

A Few Insect Musicians.

Surely you have heard them—a brand of insect musicians—it is a treat! Who are they? Why, the crickets and their cousins the grasshopper, locusts and katydids. They all carry fine musical instruments with them wherever they go. So a concert or serenade can be given at a moment's notice, and I fancy they never make the excuse, 'I can't; I am out of practice!'

I have been kept awake many a night by the little glossy brown or black house cricket which, well hidden behind some article of furniture, insisted on treating me to a musical programme.

'I wonder whether he makes it with his mouth, I had asked, and I decided to really find out, and was surprised to know where all the noise came from. You know a cricket is not slender like a grasshopper, but is short and thick, and looks as though he is carrying a little bundle of something under his wings all the time.

Well, near his left wingcover joins his body he has three veins on his wing. The largest is rough like a file, and this is his violin. He—I say 'he,' because Mrs. Cricket cannot make music—draw this rough vein across the right wingcover, which trembles and quivers and gives out sounds—his music in other words.

The field cricket sings all day, while the house cricket (my friend) takes the night for his concerts.

In Spain crickets are so popular that they have little cages for them, like we do our canaries; but they have only one cricket in a cage, as they will fight if put together.

'The Murrerer,' as Mr. Grasshopper is called—and I don't see why, as his songs to Mrs. Grasshopper are so loud and shrill—makes his music by rubbing his wings together. He has a little piece of skin like a tight drumhead set in each wing, and as he moves his wings these tiny drums vibrate—thus his music.

Mrs. Grasshopper doesn't have a drum in her wings, but listens to her lord's music with her ears, which are on her fore legs! Isn't it queer? Think of having one's ears in such an inconvenient place as near a knee! Or as the locusts have, on each side of the abdomen! At least, they have a round plate, there which is supposed to be an ear on each side.

Mr. Grasshopper sits perfectly still while making his music, looking very grave and correct in his long-tailed dress-suit coat which he always wears.

Mr. Locust, however, stands on his two front legs to sing, and really a ludicrous sight, as he lifts his hind leg and draws one by one, and then both together, across his wings. The inner side of his hind legs has rough, file-like edges and the wings thick veins, like cords and the file of the legs on the cords of the wings produces the sound. He is a finished musician too for he can make two tones, and as one or two legs are used, make the music loud or soft.

The beautiful light-green katydid sings only at night, and his song, 'Katydid, Katydid; Katy broke the teapot lid; Katydidn't,' add all the different versions of it, is one of my earliest recollections.—'Baptist Boys and Girls.'

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The Cry of the Little Peoples.

(Richard Le Gallienne, in 'New Poems')

The cry of the Little Peoples went up to God in vain;
The Czech, and the Pole, and the Finn, and the Schleswig Dane.
We ask but a little portion of green, ambitious earth;
Only to sow, and sing, and reap in the land of our birth.

We ask not coaling stations, nor ports in the China seas;
We leave to the big child-nations, such rivalries as these.
We have learned the lesson of time, and we know three things from birth—
Only to sow, and sing, and reap in the land of our birth.

O leave us our little margins, waste ends of land and sea;
A little grass, and a hill or two, and a shadowing tree.
O leave us our little rivers that sweetly catch the sky,
To drive our mills, and to carry our wood, and to ripple by.

Once, long ago, as you, with hollow pursuit of fame,
We filled all the shaking world with the sound of our name;

But now we are glad to rest our heads and boasting none.
Glad just to sow, and sing, and reap in our share of the sun.
Of this, O will ye rob us, with a foolish, mighty hand;
Add, with such cruel sorrow, so small a hand to your land?

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After Sept. 1st, 1910, There Will Be No More Coupons In My Tea

I'm going to cut out the alphabet coupons that I have been giving away with every pound of Union Blend Tea. I simply cannot afford to continue giving away a premium with Union Blend—not and give the tea-quality I want to give. And, after all, it's the tea business—not the premium business—that I'm in. When it comes to a choice of either cutting out the coupons or lowering the quality—well, just as I tell you, the coupons have to go. But I don't want to do anything unfair; I want every household that has coupons, to get them in and get value for them. Therefore I'm telling you to

Complete Your Alphabet NOW!

GET all your letters together and get them in to me. Whether it's a five dollar or a one dollar prize you're saving for—get your alphabet finished—realize on it.

I want to be perfectly fair in this matter—I'm giving you until Sept. 1st—surely time enough.

I'll admit that this alphabet plan has been a big success; it has been the means of intro-

ducing Union Blend into thousands of homes. But I don't believe it has kept Union Blend in a single household, for it couldn't; nothing but tea-quality could make—does make—a woman continue to buy my tea.

And they do continue to buy it—because it's quality is the very best. Therefore, I think you'll understand why I cannot afford to reduce that quality. It's the heart and soul of my business—tea-quality. Sell poorer tea? No, indeed! Am I not right?

Remember I'm giving you right up till 12 o'clock noon on Sept. 1st, 1910. Every complete alphabet received up to that hour on that date will be paid for in full. After that the plan will be dropped.

Get busy—complete YOUR alphabet.

Harry W. Dorset

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