

HOW ORGANISTS WORK.

MEN WHO CAN MAKE OR MAR MUSIC IN THE CHURCHES.

Small Salaries Paid for Good Men in England—Other Ways in Which Their Revenues Are Increased—Lady Organists Not in Fashion Now-a-days.

The church organist would seem to be a prosaic study. This is not so. After the parson, and possibly the parson's wife, he is the most criticised church functionary. At service time everything depends upon him. He can make or mar the most elaborate musical arrangements; minor canons, precentors, musical curates—all are in his hands.

Perched on his stool, the organist's first care is to look round to see that he has the necessary books and music, since such things unless locked up, have the habit, even in church, of disappearing as if some imp had purposely been indulging in tricks during the night hours. Then he has to shape the congregation into a fitting mood, which a soft prelude generally does.

From this moment matters become lively for him, and if it be a full choral service he has to give his mind to his work to keep the music going smoothly. There is little time to read Sunday papers—a practice in which some organists try to indulge—as matters musical follow so rapidly one upon another that after "finding the places" there is little rest for the performer until the sermon commences. Here occurs a pause for the organist, and it is doubtful whether he always employs it in listening to his clergyman's rhetoric. After the sermon the organist has his "say" in a Voluntary, which usually taxes the instrument as well as the energies of the blowers.

The best organists are those who have been trained as choristers in a cathedral or choir. There is much that is traditional in the rendering of church music, which is best acquired in boyhood.

The organist should not be judged always according to his playing in church, since he often has to resort to expedients which are inconsistent with good organ playing. If his choir be weak and the singing "shaky," he is well occupied in averting disaster. A "break-down" makes everybody in church feel uncomfortable, and an organist can often prevent this. The better the choir is, the easier it is to play. It is no hard matter to accompany over the heads of an efficient choir, and to be left free to exercise taste and ingenuity on the stops, keyboard and pedals.

All the front rank organists are professionals, who make a special study of the "king of instruments." There are many excellent amateur organists, however, who play the organ as a profitable hobby and obtain prominent posts.

The modern organist is a migratory animal. Organists used to remain at their posts for life-times. The post of organist at St. James's, Westminster, has been handed down from father to son for three generations. A year or two's tenure and the modern organist feels entitled to some recognition. A "testimonial" is set on foot, and he is presented with a clock or other trophy. He bows his acknowledgments, says "Good-bye," and trips off to fresh fields of church harmonies and testimonials.

The salaries of organists vary often from £500 to naught per annum. A corporation or cathedral pay averages £250 a year. Then come the Westminster Abbey, Royal Chapels, Temple Church, Foundling Hospital, etc.—appointments where the salaries are also liberal. £100 a year is a handsome stipend for an organist, and one which only a few London churches pay. At fashionable churches, like St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, and St. Peter's Eaton Square where the organist has not only heavy Sunday but week-day services, the remuneration is larger. £50 a year is the stipend attaching to the City church organ appointments, as well as to the parish churches in other quarters of London. Small district churches pay £40, £30, £25, £15, and some "travelling expenses," for which scanty terms real efficient organists perform laborious duties for a payment which a crossing-sweeper would scorn.

Outside his salary, the perquisites appertaining to an organist's appointment arise chiefly from weddings. Most people like a little music at their nuptials. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is never omitted, and the organist's fee for playing this is one guinea. At St. George's, Hanover Square, the emoluments from this source are large. Dozens of other churches—fashionable for weddings—provide really handsome "extras" for the organists.

Organists of the first rank find frequent opportunities for exhibiting their skill with profit to themselves and advantage to the organ-builder. A new organ requires to be tested before it is paid for finally, and this "opening" affords. Some organ-builders retain a favorite performer to preside at their instruments upon these occasions. The player rarely fails to satisfy the parson and the organ committee. The fee for this is from five to ten guineas, with expenses.

As umpires, organists of the first rank make also a not insignificant addition to their incomes. The fee for adjudicating in a competition for an organist is from two to five guineas.

"Farming" is prevalent among organists. A good performer, holding some prominent church appointment, is applied to for advice, etc., by some bewildered clergyman, anxious to make his services more musically attractive. The performer offers his aid, puts in a pupil with whom he has received a premium, and pockets the salary.

There are other ways of adding to an organist's income. A not unknown proceeding is to discover a church where a new organ is required, or where some extensive patching-up of the old instrument may reasonably be expected. An organist goes in for this berth when vacant, and wins. Why? Well, the organ-builder's rate of commission to the organist for all work introduced by him is ten per cent., and since a moderately good church instrument can only be obtained for a sum varying from £500 to £1,000, there is a nice solid sum here for Dr. Chest-o'-Whistles.

Thus, at a church dropped down amid a verdant oasis in the very heart of London an organist was needed. The vacancy was advertised, and applications poured in copiously. A selection was made, and three

knights of the pedals were ultimately selected from whom to make the final choice. The parson was a pious man, and a credit to his profession. Moreover, he was singularly unlike all other clergymen the writer has ever met. He was not musical. Stranger still, he did not say he was, which happy condition of things necessitated the calling in of assistance. This was an estimable church musician—one of the world's best organists. With a judgment beyond criticism, he adjudged the competition in one, two, three order, and number one got the post. One was immeasurably superior to either two or three; two was quite an ordinary organist, and three was too young and inexperienced.

The selected candidate remained at the church a few weeks—just long enough to find out that no new organ was among the possibilities of the future. He then left, somewhat abruptly, declaring that he could no longer play upon the instrument—the one, too, which had given him his post.

Lady organists are undoubtedly going out of fashion. The High Church movement proclaimed the "decently-and-in-order" way of doing things in church, and it was not deemed decent or consistent with this doctrine for women to be associated with either choir or organ. The lady organist can often play only in certain keys, and scorns all music having more than three sharps or flats for a signature. Her favorite key is "three flats," and her playing is all treble with only a modicum of very uncertain bass. She will, frequently, play over the hymns much faster than would any male organist, while she abhors change or variety in her stops.

Occasionally she forgets something very important, just as John Bates, the Westminster Abbey organist of his day, once did at one of the "Ancient Concerts." This was a case of clear absence of mind. The organ-builder was sent for, as the organ would not speak, but he soon detected that nothing was wrong, but that the distinguished player had forgotten to pull out any of the stops!—English Paper.

HOW FASHIONS ARE MADE.

Examples of Notable Women Are Imitated by the World.

The year before last, when a well-known beauty married a young Earl, the bride introduced a startling innovation. The bridesmaids who followed in her train, though garbed in the light and dainty fabrics suited to their position and the festive occasion, wore black velvet hats and feathers. Everyone remarked on this fact with surprise.

A few years earlier it would have been little short of unlucky for a bride if her attendant maids had appeared in chapeaux of such sombre hue, but somehow the novelty took, and bridesmaids themselves, as a whole, unanimously decided that it was much less trying to wear a black hat than a white or coloured one. Henceforward the "picture hat" became the mode, and at least three-fourths of the brides in 1892 decided that their bridesmaids should wear the most fashionable picturesque hat of black velvet with ostrich feathers, these being occasionally of a pale hue. Dark green and brown velvets have also been introduced but all in the same style with the inevitable feathers as favoured by the young Countess.

Any really recognised society leader can bring a new style before the public by her persistent adoption of it. Witness the Duchess of Portland and her malmalson carnations, which ever since her marriage she has greatly affected. Formerly picotees were not of special account as button-holes, but as the Duchess appeared on almost every occasion wearing a knot of these pretty blossoms, in a short time her example was followed, and now carnations as button-holes figure in the florists' windows in Regent Street and Bond Street, and are pretty highly priced too!

The Princess of Wales is not exactly a leader of fashion, though no one surpasses her in taste in dress, but as she never affects any extreme modes and is distinctly conservative to plain, comfortable garments and useful tailor-made toilettes, there are many society women who outshine her in novelties and splendour. Like the Prince of Wales, who is recognised as the best dressed gentleman in Europe, the Princess knows in a second what she likes and what she does not like, and if a new mode or material is placed before her and it does not please her, nothing will induce her to adopt it.

In the fashion of hair-dressing our Royal Family is by no means fond of constant change. The Princess of Wales, her three daughters, Princess May of Teck, Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, and several others, have worn the curled fringes with the greatest constancy, and have scarcely raised or lowered the coil or pulled at the back. The young princesses never wore the Catogan with its wide loop of ribbon, which was very popular with debutantes two or three seasons ago, and not one of them would puff out her hair into the huge inartistic knob at present known as the "bun chignon."

There are some half-a-dozen aristocratic ladies who by their beauty, style and taste set the lead to no small extent in dress. Tall, elegant women know that there is no one better calculated to choose what suits them than Georgina, Countess of Dudley, whose tea-gowns are especially studied, though her costumes at any races, in the "Park Parade" on Sunday morning, or at a ball are equally noteworthy.

Lady Brooke and Duchess of Sutherland ladies who by their beauty, style and taste set the lead to no small extent in dress. Tall, elegant women know that there is no one better calculated to choose what suits them than Georgina, Countess of Dudley, whose tea-gowns are especially studied, though her costumes at any races, in the "Park Parade" on Sunday morning, or at a ball are equally noteworthy.

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HOW TWO SUFFERERS REGAINED HEALTH AND STRENGTH.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lawson Tell the Story of Their Renewed Health and Strength—They Found Health After Many Remedies Had Failed.

[From The Woodville Independent.]

The Independent has published a number of well authenticated cases of most remarkable cures by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Many of these cures have occurred in our own province, and all of them have been vouched for by newspapers of well known standing, whose disinterestedness leave no room to doubt the accuracy of the statements made. But if anything were needed to convince the skeptical among our readers (if any there be) and bring into greater prominence the surpassing merit of this wonderful life-giving remedy, it is found in the fact that The Independent has been able to give the particulars of several remarkable cures in our own neighborhood, every detail of which can be easily verified by any interested in so doing. A short time ago we gave the particulars of the recovery of little George Veal, which has attracted so much notice and added to the fame of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in this locality. A few days ago this case was the topic of conversation in one of our local stores, when a gentleman present said he knew of a case in town even more surprising. The Independent, alert for anything that would interest its readers, asked for some further particulars, and was informed that the person referred to was Mrs. James Lawson, an esteemed resident of Woodville, who had been utterly helpless for a time, her recovery despaired of, and who is now, through the almost magical virtues of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, recovered and able to be about once more. A few days after this, meeting Mr. Lawson on the street, The Independent enquired if it were true, as stated, that his wife owed her recovery to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Yes, replied Mr. L., and not only my wife, but I was cured by them also. If you will call at the house you can have the full particulars if you want them. Mr. Lawson has been a resident of Woodville for over twenty years, and is well known and highly respected by all. On calling at his house we found both Mr. and Mrs. Lawson at home, and quite willing to give the desired information. They are an intelligent couple and those acquainted with them will have no hesitation in giving implicit confidence to their statements. Mr. Lawson stated that he had been ailing for years; his appetite failed; he became weak and unable to work. He received medical assistance, but found it of no avail, and at last he was confined to the house with little prospect of recovery as was thought. He had read of the wonderful cures effected by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and determined to give them a trial. He soon found benefit from them and continuing their use entirely recovered and is now enjoying better health than he has previously done for years and is quite as able as formerly to do a day's work.

Mrs. Lawson also told of her terrible sufferings. For three years she had been unable to do housework, and for nine months was confined to bed, being so helpless that she had to be lifted like a child. She had consulted doctors in Toronto and taken their prescriptions, but found no relief. Her nervous system was wholly unstrung and she suffered from disease of the spine. The doctors told her it would be necessary to perform an operation on her spine, otherwise she could not get relief. She refused to have the operation performed, knowing that it would make her a cripple for life, and she considered that condition as bad as her then state of suffering. At last she began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and had not been taking them long when she found their good effects. She found herself getting stronger, and was able to leave her bed. At first she had to use crutches, but continuing the use of Pink Pills she was able to throw away first one and then the other of the crutches and is now not only able to walk freely, but to attend to her household duties as formerly. In fact she says that she is now stronger than she has been for many years. Her appetite has returned, her nerve and spine troubles have disappeared, and she rejoices in complete recovery which she attributes solely to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and which she recommends to those troubled with nervous prostration, diseases of the spine or general debility. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lawson attribute their recovery under Providence to the use of this marvellous medicine which has been such a blessing in our land, and they are willing that all others should enjoy the knowledge of their wonderful virtue.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a perfect blood builder and nerve restorer, curing such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, nervous prostration and the tired feeling therefrom, the after effects of la grippe, influenza and severe colds, diseases depending on humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. Pink Pills give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions, and are a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, and in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of any nature.

These Pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., and Schenectady, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade mark and wrapper, at 50c. a box, or six boxes for \$2.50. Bear in mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold in bulk, or by the dozen or hundred, and any dealer who offers substitutes in this form is trying to defraud you and should be avoided. The public are also cautioned against all other so-called blood builders and nerve tonics, no matter what name be given them. They are all imitation, whose makers hope to reap a pecuniary advantage from the wonderful reputation achieved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Ask your dealer for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and refuse all imitations and substitutes.

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Bathurst, N. B. The theory of life for women is to feed them on the plum-pudding of Chivalry, but all thoughtful women desire instead the coarse but nutritious brown loaf of Justice."

HALE AND HEARTY.—The Englishman says he "drinks hal and it makes him ail." The Canadian drinks Puttner's Emulsion and it makes him hearty.

If our faces must be characterized by their dimensions, let them be broad rather than long.

"Sent by Nigger."

A rather fussy diplomatist left his card for Admiral Goldsborough, of the United States Navy, inscribed E. P. in the corner, and on meeting the admiral he said—

"I hope you got my card?"

"Oh yes, but what was the meaning of the E. P. on it?"

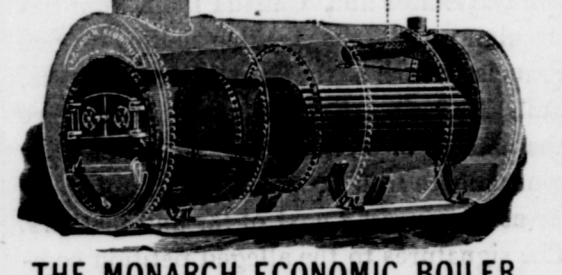
"Oh, en personne."

Soon after the diplomatist received the Admiral's card, inscribed S. B. N., and in turn asked for an interpretation.

"Sent by nigger," exclaimed the Admiral.

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