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CHINESE ORCHESTRAS.

REMARKABLE INSTRUMENTS OF EAR SPLITTING SOUND.

Descriptions of Some of the Queer Looking Terrestrial Boxes from Which Chinese Musicians Extract Delectable Melody. Prices of the Musical Devices.

The ordinary Mongolian orchestra, such as is to be found usually dispensing tunes for the delectation of the Celestial ears at the Chinese theaters in this city, is composed of two musicians, each player has his peculiar instrument, on which he is an adept. He also performs upon it with an apparent chilled indifference as to the source of his fellow musicians.

Thoroughly to equip an orchestra with proper instruments entails a cost of $25.95, which amount any nervous homebuilder who has ever had the misfortune to reside within earshot of a genuine wind band will be willing to advance twice over in order to have it moved on. After purchasing the instruments players are needed, and their services vary in price, according to ability, experience and reputation. The Mongolian musician values his ability at from $1 to $3 per night, but if he has limited the ladies of fashion he will demand from $5 to $10 per night.

The drum, in the estimation of the Chinese musician, is the most important instrument, which opinion coincides likewise by the juvenile American. A Chinese drum costs twelve dollars, and has much the same appearance as a keg constructed of light wood, covered with cowhide. The instrument is beaten with a pair of heavy wooden sticks, and produces a howling sound, which grows extremely monotonous when it is continued for several hours.

THE CHINESE GONG.

The gong, or tom, is a Chinese musical device of peculiar construction. It consists of a framework of wood, upon which is set a round top of hard wood covered with cellulin. Projecting from the top of the frame is a hollow square the size of a cigar box, covered with cellulin. Sounds are produced by striking the top, which emits some noise, and the projecting side covered square with drumsticks. This tuneful instrument costs $2.50.

The cymbals of the Chinese are of hammered brass, similar in design to those used by American bands, and costs eighteen dollars.

Some gongs charged much like a tambourine are used by Mongolian musicians in the makeup of their orchestra. A first class gong can be bought for fifteen dollars.

A gong of concave form and of very light weight, that gives forth a ringing sound, is another orchestral instrument. It costs $2.50. Mongolian fiddles are of peculiar construction and emit sounds which, from a musical point of view, are as inharmonious as the instrument is unsouth in appearance. Devoid of the strings a Chinese fiddle has the same appearance as a mallet, with the handle long and flattened to about an inch in width and an eighth of an inch in thickness.

In the lower part of the handle are inserted two keys, one above the other. To each of the keys are attached two strings of horsehair or catgut the other ends are firmly wound about the mallet head. What varied and discordant sounds are produced when the Chinese fiddler runs his bow across the strings! And besides the Chinese have the temerity to ask $2.50 for such a device.

THE BANJO, FLUTE, ETC.

The banjo the bonbon may be very appropriately. Blend to a small sized frying pan with very long handle. The drum is covered with sealskin drawn tight. There keys and four strings complete the instrument, which is sold for five dollars.

The bass banjo is the size of a large sized mare drum and about half the depth. Four keys and the same number of strings are used. The sum of $2.50 will buy one for ordinary use.

A Chinese flute is purchasable at seventy-five cents, if of ordinary make and without ornamentation. It has six finger holes and gives vent to shrill and discordant notes, which delight Chinese ears but grate upon those of the Caucasian.

In some cases Chinese orchestras contain several flutists, who, when together, appear to vie with each other in the emitting of the most dismal and shrill tones that ever lacerated human nerves.

The clarinet is a favorite with the people, the cornet is to us. Its evident use is to add variety to the clamors of the drums and cymbals and the discordant sounds of flute and fiddle. It is a sort of medium between all these musical instruments, and has a tendency to voice the discord, which apparently is the basis of all Chinese music.

The Mongolian ear has become inured to such sounds, and the chief of the Flowery Kingdom it speaks of home, tragedy, love and revenge. So long as he does not take summary vengeance upon his musically inclined fellow countrymen he will enjoy to the full the agonies of sound which Mongolian orchestras produce.—San Francisco Chronicle.

How Hair is Bleached.

It will be observed that, if the papilla is contracted or injured with deposits from the sweat glands, such as sulfate of potassa or organic salts, the subaqueous secretion not being able to reach the papilla, the hair is deprived of the coloring material. This we believe to be one of the most common causes of blanching of the hair. The skin eliminates a small quantity of salts, a little carbonic acid and a large quantity of water. The average amount of salts, according to Foster, in the fluid perspiration or sweat, is about 1.61 per cent., consisting of common salt and organic salts generally.—Richard C. Kirk in New York Times.

Edison's First Marriage.

The story of Edison's first marriage shows how completely he is dominated by the experimenting fever. He had never thought of getting married, but when some of his friends urged upon him the advisability of taking a wife he assented and said that if they would find a nice girl he would marry her. He finally picked out a pleasant faced girl from his factory and asked her to marry him. She consented, and Edison arranged to leave his beloved laboratory for a day's wedding trip. On the way from the chapel in which they were married to the railway station the carriage passed the laboratory.

The temptation was too strong. Edison stopped the carriage and, telling the bride that he would follow her to the station in time to catch the train, he plunged into some experiment that had occurred to him during the church services. Hour after hour passed. The poor bride waited all the afternoon in the station and was then driven back to the home. It was 11 o'clock at night before his assistants could tear Edison away from his laboratory and get him home.

When he is at work Edison loses all sense of time. He will keep the whole establishment on a rush for hours at a stretch, and seems astonished when any one thinks that it might be well to get something to eat. He is capable of working all day and night without showing fatigue.—Chicago Journal.

Speed and Form in Ships.

The primary condition for high speed is fineness of form, so that the water of the tow of the vessel may be separated and thrown to one side and brought to near again at the stern and behind the vessel with the least possible disturbance, and the measure of efficiency of form for the production of a maximum is inversely at the height of the waves of disturbance.

A ship that has been designed to attain a speed of fifteen knots will, when moving at twelve knots, show a very slight disturbance indeed, and in one designed for eighteen knots, when moving at this lower speed, it will be scarcely observable; but however fine the lines of a ship may be, she must at every speed produce some disturbance, although it may be very slight, as the water displaced by her could be raised above the normal level and replaced at the normal level twice, at or near the bow and at the stern; there is always the crest of a wave, and at or near the stern the hollow of one.

When a vessel is going at its maximum speed, and is properly designed for that speed, the waves should not be very high; for should it extend toward the surfaces adjacent and of the time, likewise the wave of replacement should be the same as at or near the stern of a ship, and the "crest" or elevation of water left behind in the track of the ship should be narrow.—A. E. Seaton in Scribner's.

Cost in Theaters.

What might one to do with such cost, but and unfamiliar on entering a restaurant or other place of entertainment? What one ought not to do is to take them on the recent peg. However involuntarily these convenience may offer themselves, it is at your own risk that you intrust your property to their keeping. You have, no doubt, if you sometimes happen even in the best regulated restaurants somebody notice off with them, leaving a very inferior assortment of articles behind. If, however, a polite waiter offers to hold and off with such coat, all is well. If he takes your property and hangs it up for you he does so as agent of his employers, and you can recover from them if it disappears.

This principle has been asserted for theatrical cloak rooms by a decision against Mr. Augustus Harris in the Westminster county court. A gentleman had left his coat and hat with Mr. Harris—that is, to Mr. Harris' cloak room—on the occasion of one of the fancy dress balls at Covent Garden. They disappeared. He had to leave without his property, and had only lately said partially get some of it back. He knew and was glad to get it was sometimes to say that merely nominal damages were sufficient.—Pall Mall Budget.

Why Called "Omnibus."

The father of the popular name "omnibus," according to Richard Earl, from history of "The Omnibus in Paris," was a certain M. Baudry, of Nantes, at the beginning of our century. The Parcel coaches, which obtained a monopoly from the king in 1662 for carrying his subjects to the Seine a head, and to three different routes in Paris, were first used by the bourgeoisie. But after a few years gentlemen and ladies of high birth and courtly breeding asked that it was not vulgar to ride in a Parcel chariot or "fire sous each."

The use of these public conveyances by the "quality" was noted as an important event in the journals of the time, but it resulted in the complaints of the common people from them, and the virtual appropriation of these privileged coaches by the aristocrats. The favor of "the classes" ruined the monopoly, however, which only paid so long as the coaches were crowded by the masses, or "omnes." So the Parcel chariot disappeared from the streets of Paris because it had ceased to be omnibus, or a democratic vehicle.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Night Rates.

The skeptic Confirmed ventures the remark that if the world had really been created for the benefit of man the weather ought to have arranged matters in a way to be calm and serene time off to night time and reserve the daylight hours for soul chasting remains. A close approach to that ideal is, however, actually found on the hills south of Paris, where the sun is hardly seen either by day or night, and where reputation is nevertheless kept alive by heavy night dews. As much as a three sixteen quarter of water has been wrung from a pocket or small Spanish shawl, dropped repeatedly across the dew-drenched grass of a turkish meadow. Beneath from the dew-drenched grass to suppose the sun of summer, and the glare of the noonday footlit, signal around with strings.—Philadelphia Times.

Milk Oxidized by Electricity.

Professor Tolomei, an Italian chemist, maintains that the milk produced by electricity is a wonderful aseptic agent, and that, compared with the common treatment and storing manners of their admirers, milk is one of the most attractive places of business in town. We invite our friends and the public generally to call and see for themselves.

THE HOUSEHOLDER'S CONSCIENCE.

A Conversion of the Old Way and the New Way of Buying and Selling.

You can get virtuous better for a dollar a pound, but the wants for outside nature at forty cents a pound is a weary and depressing pursuit. It is the same with the innumerable articles of clothing and household furniture. From the fact that given year in a month's service in the shop some that will not stand a day's rough transport, the things that are turned out in large quantities for the cheap market are not durable.

I think the chief reason is that in our complex and widely ramified system of exchanges the producer and the consumer rarely come into direct relations with each other. The farmer knows his horse, and will serve rarely more, for the opinion the horse may have of him, of his methods, his character and his goods. The seller deals today with one set of buyers, tomorrow with another, and so on, and the buyers change their places of purchase with the greatest frequency.

The relation indicated by the old fashioned words "customer" and "customer" is dying out, and with it the possibility of remunerative and the hope of profitable business. The type of modern period leaning to that most abominable invention the "bargain counter," where shoppers, and not merely buyers, in the main thing considered.—Brotherson's.

A Blunted Ignorance.

Nature has wisely done work in hiding numerous behind an impenetrable veil. What a dismal plight it would be for Zeus to throw Reynolds's super lucubrations and possible prefixes to the actions Mary Jane shows, and so for an accident which has not yet occurred to feel that she must give him the answer Wo-ma-ma Ho-per-gi-ni-ling, "Dey-mold, I love thee, but never more be suitor of thine." But why, in case nature, tonight, is prepared for Dia-ni and breathe the hearts was, should they form for the longer of time. Who, for sake of that sublime answer of Mar upon fortune yet concealed, should they have been made, when, in a few years, will be disinterested? Why should Zeus know Reynold cause as time gradually reveals him?

Would you have for no today the this which lay on the shining shore that shall tomorrow replace this brown instance of world? Would you have her actual authority at that problems form which shall hereafter supersede the slight and shrill dream? Would it be better for her or for him if she could hear the sharp, impatient word that from time to time she never yet has heard?

Who knows? Perhaps that the fun of the world would be spoiled by a sharp word may make it impossible. Who knows? Perhaps when Mary Jane's answer comes there may be no sudden shower.—George William Curtis in Harper's.

A Huge Turtle.

About four miles below the junction, in this county, can be found a long tale of water in Cutoff creek, in which a large turtle, measuring about four feet across the back, has been seen at different times for the last fifty years. Various plans have been devised and put into execution to capture the fortune, but up to the present time to no avail, as he seems to be good against spikes, spears, guns, gunpowder and dynamite.

A few days ago a hunter strolling in that neighborhood, while passing along near the river bank espied his turtle-ship basking in the sunshine on the top of a large log. Quietly leaving his Winchester in his shoulder to be nearly he land, the tall striking the monster fairly between the eyes. But judge of his chagrin and surprise when the turtle, instead of tumbling over dead, quietly let go his hold and swam away as placidly and unconcerned as if he had been tumbled by a gravel.

Upon examination the hunter found that the ball, after striking the turtle, had glanced upward and imbedded itself in the body of the oak to a depth of six inches. It is supposed that the monster shellfish made his way up from the Mississippi river in the great freshet in the spring of 1851.—Robinson (Mo.) Current Wave.

A Story of Bess Tanner.

It is recorded of the young beauty that the Prince of Wales, one evening during a performance of "Orsino and Julia," sent one of his aide-de-camp to inform Bess Tanner that he would be happy to have her bags to congratulate her on her brilliant success. "Many thanks to his royal highness for his kind intentions," was the reply of Miss Bess, "but I never receive calls from gentlemen in my dressing room. If the prince and princess will permit me, I shall be happy to see them in the royal box and pay my respects there instead."

This spirited yet courteous request was reported to the Prince of Wales, in consequence, he has taken a great fancy to the young vocalist, who is to be the young duchess at the private concert which the prince and princess will give at Marlborough House.—Cor. Pittsburg Bulletin.

A Gentleman.

What is a gentleman? It is a great old name, but what does it mean?

At one time to say of a man that he is a gentleman, is to confer on him the highest title of distinction that we can think of, even if we are speaking of a prince.

At another, to say of a man that he is not a gentleman is almost to stigmatize him as a social outcast, only for the company of his kind—even if it is only one lamplighter speaking of another.

Who is a gentleman, and yet who isn't?

The Prince of Darkness was one, and so was Mr. John Holliday, if we are to believe those who knew them best, and so was our "Indian," according to the lamplighter's latest lecture, and of Lettie, etc., and it certainly seemed as if he ought to know.—Harper's.

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We do not intend to carry over a single one if reduction will dispose of them.

A lot of Black Silk Brocaded Parasols further reduced from $4.75 to $3.50.

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Black Satin Unbrellas from $2.00 to $1.25, from $2.50 to $1.85, from $3.00 to $1.95, from $3.50 to $2.95, etc.

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1000 strips of 5 yards of beautiful Embroidery reduced per strip, from 15c. to 10c., from 25c. to 15c., from 35c. to 20c., from 40c. to 30c., from 45c. to 35c., from 60c. to 35c., etc.

Magnificent new Embroideries for children, and valued in 25-in. and 27-in., reduced from 90c. to 50c., from $1.00 to 75c., from $1.50 to 85c., from $1.50 to 95c., from $1.75 to 95c., etc.

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Also our new Japanese, Vienna and Paris Lace at cut prices, which will close out every one in stock, from 5c. to 10c., from 15c. to 10c., from 25c. to 15c., from 35c. to 20c., from 45c. to 25c., from $1.00 to 60c., from $1.25 to 75c., from $1.50 to $1.00, from $1.75 to $1.00, from $2.00 to $1.25, from $2.50 to $1.50, from $3.00 to $2.00, etc.

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