

MUSIC AT HOME

"VIOLINS NOT BLANKS"

Because Stradivarius Was Faithful,
Young Artist Plays Instrument
Valued at \$20,000.

Isolde Menges, the wonderful English girl violinist, is coming back to London to 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.

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 violin maker:

"When any master holds twist 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 required after the disorganizing period of the holiday season in order to get church choirs in shape for the services of praise and choir concerts, which are a feature of the autumn musical season. The Wellington Street Methodist choir had the honor this week of inaugurating the church choir concert season, appearing with the Sunday school in entertainment. Next Monday evening the St. Andrew's annual autumn service of praise is being given a special attraction in the assisting artist, Madame Eleanor Hazzard Peacock, dramatic soprano of Detroit. Several other choirs, it is stated, are preparing to give entertainments in the near future.

The patriotic cantata or other patriotic choral work is enjoying a vogue unknown, even during the previous years of war. The chief difficulty seems to be that there are not enough 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 Edgar, 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. Apropos of 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 choir.

THOSE FIDDLE STRINGS

Once They Were Imported From Germany and Italy—Now They Are Made in Canada.

The war has discovered many things for Canadians, and prominent among these that 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, hosiery, ribbons and many other articles which in anti-bellum days required the "imported" to give them value at all are now achieving a good style and finish, a likeness which makes these products acceptable to the fastidious, apart from patriotic reasons for investing in "Made in Canada" goods.

And now it is fiddle strings. Indeed, it has been 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 day or so ago, said: "Violin strings haven't gone up so much as some people 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 makers, from Great Britain and Italy to some extent, but chiefly from Germany.

THE MUSICAL HANK HEARS A PIANO SOLO

Fails to Recognize It—Thinks Management "Putting One Over."

A certain local picture theatre has been featuring piano solos by the orchestra accompanist late week, and it was to this theatre the Musical Hank went a few days ago with a newspaper associate for an hour or so of slogging.

"The singer soloed," according to the Musical Hank, and then the singer soloist walked off the stage. Hank expected the soloist to "walk right out 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 hell' on the piano." Hank waxed more and more indignant. He had come largely to hear the singer soloist, being very musical himself (according to himself). Moreover, he had induced his associate to come along to hear the singer soloist.

"It's a rotten deal," he growled, and even if the associate had wanted to concentrate on the notes the accompanist was making, it would have been quite out of the question. The singer soloist didn't come back at all, and nothing but the fact that he had gone in on a paid trip kept Hank from giving his money back at the box office. It so happened that the manager of the theatre, all unaware that the Musical Hank was feeling sore and sold, dropped

CELEBRATED SINGER APPEARS IN LONDON ON MONDAY EVENING

By the way, it is interesting to recall in connection with reference to Thomas A. Edison, the "Wizard Man," that when he started to school rather later than most children do, the discerning teacher reported to the inspector that the 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 paper 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 lot 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, you'll 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 making a score for the singing of his enormous oratorio repertoire. His musical education included not only the study of voice culture but also reading, memorizing, choral conducting and all of the fundamentals of musical performance 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 characteristic that is subscribed to by all of the conductors with whom he has appeared—and their number is legion. "When 'Middle' is around we do not have to wonder about the making of a score, 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 "pure" parenthood. Middleton appears in London again this winter.

Thomas G. Mitchell has decided to give his annual piano recital on the evening of November 20 in Crown Hall, his program, as usual, promising a rare treat. Mr. Mitchell is a violinist, this year of the London Organists' club, for which the one passport to membership is membership in 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 Lorretto, Pa.

SHAMROCKS GROW ON THE SIDEWALK.

An Irishman's dream of shamrocks growing on the sidewalk is pleasant indeed, but still only a dream. Hear this on Victor Records 18188. On the other side the American Quartet sings brief snatches from some of the old Irish favorites. Hear this record in the Victrola Parlors of Ye Olde Firm of Heintzman & Co., Limited, 242 Dundas street.

SUNDAY APPOINTMENTS.
Huron College appointments for Sunday are—St. James, London, Rev. Principal Waller, D.D.; St. Paul's, Woodstock, Rev. Prof. Wright; All Saints, Woodstock, Rev. F. C. Rist; Thorncliffe, Rev. W. J. Doherty; P.A.; Waterloo, Rev. J. Edmunds; Atwood, H. G. Crosby; Theodora, G. Vrooman; Huntingford, W. Westcott; St. Luke's, Brantford, A. S. Mitchell; Mitchell, J. Chapman; Epiphany, L. P. Hagger; St. John the Evangelist, F. G. Hardy; St. Luke's, London, W. Davis.

MR. MCCLARY RECOVERING.
For the first time in two weeks, John McClary, head of the McClary Manufacturing Company, was able to sit up on Friday. Mr. McClary has been seriously ill for more than a fortnight, but is now, it is believed, on the way to recovery.

BLOOD-MAKING MEDICINE

It took centuries for medical science to discover that the blood is the life. Now it is known that if the blood were always abundant, rich and pure very few people would ever be ill. It was not until the end of the nineteenth century that an instrument was invented for measuring the red parts of the blood. The doctors could tell just how anemic a patient had become, and with medicine to make new blood, the patient soon got well.

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DELAYS IN EXPRESS.
Delays in express shipments from the United States, which have greatly inconvenienced local commercial houses, have been taken up by the board of trade with a view to locating the cause of delay. The co-operation of the superintendents of the Canadian and American Express Companies in Toronto was asked, and secured, with the result that A. C. Hancock, superintendent of the American Express Company of Buffalo, now writes that he is giving the matter personal attention, and with the hope of bettering the service to London, so that it will be

more satisfactory to shippers, he has issued certain instructions to Suspension Bridges, by which most of the express matter passes, and this, he believes, will accomplish the desired end.

RELEASED FROM SERVICE.
The names of 48 members of the 31st Regiment Guard Details at Windsor are contained in camp orders where it is announced that they have been released from service. Efforts are also being made to release from service all members of the other home service units in the district who are in Class I and Category and therefore liable for service under the military service act.

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