

Music, in some form, has probably existed ever since the world began. The earliest music that we have any record of was the song that was sung by Moses and the Israelites after the passage of the Red Sea, when Miriam took a timbrel in her hand and answered them. But it must have existed before, though probably not made with instruments. Could anyone doubt that our first mother, in putting her child to sleep, sang to it some sort of lullaby? The world is now and always has been too full of musical sounds to deny it.

Instrumental music was, for centuries, made only to accompany the voice. The idea of making music on instruments, for its own sake, was never thought of. The music that then accompanied the voice simply sounded the same tones that the voice did and made no attempt at harmony.

From the time of Moses until the reign of Saul, no further mention is made of music. Then we hear, for the first time of the harp, in the hands

of David. This is also the first instance of an instrument being played separately. In this case, it was played to sooth Saul's melancholy spirits. During the reign of David, he taught many to sing and to play on instruments.

From here we go to the Greeks where we find that they were more refined in every way than the rest of the countries at that time and consequently, the music was much better. They had a name and a sign for every note in the scale. Their orators had instruments to give them the pitch of their voices. Their dramas were also sung.

At this time the poets made a little music to go with their writings. Music seemed to them to be a sort of second nature to poetry. We are told that in every country where literature has arisen, it came first in poetry. It has also been noticed that the first music to come from a country is all minor. It generally



originates in a lullaby, and in uncivilized or very rude lands these are all of a minor character. Low, chant-like and dismal.

In the olden times people firmly believed that Amphion built walls, Arion rode dolphins and Orpheus made trees dance by the mere power of harmony. Some of all this may have been true, in a measure. Of course, not to the extent that they believed, yet it is generally acknowledged now that almost all animals have a love of music and some may be rendered perfectly harmless while charmed by music. In the lower animals this is not so apparent. The higher the grade, the more power music is. Man is the highest example. Men have been made to do things where under the spell of music, that other-wise they would not and could not have done.

Darwin, in his "Descent of Man" says that "music arouses in us various passions but none of the terrible ones of fear, horror or rage. It awakens the gentler

feelings of tenderness and love, which readily pass into devotion."

Even the most savage tribes worship music. Some think that it has a strange power of driving the evil spirits away and of quickly healing the ill and suffering ones. One tribe is especially noticeable in this particular. They believe that when one of their number is bitten by a tarantula there is only one air that will relieve the pain and keep the afflicted one from dying. This is called the Tarentelle. This air is wild and fantastic and plainly shows the people's character.

One's character shows in the music which he writes. It is as plain as if it were printed and held before the eye. There is as much difference between the music of Mendelssohn and Handel as there was between the two men.

The same thing is shown on a larger scale in the music of a nation. The character of a people may be moulded according to the music with which



they are habitually surrounded. The Arcadians are distinguished for their mild characters and their amiableness. Their music is found to consist almost entirely of sweet, soft harmony. It has been said that "if our own parent country had not been so full of bull baitings, cock fights and sparring matches there would have been less of crime in the records of its courts, and less of harshness in the national manners."

There are very few Germans who have ~~not~~ a love of music. The whole of Germany is characterized by this love. Here is an example of kindred love and patriotism that is seldom seen. Here, where music is loved so well, it has been taken up and studied until it is one of the chief centers of study and a characteristic of the place.

The music of a nation tells its history almost exactly where one has the power to read it. It speaks of the character, patriotism and love. The music of Italy is soft and

dreamy. It speaks of love, romance and mystery. The music of Germany is of a heroic nature. It tells of a people who are stout of heart and limb, and who love their country next to their God. The music of Spain is of about the same nature as that of Italy. The French music is bright, sparkling and brilliant. It bespeaks a people who love gayety and life. The Chinese even have their music. True, it is somewhat discordant at times, still, there is as much harmony in it to them as there is in any of Gottschalk's masterpieces to us.

And so it is in all nations. The American school has yet to be born. Some have said that it will follow the German style and others say it will be Italian. But I think not. When the American school of music is established it will be like no other. It will give voice to the American tastes and interests. It will tell of this life, light, liberty and patriotism of the American people. It can be like no other for America is like no other nation. There is no other country that can represent so many phases of human life as our nation. Yes, our music will undoubtedly be original. America leads in many things and why



should she not in music.

Music has long been evolving. It has grown from the most simple forms to some of the sweetest melody. And it will probably go on from the tones of sweetest melody to those which are divine. And then all of heaven and all of earth will be filled with those soul-stirring sounds of harmony.

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