

the effectiveness of their labours in the pulpit. Such an auxiliary ought not to be neglected. Not a few Ministers are physically disqualified for direct personal effort in this way; and if they act at all, must avail themselves of the instrumentality of others. Sacred music is now occupying much of the attention of our Church at home,—the Synod having a zealous and active committee for the object. What is called, with questionable propriety we believe, the Tonic Sol-Fa method, is greatly in vogue. This method, it will be understood, relates merely to the notation,—music itself, we suppose, being no more liable to modification than the law of gravitation. The advantages of this new method, we are assured, are very great; so much so that a child, five years of age, may, with a little instruction, be found qualified to read a simple tune at sight. Persons competent to pronounce an opinion, declare that so long as the old intricate notation is persisted in, any considerable proficiency in music never can be the attainment of more than a few.]

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WILL IS POWER.

How frequently we hear doubts expressed as to the possibility of acquiring knowledge without assistance!

One morning in the year 1849, a young peasant girl obtained an interview with the great vicar of the cathedral of one of the western cities in France. In a manner that was at once modest and firm, she told him that having heard of his kindness in procuring situations for governesses, she had come in the hope of obtaining some employment.

"But my child," replied the venerable abbe, "you cannot teach without a diploma, and in order to obtain a diploma, you must go through an examination. What instruction have you received?"

"In my childhood, Monsieur l'Abbe, I learned to read and write, and then I served my apprenticeship to a mantuamaker. I am now constantly employed in working with my needle, and earn about three pence; but this does not do, and so I wish to become a governess."

"My poor child, to read and write is something, it is true; but it is not enough. You must know how to spell; and you must know grammar, geography and something more than the first four rules of arithmetic, all thoroughly; and you must also have some idea of composition."

"I think, Monsieur l'Abbe, that I could pass an examination in these things tolerably well; for when my day's work was over, I have always devoted part of the night to studying the books which I contrived to buy out of my savings. On Sundays, too, I could read. I have come on purpose to beg that you would be so good as to examine me, and tell me whether I may hope to obtain the diploma of the first degree."

"The first degree! but do you know what it is, my child? it would be impossible. The examination is very difficult; you must know arithmetic perfectly; also, something of geometry and cosmography; you must understand music, both singing and playing on an instrument. It is not likely you have learned the piano or the harp?"

"I have not; but, Monsieur l'Abbe, does the law say positively the piano or the harp?"

"No! the law says simply that it is necessary to know enough of music to be able to play on an instrument. Those I mentioned are most usually learned at schools, that is the reason I named them; but I think that perhaps they might be satisfied with the guitar."

"Well, Monsieur, as the law does not name any particular instrument, I am satisfied, for I have taught myself to play on one instrument."

"And what is that?"

"Here it is;" and the girl took from her pocket a flageolet.

At this sight the Abbe burst into a peal of laughter. She colored deeply; but imagining, no doubt, that he did not believe in her musical powers, she raised the instrument to her lips and the Abbe stood amazed.

The excellent priest, who had himself been one of the people, judged rightly that a peasant, who had taught herself not only to play, but to play so well, could not be an ordinary person. He asked her age. She was twenty-five.

"I will examine you now," he said.

The replies of the young peasant were astonishing; and he wondered but in si-