listen to the songs which these humble students learned in their slave cabins, and that not merely for her own entertainment, but to encourage them in their efforts to lift up their fellow-freed people, was worthy a place in history.

Louisville Daily Commercial: "It seems like a dream to realize that these humble people by their efforts have done so much toward the education and enlightenment of their race; and there is all the essence of a farce in the attempt to disparage their claims upon an enlightened people, either as cultivated musicians or as intelligent citizens." * * * "Their melodies are wonderful, the harmonies perfect. It is a field occupied by no other class of musicians."

The entertainment given by them is elevating and inspiring.—*Philadelphia (Pa.) Journal*.

Not a seat was vacant in Queen's Hall last night when the Fisk University Jubilee Singers gave their first concert, and no more satisfied and delighted an audience has the hall ever contained. For true melody and real expression their singing cannot be equaled.—*Daily Gazette, Montreal*.

Having delighted all England and Scotland, it then submitted itself to the severest test of Germany—and captivated a public whose judgment on song is final. Not often will the reader of recent history happen upon a stranger story than this one of these musical slaves.—*Chicago Alliance*.