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THE DESERET NEWS AGENTS
AND SUBSCRIBERS,

So far as concerned, are reminded that SEVEN more numbers complete the 1st half of the present volume, after which, in accordance with the terms published in No. 50, Vol. XIII, those who have not at that time paid for their papers are aware that the volume will cost them seven dollars in coin or its equivalent, if paid within the next six months.

This addition of one dollar at the expiration of the first six months was, and still is, deemed but just to the business of the office and fair and encouraging to those who pay promptly, for six dollars do not warrant extending payment beyond the time specified, without the addition, which our patrons, who are business men, will readily understand.

MUSIC—ITS CULTURE AND INFLUENCE.

It is highly gratifying to notice the evidences presented, throughout the various cities and settlements in this Territory, of the culture and development of the science of music among the people. The improvement of existing choirs, the formation of new ones and of Harmonic Societies, the organization of string and brass bands, and the quantity of sheet music and instruments imported are evidences that show how rapidly a taste for this delightful and refining science is being developed. We rejoice to see this progress, and take pleasure in recording it; for the influence exercised by music is healthful and refining, whether it be cultivated by individuals in the family circle, or by a community or nation.

The Creator has implanted in mankind a love for all that is beautiful, harmonious and good; and in the midst of their degeneracy, they still exhibit the possession of those innate qualities and endowments which, when wisely cultivated and fully developed, manifest the perfection of refinement and grace, and of exalted and ennobled powers. He has not only thus endowed man, but He has, also, spread before him, on the earth which we inhabit, a gorgeous, living panorama of grandeur, sublimity and beauty, teeming with innumerable forms of excellence and grace, glowing with the most exquisite hues, the most faultless and variegated tints, perfumed with the sweets from a thousand scented flowers and shrubs, and sounding an endless anthem of praise to the Being who gave it life and loveliness. Such is the earth, even while laboring under a curse brought on it by the wickedness of man for whose inhabitancy it was formed; and such it is spread before him that he may learn from its wondrous beauty and excellencies to develop within himself those ennobling qualities with which he is endowed, and employ them in refining and exalting himself and restoring this earth to a still greater degree of perfection when it shall again bloom with paradisaic beauty. But take away from all this combination of grace and loveliness and excellence, the voice of music and the melody of sound, and what would remain? A picture, still as lovely to look upon, a panorama ever moving, ever changing, ever pleasant to the eye, possessing all, that we know of, that is

pleasing and grateful to the taste and the smell, ministering, in fact, to every physical sense but one—the sense of hearing—yet what a charm would be gone with that ungratified! And sound, which throws such a charm around all created existence, is presented in the most gratifying, sweetest and most inspiring manner, when it is governed by the laws of harmony, and wafts itself in melody to our ears.

The raven croaks, and the nightingale sings, yet the one sounds like a foreboding of evil, while the other seems to wake a slumbering chord in our own souls. The workman sings at his toil, and his labor is lightened; the mother sings to her fretting babe and its infant sorrows are soothed; the little girl throws the music of her silvery voice around the domestic hearth, and the sunshine of joy lights up the most cheerless and comfortless abode.

A great variety of ways in which the influence of music is manifested might be named, but they are so generally known that enumeration would be tedious. The exhilarating effect of lively dance music; the strong and manly feelings awakened in the breast by the stirring sounds of martial music, arousing the march-wearied soldier to freshened vitality, and spurring him on to carnage and death; the gathering solemnities that crowd upon the soul as the sacred strains of reverential music bear upwards the heart's tribute of thanksgiving and praise, are known, have been felt and are appreciated. And so are others of a kindred nature. In some of the musical festivals in the great cities of the world, where a chorus of several thousand voices, accompanied by hundreds of instrumentalists, pour forth a vast flood of melody and harmony together, the effect is perfectly electrifying.

But it is in the home-circle where it is calculated to sway the most beneficial influence; and to its cultivation, so that it may be felt and appreciated there, we wish to direct attention.

A family without music is like a world in miniature without light. No matter how simple it may be, nor how much it may lack the finish of artistic skill and science, it cheers and enlivens, and as the music of David's harp exorcised the evil spirit from the breast of Saul, so it dispels gloom, lightens care, and tends to render home a place to be longed for, and its enjoyments desired, instead of being viewed only as a place for eating and sleeping in. But when the science is cultivated so that its inspiration in a more heightened degree may be imparted to all around the domestic hearth, it is at once a source of amusement, recreation and pleasure, ministering to many legitimate desires that otherwise would seek gratification elsewhere. To have a child taught to play upon a musical instrument, is to plant a tree that will bear fruits of pleasure and enjoyment while life endures and the physical and mental faculties retain their powers.

Of course some are much more bountifully endowed than others with a capacity for music; and where such a gift is conferred it should be carefully cultivated. Some, to a nicety of ear and aptitude for musical instruction, add a flexibility and sweetness of voice which under competent instructors can be made to exercise an influence that is marvellous, so fascinating is the spell it can throw around those who listen to its strains. And though all are not so gifted, yet there are but few, if any, who cannot be trained to understand the principles of music and appreciate the sweetness of harmonious sounds, being all the better for the culture.

In large families the younger members may be so taught, that the various qualities and capacities of voice may blend together in harmony, and thus embrace within the family circle the

constituent elements of simple and complex music. But in all cases the voice may be cultivated, the ear trained, and the lips and fingers be made the means of producing sweet sounds. What will the influence be on the rising generation, of the cultivation of music at home? It will be a source of pleasure and enjoyment to them; an accomplishment which brings its own reward while being obtained, and affords gratification ever afterwards. It will awaken and develop faculties which otherwise would be dormant. Emulation will induce them to continue the acquisition of a knowledge so much sought after and so widely appreciated. Hence their music lessons will become a pleasure, and the mastery of them will be considered worthy of effort and study. The instrument or instruments on which they practice will be a point of attraction to themselves, and to others as their skill and capability increase; and much of the exuberance of youth, which often breaks out in thoughtless gaiety or reckless indiscretions, will be gently toned down, and the powers which would otherwise have led their possessors to acts producing serious and evil consequences will be moulded in a shape and directed in a channel for good. This is not saying too much. The acquiring a knowledge of music is a part of education refining in its tendency, and exercising a healthy influence on the youthful mind. Go into a home where music is cultivated and listen to the young lady in her teens warbling a sweet song and accompanying herself on the piano or the cabinet organ, and ask yourselves if there is not a centre of attraction and a source of enjoyment there for both old and young. The necessity for home music, as an accomplishment and a means of pleasure and amusement, has been so long felt and recognized, that in many places the piano is considered as indispensable an article of furniture as the side-board, with all families who can afford it.

A very serious hindrance to a more general use of the piano in this Territory exists in the high price of that instrument when it reaches here, which is very considerably augmented by the cost of freighting an article so heavy from the Eastern States. There is another instrument rapidly coming into general use, which under existing circumstances is entitled to take precedence of the piano with the people of this Territory, possessing as it does nearly all the musical capability of the latter, being easier played, having a richness and sweetness of tone that commends it to every lover of music, and being so much lighter than the piano that the difference in cost of freight is an item of great importance to individuals of limited means. We refer to the Cabinet Organ, manufactured by Messrs. Mason & Hamlin, of New York and Boston.

Bro. D. O. Calder, has very kindly furnished us with information concerning this instrument, from which we are satisfied that it only requires to be better known to be very generally used by the people in these valleys. It is equally well adapted for parlor music or congregational services, the different sizes of the instrument being considered. It does not cost more than one-third as much as the piano, and is not one-third as heavy. It is now in use with several families in this city, and all with whom we have conversed concerning it, speak of it in terms of the highest commendation. From the information thus derived, we learn that seven pianos were freighted from the East last season, in the Church trains, at an aggregate cost of five thousand six hundred dollars, and that five Cabinet Organs were also freighted in the same trains, at an aggregate cost of one thousand dollars. This shows at a glance that the latter comes within the reach of a great

many more people than the former. Quite a number of these instruments are already ordered through Bro. Calder, to be brought on this season, and, we understand, that all who desire to have them must forward their orders immediately.

The growing musical taste to which we adverted before, is shown by the fact that a large number of brass instruments are being ordered from the East, principally by brethren residing in settlements south of this valley. The progress of the Deseret Musical Association, under the charge of bro. Calder, has stimulated a spirit of emulation in other places; and the orchestral and other bands of this and some other cities have induced a laudable rivalry which cannot fail to be beneficial to the progress of music in our midst. Viewing it as a branch of useful and pleasing education, and as tending to develop faculties bestowed for noble and holy purposes, we wish to see it encouraged, and feel happy in noting the advancement already made.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—In the forenoon of Sunday, Bishop A. H. Raleigh delivered a discourse on the practice and every day duties of the Latter-day Saints.

Elder John Taylor preached in the afternoon. His discourse was both edifying and instructive, the subject being the capability of the human mind to receive impressions, such as were lasting in their nature and indelible in their effect, and as would be a part of the record of judgment at the great day of accounts. The reasoning upon the susceptibility of man to the thousands of impressions liable to be made by the innumerable circumstances that occur in life and their lasting influence, together with the manner in which they will be used when every secret thought and action shall be brought into judgment, was highly interesting.

MASS MEETING.—Agreeably to the announcement made in the NEWS of last week, a mass meeting was held in the Tabernacle, on Saturday, commencing at 11 a.m. Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, Bishops Edward Hunter, Reuben Miller, David Brinton, Andrew Cahoon, Isaac M. Stewart, Frederick Kesler, John Sharp and Elijah F. Sheets and Hon's. Jno. Taylor and Joseph A. Young were elected Trustees; Hon. George Q. Cannon was chosen Secretary; and Hon. A. O. Smoot, Treasurer.

The meeting unanimously voted to levy a tax for building the contemplated canal, on all the lands that will be watered by it.

The canal is to be built from the Jordan river near the Point of the Mountain south, in a northeasterly direction through the lower portion of the farming lands of Draperville, thence almost due north, by Union and the Cottonwoods, to this city, passing through the tenth, eleventh and twelfth wards.

This company was organized under and in compliance with the provisions of an Act passed at the last session of the Legislative Assembly, which act was published in our last issue.

The business for which the mass meeting was called was briefly stated by Mr. Cannon, who read a portion of the act above mentioned.

President B. Young enumerated some of the many advantages to be derived from making this canal, and stated that there was plenty of spare water in Utah Lake to irrigate all the land in this county, and hence there need be no excitement or fear of any parties being deprived of their present vested rights; and every person whose property needed to be taken to make way for the canal would receive just compensation.

One design which the company had in view was to bring the granite rock from Cottonwood, to build the Temple, stores and dwelling-houses, and thereby aid in building up this city. Means were already on hand to build ten miles of the canal, and the work of excavation would now be pushed forward with all possible speed.

Interesting speeches were made by several of the trustees, in reference to the utility and necessity of the canal, after which the meeting was brought to a close. There was not a dissenting vote during the whole proceeding.

THEATRICAL.—Rob Roy went much better on Wednesday night than we expected it would go, considering the amount of stage business in the piece, and the short time that was available for getting it up. On Saturday night it was played very successfully, and, judging by the frequent applause of the audience, gave much satisfaction. The characters, as a whole, were ably sustained. Mr. McKenzie's Rob, and Mr. Dunbar's Bailie, merit much commendation; there was fidelity and spirit in their rendition; Mr. Whitney's Galbraith was cleverly and humorously played; and MacStuart is about the best thing Mr. Hardie has done. Mr. Lindsay's Dougal Creature was quite a success. Mr. Maiben's Owen was like everything he plays, carefully and neatly rendered. Mr. Simmons' Rashleigh may be classed among his best parts. Mr. McAllister's Francis