

five finger exercises. The unison given to the bass parts in the opening is uncouth and barren of any melodic effect. The matter following has little affinity with the initial phrase, on the second page there is incongruity of tonality, where the upper tetrachord of D minor is followed by that of the lower tetrachord of D major. There is nothing for any serious consideration in this author. He is more befitting where he portrays *The Reapers*—which is the subject, in the following language:

The boys and girls in merry throngs,
Now come to gleam and sing love songs;
They gleam and laugh and shout and yell,
Until they hear the dinner bell.

In the yelling part, Plaidy is master of the situation.

Ap Ohio has written a war chorus. While he has much that is commendable, he failed to reach any high mark. The words are those of the "Cambrian War Song," so ably treated by the late Brinley Richards in the *Songs of Wales*.

Naaman submits to our consideration a sacred chorus of considerable length. The first chorus and the solos following it exhibit good taste, and are nicely worked out, with the exception of a few blemishes in the harmonies. The Da Capo portion lacks the interest of the first portion of the work. With some remodeling of the concluding portion, this composition may be useful for church male choir.

Songs of the Sea, by "A Sailor," is a happy little work. He is contented with writing in a light vein. There is nothing much to note in this composition, save that it is pleasing and correctly written.

A writer of much ability, G. Minns, has a composition which he pleases to style a glee. The contrapuntal elaboration of this skilful writer barely justifies the title. There is too much effort on the part of the composer to take the advantage of almost every possible opportunity in the display of florid writing, that he sacrifices the grace and elegance of a glee. In several instances the harmonies are faulty, as noted on the copy. I cannot leave this writer without paying him a compliment for displaying much ability. However, the composition must be judged as being more like an ingenious exercise than a meritorious vocal composition.

Pioneer is a writer of much melodic interest. I do not hesitate to say that he is the peer of his competitors in this most essential requisite in musical composition. But the composer who teems with melody beyond his ability of harmonic dress is one who treads on dangerous ground. Sometimes there is extravagance of melodic fragments and in this endeavor, faulty progressions creep in where a more masterly hand would evade trivial temptations. Pioneer's outlines in form are well contrasted. His part-writing and variety of key relation is generally interesting. With more breadth of style and better grammar he might have easily shared the honors in this competition.

Glyndwr soars to loftier heights than do his companions. He has chosen "A Psalm of Life," Longfellow, for his subject. His writing is broad, dignified and boundless in every effort. He has ample reserve throughout; his parts are within the bounds of the

average vocalist, always melodious and with faultless rich harmony. He is ecobolastic and outclasses the other contestants in smoothness and purity of diction. His sequence of ideas are towered to a happy climax and ends a work finished in every detail.

I. J. DAVIES, Mus. Bac.

October 2, 1895.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

CORSICANA, Tex., Oct. 9.—At 3:30 this afternoon a terrific explosion occurred in the Merchant's opera house, where the Devil's Auction company were preparing to play tonight. A force of stage workmen were engaged in readjusting the scenery and otherwise getting the stage in shape, and Harry Coleridge, master of transportation and manager of the calcium lights, was testing a cylinder. There arose some doubt as to whether or not it contained black gas, and a bystander suggested that he try it with a match. He struck a match and touched it to the cylinder, and the explosion at once followed, wrecking the scenery and tearing out two windows thirty feet distant.

The noise was heard for many blocks in every direction, and in a few moments hundreds of people had congregated. The curiosity and horror of the crowd were fed from minute to minute by blackened and injured men running frantically out and to drug stores for relief from their injuries.

The stage presented a scene of devastation, over which a cloud of smoke hung. The scenery lay around in disorderly confusion, much of it totally wrecked. In the left fly there was a hole five feet square, through which Arthur Sutherland had been blown into the street. When the scenery was removed and the smoke and gas cleared away, Harry Coleridge was found lying in a pool of blood. He was dismembered and one of his legs blown entirely off.

The following is a list of the killed and injured: Harry Coleridge, killed. Walter Moore, property man of the Devil's Auction company, head badly cut and otherwise badly bruised. Arthur Sutherland, local stage manager, cut in face and bruised. Bud Dibble, colored, blown through property-room and badly hurt. Unknown negro, hand badly cut and seriously injured. Alous Mansel, hands badly cut and seriously hurt. Charles Ball, colored, face injured and bruised. Roy Avery, hand hurt and bruised about face and body. Two little girls, members of the Devil's Auction company, more or less injured.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 10.—Private dispatches received here say that La Paz, Mexico, has been completely destroyed by a hurricane. The storm was followed by a tidal wave, the waters in the bay rising to an unprecedented height, invading that portion of the city fronting on the bay and carrying out to sea men, animals and debris of wrecked buildings as the tide subsided.

The dispatch announcing the destruction of La Paz was dated Guaymas and was received by Shipping Agent Reuter.

The dispatch said the steamer *Williamette*, Valley of the Pacific mail

line, had been delayed two days at Guaymas by the same storm which devastated La Paz, but that she left Guaymas last night for the north.

Mexicans here say that they have had dispatches about a severe storm which prevailed all along the coast early this week. The loss of life is reported heavy but details of the disaster are meager.

La Paz is the capital of lower California and situated on a bay of the same name. The port is well sheltered and easily defensible against an attack from the sea. The city had a population of 3,000, a cathedral, a government house and a town house, and the place was once the abode of luxury, as evidenced by the handsome dwellings of the wealthy class. La Paz was once the seat of extensive pearl fisheries, all er mining was extensively engaged in and the commerce of the port was not inconsiderable.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 10.—Mrs. Susie Rogers, wife of Philip Rogers, has disappeared. Her husband has been searching for her for the past three weeks, and now believes that he has located his missing wife in Warsaw, Wis. Mr. Rogers is a well-to-do citizen who has many friends in Oakland. He is certain that the Durrant case had something to do with the wreck of his home. Mrs. Rogers was very much interested in the case, and could not let a day pass without hearing the testimony. She compelled her husband to sit down every morning and read to her the full report of the trial. Rogers waded through the testimony for days just to please his wife. Some times it would take him nearly half a day to complete his task. But with undaunted heroism he struggled on, determined to please his wife even at the expense of his business. At last, endurance was no longer a virtue, and Rogers deliberately went out on strike and declared that he would not read the stenographic reports any more. He was willing to compromise on an amicable basis and read the introduction to the trial each day but this did not satisfy Mrs. Rogers. She wanted to hear the whole case or nothing. The husband was firm, however, and would not yield, so there was a disagreement. Then Mrs. Rogers went away.

"I am not going to search for her any more," said Mr. Rogers. "I gave her as good a home as is enjoyed by any woman in this city, and still she was not satisfied. If she wants to remain in Warsaw, where I believe she is, she can do so. It seems hard, though, to lose a wife with whom you have lived for eleven years."

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 10.—Southern Pacific officials and the San Francisco traffic association deny the statement published in a Chicago paper that the traffic association is controlled by the railroad. They say Chicago is jealous of San Francisco because the latter city is reaching out for Utah trade which has hitherto been controlled by Chicago merchants. It is alleged that although Utah is considerably nearer to San Francisco than Chicago, eastern merchants can, by reason of quiet cuts made by the railroad, ship their goods to Utah at a much lower figure than those of San Francisco.