

mechanical. Their enunciation, while distinct, was marred by over accentuation, and the wild speed with which they rattled off the last part of "Worthy is the Lamb" and the first part of "Now the Impetuous Torrents Rise" so changed the character of these stately and withal serious subjects so much that one might mistake the first a musical representation of the famous race in "Ben Hur" and the latter a hilarious "ticking chorus." There was absolutely no seriousness nor awfulness in the latter nor stately grandeur in the former. All these faults were roundly scored by the honorable judges, while our own faults whatever they may have been were not deemed worth mention. Yet they without giving the slightest hint as to cause, awarded the first prize to those faulty interpreters, and the second to us who had been so careful to avoid these errors, as to cause every singer in my choir to notice this peculiar rendition given by them to such an extent that doubtless had not the judges mentioned them as serious faults they would have deemed my instructions all wrong. As it was, every word of the verdict as rendered by Dr. Gower they could not help but construe in our favor and against our competitors, until the final sentence which was rendered hastily and nervously without comment or reason: "We award the first prize to No. 3 and the second to No. 2." Each choir, I have reason to believe did the very best work they were capable of doing. I am certain mine did. Never have they tried harder or more effectually to excel. The Welsh singers placed themselves far more under the direction of their respective leaders than mine know how to do as yet, and had it not been for faulty interpretation I believe would have excelled mine, because of this and a naturally more serious musical temperament. The Welsh sing with all their hearts, mind, and (too often) lungs, in rehearsal or performance the same, and I found much to greatly admire in them. But nevertheless owing to the errors mentioned, by far the best and most correct rendition of the contest pieces were given by the Salt Lake choir at this contest—"though I say it who should not."

A misinterpretation, however carefully and nicely done, can never be equal to a proper interpretation even moderately executed. When the sense of the entire text is changed the rendition can not be meritorious. Our chief error was flattening a shade in the last four measures of the last chorus, and in that we were not alone, the winners of the first prize as well as the Cleveland choir falling into the same error, each caused by nervous excitability and having to sing pianissimo.

I am, notwithstanding this unaccountable decision of the judges (which I hope to find more about by writing) entirely satisfied with our work as a whole. I never expected even a second prize. I have learned but one thing of my choir. They can do themselves justice under fire, and I am proud of them. We are pushing upward and onward, and we are ever now a credit to any community. We realize how much higher it is possible to attain, and when we have singing like the South Wales male chorus gave

us, we realize it is even possible to attain an ideal height.

I will here mention to you for your readers a few of the many complimentary remarks heard by myself for our choir, as they are equally for them as for me, to be pleased over:

"You have a magnificent choir," Caradog (leader of the Welsh choir who won the world's champion cup for choral singing in Crystal palace, London).

"The finest rendition of 'Worthy is the Lamb' I ever listened to." T. J. Davies, author of Cambrian Song of Freedom (contest piece).

"Your points were better taken than any one of the competing choirs in this contest (male)." Mr. Davis, of Wales (father of Clara Norrell Davis, conductor of the winning ladies' chorus).

"Magnificent singing. So devoted a people who can sing so must be a good people." Apmador, conductor of the Eisteddfod choirs, and secretary of the committee.

Let me here say that it is an additional great compliment to our musical resources that during our absence such a body of singers could be brought together at the call of the Stake Presidency and do such effective work under Professor C. J. Thomas on such short notice. It proves that my fellow-workers as well as your humble servant have not labored in vain. My sincere thanks to all and especially my faithful singers, who have performed their mission at home equally well with those who have been away."

WHAT MR. WHITNEY SAYS.

H. G. Whitney, one of the business managers of the choir tour, who returned with the singers, was asked for his impressions of the contest, and as to the financial outcome of the trip.

"Regarding the contest," said Mr. Whitney, "there was, of course, some disappointment among the singers in the first moment of hearing the decision, but this soon wore away, and I believe all the choir reached home as happy as though they had won the main prize. You see the trouble was, that the judges in summing up the merits and demerits of the various choruses, scored rather severely, the faults of which our competitors had been guilty, and left our faults unmentioned. This built up rather a confident hope that we were to be successful, so when the final words came that we were entitled to second prize, the effect was at first rather stunning. But both Scranton choirs, reinforced as they were by the prize winners from across the water, sang beautifully. I assure you I had little hope even after hearing number one, which got no prize at all. But we sang 'Worthy is the Lamb' in a way that could not touch. 'Blessed Are the Men' I think was a tie; the Scrantons certainly sang it admirably, and if we came up to them, it was all we did do. On the last piece, and the most difficult one, 'Now the Impetuous Torrents Rise,' we outshone them all in tempo and conception—they all ran away with it as though it were a gallop. But they held to the key at the finish just a trifle better than we did. After all four had sung I said to myself, if exact justice is done, the \$5000

prize will be divided between us and one of the Scranton choirs, and the second prize will go to the other. This was what I confidently looked for. To this moment, I have not made up my mind which one of those Scranton choirs was superior to the other. Both were reinforced by the prize winners from Wales—we learned this from several who took part. Among them by the way, were several Mormons from Scranton, who sang against us, and who, after the contest, were introduced to the Presidency. My candid opinion, based on having heard Scranton club number one, give a concert before they were reinforced by foreign singers, and as the fact that they are winners in a majority of the competitions in which they have taken part is, that had the contest been limited to the choirs of Scranton, Cleveland and Salt Lake alone, we would have been awarded first money. That is always supposing the judges were big enough men to have given it to us. I confess that their manner of adjudicating, and the variance between their premises and their results, somewhat dashed my confidence in their mental gifts. We had at first some thought of protesting before the contest began, about this admission of foreign singers, but when I went to the chairman and secretary, I was told that it was perfectly allowable, that it was a world's contest, and that we could have enlisted Madame Patti had we liked. This was poor consolation to us at that late hour, and I answered that the committee of three who had come to Salt Lake some months ago to induce our singers to enter the competition, had given us the list of the choruses we would meet, two from Scranton and one from Cleveland, and we naturally had supposed the list meant what it said, not that our competitors would be allowed to fill up the weak places in their ranks with old veterans at the last moment. However, nothing came of it, and we thought it better to smother our feelings rather than risk exciting a prejudice by protesting, and giving the idea that we were afraid. Therefore I feel that although we were only awarded second money the moral effect is that of a victory, because it was everywhere said that they had to combine forces from all over the world to beat the Utah folks. Hence I feel entirely contented with the result."

"Concerning the financial outcome," said Mr. Whitney, "the result is fully as gratifying. There were 418 people in our train, and that meant for railroad fares, meals, hotels, Pullmans, etc., a disbursement of about \$22,000; the actual expense for the choir of course will only be a proportion of that figure. We could never have made the trip but for the very comfortable fund the choir itself commenced to build up long ago by its concerts and excursions. We got a little help from a subscription list but very little. Our gross receipts from our concerts in Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and Omaha were \$5200; that figure could easily have been made \$1000 more had we not sacrificed our concerts in Kansas City and Chicago by our appearances without charge. We won \$1000 prize money, and we made a little profit from the sale of excursion