

## The Musical Journal.

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TORONTO, OCTOBER 15th, 1887.

### ANGLOPHOBIA.

KUNKEL'S *Musical Review* for September contains the following under the heading "French Economy' and English Self-Complacency." :—

"Under the title of 'French Economy,' the London *Musical Standard* says :—

"It is with unfeigned regret that we learn that the Republic of France is about to abolish one hundred of its regimental bands. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we can only assume that this step is taken with economical ends in view; but as the abolition of these hundred bands will only save £44,000 per annum (each band costing but 11,000 francs), it is hard to see what the better *La Belle France* will be on the whole. Judicious economy is all very well, but this is not economy, it is parsimony. To deprive a regiment of its music is to save at the wrong end, for general experience proves that a soldier works longer and better with music than without. To say nothing of patriotism, it is well known that soldiers march longer and feel fatigue far less when encouraged by music. The public, too, have a right to hear the regimental bands play on occasion. It is the public who find the money to pay the army, and in the case of poor unlucky France, the music which the army has supplied seems to be almost the only return they get for their money. France is evidently going to pieces. She has never got over the self-inflicted blow of her revolution nearly a century ago, and, in our opinion, will never get over it; and this parsimonious dealing with the music of the army is not at all a good sign."

"We agree with the *Standard* that the proposed retrenchment is probably an unwise one, but we cannot help but smile when an English musical journal goes outside of its special sphere to give a slap at a neighboring nation. It is so English, you know! 'France has never got over the self-inflicted blow of her revolution — and, in our opinion, never will get over it!' Well, what has been the matter with England in the meantime? It has lost its supremacy, nay, its ascendancy, upon the high seas; it was whipped ignominiously in its attempt to regain its foothold in the United States; its American possessions only await a nod of consent on the part of Uncle Sam to take refuge under the 'Stars and Stripes.' Ireland is eating like a cancer into its side; its armies have been routed by savages such as the Afghans; Australia is thinking of setting up a government of its own; England holds its Asiatic possessions only by sufferance of the Czar; it has sunk in the last fifty years to the position of a third or fourth-rate power, until it is now only one of Bismarck's pawns upon the European chess-

board, and if its decline continues at the same rate for another twenty-five years, it will count for no more in the congress of nations than the illustrious republic of Monaco; but, all the same, the editor of the *Standard*, standing upon the wreck, thinks he sees something 'going to pieces' in the British Channel. So do we, but the wreckage is English oak and English plunder. The waves of the French revolution have swept over England and its institutions, and the latter are going. An English crown, an English throne, will soon be devoured by the hungry waters, and then, perhaps, the editor of the *Standard* will discover the fact, already well known here, that England is only a reminiscence, and that in this age it behooves those who are or have nothing but reminiscences to be just a bit modest. A few thousand regimental bands might do England some good—why should not the *Standard* start an agitation in that direction?"

And we, too, "cannot help but smile" when an American Musical Journal "*goes outside of its special sphere*" to have a slap at a envied nation. Still living within a *sphere*, as our St. Louis cotemporary evidently does, with the view circumscribed by the measure of his own petty ideas, it is not to be wondered at if he occasionally tries to climb outside, to ascertain how things are going on in the great world around him. But that is no reason why he should run amuck at a mere "reminiscence;" far better hunt around for the second-hand plates of some "Dirge on the Downfall of the Roman Empire" furbish them up a bit, and resurrect them in "Kunkel's Editions" as a "Funeral March on the Death of Britannia" by (say) Eingsrosser Thor; it would certainly be more in his line.

The demoralized advocates of the "Commercial Union" craze will doubtless be glad to learn that we are only waiting the "nod" of Uncle Sam to take refuge under his banner, it may revive their sinking energies to have this on such good authority as Kunkel's *Review*. "Such savages as the Afghans" comes with ill-grace after the Custer disaster, brother K., and, remember, the latter occurred on your own soil. England has her troubles, but they are merely local and transient; she has a sound *constitution* which will safely carry her through much more than her present difficulties, and that is more than can be said of some countries we could name. The spirit of the "Last of the Cardigans" and his followers, is yet alive, and there are millions of Britons who will fall

"Each stepping where his comrade stood,"

e'er the "Old Flag" shall suffer reproach,

IN compliance with the request of many of our patrons we publish in this issue a page of music in the Tonic Sol-fa notation. We hope to have one or two pages of Tonic Sol-fa music in each future number, and we trust our enterprise in this respect will meet with the hearty sympathy and support of all our friends interested in Tonic Sol-fa.