

CONCERT MANNERS.

Some of the Ways in Which the Thoughtless and Inconsiderate Behave.

For every one hundred music lovers, there are at least ten who may, with all their fondness for melody, be regarded as terrors to the other ninety. They are clever people in their place, but that place seems to be outside the walls of the concert room and remote from the auditorium where each eagerly drink in orchestral or other harmonies. They may possess fairish manners at home and in society, but their lack of breeding rises to the surface in a most aggressive way when the well behaved ninety wish to enjoy, undisturbed, the music they have paid to hear and have a right to enjoy. Of the ten detrimental ones, probably half will devote themselves to the most maddening form of ill manners in the concert room, and unfortunate is the music lover who occupies a chair directly in front of the ill mannered one.

The rear part of that chair is a good foot rest, but the foot which it supports does not rest. It is the pedal extremity pertaining to one of the pests of the concert room. That foot will tap, tap on the rung of that chair, keeping time with the music, a leather ball that moves the occupant to murderous thoughts, and makes any enjoyment of the concert impossible. The owner of that foot (man or woman), is sublimely unconscious of, or at least indifferent to the torture he inflicts. There is where his, or her, utter lack of good breeding is clearly manifested. If the victim is fery of temper as well as devoted to music, and determined to get the full value of his dollar, he will say something forcible, and there will be a disturbance which will spoil the pleasure of a score of people in the vicinity of the detrimental foot. If the offender is of a meek and forgiving nature he will remain silent, but his pleasure is ended and his memory of that concert will be painful.

Another form of the concert room terror is the young person who hums the air or the theme in process of playing by the orchestra or soloist. She is proud of her own attainments, musical, and regards it as her mission to let those near her know that she is quite familiar with the melody being performed, and can follow it with her unmelodious hum, rather easier than she can roll off a log. So she hums, and a sound as of a bee in an empty keg falls upon the ears of those near her. Each and all of her victims would like to box her ears, and it is a pity they cannot carry out their wishes. The hummer simply proves, not that she is a music lover, but an ill bred person, a vulgarian. The late comer and the man that trends heavily down the aisle, are each terrors of the concert room. They never think of stepping lightly, and the dread squeak of their boots is something to make men swear and women thank them for doing it.

There are the persons who whisper loudly, who rattle programmes, who do everything but give close attention to the music. The latter may be unworthy of such attention, but consideration for the feelings of others marks the true gentleman and gentlewoman, and the absence of this quality from attendants upon concerts is something that calls for reform.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

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BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

An English Start in a French Prison.

The Revolution, which ended by imprisoning several hundred Englishmen in Paris alone, began by liberating two, if not three, who had grown gray in captivity. The Earl of Massarene, with thoroughly British obstinacy, had remained a prisoner for at least nineteen years rather than yield to extortionate creditors. On the evening of his escape, he was met at the door of a young man of 33, he was deluded by a Syrian with a scheme for importing salt from Asia Minor, and signed bills to a large amount. Rutledge, however, a fellow prisoner, who describes Massarene as the senior inmate, doing the honors of the place to newcomers, dispelling their melancholy, inviting them to supper, and encouraging them to narrate their adventures by giving his own, makes him speak thus:

"Women, wine, gambling, rascally lawyers and doctors, lastly my own follies—behold what led to my being immured here; but the malicious people who have plunged me here will be out of their reckoning. Thanks to my philosophy, I am quite comfortable and hope to teach them patience." According to the "souvenir" of Nicholas Beryer, father of the Legation at Massarene had been cheated at cards, and had signed bills for the amount, spent \$4,000 a year in prison, kept open table, and had a carriage and boxes at the theatre for his mistress. He had attempted to escape, it is said, in woman's dress, but the turnkey who had taken his bribe of 200 louis betrayed him. His chief creditor was a man of considerable influence with the parliament of Paris. Resigned thenceforth to his fate, remittances from his Irish steward enabled him to live luxuriously. Sir John Lambert, a Paris banker, himself destined to imprisonment in the Reign of Terror, writing to Lord Kerry on Aug. 16, 1770, says: "My Lord Massarene's affairs are always (sic) in the same situation. You know he has miscarried in the scheme of escaping from the Fort l'Eveque, where he is still detained for want of fighting (endangering) to sell his Monaghan estates, or to borrow £15,000 or £20,000 which are necessary to extract him from his present troubles."—Edinburgh Review.

Crimine in Paris.

A species of crime which is increasing daily is that styled dramad' amour. It was Chambrige, the sorry hero of the Algerian tragedy, who set the ball rolling, and now his example is being followed by no end of disappointed lovers. Here again the cause is mainly due to the clemency of both juries and judges. The press, too, has much to answer for. Such is the condition of public morals that fashionable writers do not hesitate to treat these offenders as "martyrs to their affection." They are pitied, and, in fact, almost petted, and extenuating circumstances are voted them unanimously. Today we have another case of a young soldier running away from his regiment in the company of a concert hall beauty, and blowing out his brains after having shot her through the heart.

In this instance, however, the culprit did justice to himself, but had he only wounded himself like Chambrige, he would undoubtedly have got off with little or no punishment. Love—or what is called such—is made to cover a multitude of sins; and the vilest scamp who pretends to have lost his heart is apotheosized like a hero. Morbid sentimentality is the vogue of the moment. It is played on the stage and pictured in novels. Everybody is affected with it, and under its baneful sway the sacred ties which form the foundation of virtue and morality are being swept away. No wonder, then, the "love tragedy" has become quite a fad, and the heads of school boys and girls—not to mention adults, who ought to know better—are being turned topsy-turvy. But if the law were enforced as its makers intended it to be, a speedy improvement would unquestionably ensue.—London Globe.

One of the Seven Richest Men.

The Chinese minister is a mandarin of such high rank that he stands fifth only from the emperor, and rumor has it that he is one of the seven richest men in the world, the seven including the famous Rothschilds. His jewels are magnificent, and it is a well known fact that he was one of the heavy purchasers when the imperial regalia of France was broken up and sold. He is a man of middle height, with phenomenonally small hands and feet, piercing brown eyes, a fair skin and two dimples that make his smile doubly pleasant. His manners are exquisite, and he carries his hospitality to the point of interpreting literally the flowery phrases of his native land. He is an immense favorite in society. His taste is perfect, and the rich and harmonious toilets he wears are the envy and admiration of all colorists. He speaks very good English, and has a distinct lip, which he exercises very cleverly at times.—Boston Journal.

Flaming Fire in the Veins.

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Anthony Comstock would doubtless soon turn his attention to those who in hotel fires barely escape with their lives.

Is Consumption Incurable?

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Ella Wheeler Wilcox asserts that when one weeps, one weeps alone, but as we in fancy listen to the low, mournful wails of the disappointed officeholders along the Washington turnpike we are disposed to doubt Ella's veracity.

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Cost of Private Cars.

Many extravagant stories are in circulation as to the cost of private cars, such as are used by railroad magnates, opera singers, imported actors and millionaires, and I have often heard it stated that an average Pullman palace car is worth \$50,000. Stories are printed about cars costing all the way from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The fact of the matter is that a palace car costs \$12,000 complete. The make up of all cars, regular or special, is about the same. Additional cost is brought about by the internal decoration, and that must necessarily be limited. I doubt if there ever was a car constructed that ever cost more than \$25,000. To exceed that figure would require a decoration exclusively in jewels and the precious metals.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

One of the watch dogs at the railroad station in Portsmouth, Va., was killed by being run over. His mate went to the place where he was buried, dug him up, laid a piece of meat by his side and then went away.

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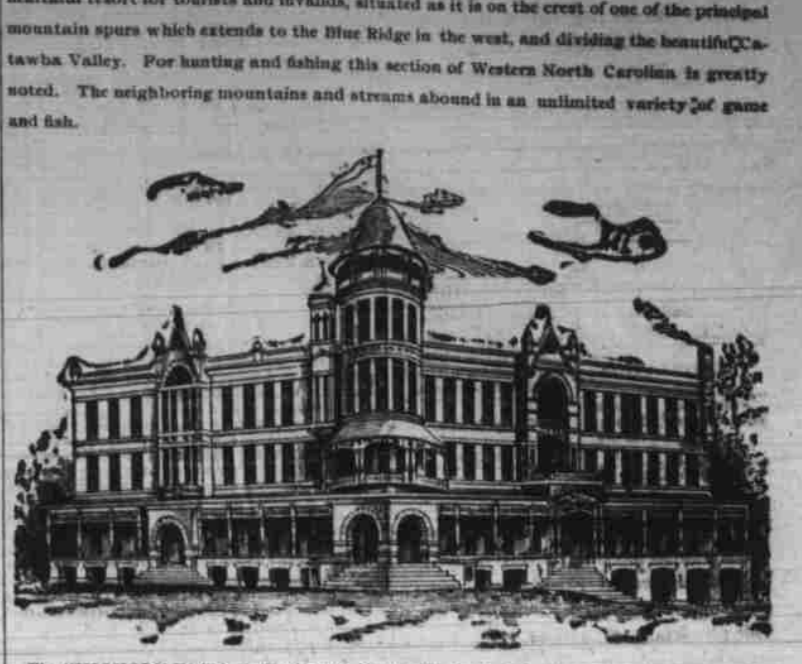
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