

yet who in his senses would advocate that they be laid on the shelf on that score. If you had devoted your remarks, not so much to the songs but to the manner of their performance, you would have been perfectly within your rights, and whatever might have been your conclusions, they would have been listened to with respect.

In brief, let me say that no reasonable man deprecates honest criticism, rather he courts it, and nothing is so necessary and so salutary in connection with musical performances, but the criticism must be fair, it must be impartial, it must be confined to matters within the province of the critic, and it must not deal with things which do not concern him in the remotest degree. You have the makings of a critic, Mr. By-Stander, but it is evident that like good wine when it is new, you require further development and the lapse of time to arrive at full maturity. If you will come out from behind your *nom de guerre*, I shall be most happy to make your acquaintances. I say acquaintances, because I suspect your personality is plural, although your methods of criticism are undoubtedly singular.

I am, your obedient servant,
WM. GREIG.

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