

and owing to this circumstance chiefly, was wholly unsuccessful; the disgust which he conceived from this failure, as it deterred him from resuming the composition of opera (although in after years he was repeatedly urged to undertake it, when "Fidelio," revised and reproduced in better times, had had its deserved triumph on the stage), is one of the greatest misfortunes that has ever befallen this branch of the art. Later, he composed his great masses: and the series of his great instrumental works, with solo, piano-forte, and chamber-music, continued in unbroken succession to the close of his life; these, with an exception to be mentioned hereafter, having, to the last, furnished his principal means of subsistence.

His fame, which was now spread throughout Germany, had already brought to Vienna, in an evil hour for his happiness, his two brothers, Carl and Johann, in the hope of bettering their fortunes through his influence and aid. To these unworthy relatives—who appear to have both been mean, selfish, and grasping, in no common degree—the great composer was generously attached; and most of his earnings were allowed, without any reserve, to fall into their hands. But this was not the worst. As his infirmities began to estrange him from so-

ciety, the elder brother but too successfully attempted to rule him for his own selfish purposes, and to secure this influence by turning him away from his real friends and patrons. This was, in some degree, controlled by the authority of the Prince Lichnowsky, as long as he lived, but, after his death, the mischievous tyranny of the brothers was almost wholly unopposed. A complete stranger to the practical business of life, rendered suspicious by his growing deafness, and leaning for advice and support on these selfish relatives—who sought only to extort from his labours some profit for themselves—Beethoven was rendered an object of pity to his better friends, and of dislike to many; while his scanty earnings were plundered, and every unworthy contrivance that meanness could suggest was employed to prevent his escape from this miserable bondage. We are told by Ries that "His brothers took especial pains to alienate him from all his nearest friends; and yet, whatever wrongs they committed, although convicted of them, it needed only a few tears to make him forgive all. He would then say, 'He is, after all, my brother;' and the friend was then liable to reproach for his good-nature and frankness."—*Continued at page 217.*

LET US THE FLEETING HOURS ENJOY.

GLEE FOR THREE VOICES.

Andante.

Sir John Stevenson.

Let us, let us the fleet-ing hours enjoy, With love and har-mo-ny all

Let us, let us the fleet-ing hours enjoy, With love and har-mo-ny all

cares de-stroy; With love and har-mo-ny all cares de-stroy.

cares de-stroy; With love and har-mo-ny all cares de-destroy.

Con - tent - ed be, good hu - mour'd blythe and gay, Pleas - ing and pleas'd ill na - ture

Con - tent - ed be, good hu - mour'd blythe and gay, Pleas - ing and pleas'd ill na - ture

p *f*

chace a - way, While so - cial mirth, and all its smil - ing train,

chace a - way, While so - cial mirth, and all its smil - ing train,

ff

While so - cial mirth, so - cial mirth, and

in - spire new joys, and with de - light here reign. Then join in

in - spire new joys, and with de - light here reign. Then join in

vivace

mer - ry Catch and Glee, and hap - py hap - py let us

mer - ry Catch and Glee, and hap - py hap - py let us

be. Then join in mer - - - ry Catch, in

be. Then join in mer - - - ry mer - - - ry Catch. in

Then join in mer - - - ry

mer - ry Catch and Glee and hap - py hap - py let us be, Then

mer - ry Catch and Glee and hap - py hap - py let us be, Then

join - - in mer - ry Catch in mer - ry Catch and Glee, and hap - py hap - py

join in mer - ry Catch and Glee, and hap - py hap - py

join - - in mer - ry Catch in mer - ry Catch and Glee,

let us be, and hap - py, hap - py, hap - py, let us be.

let us be, and hap - py, hap - py, hap - py, let us be.