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## NOYETMBER, 1904.

## THE ST. LOUIS ORGAN.

Next to the most violent gymnastic exercise is play ${ }^{-}$ ing on the largest pipe organ. As one watches the organist busy with both hands and feet, one can imagine what Vishnıu with four hands might do to a pipe organ. She could play half the decks of keys at once. The greatest organ in the world is a sight to see, even when workmen have it trellised up in scaffolding and are hoisting its ornamental exterior by block and tackle in sections. In fact, it might be more interesting than when it is finished and standing there in state, all crimson and gold. It isn't every day that you can see a big pipe organ installed. The audience which half filled the great hall was well satisfied to watch the workmen until the organist Mr. Chas Galloway, came in. At this advent, the painters and carpenters and joiners and artificers, the workers in brass and the gilders faded away behind the organ and left the organist alone in front of that vast edifice, for the organ is as big as a house. The organist bowed low and then sat down at that apparatus that looks something like a combination of a telephone switchboard, a rolltop desk and a kitchen range. At first the music came forth in little rivu lets that mingled with each other as they play over the stones in a brook, then they grew into a swift, rushing river of melody, and at last, as the organist is "playing all over' pulling stops here and pushing them there, with both feet pressing pedals, and apparently nothing that is not assisting except his teeth, we can imagine the tumbling ocean in the roar of that mighty instrument. It drowned out the clangor of the German bells which were ringing at that instant and filled the dome of that great hall so that at least every molecule of atmosphere seemed bearing its burden of music.

But, nevertheless, after the playing of each piece, considerable number of people got up and went out. They had come to "see" the organ, and they had seen it. The programme was rich and classical Perhaps many preferred "Bedelia."-Louise Meyers, in the Chicago Musical Times.

## DEVOTIONAL CHOIR MUSIC.

This subject has specific relation to the order of music connected with religious services Public devo tion is allied to the act of consecration to religious principles embodied in various forms of worship. To worship is to honor with reverence and live according to those divine truths which build up the moral and spiritual character. These divine truths are inculcated in the rites, ceremonies and symbols of public religious services

Church formalities consist of an acknowledgment of the Infinite in expressions of prayer, praise and the teaching of the doctrines peculiar to each sect according to its conventional rules. On account of denomi national differences these acts of devotion range from the simplicity of a lecture room essay, through variou. rituals, up to the most elaborate sacerdotal ordinances

In all this variety of olservances music forms an essential part, and its use extends from inappropriate reminders of secular and operatic melodies to the ascetic and devout Gregorian chant ; from hymns, anthems and oratorio choruses to the ornate Latin mass, the grand Anglican Te Deum and the stately musical service of he Jewish temple

Since there are more than a hundred different sects there cannot be a standard for all. The numerous orders of modern metaphysical healers, theo -ophists, etc., have their regular services of worship with their devotional hymns, which exert the same influence upon their followers as the more solemn forms of the historical cathedral service.

Therefore a very broad view must be taken in considering this subject, which will not exclude even the religionists who discard instrumental music as sinful, and who only permit certain metrical forms of psalms and hymins to be sung.

As each sect has its own style of vocal music the subject can only be alluded to on general principles. Yet there should he a specific reverential style in all derotional music, excluding reminiscences of secular associations. It should possess a form which is at once suggestive of consecration to a holy purpose and leading to religious contemplation.

Devotional music bas an external and internal form --a body containing a living spirit. The external form appeals to the esthetic sense and should be adapted to the degree of culture of both the singer and hearer.

Within this external form there is a deeper meaning than appears in the vestment of the sensuous sound

The spirit of music symbolizes a life in harmony with divine laws. Divine laws are incarnated in the life by obedience to those Two Great Commandments which contain the fundamental principles concerning our relation to the Infinite Life and humanity. These are the foundation stones of all temples of worship, the pediment on which rests the fountain whence all the virtues emanate and to which the highest art points and leads.

Devotional music is allied to sacred words which influence the mind to reflect upon these heavenly virtues which constitute what is called eternal life. This meditation induces a condition of thought which leads to the examination of the motives in all our actions and incites us to discover and reject the love of self, and to incorporate in its place a regard for the welfare of others in all our thoughts, speech and action.

This examination of the motives constitutes religious contemplation, and devotional music clothes these serious thoughts with melody and harmony. Thus it aids in creating a feeling of reverence in impressing a holy state upon the mind.

According to his education and affiliations the form of religious expression of every thoughtful person is holy to him, and the more artistic and consonant are the environments of the place consecrated to public worship, the more he reveres the external associations of the sanctuary

Let due honor be ascribed to the memory of those who built and to those who sustain the grand cathedrals and temples in their wealth of magnificent architecture which ensbrine the symbols of a higher life: Here the noblest music pervades each lofty arch and resounds from wall to wall inspiring thoughts which lead the mind to hope for realities hid within the veil of mystery yet to be solved. Here the ecclesiastical form of devotional music has full sway, which is never desecrated with trivial and sensational associations, and it is well to hold in deep veneration such consecrated places where the dignified music is in harmony with all the emblems of worship.

But there are minds who feel the Infinite Presence as the life of all things whose constant thought is : "Wherever 1 am, (god is present, for my life is His life in me." Such minds often have no interest in the sphere of formal services where reverem attitudes, adorned altars, surpliced choristers and grand organs are held in devout esteem. Yet they meet with other minds of kindred spirit and unite their voices in sacred hymns, thus receiving inspiration without the aid of stately ceremonials.

The object of devotional music is by means of the external sound, to aid in awakening and intensifying
the internal idea for which music stands, according to the needs and associations, which are the most congenial and helpful to the order of thought which a person holds

As a matter of art the music should always be of the best character and appropriate to the words, and it should be sung in tune. In a religious service no attempt should be made by singers to render music which is beyond their capacity to execute well and in tune, for there are often sensitive listeners, who are irritated by music poorly rendered, which destroys all devotional feeling.

It is commendable to cultivate a high ideal of church music and at choir rehearsals to study the best order of compositions, but when such music is beyond the attainments of a choir they should sing in the devotional services only those melodies and harmonies which best promote a religious sympathy, such graded music of a good quality always being obtainable from the publishers

If the music in a church service partakes of or is suggestive of a concert and attention is attracted to the singers rather than to the object of devotional music, the purpose is not fulfilled. There should be no attempt at personal display on the part of a singer or organist in a devotional service, and there shouid be a marked difference between such a service and a concert or festival occasion.--IV. Horatio Clarke, in the Musician.

## ORGAN-TOUCH.

In view of the fact that so many pianists play in church, and play the organ exactly as they do the piano, even making special effort to retain their piano-touch, it is interesting to read what Mr. Arthur Page, organist of St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, England, has to say on the subject in his book on organ-playing :

On the pianoforte mere pressure is useless, there must always be something in the nature of a blow; while, for the organ, pressure is the chief requisite. The touch of one organ will. of course, differ trom that of another, even the two (or more) manuals of the same instrument will probably not be the same; but, what ever may be the amount of pressure, it is pressure rather than percussion which is required
"It must be observed that the slightest depression of a key will produce sound, rendering it essential that all organ-playing should be very "clean." If on the pianoforte the chord of $C$ is played and one finger should afterward inadvertently press down $B$ while the otlier keys are held, it will not matter so far as the ear is concerned, for the $B$, not having been struck, will not sound; but let the beginner try it on the organ, and it will at once be found that the intruder makes itself

## heard, and with most disastrous effect

" Further, it is necessary that all notes be sustained their exact v.lue, neither more nor less, unless it be an impossibility, and here again a difference between the two instruments will be noticed. If on the pianoforte a key be held down a little too long it will scarcely be noticed except by the highly-trained musician, whereas on the organ such a fault could not fail to be apparent to anyone possessing an 'ear for music.'
"The pianoforte has very little sustaining power no sound being able to continue for more than a few seconds, during the whole of which time it is gradually dying away. On the organ the sound continues with full force for precisely the time the key is kept down. The reason so few plianoforte players succeed in playing part-music with a real legato is owed to the imperfection ust mentioned, as the ear is not able to correct mis takes of either omssion or commission, and perfection has to depend on eye and brain. (We mean that the player has to see if the keys are kept down for the time the brain tells him they ought to be on the pianoforte and that on the organ he can hear as well as see, and especially is this the case in very slow part-music.)
"Recognizing thus fully the difficulty the pianis has in this respect, we still say it is possible to overcome it, and that mere difficulty is no extenuation of such slp shod style of playing that one constantly mets with; while to the young organist we say, the holding of keys down even a fraction of a second too long can not be tolerated. Instead of clear moving parts we should have chaotic chord combinations merely, and we warn the student that here he has a very grave initial difficulty to overcome; in fact, the greatest mental tax he will have, all other difficulties being practical rathe than mental.' - The Etude.

## SENTIMENT IN HYMNS.

A cry has been raised in some quarters that our hymns are becoming too much "sentimentalized," and the compilers of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern" are cautioned against allowing anything of the kind to appear in their forthcoming new edition. The matter is one of some difficulty, but I have my own views re garding it. Whatever in the way of a hymn is helpful to the human soul in its religious aspirations, I would certainly have hesitation in excluding from any popular collection. It is all very well to talk about elevating he tastes of the people, but you may elevate their tastes to such a height that you drive out the feeling of religious emotions altogether. I had myself a curious ex. perience lately. We had just introduced the new "Church Hymnary." and had sung "Tell me the old, old story," as we felt obliged to do, to the tune. Next day a poor working man called at my house and wished
to see me. "Oh, Mr. Hadden," he said, "that was not 'The old, old story' at all which you gave us yester. day. Can't you give us the old tune again?" And then he proceeded to tell me of how a dear one, now dead, had loved it, and had made it ever sacred to him. What is to be said in such a case? As a musician I know that the new tune is preferable to the old. But then I know also that the people love the old tune better than they can ever love the new one, and perhaps they are right in feeling annoyed at being robbed of their favourite. So with what is called the sentimental in hymns. Sentiment must always count for a great deal in this world. Take it out of our lives, and what a poor remnant we should have! In this matter of hymns there must be mutual concessions. Personally, I object to sing in Faber's well-known hymn that "tis weary waiting here," because, like the Scots farmer, I don't find it at all weary (except when I am bilious and the wind is in the east), and it isn't a healthy feeling to find it weary. But I have known people, valetudinarians mostly, who were really anxious to go hence and be at rest, and why should they be debarred from singing "O Paradise, O Paradise," because I am not a valetudinarian? A minister said to me the other day that he always objected to give ont "O for a closer walk with God," because it was the expression of an experience personal to Cowper himself. But might not the experience be common to others to day? It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule in such things ; and I believe our Hymnals are just as good as they can be made consistent with the varying moods and experiences of frail humanity.-Nonconformist Musical Journal.

## M. GUILMANT ON BACH MUSIC.

Organ music reached its climax with Bach; it may, perhaps, be said that all music did. At any rate, one thing is certain, viz., if there has been any progress in music since the day of Bach, it has been due to him. Bach's music is polyphonic; and polyphony is true music. To its foundation upon this school is due the fact that there has been no decadence in music in Germany.

My admiration for Bach is unbounded. I consider that Bach is music. Everything else in music has come from him ; and if all music, excepting Bach's, were to be destroyed, music would still be preserved. People who think of Bach as a composer of fugues, and imagine that because he wrote fugues and pieces belonging to that style of music he was merely a dry, learned musical arithmetician, are to be pitied Bach's genius was most flexible; and many of his works indicate that, if he had been disposed to become a dramatic composer, he might have done so successfully.
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