

Ludwig Spohr, The Adonis of Composers.

(John o'London's Weekly.)

"The young artist from his earliest youth," Ludwig Spohr, one of the greatest composers and violinists of his day, says of himself, that he "was very susceptible to female beauty; and already when a boy he fell in love with every pretty woman." In fact, until his volatile heart found a secure anchorage in Dorette Scheidler, it "enshrined a new divinity every few weeks, and was loyal only to each until another was available.

Few men have been better equipped for love and the conquest of woman than this gifted composer. Tall and broad-shouldered, with the muscles of a Hercules and the erect carriage of a soldier, he had a strikingly handsome, clean-shaven face, with well-cut features; large, magnetic eyes, and a beautiful mouth of mingled firmness and sweetness. And to these physical qualities he added a character "beyond reproach," and a clever tongue and charm of manner which few could resist.

Court Director of Music at 15.

Born at Brunswick one April day in 1784, the son of a physician, with a passion for music, Spohr was a clever violinist and had composed several violin duets before he saw his seventh birthday; and was already marked for a brilliant career in music. And such rapid progress did he make that at fifteen he was director of music at the Brunswick Court, with a fame which extended far beyond the bounds of the Duchy. Three years later he was touring Europe and winning laurels in many lands, in company with his master, Francis Eck; and it was at this time that we read of his first real adventure in love.

The young lady who made this first serious impression on Spohr's plastic heart was a Miss Lutgens, a girl of thirteen, with a wealth of curly dark hair, large and very beautiful brown eyes, and a dazzling white neck—"a little bundle of witcheries and wickedness, at sight of whom the young musician fell head over heels in love.

A "Little Witch."

But the "little witch," as he dubbed her, proved herself a heartless coquette, "full of cruel caprices," transporting him to Heaven one moment by her smiles, the next plunging him in despair by her coldness, until, as he confesses, "I was obliged to run away to preserve the remnants of my sanity."

But Spohr soon found distraction and oblivion of his "momentary madness" in the flattering reception that met him everywhere on his tour, from Stralitz to St. Petersburg, where the Empress was so delighted with the

boy's brilliant playing that she appointed him solo violinist in the Imperial Orchestra at a salary of three thousand five hundred roubles.

Spohr had had many fugitive love-affairs—in fact, it is said he lost his heart at every town on his route, only to recapture it before he reached the next—before it was again seriously in danger when he met the beautiful Rosa Albergh, who sang in several of his concerts.

She was lovely and gifted and reciprocated his passion; but her bigoted devotion to her own Church and her intolerance of his religious views gradually built up such a barrier between them that, we are told, "he avoided a declaration; and when they bade each other farewell, he had so schooled himself that he did not lose his self-control, while Rosa burst into tears, flung herself into his arms, and pressed into his hands a card with the letter R worked upon it with thread made of her raven-black tresses."

The Perfect Woman.

In June, 1805, Spohr, whose fame by this time had spread throughout Europe, was invited to Gotha to play at a celebration in honour of the birthday of the Duchess, who was so delighted that he was appointed concert-director to the Ducal Court. And it was at Gotha that he made the acquaintance of the charming Dorette Scheidler, who as his wife was to bring him for nearly thirty years the greatest happiness of his life.

In Dorette he had at last found the one perfect woman whom he had sought so vainly. She was a highly-gifted musician, a brilliant player on the harp and the piano; and it was during the "happy hours" they spent together in practising that he learned to love, with a pure and deep devotion, the woman whose gifts of mind and beautiful nature and character more than matched her musical talent. One day, after they had been playing together at the Court and were driving home, he found courage to say, "Shall we not thus play together for life?" For answer Dorette burst into tears. "She sank into my arms," he says, "and the contract for life was sealed."

A Great Happiness.

In such dramatic fashion did Spohr, the fickle and volatile, come to his great happiness—which was to grow through the long years, during which they were seldom parted. Together they travelled all over Europe winning joint laurels, and when children came to bless their union, they took them with them. In sunshine or shadow they were always perfectly happy in each other and their little ones.

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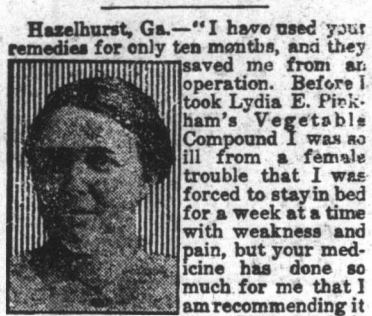
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And so it was to that last day in 1834, when Dorette, whose health had long been failing, passed peacefully behind the veil.

But Spohr was not fated to walk the rest of his life's journey alone. Two years after Dorette had been laid to rest, he found such compensation as any other woman could give in Marianne Pfeiffer, who, though she could never take Dorette's place in his heart, proved an excellent wife.

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Red Russia

Challenges the World.

Once more Soviet Russia shows herself in her true colors, and the blood that is staining the soil of Poland and Northern Galicia is directly chargeable to her breach of faith, her sutiferous and her vacillation.

Throughout their negotiations with Poland the Bolsheviks have employed every possible evasion, and have sparred for time from motives that are contradicted by their professions. They added delay to delay, and when the Poles appealed for a truce pending the negotiations for an armistice, the offer was rejected. The conference at Minsk was time and again postponed on plausible excuses until it was clearly apparent that if the Bolsheviks desired to make peace, as they averred, they would have hastened their diplomacy and slowed down the march of their armies.

Kamenoff, who acted as spokesman for the Soviet Government, in handing to the British Premier the terms on which the Bolsheviks would consider an armistice, stated implicitly that nothing that was not of a secondary nature had been omitted from the summary. On this point Lloyd George laid stress in his speech in the House of Commons. He reverts to it again in the statement now issued from Lucerne:

"To have added such a condition (the arming of the industrial workers of Poland), after Kamenoff's pledges to the British Government, is a gross breach of faith, and negotiations of any kind with a Government that so slightly treats its word becomes difficult, if not impossible."

The London Times, which has consistently and vigorously attacked Lloyd George since the days of the Paris conference, has nothing but praise for his handling of the delicate Russo-Polish negotiations. "In an address admirable for reasoning and for courage," says the Times, "he has laid before the nation an explanation and a defence of the Allied attitude towards the Polish problem so frank and clear, so convincing, moderate and firm that it will command the approbation and the confidence he demands."

Soviet Russia gave notice to the world that she would not interfere with the domestic government of Poland, and that she would recognize her independence. She endorsed the promise thus given in the statements issued by her leaders after the first meeting at Minsk. Yet she treats this promise with scornful disdain and issues supplementary or "secondary" terms contrary in letter and spirit to the promises she had made to the British Premier, which set forth as a fundamental of any armistice that the proletariat shall be armed.

Soviet Russia allied with both Communist and Monarchial Germany, by secret bonds is seeking to upset the Versailles Treaty, and to join hands across an annihilated or a Sovietized Poland. Fortunately, the Bolshevik cards are on the table and strength of purpose, determination, unity or effort and common sense will resist the blandishments of the enemies of civilization by firm and conciliatory methods so long as their efficacy prevails, and, if needs be, by force, in the last resort, to the utmost limit of endurance.—Montreal Daily Star.

From Rameses to Zaghlul.

Egypt, after the lapse of centuries, is to make an experiment in self-government, according to an announcement in the London Times. Eight months ago Lord Milner, the British Colonial Secretary, visited Egypt at the head of a Commission which was named to investigate existing political conditions and, if possible, to devise a remedy for the unrest that had overlaid the country since the assumption of the protectorate by Britain during the war.

The Milner Commission faced tremendous difficulties in the accomplishment of its task, the chief of which was the undisguised hostility of the Nationalist party, whose leaders not only refused to state their case to the Commission, but did everything in their power to thwart its aims. If Lord Milner has succeeded in finding a way out of the impasse, some common ground on which forces, with views as wide apart as the poles, can erect a promising edifice of government he has performed another great service for the Empire and for the peace of the whole world.

The Egyptians are the earliest people in the world known as a nation. When Abraham entered the delta from Canaan they had long been enjoying the advantages of a settled government. But the Ethiopians, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Turks and the French conquered them in turn and under successive suzerain powers they sank lower and lower into barbarism and weakness.

To-day there is a small party of Egypt that believes that a broad scheme of self-government should be initiated. The experiment is a risky one, for there are no Egyptians to-day trained for executive work.

The new Egypt will be watched with interest and with earnest hopes of success and prosperity.—Montreal Daily Star.

The Most Important

Man on a Newspaper.

A "copy-taster" is a man whose palate is his "news" judgment, and whose judgment is his chief stock-in-trade. He starts work about four o'clock every afternoon, and remains at his desk till long after the normal man or woman has gone to rest. He sits there passing a silent judgment on the world's affairs, calculating public interest in this event and that incident. And it is his judgment that gives you the news you read at your breakfast-table when he is just preparing to get into his bed.

At his elbow there are many wire or wicket baskets into which "copy-boys" drop mysterious little pieces of paper. Some are cablegrams from out of the way quarters of the globe, others are typed manuscripts from the editorial rooms, the result of the news-editor's efforts and the reporters' ingenuity.

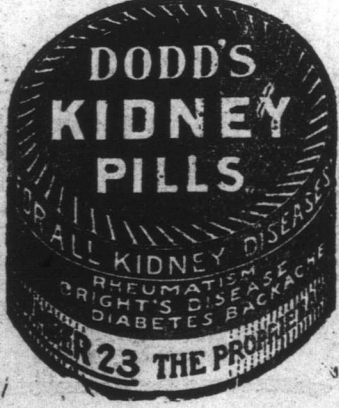
His Arduous Job.

He reads each news item carefully, assesses the value according to public interest and importance, and marks it with a code letter, which tells the sub-editors exactly the kind of title or heading that should be put on the news, and the amount of space it should occupy when set in type.

A very large amount of news is placed in a basket at the copy-taster's side. That is the "W.P.S.," and everything placed therein is considered not to be of sufficient importance or interest to appear in the paper.

Every item of news that reaches the copy-taster's desk is weighed against other news. Thus, when a correspondence in Bath, for example, sends to the London newspaper offices something which he considers of great importance to the town of Bath, the copy-taster surveys its value as compared with a cablegram from New York probably of international and world interest.

It is calculated that every night a newspaper receives an average of five times more news than it can possibly



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The copy-taster, therefore, while judging the requirements of his readers, must endeavour to give them an intelligent summary of the world's affairs. Apart from that, it is his business to cultivate certain tastes in his readers, and to endeavour to mould their opinions. He does this to some extent by giving greater prominence to certain news, causing the reader to assume that it is important because of its length and the nature of its position in the paper.

An Uncrowned Ruler.

A copy-taster on a leading London daily newspaper must be a man of considerable intelligence, widely read, and alert. He must possess a good memory in order to recall in a moment whether he has seen the same news item published previously, for no paper can afford to repeat news unless it is considered of extreme importance. It is necessary for him to judge public taste to a nicety, and, above all, to detect anything creeping into the news service in the form of a "leg-pull."

The success of a newspaper, its circulation and its appeal to individual readers largely depend upon the palate of the copy-taster. His judgment

is invariably respected and considered final in all newspaper offices, and the character of the man is therefore reflected in the issues of the paper each day.

To a trained reader or journalist it is easy to tell the days when a particular copy-taster is on holiday. The stamp of a new character is impressed on every page. Therefore, when you read your morning or evening

paper, you will realize that it is the main embodiment of one man's judgment.

He is one cog in the wheel of newspaper production, but one of the most important. He is a monarch with sceptre but a blue pencil, no authority but his judgment; yet he rules the reading-public without distinction of class, or creed.—London Answers.

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