"VIOLINS NOT BLANKS"

valued at \$20,000.

olde Menges, the wonderful English o give a return recital before leaving on a tour of Western Canada. The many who heard her during the festival series of recitals given by her the beginning of this month and were enchanted by the magic musical spell she wove, are looking forward with keen interest and delight to hearing her again. Numbers of others, who missed her before, are anticipating a great treat this time. By the way, the violin on which Miss Menges plays is one of the few left in the world of the famous maker, Stradivarius, and is valued at \$20,000. The artist is royally worthy of her instrument, cherishing her gift of musical expression, even as did the great violin maker his ability to create rare instruments. rare instruments.

Listening to Isolde Menges play her glorious-toned Stradivarius violin has doubtless recalled for numbers of people the words put up by George Eliot into the mouth of Stradivarius, the violis

the mouth of Stradivarius, the violatical maker:

"When any master holds twixt hand and chin a violin of mine, he will be glad that Stradivarius lived, made violins, and made them of the best. For while God gives them skill, I give them instruments to play upon, God using me to help Him. If my hand is slackened, I should rob God, since he is fullest good, leaving a blank behind instead of violins. He could not make Antonio Stradivarius violins without Antonio."

CHOIR REORGANIZES FOR THE SEASON

A couple of months are always re quired after the disorganizing period church choirs in shape for the ser-vices of praise and choir concerts, which are a feature' of the autumn

works of the standards required to go round.

One work, which has impressed by its nobility, so far as both words and music are concerned, the poem, "For the Fallen," set to music in cantata form by Elgar, will be given an early presentation here, it is understood, by one of the leading choirs.

The First Methodist choir is presenting a patriotic Thanksgiving cantata in the course of a few weeks, which was delayed in New York and arrived too late to be prepared for Thanksgiving. Apropes the subject of choir concerts, it is understood the annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" will be given this year at the Christmas season as usual, and for a second time by the Musical Art Society chorus.

THOSE FIDDLE STRINGS

many and Italy-Now They Are Made in Canada."

The war has discovered many things for Canadians, and prominent things for Canadians, and prominent among these tnat they are able to manufacture for themselves all manner of products which they formerly left to older and more skilled countries, and usually Germany. The processes of making gloves, hoslery, ribbons and many other articles which in ante-belium days required the tag "imported" to give them value at all, are now achieving a good style and chinish, a niceness which makes these products acceptable to the fastidious, apart from patriotic feasons for investing in "Made in Canada" goods. And now it is fiddle strings for more than a year, during which they have been turned out right in Ontario, in Toronto. A local dealer, referring to this a day or so ago, said: "Violin strings haven't gone up so much as some peoble imagine owing to the fact that they are now being manufactured in very good quality in Canada. I understand the gut comes from England and is made into violin strings here."

In any case, this dealer used to get his fiddle strings from European markets, from Great Britain and Italy to some extent, but chiefly from Germany.

treasurer and librarian, John Ward.
Much regret was expressed over the
long illness of Mr. Ward, who has been
a leading member of the choir for many
years, as well as an efficient official.
Rev. R. G. Peever expressed his gratifleation at being the pastor of a church
with such a choir as that of the First
Methodist. The fame of the choir, he
stated, had gone far, and he had heard
of it away down east of Montreal before
he had any idea he would be appointed
to the pastorate of the church. He
expressed the hope that he, as a minister and preacher, would measure up to
his choir.

THE MUSICAL HANK HEARS A PIANO SOLO

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CHOIR ENTERTAINED

The choir of the First Methodist Church was delightfully entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Jordan, "The Grange," South London, this week, when reorganization took place for the season. The officers were refeaturing plano solos by the orchestra accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre the Musical Hank was feeling plano solos by the orchestra accompanist tuls week, and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre accompanist tuls week and it was to this theatre has accompanist accompanist according to Hank kept on "raising hour and turn around and walk right back again and solo some more." But the minutes passed by, and the singer soloist didn't return, and the accompanist, according to Hank, kept on "raising

CELEBRATED SINGER APPEARS IN LONDON ON MONDAY EVENING



Madame Eleanor Hazzard Peocock in the following day to the place where the said Hank earns his daily crust. "Why didn't you give X's piano solo a nice touch-up?" inquired the man-

polite as you please.
"Why, right after the singer. You were there." "Why, right after the single."
"Oh, yes. Yes, I did sort of overlook that." admitted Hank.
But when the door had closed on the
manager, what he said to his assoclate was this: "Great Scott! So THAT
was a plano solo, was it? I thought he
was just stalling. That's what made
me so blazing mad."

THIS GREAT SINGER "ENTHUSIASTIC" MEMORY

Just a few musicians, even among really great artists, possess the pawer to become living, "enthusiastic" memories for those who have heard them. Such an artist is Madame Eleanor Hazzard Peocock, whose appearance at the St. Andrew's Service of Praise on Monday evening next is being anticipated with delight by her many admirers here. Madame Peocock has a glorious voice, and there seems to be practically no shade of emotion which she cannot express with it, such is the marvel of control which she has achieved. Such is her ability as an interpreter that each and every number she gives seems entirely "the best."

MUSIC RECEIVES MORE RESPECT IN CHURCH SERVICES

It is not so long ago that our choirs sang the anthem while the collection was being taken. In addition to the accompaniment by the organ, the anthem had the click of the coins, the rustle of the envelopes, and the murmuring of the voices of the congregation in subdued conversation to support it. was being taken. In addition to the accompaniment by the organ, the anthem had the click of the coins, the rustle of the envelopes, and the murmuring of the voices of the congregation in subdued conversation to support it.

But now, more respect is paid to music. If Mr. Somebody wants to ask his wife who that is in the Smith pew, or Mrs. Somebody Else desires to tell her husband that next spring she wants a hat like the lady four seats ahead and five sittings to the right, or if an affectionate young couple wish to whisper a moment, they do these things while the organist is playing softly a plece, upon which he has spent considerable practice so as to play it in a suitable way for just that purpose. The rattling of silver, and the quiet thud of the heavily-laden envelopes are heard above the whisperings, but when the plates are deposited at the front of the church, silence again reigns and the anthem proceeds. That is as it should be. The taking of the collection and the singing at the same time were fundamentally wrong.

Then, too, at the concert, late arrivals, in well-regulated halis, wait until the number being given is finished between

Considering that the world has been practically revolutionized by the inventions of Thomas A. Edison, the "Wizard Man," or "Miracle Worker," as he is known, it is little wonder that an Edison week is celebrated each year all over the American continent. Edison week of 1917 is being brought to a close today.

What claim has Thomas A. Edison to a place on the musical page? The same claim as great composers and interpreters. Thomas A. Edison occupies a prominent position in the musical world and probably no man of the age has rendered greater service in a musical way than the man who first succeeded in reproducing the human voice, and has devoted much time to perfecting the reproduction of music. Incidentally, the world owes to Thomas A. Edison electric lights, the "movies," and hundreds of other "everyday conveniences" and pleasures.

According to a writer who entirely

electric lights, the "movies," and hundreds of other "everyday conveniences" and very particular comforts and pleasures.

According to a writer who entirely knows what he is talking about, though not a musician in the accepted sense of the word, Edison is a profound student of music, not only its artistic side, but its physical side as well. It is said that during two years while working on his favorite invention to reproduce music, he heard upwayds of 16,000 musical compositions of wide range, from grand opera to ragtime, making his criticism or noting his approval of each from the phonographic standpoint.

He is quite deat, owing to the boxing his ears received from an irate train conductor the time when the young news butcher, who was to be a great inventor, indirectly almost burned up a rallway car. The boy had obtained the consent of his parents to sell papers and magazines on the rallroad to earn money to carry on his chemical experiments. He left a bottle of phosphorus on a shelf in the part of a baggage car in which he kept his supplies. The bottle fell down and broke, almost setting the car on fire. Then young Thomas got his ears boxed and himself ejected from the news service.

Notwithstanding this deafness, he has a wonderfully acute inner ear, which, being protected from the ordinary sounds of life, will catch minute physical imperfections that entirely escape a person of normal hearing. In listening to a voice he taes a peculiarly-shaped horn held close to the ear. So experienced has he become that he at once distinguishes the most minute changes of register, tremolo, nonperiodic variations and many other infinitesimal defects that detract from the true beauty of vocal sounds. In addition he can determine by estimation almost precisely the number of overtones and rate of vibration. The casual observer is never aware of these overtones, but let them be absent and the resultant tone is thin and strident, and with its natural richness gone.

Mr. Edison terms the recording of a singer's voice the "acid pleasures.

been to create and build up, not to tear lown the works of others.

By the way, it is interesting to recall n connection with reference to Thomas L. Edison, the "Wizard Man," that when he started to school rather later han most children do, the discerning eacher reported to the inspector that he boy was "addled."

GRACE NOTES

A mother of a talented little daughter telephoned to A Minor a day or so ago, and this is what she said: "My little girl, who is just five, has been wanting to learn to play the violin ever since she was three. When we read in your page about the famous violinist who recently played here starting to study at that age, we began to wonder if we shouldn't let our small girl begin. She was more anxious than ever to do what 'that other girl' had done. Now, we have arranged with a teacher, and the tot is to start her lessons at once. We are looking round for a small enough violin for her. Even a half size will be almost too big. 'But she is ambitious enough to tackle anything. Who knows but she will be a second Menges? If so, your page will have the credit for getting her started in time."

Arthur Middleton, the American baritone, who appeared in London several
years ago, one of a quartet of soloists
secured for the presentation of the oratorio, "Sampson," holds the record of
never using a score for the singing of
his enormous oratorio repertoire. His
musical education included not only the
study of voice culture, but sight reading,
memorizing, choral conducting and all
of the fundamentals which make the
"musician" as distinguished from the
singer.

"musician" as distinguished from the singer.

It was Dean Lutkin of Northwestern University and the Evanston festival, who characterized Middleton as "the singer with the rhythm in his voice"—a characterization that is subscribed to by all of the conductors with whom he has appeared—and their number is legion. "When 'Midd' is around we do not have to worry about the baritone role," was another famous orchestra conductor's tribute to the American singer's thorough musicianship. From this it may be seen that Arthur Middleton is a shining example of "preparedness." Middleton appears in London again this winter.

Thomas G. Mitcheltree has decided to give his annual piano recital on the evening of November 20 in Cronyn Hall, his program, as usual, promising a rare treat. Mr. Mitcheltree is vice-president this year of the London Organists' caub, for which the one passport to membership is membership in port to membership is membership ir good standing in the Canadian Guild of Organists.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat has recently written of Merle Alcock, who sang the contralto role in "The Messiah" here a year ago; "Merle Alcock is as fine a contralto soloist as the American concert stage holds today."

One of the very great admirers of Merle Alcock's beautiful contralto voice is Mrs. Charles M. Schwab, wife of the famous steel magnate, whose interest in music and musicians is so well known. The gifted American singer spent a recent week-end visiting Mr. and Mrs. Schwab at their wonderful home in Loretto, Pa.

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Then, too, at the concert, late arrivals, in well-regulated halls, wait until the number being given is finished before an usher will show them to their seats. The persons who make it a point to be on time are not asked to have their enjoyment of any number on the program spoiled by the interruptions of late comers. In such ways as these we have made a decided advance in the respect shown to music, and in the reasonable consideration accorded church and concert-goers.

WIZARD INVENTOR

PROFOUND STUDENT

OF MUSICAL ART

Considering that the world has been practically revolutionized by the inventions of Thomas A. Edison, the "Wizard Man," or "Miracle Worker," as he is known, it is little wonder that an Edison week is celebrates, each year all over the American continent. Edison week is celebrates, each year all over the American continent. Edison week of 1917 is being brought to a close today.

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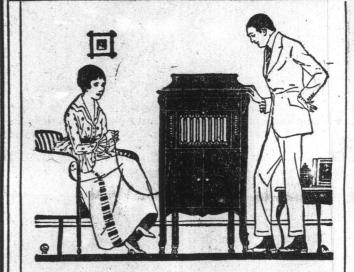
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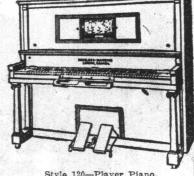
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