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**SIDNEY LANIER:**  
 Poet and Musician.

After listening to Mr. Blair's lecture on Longfellow one Saturday evening, every one left the hall with a feeling of uplift, almost as if the gifted and noble man had been in our midst. The familiar lines quoted fell on the ear with new power and meaning. So evident was the enjoyment felt, that it leads us to hope that such a pleasure may come to us again and again. Since the famous group of New England poets to whom Longfellow belonged has passed away, it is generally thought that Sidney Lanier should occupy the first rank as an American poet. Born in Georgia in 1842, and his death occurring in this state in 1881, it would seem not unreasonable to hope that some one who knew him personally might bring him close to us through the loving study of his life and writings. Who could appeal to a greater variety of tastes?

His many-sided nature is expressed in the words of a classmate of his junior year at college: "Although passionately fond of music, both in theory and practice, even at that early age conceded by all who had the pleasure of hearing him as the finest of flute players; although he was ever ready to show his love for nature and art in their various forms and manifestations, yet he was a persistent student, an omnivorous reader of books, and in his college classes was easily first in mathematics as well as in his other studies. He loved all the sciences. The purest fountains of Greek and Roman literature had nourished and fed his youthful mind." He says of himself in a letter: "I could play passably well on several instruments before I could write legibly, and since then the very deepest of my life has been filled with music." His devotion to music was as genuine as it was remarkable, considering that the only instruction he ever had was from his mother, who taught him only the notes, and that his early life was spent in communities that regarded music as a mere pastime, and not as an art, worthy of serious study.

His question: "What is the promise of music in the economy of the world?" is answered by himself thus: "Music is in common life what heat is in chemistry an all-pervading, ever-present, mysterious genius. The carpenter whistles to cheer his work, the loafer whistles to cheer his idleness. Victory chants, defeat wails; joy has gallops, sorrow her dirges; patriotism shouts its Marseillaise, and love lives on music for food, says Old Will. Moreover, the Chinese beats his gong, and the African his jaw-bone; the

Greek blew Dorian flutes; the Oriental charms serpents with his flageslet; German Mendelssohn sends up saintly thanks; Polish Chopin pleads for a man's broken heart, and American Gottschalk fills the room full of great, sad-eyed ghosts—all with the piano!"

For six years he was a member of the Peabody Symphony Orchestra in Baltimore and his musical genius is thus recognized by Asger Hamerick, who was director at that time: "To him as a child in his cradle music was given, the heavenly gift to feel and to express himself in tones. In his hands the flute no longer remained a mere material instrument, but was transformed into a voice that set heavenly harmonies into vibration. I will never forget the impression he made on me when he played the flute concerto—his tall, handsome, manly presence, his flute breathing noble sorrows, noble joys, the orchestra softly responding. The audience was spell-bound. Such distinction, such refinement! He stood, the master, the genius!"

But with all his gifts, he believed with Dante, that the best conceptions cannot be, save where science and genius are. This belief kept him from dwelling wholly in the imagination, and was the secret of never-ceasing effort to the very close of his short life.

**SCIENCE CLUB.**

The Joseph Moore Science Club held its regular meeting on Wednesday evening, November 17th. The general topic for discussion was "Milk and Its Relation to Public Health." Roy Blaylock spoke on the chemical composition of milk and showed experimentally the method for determining the fat content of milk by the Babcock test. Callie Lewis then read a paper prepared by Clarice Newlin on the value of milk as a food material. In this paper the food value of skimmed milk was especially emphasized—for it was shown that the skimmed milk is lacking only in the fat, and that this can easily be supplied by other food materials, thus cheapening the cost of the diet and still maintaining a balanced ration. Mr. Downing then spoke of the precautions necessary for the sanitary production of milk in order to keep it as free as possible from contamination. An interesting discussion followed in which some of the difficulties arising from the practical application of theoretical methods were discussed. The subject will be continued at the next meeting of the club.

Mr. A. F. Zachery, '13, spent Saturday and Sunday with his brother Thompson, who is in school here.

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