



The
Rockwood
Review.



A Monthly Journal devoted to

Literature, Natural History and

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The Rockwood Review

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The Rockwood Review.

VOL. VIII.

KINGSTON, DECEMBER 1ST, 1901.

NO. 10

Winter.

One month ahead of time.

The crows are perplexed about it and have daily gatherings to discuss the matter. The Beechgrove is the meeting place.

What about that new Opera House? The first of December is here and we are still without a theatre. Better late than never though.

Queens will have a new outfit in the way of a hockey team this winter. Cyril Knight is a good nucleus though and after all it is a grand thing to give new blood a chance to develop.

The red squirrels are much disturbed by the ice on the trees. Even a chickaree finds an ice covered limb more than he can navigate with any degree of success and the red squirrel has cheek for almost anything.

We hear several enthusiastic gentlemen talking about keeping bees next summer. Let us hope they will not attempt to hive them in their bonnets.

The gulls are here in very large numbers and are particularly numerous at Collin's Bay. If they were bicycle riders we would infer that they were looking for John Collins, and yet the inventor of the celebrated drink is not supposed to have visited that modest hamlet, or if he did kept the matter quiet.

Mr. Donald Maclean called at Rockwood recently.

Miss Nellie Jackson, formerly of the Rockwood staff received a warm welcome from Officials and patients on the occasion of her recent visit. She is a great favorite.

It is rumored that Rockwood is to send a Trained Nurse to the extreme east of Canada. If this is so the Hospital will be well represented in the Dominion, with Miss Spence at Port Simpson, B.C., in the far West—and this appointment in the East. We already have too many in the South, if the best interests of Canada are to be served. We cannot afford to send the best of our population to the U. S. No doubt the next request for a Nurse will come from the North Pole, now that it has been proved beyond doubt that the Scotchmen are really there, as has always been claimed by those who understand the perseverance of the Scottish race.

Mr. W. Shakespeare Shea has not as yet been much in evidence at the "At Homes." No doubt he will be heard from before the season is much older. It was remarked the other night that while Jupiter, Saturn and Venus made a most brilliant display in the West the affair would have been a greater success still if "Billy" could have joined forces with them.

Mr. Harry Nicholson has made his debut as a singer of sentimental songs. He was not only rapturously encored on his first appearance, but moved one emotional young gentlemen to tears. Harry evidently has a future.

The Rockwood Review

Dr. Clarke was detained in Belleville several days while giving evidence in the Mullett trial.

Now that Prohibition is made a live issue by the recent decision of the Privy Council, the great question is what is the Government going to do about it? What is more to the point is that other question Will Prohibition prohibit?

We have received the first issue of Queen's College Journal for this session. It is a wonderful improvement on any number that has preceded it, and is the best University Journal we have seen. Surely Queen's is a progressive institution.

Great sorrow was expressed when Mr. Allan McLean's sudden illness was announced—but we are happy to say our excellent friend has made a rapid recovery.

The fact that lawyers, judges and people have little faith in so called expert evidence in trials is one pretty clearly established. In medico legal cases (criminal) the law is framed as if it were intended to discredit expert testimony, but apart from that, physicians have to a great extent, themselves to thank for the contempt with which their evidence is often received. When men absolutely without experience in special lines, are willing to testify positively in regard to what they have not even a good theoretical knowledge of, the result must be unsatisfactory. Some of the late criminal trials in the West have done much to discredit the profession. The most objectionable type of expert is the man who is willing to give expert testimony on any subject.

We had a call from Bursar Cochrane of Belleville recently. "Billy" declares that since the trolley cars ceased running there has been peace and quiet in the old town. It is now possible to get twenty hours of sleep per diem without danger of being disturbed.

Who got the best of the Arbitration in Kingston? As each party claims a victory, we should like to find out.

The Casket is the funny journal of the Undertakers. It seems that it passes from the grave to the gay without trouble. Here is a conundrum we would suggest as an excellent one for its funny column

Why is an undertaker likely to prove the most successful business man in a city?

Because he always carries out what e'er he undertakes.

The Beechgrove Hockey team promises to be up to its usual high standard this year and has "aspirations." It may be found in some Junior League. They have a wealth of excellent players to choose from and are likely to give a good account of themselves during the coming season.

The Thistle Curling Club, James Stuart, skip, is already on deck with sundry challenges, and has issued a defy to the "May-pul Leaves Forever" as our loyal Canadian Children invariably sing it.

Lake Ontario Park was a sea of mud on the occasion of the last football match between McGill and Queens. The game was the best exhibition of football given here this season and yet far below the usual standard. Mr. Etberington was an ideal captain, but travelled in hard luck.

Miss M. Thompson, a graduate of the Training School in connection with the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, has been appointed to the charge of Beechgrove Hospital.

The Rockwood Review

It is not usual to have good sleighing in November, but since the 24th the sleighing has been magnificent. Kipling will be able to find some justification for his poems.

Mrs. Clarke and Miss Pierce who have been seriously indisposed for some time are steadily convalescing.

Mrs. Muirhead of Toronto and Mrs. Stratton of Peterboro were guests at Rockwood recently.

The skating upon Cataraqui Creek has been excellent for some time past. The oldest resident will be in despair because a good old fashioned winter has set in.

There are more rash youths in the Belleville Institute for Deaf and Dumb than in any other part of the country. Some fifty odd cases of measles exist there.

The Belleville Hospital is a model institution and under most excellent management. Great credit is due the Lady Superintendent for the many improvements made there.

The great question in Portsmouth is, who is to be the next Mayor?

No. 9 Ward is to be fitted up with the Gegenstrom Bathing system, the change will be effected at an early date.

Dr. Watson has passed the Michigan Medical Council examinations and will practice his specialty in Detroit. He is certain of success.

Thanksgiving was celebrated in the usual style at Rockwood and there was the customary amount of grief in the chicken roosts.

Dr. Clarke will lecture upon the Violin and its Structure on December 5th. This lecture is given in connection with the Queen's University Musical Course. The musical illustrations will be furnished by Mrs. Campbell, Miss Perley, Miss Evans, Miss Armstrong and Dr. Clarke.

One of THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW poets has been offered an excellent position, without salary—on the Belleville Mute. He is considering the proposal and may accept if Capt. Dan McNair answers his last effusion.

The Rockwood staff is complete for the first time in many months. We were about to write "full" when the thought struck us that we might be misunderstood.

Capt. Fenwick evidently has little faith in the cold snaps and has not commenced to make ice on the rink. He knows a wrinkle or two about weather and is probably correct in his judgment. In the meanwhile the small boy talks much of hocke and jucks.

The Argonauts were just a little bit babyish about the championship match in Montreal. They should have taken their disappointment gracefully. It is utterly absurd attempting to play football in such weather at any rate.

The gentlemen who are still camping out would prove valuable finds on a Polar Expedition.

We are still waiting for the returns from Mr. T. McGuire's hunting expedition. He claims that they are not all in yet.

The Dramatic Club has decided to produce the farce "Who is Who," on Xmas night. Some excellent talent is available.

The Rockwood Review

The football season has been a most disappointing one as far as the quality of the play was concerned and it is quite certain that a team really up to championship form did not exist. The Rough Riders were below par and played a slovenly slow game, the Argonauts with their useless sky scraping punts little better, in fact it was decidedly an off year. As far as the O. R. F. U. is concerned, this season should convince it that the present state of affairs is not to be tolerated, and if it quietly drops out of existence for a year or so until the professional hangers on have disappeared it will earn the thanks of the sport loving community. There will then be a chance to make a clean start with boys who have not been corrupted.

If it is true, and there seems to be little question about it, that the Granites played sixteen men against the Rough Riders—the reputation of Kingston has suffered one more jolt. Surely things have come to a pretty pass when it is necessary to resort to such dishonesty in games. We trust that the report is absolutely without foundation.

Miss Ethel Porter, of the Rockwood Staff has received the appointment of Chief Attendant in Hamilton Asylum. Miss Porter is well qualified for the position and her promotion is regarded as another evidence that the merits of the Rockwood Nurses are thoroughly appreciated.

Mr. Arbuckle has been appointed Bandmaster in the place of Mr. W. Madill who recently retired from the Rockwood service. Mr. Arbuckle is an accomplished violinist and a good musician and will no doubt fill the position acceptably.

The Class of Nurses in Training is unusually large this year, owing to the growing demand for Rockwood Nurses, however, all rejoice in the success which has attended the Training School.

Portsmouth and Cataract were the two bright spots in the recent bonus bye-law election and certainly Queens should have a warm spot in her heart for the electors of these villages. How differently the rural electors regarded the matter is shown by their great majority against the by-law. It came as a surprise that the opposition should have been so active. Evidently the farmers did not understand the question at issue, and were fighting phantoms.

Rev. C. J. Young has been made Rural Dean of this diocese and will in future reside at Sharbot Lake. We congratulate Mr. Young on his good fortune.

Hairy Woodpeckers were seen in the Rockwood Grounds on November 17th.

Miss Goldie and Miss Margery Clarke are visiting Grimsby and Toronto.

Mr. W. Shea has painted a new drop curtain for the stage. It is up to Billy's usual high standard.

The REVIEW's remarks upon the subject of a flag have evidently reached the Ontario Government. The new flag is somewhat abbreviated as to its length and in this respect will not be a fitting symbol of the loyalty we possess—still it is sometimes an excellent thing to keep a little of it suppressed as a sort of antidote to those who are suspiciously exuberant. Looking at it from this standpoint perhaps the flag will do as a symbol.

November Meteors.

O, Lady Moon of the crescent face,
Go hide in your tent for an hour's brief space,
And draw the cloud curtains about the camp
To shade the light of your silver lamp,
For this is the night of all the round year
When the little star Brownie's awake and appear!

Why walk abroad in your shimmering gown
When the lights are out in hamlet and town,
And the little light-bearers peep and wait,
While the night grows deep, and the hour grows late.
In shoals and swarms at the Lion's gate.

Mail-clad revellers, star bright forms
Tangled and blended in glittering swarms,
Till the gates are opened, the coast is clear
For the mimic battle, the scintillant spear,
In this one night of the whole round year!

O, Mother Moon of the silver lamp,
Draw the cloud curtains about your camp,
When the cat's asleep the mice will play,
Winking and blinking their swift bright way,
And all your nurslings are out and away!

Baby stars with butterfly wings,
Golden arrows and silver slings;
Meteor Brownie's in gay phalanx
Gather and scatter in elf-like pranks—
The planets stand white in their startled ranks!

The Hunter stops in his stealthy tread,
And Taurus lowers his mighty head,
The Lion looks from his lurid lair—
Turns in his circle the Great White Bear,
The Pleiad's cressets flicker and flare!

They plunge in fire through the crystalline night,
Their locks flame out in their arrowy flight;
Winding—unwinding a jewelled chain
They meet and break in a star-like rain,
And hide in the fathomless dark again.

To-morrow old Earth will be far away
From the little star-Leonids at their play
So hide your lamp, lady Moon, and go,
While the night wanes on, and the stars burn low,
And leave us the wonderful beautiful show.

—K. S. McL.

The Rockwood Review

THE YEAR'S DECLINE.

We here have begun to experience of the usual Autumnal gales, shaking down many of the rich tinted leaves of the forest trees, and the flocks of Blue Jays in their raids on the abundant harvest of beech and hickory nuts, scream shrill and sympathetically with the rustling agitation in the sylvan environment; the Jays as well as the crow tribe are more clamorous at this season than at any other period of the year. The gusty, (occasional) days of this month with lowering skies, seem to excite the assemblages of dark hued feathered intruders, to harsh vociferation in vehement and discordant tones. Some of these convocations resemble a very Babel of corvine eloquence, and important resolves in regard to the tactics of the dark feathered fraternity are made manifest by the flitting of the tumultuous gathering to the fresh fields or pastures new.

The few robin representatives that are still chirping around, regale themselves on the wild grapes and on the fruit of the Virginia ampelopsis, as also as we lately noticed on the fruit of the Moonseed vine. The fruit too of the Wild briar-rose and that of the Gautheria Winterberry, also the "wa hoo" or Euonymus and the Mitchella (or squawberry) afford in the declining year many gustatory joys to their feathered and to their furry participants; such as the red squirrel, chip-monk and other rodentia. Flocks of doves, too, sometimes side by side, with covies of Quail, are frequent (almost constant) gleaners of the scattered grain on the buckwheat stubble. Warbling vireos and the savannah sparrows were demonstrative during the first two weeks of September and the warmth was such that a few chimney and other swallows returned to their summer haunts, also the Whip-Poor-Wills, which,

with the hirundines had vanished hence at the time of full moon (about 21st) in August, returned and gave their accustomed calls in the solitudes until nearly the end of September, as there was more than normal warmth; the white-throated sparrow is, we believe only seen here "en passant," but nests regularly about Guelph.

We chanced to hear the easily recognized "Pee-Pee-Pebody" notes, in a wayside thicket near Guelph on the evening of last Dominion Day.

Notwithstanding the diminished area of forest about here, the presence of the Raccoon in our corn-fields has been made evident nocturnally this fall and some well grown and sleek coated "puppies" have been captured by several of our boy acquaintances. One of the plantigrades is yet kept as a door yard pet in a kennel with an attachment of several feet of light chain and is said to be as diverting in its antics as a tamed monkey.

One feature of the past summer here has been a greater profusion in the bird genus Thrush, to this district; the veerys, felivox, wood-thrush and also tanager, have loitered, bred and sung in many of the maple sugar bushes to a more noticeable extent than for five or six years past, and the sweet notes of the wood thrush could be heard as one stood on one's doorstep about sunrise during nearly the whole month of June (there had been abnormal warmth and rainfall soon after the summer songsters arrival.)

The shore larks at present time are conspicuously absent and the same remark would hold true about here for the summer of 1901—a rather unusual state of bird habit.

The warm afternoon caused the garter snake to bask in the bright rays on the dusky roadway and frogs hopped occasionally out of our pathway to the shelter of the bordering herbage.

The Rockwood Review

The plaintiff and rather melancholy note of the meadow lark is heard with more frequency in the pasture fields for an hour or two after morning sunrise, and a brood of ruffed grouse may be met with almost any day at the border of an extensive cedar thicket a few furlongs distant from where we are now writing. The grouse here eat evidently just the tender young leaves of the two species of *Pyrola* so abundant in boggy shades.

W. YATES.

ENGLISH SPARROW.

(*Passer domesticus*.)

The English sparrow, or, more properly speaking, the house sparrow of Europe and Asia, was introduced into the United States about 1850 and has increased and spread until now it is one of the most abundant birds east of the Mississippi River. It does not, however, occur in the lower part of Florida and certain parts of Mississippi and Louisiana, nor in some portions of Maine, Minnesota, and North Dakota. West of the Mississippi River its range forms a tongue-like area extending to the base of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and includes Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Indian Territory, and parts of South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. It is also found in isolated localities west of the Rocky Mountains, principally about Great Salt Lake, San Francisco Bay, near Portland, Oreg., and on Puget Sound, Washington. In Canada it is established to a greater or lesser degree in all the eastern provinces. It has recently penetrated to Manitoba, but has not yet otherwise secured a foothold to the north and west of Ontario. Throughout its range it abounds chiefly in towns and villages, along roads, and about farms, and is not found in mountainous or forested districts.

The relation of the bird to man

was investigated by the Department of Agriculture, and the results were published in 1889. This investigation, which included extended field observation and the examination of more than 600 stomachs, showed the species to be a serious pest. Since the appearance of this publication 132 additional stomachs have been examined, and a special study has been made of the food of the young. For the latter purpose 50 birds from 3 days to 3 weeks old were collected during the last of June and the first of July, 1899, from a farming region in Virginia opposite Washington, D.C.

The 82 stomachs of adults were collected throughout the year in rural localities in Maryland, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Kansas. Animal matter, practically all insects, constituted 2 per cent. of the food, and vegetable matter, almost entirely seeds, 98 per cent. Insects were taken chiefly during May and June, when they composed 10 and 8 per cent. respectively of the month's food. Of the 98 per cent. constituting the vegetable food, 7 per cent. consisted of grass seed, largely of plants of the genera *Zizania* (wild rice), *Panicum*, and *Choctocloa*, and notably crab-grass and pigeon grass, and 17 per cent. of various weeds not belonging to the grass family. The grass and weed seeds taken are not noticeably different from those usually eaten by native sparrows. But what especially differentiates the vegetable food from that of all other sparrows is the large proportion of grain consumed, which formed 74 per cent. of the entire food of the year and 90 per cent. of that of the period from June to August.

The examination of the contents of the 50 nestlings made an unfavorable showing for the species. It was found that instead of being exclusively insectivorous, like the young of all the native sparrows so far as known, the young English sparrows had taken 35 per cent. vegetable food, 2 per cent. being

The Rockwood Review

weed seed and 33 per cent. grain. The animal food was made up entirely of insects, and these were chiefly injurious. One per cent. of the food consisted of bugs, 3 per cent. of ants and other Hymenoptera, 4 per cent. of Lepidoptera, 8 per cent. of beetles, and 49 per cent. of grasshoppers. Three-fourths of the beetles were weevils and practically all the grasshoppers were the short-horned (Acrididae), the greater part of which belonged to the species *Melanoplus atlantis* and *Melanoplus femurrubrum*. The destruction of these harmful insects is, of course, a service to agriculture; but it must be remembered that all the food of the nestlings of other sparrows consists of insects just as injurious, while one-third of the food of English sparrows is composed of grain.

As an insect destroyer the English sparrow does its best service by destroying grasshoppers, principally in feeding nestlings, nearly half of the food of which, as shown, was found to consist of grasshoppers of the genus *Melanoplus*. Other Orthoptera are eaten to a slight extent. It is a common sight along roads to see the birds pursuing and capturing the large dust-colored grasshopper (*Dissosteira carolina*) which shows yellow underwings when it flies. Long-horned grasshoppers (Locustidae), small grasshoppers of the genus *Tettix*, and, in one instance at least, the mole cricket (*Gryllotalpa*) were included in the orthopterous food found in their stomachs. The species of Lepidoptera preyed on are important pests. Whenever there is an uprising of army worms the English sparrows feast on the abundant supply. They have been observed catching the moth also of the army worm. During spring and early summer, they remove many cutworms from lawns and, to a certain extent feed on hairless caterpillars of shade trees. Occasionally they destroy a few hairy caterpillars; they eat the fall webworms and tussock-moth caterpillars, and sometimes feed on

the moths and egg clusters of the latter species; they are included by Forbush among the birds seed to feed on the gipsy moth, and they have been observed by Weed preying on the moths of the forest-tent caterpillar. But that they do not habitually eat hairy caterpillars and should not be expected to act as a potent check upon such insects is evidenced by the fact that only 2 of nearly 700 stomachs examined contained hairy caterpillars.

The English sparrow feeds less on useful predaceous beetles than any other insect-eating bird investigated by the Department. Only three of the stomachs examined contained insects of this class. In one case a ground-beetle, and in the other two cases tiger-beetles were eaten. No dragon-flies were found in the stomachs examined, but an hour's field observation near the Department brought to light the fact that these useful insects, the natural enemies of mosquitoes, are relished by English sparrows. All about a pond at the base of the Washington Monument on the morning of May 21, 1898, the nymphs of a large species of dragon-fly (*Libellula pulchella*), which had emerged from the water and crawled up the stalks of yellow iris and other vegetation at the water's edge, were splitting open and the soft adults were tumbling out. The English sparrows, taking advantage of the helpless condition of these newly transformed insects, seized them and flew to the pavement above the pond, and, after some preliminary pecking, ate them, or carried them to their young. Along 200 feet of this pavement were 100 dragon-fly wings. Of the useful Hymenoptera, the English sparrow destroys few braconids or ichneumonids, but consumes a comparatively large number of scoliids (*Typhia* and *Myzine*). It has not been known to molest the common honey bee, but on the contrary if offered these insects in captivity, it invariably refuses them. It has nevertheless been observed feeding

The Rockwood Review

on a small species of wild bee (*Halictus* sp.) Ants are quite frequently eaten. English sparrows, feeding on the ground, have often been seen to spring into the air and catch a flying ant, *Lasius* or *Tetramorium*. They also feed on *Monomorium pharaonis*.

The beetle element of their food is of varied importance. They prey on the harmless dung-beetles (*Aphodius*) that are selected by native sparrows and many other species of birds. They also eat May-beetles (*Lachnosterna*)—for the most part too hard-shelled for many of the native sparrows—which are very injurious to crops, but which should probably be counted as neutral in this case, since most of those eaten have been maimed or killed by arc lights along city streets. The destruction of weevils is productive of more benefit. These insects abound in city parks from which the English sparrows obtain much of their food, and where they destroy many of their pests, especially while feeding nestlings. The forms eaten include *Baris*, *Centrinus*, *Phytonomus punctatus*, *Sphenophorus parvulus*, and various species of *Sitones*. Unimportant leaf-beetles, such as *Colaspis brunnea* and *Choetocnema denticulata*, are eaten, but the more injurious kinds are not touched.

Hemiptera, both Heteroptera (soldier bugs of the genera *Euschistus* and *Polisus*) and Homoptera (leap-hoppers, plant-lice, insects and cicadas), as well as Diptera (*Muscidae* and *Tipulidae*), are sometimes included in the sparrow's diet. Dr. L. O. Howard has found the bird feeding on the maple scale (*Pulvinaria innumerabilis*.) Mr. E. H. Forbush has observed it eating the eggs of the white birch plant-louse (1,478 eggs were found in one stomach), and also those of the larch plant-louse (*Chermes*).

As regards the destruction of weeds, English sparrows would be far more effective in rural districts if they flew out into the fields to feed; but instead of this they

limit their weed-seed eating largely to the barnyard and the immediate vicinity of buildings. Thus, during November, 1899, 50 English sparrows were seen eating seeds from a wagonful of ragweed which had been driven up to a barn. These same birds would not have flown into the field where the ragweed grew, because they preferred to stay near the barn and steal grain; but when a quantity of such food was brought to them they did not refuse it.

As has already been shown (see p. 26), English sparrows do effective work in destroying seeds of weeds in the public parks of cities and towns. This food does not differ materially in character from that of the native sparrows, consisting of such kinds as pigeon-grass (*Choetocloa glauca* and *C. viridis*) yard-grass, Bermuda or wite-grass, lamb's quarters, crab-grass, sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) knotweed, field mustard, black bindweed, smartweed, climbing false buckwheat, dandelion, sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), and ragweed.

In cities the grain that enters into their food is composed so largely of the semi-digested oats in horse droppings in the streets that it should not be allowed to weigh against the species appreciably in estimating the character of its food habits. But in rural districts it is largely drawn from man's supply. There is scarcely a grain crop which English sparrows do not habitually injure. They pillage the fields by thousands and cause great damage.

It appears, therefore, that there is little to be said in favor of the English sparrow. Its insectivorous habits are creditable as far as they go, but they are insignificant because the diet is almost exclusively vegetable; and while it is in the vegetable fare that the value of most sparrows consists, yet in the case of the English sparrow the damage to grain far overbalances the benefit of weed-seed destruction. Adding to this the injury it causes to buildings and

The Rockwood Review

statues in cities, there is no escape from the conclusion that the bird is a serious pest the extermination of which would be an unmixed blessing.

The obnoxious character of the English sparrow is widely recognized, and numerous attempts, by means of bounties and otherwise, have been made to rid the country of its presence, but with little success. The wariness of the bird, its hardihood, and its prodigious fecundity have thus far rendered all such efforts futile.

In the city of Boston, during 1899, a crusade was inaugurated through the efforts of the American Society of Bird Restorers. From March 13 to April 5, six men were employed in the Common and Public Garden destroying the nests and eggs. Five thousand nesting holes were plugged up, and 1,000 eggs broken, but no birds were killed. It is claimed that nearly half of the sparrows which normally breed on the Common and Public Garden were driven away. In May only 250 to 300 pairs of sparrows were found, while the number of pairs counted in the parks before the sparrow war began amounted to 500.

Much is always to be learned from an experiment of this kind, and other cities should profit by Boston's experience. There is reason to believe, however, that the present rapid supplanting of horse power by electricity will, by reducing the food supply of the birds, do more toward diminishing their numbers in the city parks than any plan for restricting their reproduction.

The amount of expense that may profitably be incurred in combating the sparrow will depend on circumstances, as in the case of the house rat and mouse; but it should be borne in mind that the bounty system has proved to be only an extravagant failure.

HAMLET'S SOHLOGUY ON THE TOOTHACHE.

To have it out, or not, that is the question: Whether 'tis better for the jaws to suffer the pangs and torments of an aching tooth, or to take steel and by extracting end 'im?

To pull—to try, no more, and by a try to say we end the toothache and the thousand other ills which the human jaw is heir to, 'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished.

To pull—to try; to try! perchance to break; ay, there's the rub; for in that wrench what agonies may come, when we have half dislodged the stubborn foe, must give us pause; there's the respect that makes an aching tooth of so long life; for who would bear the whips and stings of pain, the old wife's nostrum, dentist's contumely, the pangs of hope deferred, kind sleep delay, when he himself might his quietus make for one poor dollar! Who would these fardels bear, to groan and sweat beneath a load of pain; but that the dread of something lodged within those linen twisted forceps from whose fangs no jaw at ease returns, puzzles and will, and makes us rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of? Thus dentists do make cowards of us all; and thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cost of fear, and many a one who seeks the door with this regard his footsteps turns away, scared at the name of "dentist!"

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Exultation, preparation, combination, new relation.
—HENRY M. BLOSSOM, JR., in
November Smart Set.

HENRI WIENIAWSKI.

By DR. T. L. PHIPSON

Author of "Voice and Violin,"
"Scenes from the Reign of
Louis XVI.," etc.

Some former members of the Bohemian Orchestral Society who have drifted into a quartet party have asked me to write in The Strad something about Wieniawski, the Polish Paganini. I hasten to comply with this request, though I cannot speak of him as a quartet player or conductor, but only as a virtuoso and composer of violin music.

I was a very young man when I met Wieniawski at Ostend in 1855 and he must then have been only twenty years of age, if it be true that he was born at Lublin, in Poland, on July 10th, 1835; but he looked at least ten years older than that. He had a younger brother, Joseph, who was a very clever

pianist. My attention was called to Wieniawski's violin playing by my friend, Victor Eeckhout, son of a celebrated Flemish painter, and a very promising artist himself. He, like all the young men of that day, raved about Wieniawski's playing, speaking of him as an *indiable sur le violon*, or as a "second Paganini"—we have had a good many "second Paganinis" since then.

I had recently heard Sivori, Vieuxtemps, Kontski, Signorina Milanollo, besides others less known to the general public, but scarcely less eminent violinists; therefore I doubted the value of my friend Eeckhout's enthusiastic praise. Nevertheless, time has proved that he was right, for all the world has since been as fascinated as he was with this great violinist, and the compositions the latter has left us show that he was one of the chosen few in the world of music.

Wieniawski heard my violin long before I heard his. At the time, just mentioned, Vieuxtemps and Kontski were also at Ostend. They both gave a concert, at about a fortnight's interval, and I was at both of these performances; but Wieniawski only played at *ecarte*. He was at the *Kursaal* playing cards all day long.

One morning I met there, by appointment Madame Dreyfuss (the talented sister of the late Sir Julius Benedict) in order to play some violin obligato to her songs, and afterwards played the splendid "Adante et Rondo Russe" of De Beriot to the excellent accompaniment of my dear mother. Wieniawski asked who I was, and when told I was an Englishman, he would not believe it. One of his companions joined our circle (as a bet had been made upon the subject) to discover the truth, and my friend Eeckhout was called upon to decide. (Eight or ten years afterwards I played that same piece at a crowded concert in Hammersmith, also with my mother's accompaniment, and had wonderful success.)

The Rockwood Review

That is the only time I ever came in actual contact with Wieniawski; he was not a personal friend of mine, as Vieuxtemps was but I have heard much of his music. I have studied many of his pieces, and like everyone else, I admire his talent. He was then a man of barely medium height, rather stout, dark, and with a pale oval face and regular features, and looked at least eight and twenty years of age.

Like many other great artists, Wieniawski owed his success to his natural musical gifts, the excellent instruction he received in Paris, and to his indefatigable perseverance. When only eight years of age he took lessons there from a clever professor named Clavel, and in the course of a twelvemonth or so, he was able to enter the Conservatoire. In the class of the well known Flemish professor, the late M. Massart. Under this able instructor he remained for two years, after which, as a young boy, he set out on a concert tour in Russia. Though after his two years' training under Massart he had gained the first prize of the Conservatoire, as Sarasate did, ten years later, under Alard, this premature concert tour taught Wieniawski's friends that he had yet much to learn, and he returned to Paris to complete his musical education. He then took lessons in composition from Colet.

It is stated that, at this early age, Wieniawski could play the Twenty-four Capricci of Paganini which was considered a tour de force on the part of Ole Bull when in his prime. But, after all, music does not consist in tours de force; and if anyone asked me which of Wieniawski's compositions best indicate his poetic feeling, I should say his "Chanson Polonoise in D," which first brought him into notice, it is undoubtedly a very clever and effective work, which can only be performed by the greatest artists; but it is not characterized by originality. The opening melody of this piece re-

minds me of a Redowa that was played by Sacre, the dancing master, who came to Ostend every season to give lessons to the young people, and my two sisters attended his class. He played the violin, not the piano, and this air which was dinned into our ears twice or thrice a week for hours together, afterwards found its way into Wieniawski's Polonoise! At the children's balls Sacre led a string quartet which played most excellent dance music, and many went to hear it.

Biographers say that it was at about sixteen years of age that Wieniawski began to travel through Europe as a virtuoso, meeting with great success wherever he played. In 1860 he settled in St. Petersburg for twelve years during which time he made several tours through Europe. In 1872 he sailed for the United States where he accomplished a very successful tour with Rubenstein, the pianist. On his return to Europe in 1875 he replaced Vieuxtemps for two years as the head of the Conservatoire at Brussels, the latter being obliged to relinquish this high position on account of rheumatic paralysis of the arm. When Vieuxtemps returned, Wieniawski set out again on his travels; but unfortunately his health broke down, and his medical man found that he was suffering from disease of the heart. He played in Paris for the last time in 1878; being unable to stand during the performance, he played seated. Sad to relate, whilst his health was giving way, his fortune was also being undermined by his insatiable love of gambling and his dissipated habits; and he finally succumbed to heart disease at Moscow in 1880, where he had been living for some time, teaching, but not playing in public.

It has been stated that he gambled away all his money as fast as he made it by his concerts, and died a pauper. But he had insured his life for about £4,000, and it is to be hoped his poor widow had the advantage of that.

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