

LUCKY SONG WRITERS.

Ballad Makers Are No Longer Bohemians, but Make Plenty of Money.

The song writers of other days were of Bohemian disposition and generally improvident ways, says a recent writer. They would defer the writing of a song until necessity compelled them to go to work, and though many popular and attractive melodies were written under this spur, it tended to make the work of ballad composers irregular and uneven, so that their failures outnumbered their successes, and it sometimes happened that what were failures to them, in a pecuniary way, proved great successes to those who utilized their composition.

Now all this is changed. The American ballad writer of today is no longer a Bohemian, dependent upon the good will, capriciousness, or necessities of a music publisher, but he is himself the vendor of his own wares; nearly every song writer is his own publisher. In the portion of upper Broadway, north of Twenty-seventh street, which is now the actor's Rialto, replacing the neighborhood of the old Metropolitan Hotel, north of Prince street, and the Union square in this respect, the music publishing houses of American song writers are to be found, and here these composers sell at their own risk their favorite compositions. The method of introducing to the public is simple but effective. When a ballad writer has completed a song he takes it usually to a music director who is a competent musician, and the latter arranges it for publication. Then the composer advertises that he has copies of such a song for sale, but that copies will be furnished free or at a nominal sum to accredited professional singers. These singers, being always in quest of something new, and glad to get a song from a composer of renown, especially if they get it free, or perhaps for five or ten cents. It is submitted to the musical conductor of the company with which the professional singer is travelling or connected, and later it is sung. The composer, retaining for himself the copyright, sells to the general public copies of the song for from anywhere from 25 to 60 cents. The actual cost of printing is insignificant, and as the author-publisher has no royalty to pay, what he receives from the sale of his work is very nearly clear profit. But without the aid of the professionals whom he favors with copies at a nominal cost, it would be impossible for him to introduce to public notice, with equal rapidity, a song, for such ballads have, it should be understood, a popularity which is wholly ephemeral. They sell for a time vigorously. They are sung on the stage and played by orchestras, hand organs and slot machines; they are parodied and imitated, and then a new candidate for the favor of the public suddenly comes forward, and the demand falls off as rapidly as it grew up.

A successful song does not usually owe its triumph to one professional singer merely, but to a dozen or more. A recent illustration of this is the song "Be Good!" which was introduced in "The Merry World" at the Casino and the "Widow Jones" at the Bijou. It was sung in ten other companies, and simultaneously by variety people throughout the country as well. James Thornton's ballad, "The Streets of Cairo," has recently had a similar vogue in the theatres, and the most recent of these general candidates for public favor is "My Best Girl's a Corker." A rival to it up to a short time ago was "The Sunshine of Paradise Alley." The life in popularity of a pithy song—"After the Ball," "Two Little Girls in Blue," "Annie Rooney," or any similar composition—is brief, and the American supply, always greater than the demand is further recruited from England, where the music hall favorites are constantly in need of new material in the song line, and from Paris, where the composers of the chansonettes are both ingenious and industrious. Since the authors of comic songs and pathetic ballads in New York became publishers as well as composers they have taken on a substantial and opulent air, and resemble Western bankers in outward aspects at least, except that they have an irresistible tendency toward furlined and fur-trimmed coats, a fabled which the art of musical composition can certainly have nothing to do.

Couldn't Control Her Feelings.

"Yes," said Dicky Stalate, with a satisfied smile, "that young woman is very fond of me."

"How do you know?"

"I was calling on her yesterday evening, and, do you know, she was so thoughtful of my comfort that she worried for two hours for fear I would miss the last car."

Easy to Figure Out.

Wily Money Lender—You want £100; here's the money! I charge you 5 per cent a month. And you want it for a year; that just leaves £40 coming to you.

Innocent Borrower—Then if I wanted it for two years there'd be something coming to you eh?

An Unreasonable Man.

Husband (shaving)—Confound the razor!

Wife—What's the matter now? You're dreadfully cross-tempered.

"The razor is so infernally dull."

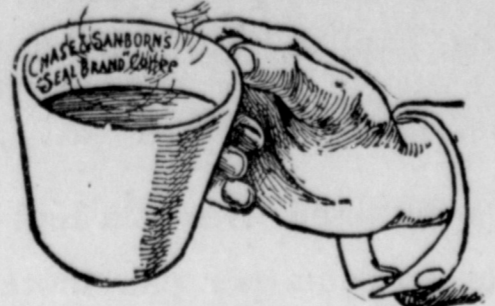
"Dull? Why, I ripped up an old skirt with it only yesterday and it cut beautifully!"

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WILLIAM CLARK

RATTLED BONES FOR A MINE.

Property Valued at Thousands Staked on a Game of Dice.

A silver mine changed hands yesterday on the result of a dice game between R. A. Bell and Pat Welsh, says a Helena paper. Each owned a one-half interest in the Belle of Clancy, in Lump Gulch. The mine was worth considerable, for it was one of the properties that are termed "promising prospects" by those who own them. Considerable development work has been done, and there is already a good streak of ore, although not as much as the owners thought they ought to have. In discussing the development of the mine they found they could not agree on some important matters of policy. There was a deadlock, and with the prospect that it would not be broken they decided that it would be best for both if the property were all held by one man.

"Let us rattle the bones for it," suggested Welsh.

"What shall it be?" was Mr. Bell's prompt reply.

"Three shakes, horses," Mr. Welsh thought would be a about the thing. Mr. Bell philosophically reflected that what was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander. To be sure there might be luck in the "rocky road to Dublin," or in "drop dead," or in "baseball dice," or "poker dice," as they play the game in California, but it would be as likely to be luck for Mr. Welsh as for Mr. Bell, and after considering a moment he said that "three horses," was good enough for him.

They dropped into Staff & Opheim's and called for the bones. They were handed to Mr. Bell, and he took the first rattle at them. On the first flop he threw three aces, and on each succeeding throw an other ace came to keep that one company. Five aces were so good that Mr. Bell reposed in confidence while he awaited the result of the first horse. Nor was his confidence misplaced. His opponent had but three sixes, the best he could do. Mr. Welsh, as is the custom, kept the dice box and shook again.

"Four sixes," he said, as he picked up the dice and handed the box along. "That's good enough this time. You can't shake five of a kind every time."

Mr. Bell couldn't. He managed to go a pair of fives, having split a pair of deuces in the first place because he thought they weren't good enough. It was "horse and

Then Mr. Bell tried with all his might. The result was four fives.

"Blow in the box," said Mr. Welsh to Charley Snedakes, who was refereeing the game. Mr. Snedakes complied. He also made a few mysterious passes over the box, and muttered an incantation taught him by a medicine man down on the banks of Lake Victoria Nyanza.

With a smile of confidence Mr. Welsh took the cylinder in his hands again. "They have got to come now," he said, as he tipped the ivory out. They rolled across the face of the showcase and settled down, while both the participants tried to look as if there wasn't \$100,000 at stake.

"Five aces," said the referee.

"That settles it," said Mr. Bell.

"It was that beat that did the business," said Mr. Welsh joyfully.

Th. Fellow She Married.

"I was disgusted a few days ago at a case I worked up," remarked a Washington detective.

"A young lady who was possessed of considerable money and a number of jewels sent for me. She had been robbed of some diamonds valued at several hundred dollars. I finally found all but one pin, they having been pawned. I obtained a description of the man who borrowed money upon them, but for several weeks could not locate him. When I did his landlady said that he had left that morning and was going to Baltimore. I watched the depot, and was soon rewarded by seeing the man step out of a hack. I seized his arm and said, 'You are arrested.' 'What for?' he asked in a tone that showed he was not much surprised, but greatly frightened. 'That will be explained at the station,' I replied. There was a feminine shriek from the hack, and glancing into the vehicle, I saw it was my fair client. They had just been married and were starting on their wedding trip. I took in the situation at a glance, and then realizing that I was powerless under the new order of affairs, I said: 'I see now that you are not the man I want,' and let him go. Then he began to bluster, and taking him aside, I gave him to understand I knew of his robbing the girl to pay the expenses of his courtship, and he quieted down very suddenly."

They Did Not Feel Blue.

A red dinner was given recently at a London hotel by two gamblers who had won 380,000 francs at the sitting from the bank at Monte Carlo by playing on the red. The room was draped in red, red shades were placed over the electric lights, geraniums decorated the table, and the waiters wore red ties, red gloves, red shirts and red buttons on their coats and vests. The menus were printed in red, with a roulette on one side and a figure 9 on the other, that being the number of successive runs on the red by which the money was won.

TAKE NOTICE.

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COST OF ENGLAND'S WARS.

What the British Have Had to Pay for Their Fighting of Two Centuries.

In the wars of the present and the previous century England has expended \$5,000,000,000. Almost incessantly since 1700 England has been prosecuting war and paying the cost of it, either in alliance with other European nations or against barbarous or semi-civilized nations single-handed.

The first of the wars in which England engaged in the eighteenth century was against the French. England having as its allies Holland, Prussia, Hanover, and Portugal. It culminated in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, after an expenditure (relatively much larger in those days) of \$9,000,000,000.

The English war against the Canadian colonists who were favorable to the French, but who were without adequate resources to withstand the power of the English followed, at a cost of \$300,000,000, and then followed the war against the American patriot colonists south of the Canadian border line—the Revolutionary war. The cost to England of the Revolutionary war is given in the official figures of the English War Office at \$600,000,000.

The closing years of the eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth century were years of strife and war in which England took an active part, but never single-handed. Her first alliance was with Russia, Prussia, Sardinia, Portugal, Italy, and the minor German States, against France. That was in 1793. The next alliance, six years later, included the same countries, with Turkey, Naples, the Barbary States, and Austria in addition as allies of England. The combination of European nations of which England was a part in 1805, included England, Russia, Austria, Sweden, and Naples. In 1809 England and Austria combined against France, and in 1813 all the great powers of Europe and most of the minor ones combined against Napoleon in what was known afterward as "the seven's coalition."

While these wars were in progress in Europe, England carried on other wars, particularly against the United States (the war of 1812), and in India, and during this period, beginning in 1793 and closing in 1815, the total sum expended by England for war and naval purposes was \$4,000,000,000. Such was the debt of England at the close of the last war with the United States, but it has been greatly reduced since. The Crimean war, in which England engaged against Russia with France, Turkey and Sardinia as its allies, cost England \$350,000,000, and subsequent wars and encounters in India, in southern Africa, where the Boers proved a sturdy foe, in Egypt and elsewhere have entailed considerable cost upon the English Treasury, but very much less than the expense of fighting with civilized soldiers in well-equipped armies. The present debt of England, exclusive of the debt of English dependencies, which is \$2,000,000,000, is \$3,300,000,000.

HOW MICA IS MINED.

Large Quantities of It Are Secured in a North Carolina Town.

The mica business is so common-place and affords such a small show of machinery that it is no surprise for a stranger to be skeptical when told of its actual magnitude. It requires no capital to set one going on the road to fortune; all that is needed is to own or get control of a deposit. It can be mined cheaply, as the labor of this region is low. The mountain nobleman who owns one of these yielding deposits does not, as a general thing, betray his identity by wearing fine "store" clothes, but is often disguised in home-made jeans, and this not in vulgar profusion. It is nothing uncommon to meet in the road a man worth \$50,000 whose entire wardrobe, outside of his good strong boots, would not bring ten cents at auction.

The dealers who handle mica occupy little shacks, which are amply furnished with a crude work bench and a pair of shears. This is all that is needed; a million dollars would not secure a better outfit.

Mica is a mineral, but of the many millions who spend hours looking at the glowing fire through the little windows in the stove, few know where that thin transparent glass, whose durability mocks the fusion of the most intense heat, came from. At least few people know that it is dug from the earth and how it looks in its crude state. The wild and apparent worthless mountain region of which Baker-ville is the metropolis is the main source of supply for the United States. This town looks as though it might have been built of mica or else stood on the site of a ruined city that was erected of it, so plentiful are the shining particles everywhere.

Mica is found in all sorts of blocks of various thicknesses and shapes, and can be split and replit almost ad infinitum, or until it becomes the thin transparent, flexible wafer of commerce. It is imbedded in or scattered through the feldspar in blocks large and small, and is blasted from the rocks with dynamite. The purer veins are found between walls of slate. It is taken from mines to the little shops split into thin sheets, trimmed into regular shapes and prepared for the market.—Philadelphia Times.

Hard on Both of Them.

Patrick's face was so homely that, as he used to say, it seemed an "office to the landscape," and he was as poor as he was homely. One day a neighbor met him, and said:

"And how are ye, Pat?"

"Mighty bad," answered Pat. "It is starvation that is shartin' me in the face."

"Is that so?" said the sympathetic inquirer. "Sure, and it can't be very pleasant for either of ye."



Dr. H. F. Merrill.

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