

MOZART; OR, THE YOUNG MUSICIAN.

Translated from the French.

It was on a fine morning in the month of April, in the year 1762, that two children—ones a girl about eight years old, and the other a boy, perhaps two years younger—descended the vine covered hill of Kosehcz, at the foot of which rushed tumultuously the beautiful and rapid waters of the Moldau, which are finally lost in the ancient forests of Bohemia.

Instead of tripping along with the careless gaiety of their age, the two children, holding each other by the hand, walked side by side, with thoughtful looks and downcast eyes; noticing the gravity of nature with the charms and innocence of childhood.

Their attire betokened poverty; the color of the little girl's frock was faded, the clothes of the boy were much worn, and patched at the elbows and knees with different colored stuffs; but nevertheless, the neatness with which their fair hair had been combed, and their fresh-washed hands and faces, seemed to indicate the love and care of a mother.

They each held in one hand a piece of bread, which they looked at now and then, but did not touch. As soon as they reached the foot of the hill, and were about to enter the shade of the forest trees, the little boy broke the silence.

"Did you notice sister," he said "the manner in which mamma gave us our breakfast this morning; and how she sighed when I said, 'Nothing but bread!'"

"Yes; and she was crying," said the little girl, "I saw her tears; and her look, which seemed to say, 'There is nothing but bread in the house, and you must be content with it.' But what are you crying for, Wolfgang? added Frederica, who she shed tears herself."

"I cry, because you cry," said Wolfgang; "and also because I have only dry bread for my breakfast!"

"Poor fellow," said Frederica, drying the eyes of her brother with a kiss; "my you never have a greater grief. But why do you not eat your bread?"

"I am not hungry," answered the boy. "Ah, you would not want begging to eat, if there was something nice upon your bread," said his sister.

"No, indeed," answered the boy, "I am not hungry!"

The little girl drew her brother towards her, and, parting the hair from his forehead, she said, "I would give you a kiss, and tell you what I was thinking of this morning, only I am afraid you are too little to talk to such things!"

"Too little! and you are so big, you!" said Wolfgang, with a tone of affected pity.

"But I am bigger than you!" said the little girl.

"By an inch or two; so you need not be proud of it," answered the boy.

"And I am older than you!"

"By a few months!"

"By some years, sir. But let us reckon, and not quarrel about it," said Frederica, good humoredly. "I was born on the 30th of January, 1754."

"And I was born the 27th of January, 1756," said Wolfgang.

"That makes two years!" said the little girl.

"All but three days!" said the boy.

"Yes, all but three days!" repeated the girl. "But let us think what we can do to help our parents."

"What are you talking about, sister?" said the boy; "what can we do?"

"That is what I am thinking of. O Heaven! what can we do?"

"Let us pray to God, sister; and then, perhaps, we shall think of something," said Wolfgang.

"You are right, brother; let us pray," answered the girl; "let us kneel down under this tree; God will see us!"

"And hear us too," said Wolfgang. Mamma says that God always hears children who pray for their parents!"

"Ah! then He will hear us favorably!" said Frederica, clasping her hands.

Wolfgang knelt down beside his sister putting his head on the ground, in order to join his hands. "Sister," he then said, "shall we not pray also to our great saint, John Nepomucene, to assist us?"

"Where in days?" answered the boy. "But you provoke me with your inter-ruptions. I say then I shall go to the piano; I shall get up on the stool, and I shall play, and play, and everybody will be enchanted. They will embrace us, and give us sweetmeats and playthings, and to you they will give necklaces and ribbons; but we shall not take them, and I shall say, Pay us, if you please, that we may take the money to papa and mamma."

"Ah, you little rogue, how ambitious you are!" cried Frederica, throwing herself on her brother's neck.

"But that's not all," said Wolfgang; "let me finish my story. 'The king will hear us talked about, and send for us. I shall wear a beautiful coat, and we shall go to the king's palace. There they will take us into a saloon full of beautiful ladies, the like of whom was never seen, and gentlemen, all in embroidery, and furniture all gilded, and a piano. Such a piano! the case all made of pure gold, with silver pedals, and keys of fine pearls, and diamonds everywhere. Then we shall play, and the Court will be delighted. And they will surround us, and caress us, and the king will ask me what I should like, and I shall say, whatever you please, king. And then he will give me a castle, and I shall have papa and mamma to live there, and—'"

A burst of laughter interrupted, in the midst of his recital, the intrepid young performer on the piano. Wolfgang frightened, looked at his sister, then, turning his eyes, he perceived the stranger; who, hidden behind a tree near to the two children had not lost a word of their conversation. Fearing that he was discovered, he approached them saying:

"Do not be afraid, my children; I wish only to make you happy. I am sent to you by the great saint, John Nepomucene."

At these words the brother and sister exchanged a look, and then turned their eyes again upon the pretended messenger of the saint. This survey was doubtless satisfactory; for the little boy, running towards him, took hold of his hand, and with a charming simplicity, exclaimed: "Ah, so much the better; are you going to grant me my wishes?"

"No, sir; not all at once," answered the stranger; then seating himself on the spreading roots of a tree, and bidding Wolfgang stand before him, while his sister, older and more timid, kept a little aside, he said, "I shall give you whatever you wish, on condition that you answer me truly all the questions I am going to put to you; I warn you beforehand, that if you tell a lie, I shall know it!"

"Sir, you must know that I never told a lie in my life," replied Wolfgang, a little offended.

"That is what we shall see," said the stranger.

"What is your father's name?"

"Leopold Mozart."

"And what is his employment?"

"He is *maitre de chapelle*; he plays on the violin and on the piano; but best on the violin."

"Is your mother alive still?"

"Yes, sir."

"How many children are there of you?"

"As the little boy remained silent, his sister answered this question."

"There were seven of us, sir; but now we are only two, my brother and myself."

"And your father is poor, my dear child?" said the stranger to the little girl.

"Oh, yes, very poor, sir. See!" she said, showing the morsels of bread, which neither she nor her brother had touched, "this is all the bread there was in the house. Papa and mamma have not kept any for themselves. Every time that mamma gives us our breakfast, and says, 'Go and eat it in the fields my dear children; it is that we may not see that she has not any for herself!'"

"Poor children," said the stranger, greatly moved. "Where do your parents live?"

"Up there on the hill, sir, in that little cottage that you see the roof of from here," said Wolfgang.

"Did not that house belong to Duseck?" asked the stranger.

"A musician, like our father—yes, sir," said the little girl.

"Poor children," repeated the stranger, drying a tear. "Tell me, when I saw you both praying, what did you ask for?"

"Sir," said the little girl, "I asked that I might know the way to earn some money for my parents, so that my brother and I may not every day have to breakfast alone. Wolfgang tells me that he has thought of a way to get money, but I am afraid—"

"If what Wolfgang says is true, that you can both play so well on the piano, it is very likely you may earn money, and I may be able to help you."

"My brother is a good musician, said the little girl, "but not only he can play at first sight any piece that is presented to him, but he composes pretty little pieces besides; papa says so."

"And what age is your brother?"

"Six years old, sir; and I am eight."

"And this child composes already?" exclaimed the stranger.

"Does that surprise you?" cried Wolfgang, laughing. "Come to our house, sir; and you shall see."

The stranger drew out his watch, reflected for a moment, and then said, in a tone half serious, half jesting, "My dear children, the great Nepomucene, that revered saint of Bohemia, orders me to tell you to go home to your parents, stay at home all day, and before night you shall have some news. Now go."

The stranger was retiring, but Wolfgang took hold of his coat.

"Just one word, sir," he said, "before you go back."

"What are you going to ask, brother? interrupted Frederica, wishing to hinder her brother from speaking. He then whispered something in her ear, to which she replied, 'No, no, Wolfgang, it would be ridiculous. I do not want it.'"

"What is it, my dear child?" said the stranger.

"She wants me not to ask you if the great Nepomucene won't send mamma some money," answered Wolfgang, so quickly that Frederica had not time to stop him. "He can, I am sure, sir."

"Without doubt, my dear child, shall have it," said the stranger. "But what else do you want? Speak out, do not be afraid!"

"Well, then, a new coat for papa; he has not been able to give his lessons some days past, for want of one."

"And then—"

"And then, a new gown for mamma! it would become her, so well."

"Is that all?"

"Enough, brother, enough!" said Frederica, with the delicate susceptibility of a well bred child.

"Leave me alone, sister, I am only going to ask for something for you!"

"I do not want anything; you are asking the gentleman for too much!"

"Though I am pleased with your sister's modesty," said the stranger, "I authorize you to mention whatever you wish for."

"Well, then, what I want is a large house, and servants so that mamma shall not be fatigued with doing the work and then—then, that is all, I think!"

"But you have asked nothing for yourself."

"Oh, there is no need, sir; give papa all that he wants, and I shall ask for nothing."

"Changing and admirable child," said the stranger; "farewell; very soon you shall see me again."

As he uttered these words the stranger rose, and disappeared so quickly among the shades of the forest, that the children remained in surprise.

"What, do you think, Wolfgang, that he will send us some money?" said Frederica; as with her brother she took the road home.

"To be sure!" said Wolfgang, in a confident tone.

"As for me, I am afraid the gentleman has been making game of us," said the little girl.

"Ah, we shall see about that," replied the little Mozart.

So soon as the two children re-entered their home, a woman, still young and neatly attired, said sorrowfully to them—

"What have neither of you touched your bread?"

"We were not hungry, mamma," said Frederica.

"What, then, has made you lose your appetite?"

"Why, think, mamma!" said Wolfgang, "I and my sister have seen a messenger from the great Nepomucene, whose history papa has so often told us."

"Indeed, tell us how that happened, Master Wolfgang!" said a good-natured looking man, who just then entered, and whom the two children saluted by the name of 'good little papa!'"

"Only fancy, good little papa!" said Wolfgang; "I tell, beautiful man, with a beautiful face, who looked like a king indeed."

"And how did you know that he was a messenger from the great Nepomucene?" inquired the *maitre de chapelle*.

"Oh, he told me so!"

"And what proofs did he give you of it?"

"What proofs!—that is what we are going to see!—he will send you a coat, and a gown for mamma, and something for my sister—and a good dinner for all of us!"

M. Mozart could not help laughing at his son's simplicity.

"And do you believe all this my dear child?" he said.

"The friend of St. John Nepomucene told me so, papa."

"Ah, he was making game of you!"

"Making game of me?—why, papa?—Oh, no. If you had seen him, you would not say that; his face is so good-natured. I can tell you, too, that instead of this poor little cottage, we are to have a palace. Oh, since I have known that I do not like this little, dull room!"

As he uttered these last words, the little Mozart cast a look of disdain about him. In fact, the chamber served at once for kitchen and parlor. On one side was a capacious fire-place, with a stove-pipe suspended upon hooks within the wide chimney; and on the other, a piano, above which a violin was hung against the wall; in the middle was a table of some dark wood, and about it a few rush chairs.

"Ah, so we shall have a palace, shall we?" said M. Mozart, good-humoredly.

"Yes, papa; a palace and plenty of servants to wait on us. But what are you doing mamma?" said the child to Madame Mozart, who was beginning her preparations for dinner.

"Why, you see, while you are waiting for the servants, I am getting the dinner ready!"

"The dinner, the dinner! when I tell you they will send us some ready cooked, all ready cooked!"

The father and mother began to laugh, when they heard a knock at the door.

It was a covered cart, out of which came a cook, his assistant, and all the accessories of a first-rate dinner.

"We come from the person whom Master Wolfgang Mozart met at the entrance of the forest," said the cook, as he entered. Then he placed upon the table, as his assistant brought them out of the cart, various dishes ready dressed, some bottles of wine, and all the materials of an excellent dinner.

"Can you not inform me, my good friend, who was the person who sends you?" said M. Mozart to the cook.

"I cannot satisfy you, sir," said the man respectfully.

The *maitre de chapelle* insisted.

"Well, then, sir, your son knows who sent me," said the cook.

"Yes," cried Wolfgang, "and Frederica knows him, too; it was the messenger and friend of the great St. John Nepomucene!"

"For heaven's sake explain this mystery," said M. Mozart to the cook.

"Sir," replied the man, "I can tell you nothing, except that the dinner is paid for—you eat it without hesitation. If you wish to know more, let your son place himself at the piano, and improvise a sonata, then the person will appear. I do not ask me any more questions for I must not answer them."

The dinner being served, the cook, retired with his assistant, mounted his cart, and drove away.

Little Wolfgang was the first to break silence after the departure of the cook.

"Well," he said, "did not I tell you?"

"Ah brother!" said Frederica, "I thought that the strange gentleman was making sport of us, but now I see myself that it was not so."

"My dear children," said Master Mozart,

let us sit down to the table. The generous man who has sent us this dinner is, doubtless, a good friend who has been sent to us, even though he may not be the messenger of St. John Nepomucene. Let us drink his health—his name is unknown to us, but the remembrance of him will always remain in our hearts!"

You may suppose how merry they were over the repast; the family of Mozart never dined so splendidly. As to the children, they had never seen such a feast; and they were still in the midst of their joy, when the clock of a neighboring convent struck two. Wolfgang bounded from his chair.

"Where are you going?" inquired his mother.

"To compose a sonata, to make the gentleman appear, who gave us the dinner."

Then he placed a little stool, upon which he stood before the piano, for he was so little that his elbows did not reach the keys.

At first he ran up the scales, with an energy and precision extraordinary in a child so young and feeble; then he passed to the modulation of chords, and finally improvised a theme so sweet, so soft, that the *maitre de chapelle* and his wife remained dumb with surprise. Then, as he abandoned himself to the exuberance of his infantile imagination his fingers flew over the keys; touched with the hand of a master, they would now utter their full sound; then gently pressed, caressed as it were, they would give forth tones so expressive, that tears stood in the eyes of Mozart and his wife.

Softened, moved beyond expression by the melting sounds which Wolfgang drew from his instrument, they all forgot not only the dinner, but the promised visit of the stranger.

"Come hither that I may embrace you, Master Wolfgang Mozart!" cried the *maitre de chapelle*, with the enthusiasm of a father and an artist; "with the help of God, our Lady, and the great St. John Nepomucene, then will be one day a great performer, a great composer, a great man! But who will push them forward in the world, poor unknown child; who will rescue thee from the obscurity in which thou art plunged by my poverty? Who will protect thee?"

"I will!" exclaimed a voice from within. It was that of the stranger. On beholding him, Wolfgang ran and took hold of his hand.

"See!" he exclaimed, "there is the friend of the great Nepomucene!"

Scarcely, however, had the *maitre de chapelle* set his eyes on the stranger, than rising with an aspect of deep respect, he bowed profoundly, as he said,

"His Majesty the Emperor of Austria."

Some days after this adventure, Madame Mozart was shedding tears while she prepared for the departure of her husband and son.

"We are going to the court of the Empress Maria Theresa, that queen so great so wise, and so virtuous; we are going there at the invitation of her august husband himself, Francis the First."

"At six years old, to begin a life of labor," said the poor mother, stifling her sighs.

"But I shall work for you, dear mamma, and that will be a life of pleasure," replied Wolfgang, throwing himself on his mother's neck.

An hour afterwards, the *maitre de chapelle* and his son were on their way to Vienna. On their arrival they were informed that the Emperor would receive them the next day. At the same time, orders were given for the arrangement of a concert, to which all the lords and ladies of the court were invited, to hear the wonderful child.

The next day the elder Mozart went out to visit his friends, and on his return he found his son cowering about the chamber.

"I have said my prayers and practiced," exclaimed the boy, "and now I am resting myself."

"A pretty sort of rest," replied the father, laughing.

"Every one, papa," answered the boy, "follows his own fashion."

When the evening came, Wolfgang was conducted by his father to the imperial palace. The *maitre de chapelle* was dressed in black. His son wore a court costume; a little coat of lilac cloth, with a vest of the same color, rose colored breeches, white stockings, and shoes with buckles.

A master of ceremonies introduced them to the concert room, where nobody had yet appeared. The first thing that Wolfgang observed was a superb piano, before which he quickly stationed himself; his father went out into a balcony which overlooked the magnificent gardens of the palace. Wolfgang, alone in the vast saloon, lighted as for royal feasts, was seated before the piano, his little fingers flying with wonderful rapidity over the keys, when he heard the voice of a child near him say—

"Oh how well you play! Are you the little Mozart that they have all been talking about?"

Wolfgang turned his head, and saw beside him a little girl of about seven years old very richly dressed.

"How beautiful you are!" was the reply of the Bohemian boy.

"Oh, never mind that!" said the little girl. "But tell me, are you Wolfgang Mozart?"

"Yes, Mademoiselle."

"And who taught you to play so well on the piano?"

"My father."

"And is it not tiresome to learn? Are you not obliged to practice a great deal?"

Piedmont Air Line Railway

Richmond & Danville, Richmond & Danville R. W. N. C. E. W. and North Western N. C. E. W.

CONDENSED TIME-TABLE

In Effect on and after Sunday, June 4, 1876.

GOING NORTH.

STATIONS.	MAIL.	EXPRESS.
Leave Charlotte	5:55 AM	2:15 AM
" Air-Line Junction	6:12 "	2:40 "
" Salisbury	8:30 "	4:19 "
" Greensboro	10:58 "	6:17 "
" Danville	1:25 PM	8:54 "
" Burkeville	6:49 "	12:45 PM
Arrive at Richmond	9:36 "	3:19 "

GOING SOUTH.

STATIONS.	MAIL.	EXPRESS.
Leave Richmond	5:50 AM	1:10 PM
" Burkeville	9:00 "	3:54 "
" Danville	1:39 PM	8:05 "
" Greensboro	4:35 "	10:25 "
" Salisbury	7:01 "	12:32 AM
" Air-Line Junction	9:06 "	2:29 "
Arrive at Charlotte	9:08 "	2:42 "

GOING EAST.

STATIONS.	MAIL.	MAIL.
Leave Greensboro	10:55 AM	Arr. 4:20 PM
" Co. Shops	12:14 PM	Lv. 2:54 "
Arrive at Raleigh	3:22 "	Lv. 11:43 AM
Arrive at Goldsboro	6:00 PM	Lv. 9:15 AM

NORTH WESTERN N. C. R. R.

(SALEM BRANCH.)

STATIONS.	MAIL.	MAIL.
Leave Greensboro	4:45 AM	
Arrive at Salem	6:41 AM	
Leave Salem	8:15 "	
Arrive at Greensboro	10:33 "	

Passenger Trains leaving Raleigh at 11:43 A. M. connect at Greensboro with the Southern bound train; making the quickest time to all Southern cities. Accommodation Train leaving Raleigh at 8:00 P. M., connects with Northern bound Train at Greensboro for Richmond and all points East. Price of Tickets same as via other routes.

Accommodation Train leaving Greensboro at 6:30 A. M. connects at Goldsboro with Northern and Southern bound Trains on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

Lynchburg Accommodation leave Richmond daily at 10:25 A. M. arrive at Burkeville 1:45 P. M.; leave Burkeville 5:20 A. M. arrive at Richmond 8:30 A. M.

Express Trains will only make the following stops at Greensboro and Charlotte, viz: "Chula, Burkeville, Clover, Wolf Trap, Ringgold, Dundee, Danville, Greensboro, Thomasville, Salisbury and China Grove. Tickets will therefore, in no case be sold to passengers by this train to other than the points mentioned above.

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Time Table Western N. C. R. R.	MAIL.	EXPRESS.
Leave Richmond	8:45 AM	10:15 AM
Charlotteville	1:25 PM	2:15 PM
White Sulphur	8:50 "	9:42 "
Huntington	9:30 AM	5:16 PM
Arrive Cincinnati		6:19 AM