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A SEMI-MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC.

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It is with no small degree of satisfaction we see an effort making for the Cultivation of Music at Harvard University. The mention of the Pierian Sodality brings to mind those happy hours we have there enjoyed in Music's regalement, while an undergraduate. Our little club then took the name of *Sodality. Pickering, Abbot, Binney, Fay, Lincoln, Buckminster, Holbrook*, and others;—these were some of our musical associates, and their souls were all harmony. Their sweet and mellow serenade seems even now to strike upon our ear, as o'er old Harvard's roof "in echoing waves it flows!"

But this was a voluntary association of the students for their own amusement; it had nothing of permanency, and was but poorly encouraged. To such feeble efforts has this branch of education ever been entrusted by the respectable Government of Harvard College. And why is it so? Is it supposed to be a trifling affair, and to countenance it would not comport with the dignity of our Alma Mater? Or, can it be because it is believed that "all pleasant pursuits are idle, and that fascinations are of the devil;" and, consequently, Music ought to receive no aid or support; and, much more, ought not to have a place among the regular branches of instruction! We shall never think that the College Government really believe in the diabolism of music, so long as they keep up the practice of performing Saint Martins at the dinner table on Commencement days; and join themselves in the holy hymn with so much puritanic zeal, sanctity and reverence.

We most highly applaud the attempt to promote, and, ultimately establish a regular musical education, as developed in the following report. It is high time that the science and the literature of Music had better countenance, and that it should take a decided and respectable standing among the Classics. The following report is by the pen of a gentleman of acknowledged taste and ability; and a perusal of it will, we presume, satisfy every reader that its object is highly praiseworthy, and its plan, to effect the purpose intended, is well conceived. Its success will, no doubt meet with the good wishes of all true lovers of this divine art.

REPORT

Made at a meeting of the Honorary and Immediate Members of the Pierian Sodality, in Harvard University, Cambridge, August 30th, 1837, with a record of the meeting.

The Committee appointed at a meeting of the Pierian Sodality (and some of its Honorary members, present as guests), in July last, to carry into effect a plan of uniting the past with the present members of the Club, in an active Association for the Cultivation of Music in the College, respectfully present the following Report:

Your Committee have given the subject all the attention in their power; have conferred together almost daily upon it, and have listened to the suggestions of others (of whom they have found not a few interested); and the result has been, after weighing the matter in all its bearings, a growing conviction in their minds, that the objects contemplated are highly desirable and practicable. They accordingly felt authorized to call this meeting, and for that purpose issued the Circular, which you have all received, giving a vague sketch of the general spirit of the plan, which they now hope to lay before you in a more defined and satisfactory form. It is to save time and confusion, that they venture to propose any thing definite,—otherwise it would be presumptuous;—for it is evident, that we cannot tell *what* this Association, which we are here put in the way of forming, *will be*, until we know the minds of those here present, and what furtherance or check it may receive from circumstances as yet unforeseen. Out of the spirit of this meeting must precede all that is done. Some association must, in the nature of things, here be formed;—for there are common interests and ties enough, and enthu-

siasm enough to unite such as we, when we happen into such close neighborhood. We shall therefore only propose such reasons for an Association, and such objects, and such plans for effecting them, as will be likely to meet the general feeling to strengthen faith in it, and show where a beginning may be made. We but reflect back each one's own vague feeling and wish upon the subject in a form concisely embodied, that we may act upon it. Here is evidently a tendency towards *something*. We do not dictate what it shall be; but simply throw in the one thing needed, a nucleus for something to form around, that the thing may not remain in a state of solution for ever.

Without further preface we proceed to state *two objects*, which make such an Association desirable.

I. The first is obvious to all. Finding ourselves together *once*, with enough to remember and to sympathize about, in scenes eloquent to us, as they remind us of what we once were, and so serve to cheer and encourage amid the dust and cares of life grown more selfish than it was then,—scenes, which revive our faith in our old ideals,—we cannot but feel, that “it is good for us to be here”; and we naturally are tempted to arrange some plan by which this meeting may be renewed at suitable times. We want some annual day of refreshing, when we may feel young again, and here, if nowhere else, know that we are not alone in the world. This want is not supplied by the ordinary routine of, Commencement formalities and feasting. To most of us it is a dull day at best. Exercises, in which few can feel much interest, and other necessary matters of form, keep us crowded together and wearied; the after festivities are hurried and confused; and so little do we find of the enthusiasm we had expected, that we go away disheartened, with less faith in men than we came with, and little encouraged to come again. Class meetings are becoming rare occurrences. The interest of the thing seems fast dying out, but *we* have associations in this place of peculiar interest. We were united in a little band, each with a few of our contemporaries, by the love of an Art which always begets enthusiasm. Nothing unites men more than music. It makes brothers of strangers,—it makes the most diffident feel at home,—the most shy and suspicious it renders frank and full of trust. It overflows the rocks of separation between us; it comes up like a full tide beneath us, and opens a free intercourse of hearts. It is wholly a disinterested pursuit. The jealousies of emulation, the rancor of parties, *must* be merged in it. There are influences enough, we know, in college life, to make the young selfish, to contract the mind and destroy mutual confidence. It was our privilege to be in some degree saved from these, by an influence which we ought always to cherish and to honor, and to strive to extend over others who are yet to pass through these untried scenes. None, we trust, have grown insensible to the worth of those pure pleasures, which we enjoyed, in a truant way, indeed, but in a way which saved our hearts from much stifling, and our spirits from much taming and mechanical moulding. We need not, then, *put into* any mind the pleasant anticipation of reviving those feelings from year to year. It must be there already. We know there is much latent feeling around us on this subject. If need be that it come forth, it will come,—if there be any to be convinced, they *will be* convinced; for we are sure that other earnest voices will second us in this.

We propose, then, to form an Association, which shall meet here *annually*, on commencement day; if for nothing more, at least to exchange salutations, and revive recollections, and feel the common bond of music and old scenes. Though we should purpose nothing by it, something would necessarily grow out of such a loosening of the soil. Here let us have prepared for us a quiet retreat from the dust and weariness of the day, whither we may resort as we fall in with each other, and where we may at any time be sure of finding good society and good cheer; perchance wake some of the old strains again.

II. But the ultimate object proposed is, the *advancement* of the *cause of Music*, particularly in this University. We would have it regarded as an important object of attention within its walls, as something which sooner or later must hold its place in every liberal system of education, and that

place not an accidental or a stolen one, but one formally recognized. We that love music feel that it is worthy of its Professorship, as well as to any other science. This Muse is entitled to *her* representative in every temple of science; *her* genial presence should be felt in every nursery of young minds. Believing as we do, that the love of music is essential to the full health and glow of the intellectual and moral system of man; that it is just the kind of influence which promises to check the vicious tendencies most peculiar to our state of society; that it disposes men to blend, while all the other influences to which we are subject,—emulation so sedulously infused in the infant school and sanctioned in the college,—the selfish, reckless, political ambition thereupon naturally consequent as fruit upon flower,—the devotion to gain, the soul-contracting suspiciousness and prudence of the Yankee character,—all tend to disunion and restlessness; believing too, that this, of all the Arts of the Beautiful, is the most accessible to the most of men, and that the cultivation of it may most easily precede that of the others, and prepare the way for them, we cannot but desire to obtain for it the sanction of our honored Alma Mater. We would see it professed, not by the killers of time only, and those who scrape a fiddle for bread, but by the serious promoters of the best interests of the young. It should not only be tolerated, but earnestly wooed, as the twin sister of Poetry. It should be looked upon, not as an amusement, but as a serious pursuit; not as a thing to divert the listless mind, but to expand it, nourish it, inspire it, and give it utterance. We would have its written productions, its master-compositions regarded as *Literature*, and hold a place in the archives of recorded thought and wisdom and inspired genius; *books*, only in another shape, which have helped to form man, as much as history, or metaphysics, or poetry, or numbers. We would have the statues of Handel and of Beethoven stand beside those of Homer, and Plato, and Newton, and Shakspeare, each a presiding Genius over a flourishing department in the *Republic* of letters, where all *should* be equal. A Sonata should be worth as much as an Oration, a Hymn or a Sacred Voluntary as a Sermon or a Prayer. We must annul that old article, which has ruled so long in colleges and schools and churches, that all *pleasant* pursuits are *idle*, and that all fascinations are of the devil; and admit that there is room for conscience in the midst of pleasure. We must be willing to trust Nature, and recognize Morality in her careless summer garb. Duty and Pleasure are not natural foes. The artist, who pursues only beauty all his life, has occasion enough for self-denial, can be religious in so doing. This we would have recognized by the instructors of youth, and especially in those seminaries of learning which give a tone to all lower institutions, and, before all, in that one of them which most we love, our venerated Harvard. And who so fit to commence the work, as those who have the idea, and know its worth? Who so fit to call attention to this subject, to hold up the beautiful ideal, at least, and try to realize it, as the Pierian Sodality? If all whom this little Society has interested from time to time,* could be interested now, at once, what light and what warmth might they not diffuse upon the subject! A large association of *educated men* for the cultivation of music would be a new thing in our country. It would supply a want which all the Academies of Music and Oratorio Societies, useful as they are, have failed to supply. It would bring refinement to the aid of mechanical skill, and inspire the drudging artist to work with his soul as well as with his fingers. It would give music a higher rank in public estimation, till those who have taste and respectability should no longer feel degraded by singing in our churches. It would call forth a novel and interesting course of *musical literature*. The philosophy of musical effect, and its foundation in nature, the history of music in the world, the true principles of musical criticism, and the application of them to works of genius, would begin to be investigated and exposed. And where have we now a Musical Professor, who is competent at all to conduct one into this higher department of the Art? It never will be done, till colleges take it up, or at least bodies of educated men.

Such is the general object proposed:—to promote musical education *in some way*, as opportunity shall offer;—to bring a number of minds to think and feel together about it, and to be gradually

* The Sodality numbers upon its Catalogue about one hundred and twenty-five now living, who have been members since its foundation, in 1808.

accumulating the power and watching the opportunity to *do* something about it. This general object, as we look upon it nearer, resolves itself into *three* more particular objects.

(To be continued in next number [i.e., no. 6, July 11, 1838].)

REPORT

MADE AT A MEETING OF THE PIERIAN SODALITY,

[Concluded.]

1. We may aim to raise the standard of musical taste in the college, by giving encouragement, respectability, and seriousness to the club which cultivates it there. We may add dignity to the pursuit in their minds, take from it that truant consciousness with which it is often indulged in as a mere amusement, in the same spirit as a bonfire or a riot, and make music seem a worthy object if pursued worthily. Students should see that this is not a despised employment among the respected, and influential, and enlightened. So will they come to honor it themselves, and then it will be a noble employment.

2. We may aim to have regular musical instruction introduced in the college, by doing what we can to make its importance felt by the government and by gradually furnishing, or opening the way to the requisite means. The importance of this, and of preparing the way as fast as possible for a professor of Music, to be on the same footing with the other Professors, who should lecture on the higher departments of musical taste, and help to form in the young a true sense of the art, and preside over courses of practical instruction in vocal and instrumental music, has been hinted at before. In the course of time, academic concerts in a pure style might be given, by way of illustration, which should keep the lasting models of musical genius before, the mind's eye of the young artist, or cultivator of a taste for Art. Why should the difficulty of realizing, or of *soon* realizing, such a result, deter us from the hope and the resolution' to bring it about, when it must sooner or later follow as a matter of course upon the rapid diffusion of musical taste throughout society, when singing has come to be taught among the first elements of knowledge in many schools,* and when every step we take in any way to advance music must bring it constantly nearer? The prejudice is strong, no doubt, on the part of many instructors and parents, against indulging a love of music in young students. They think it a fascinating pleasure, which unsettles the mind and detracts from sensuous pursuits. The love of music is generally a passion, they say; it grows rapidly and exhausts the soil, if tolerated in the nursery of young minds, where should be planted the seeds of knowledge, sobriety, and self-control. If such be the fact, the fault rests with those who reject the claims of music. They neglect this inborn propensity of the young, and suffer it to grow wild, like a rank weed. Train it, and it shall be an ornament to your garden.

3. We may collect a Library of Music, and works relating to it. This should in the course of time contain the complete works of all the great composers; so that Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, &c. should be always within our reach. It should, moreover, contain all histories of music, all treatises on its physical science and its literature, and all descriptions and criticisms of music. All standard music, too, for different combinations of instruments, what may be called *the classics* of each instrument, should here be found. This may be commenced immediately, by voluntary donations; indeed some slight beginnings have been already made in the immediate club. Every accession to the catalogue, however promiscuous or incomplete at first, will stimulate zeal to perfect it. Thus would be formed, what does not now exist in the country, what would be the pride of the college and the country, a complete Library of a hitherto neglected department of Literature. It would benefit the whole vicinity as well as ourselves.

* The School Committee of the City of Boston have just issued a Report, recommending the introduction of vocal music into all the public schools, and the experiment is to be made.

Such are the objects proposed. If they are as desirable as they have been represented, then certainly they *are practicable*. For, from what class of men can we expect so much enthusiasm, as from the lovers of music, surrounded by the associations of their boyhood? This alone, if we rightly estimate it, is enough. For enthusiasm, when directed to a real object, always finds counsel and means. That we do not overrate the interest felt by the past members of the club, we have in the answers to the circular of the committee a satisfactory assurance. The proposal has been met with a warmth which your committee did not expect. Many have not only expressed a willingness to cooperate, but have actually begun, by looking into the thing and offering valuable suggestions for carrying it on. Many have shown themselves ready to contribute liberally, not only now, but steadily, hereafter, towards Funds. And the idea has been gradually taking shape in the minds of a respectable number at least, who will carry it on themselves, in their own humble way, satisfied that much will spring from small beginnings, even if all do not enter into the plan with them.

To make it seem yet more practicable, your Committee suggest the following *Plan of Operations*, for many features in which, they are indebted to hints from various individuals.

Plans for effecting the above objects.

1. We shall seem to be walking upon firmer ground, if we know that pecuniary means can be obtained. Let a Fund be raised, by voluntary subscription from year to year, which shall go towards all the objects contemplated, in such ways and in such proportions as the Society shall from time to time determine. This should be managed upon the most liberal principles; all forcing should be most carefully avoided. No one should be *required* to do *anything* in this way; and no one should be expected to do more, than his means, his zeal, and his judgment on the subject warrant him. A true fellow-feeling of mutual trust, which asks no questions, and utters no suspicions, should be cherished; so that every offering may be a free-will offering in the fullest sense. Let subscription paper be provided, and let members promise to pay any sum that suits them, either now or annually, for any stated period, or for a period closing at will. Your Committee are encouraged to offer this plan, because they have already given it the surest test, by actually circulating such a paper, during the past week, among a few members in the vicinity. Twelve names were very soon obtained, the amount of whose subscriptions for the present year is \$80.00, most of this to be repeated annually for terms of five and ten years. These subscriptions should be regarded as due on Commencement day of each year. For the present, the contingent expenses of the meetings may be drawn from the sum collected in this way. In another year, the interest alone may suffice for that, and the Fund may be accumulating for the further objects in view. These payments should be made to a Treasurer, to be appointed immediately, even before any further organization of the Society. He should invest the money in his own name in some safe institution, where it may yield an annual income; and he should render an annual account of the funds in his charge, at the meetings.

2. This foundation laid, we may immediately proceed to form and organize the proposed Association, so far as it can be done now. The necessary step will be, to pass a Resolution, to meet annually on Commencement day, in Cambridge. This will, be a sufficient Formula of association.

3. Our next step should be, to provide for its future organization, by choosing a Committee to draft and report a Constitution at the next annual meeting,—adjourning the present meeting until that time. For the present it will be necessary to appoint a Treasurer, a Recording and a Corresponding Secretary, as well as to make some regulation respecting Honorary membership, of which hereafter.

4. The next thing to be secured is an arrangement for future meetings. Under this head, two considerations occur, (1) as to the place of meeting,—(2) as to the expense.

Let the expenses of meeting be defrayed from the Funds above mentioned, using a portion of the capital for that purpose, until the income alone shall be sufficient. Let all the necessary arrange-

ments be made by a Committee of *three* members, together with the Treasurer, who shall notify members of the place and hour of meeting. With regard to the amount to be appropriated in this way, this Committee should be guided by the treasurer's advice for the present, until some constitutional provision can be made.

As to the *place* of meeting, it may seem necessary and practicable in the course of time for the Sodality to have a convenient hall of its own, large enough for its public meetings. Here the Library might be kept, and here too all needed musical facilities. We would suggest that this subject be referred to a Committee, who shall report upon it at the next annual meeting.

5. Let there next be chosen a Standing Committee on the subject of the Library, to report next year, and annually thereafter, on the best method of collecting and conducting it, and on the actual progress and prospects of the work.

6. Next a standing Committee on the subject of musical instruction in the College, to consider how far this is practicable, and report annually.

7. It is by some thought advisable to add to the interest of future meetings by academic Concerts of Music, to be held in the presence of the Sodality and their invited friends, at some convenient time after Commencement;—the performers on that occasion to be members of the Sodality. This too we would suggest, and the appointment of a Committee to make the necessary arrangements in procuring gentlemen to take parts, and fixing an order of performances. Another method for effecting this has been mentioned to your Committee. Let our annual day of meeting be a sort of *musical exchange*, where individuals may confer together, and organize themselves into little parties to practice during the year various kinds of music; some to play Quartettes and Trios, some to sing Glees, others to cultivate Sacred Music, &c—and, at the annual meeting, let each of these branches bring its offering to furnish forth a musical feast, under the direction of a Committee as above.

8. Some principle must then be fixed upon respecting the future election of Honorary Members. As the proposed Association is to be entirely of an Academic character, it would seem proper that no person should be eligible, who is not a graduate of some College, as well as capable of appreciating that which unites us, and of a character which will add respectability to our union. They might be nominated somewhat in this manner. Let a list for the purpose be hung up in some conspicuous place in the Society's room, where any member wishing to propose a candidate may write his name, and beside it his *own* name, that it may be known whom to refer to for information respecting said candidate. A limited number might then be balloted for at each meeting, and informed of their election, should it take place, by the Corresponding Secretary. It seems desirable, also, to unite in the undertaking such of the Professors and Officers of the College, as would be interested in our object, that there may always be a friendly understanding between us and the Government of the College, and that nothing of our proceedings may seem to be concealed. Accordingly, it is hoped that several gentlemen of that number will be nominated for Honorary Members.

Your Committee are conscious, that this is but an imperfect sketch of what is to be done. Many more things will doubtless suggest themselves, in the course of the remarks of others, with which they trust the meeting will be freely favored. In closing this Report, they would offer a few resolutions;—as few and as general as possible. The *three* following, it is believed, will lay open the whole ground for discussion.

1. RESOLVED, That we, the past, present, and Honorary members of the Pierian Sodality here present, do hereby form ourselves into an Association, to meet annually in Cambridge, on Commencement day, for the purpose of enjoying each other's society, and of devising and executing plans for the promotion of musical taste and, science in the University.

2. RESOLVED, That we consider Music worthy of a place in every system of education, and particularly in our University; and that a committee of *three* be chosen to report at the next annual

meeting upon the expediency and best means of trying to introduce it there as a regular branch of instruction.

3. RESOLVED, That the plan of collecting a complete Musical Library merits our attention; and that a Committee of *three* be chosen to report at the next annual meeting upon the whole subject.

Respectfully submitted,

[The Committee:]

E. S. DIXWELL,
J. S. DWIGHT,
HENRY GASSETT, Ja.
C. C. HOLMES,
J. F. TUCKERMAN,
W. T. DAVIS,

Harvard University, Cambridge, August 30th, 1837.

A general meeting of the Honorary and Immediate Members of the Pierian Sodality was held on Commencement day, August 30th, 1837, at 4 P. M., in No. 6, University Hall. The meeting was called by a circular letter, issued by a committee appointed at a meeting of the Sodality in July last.

The meeting was organized by the choice of the Rev. J. M. Wainwright, D. D., as chairman. Mr. Henry S. McKean was appointed Secretary.

Mr. Dwight from the Committee above mentioned (consisting of Messrs. E. S. Dixwell, J. S. Dwight, Henry Gassett, Jr., C. C. Holmes, J. F. Tuekerman, and W. T. Davis,) read a report upon the subject of the formation of a permanent association of the past and present members of the Sodality.

The report was accepted, and an order of proceeding for the present meeting proposed by the Committee, was adopted.

The first resolution (see the resolutions appended to the foregoing report) was read, discussed, and adopted.

Mr. Henry Gassett, Jr., was appointed Treasurer of the Association.

Voted, That Messrs. H. S. McKean, E. S. Dixwell, H. Gassett, Jr., H. W. Pickering, and J. S. Dwight, be a committee to draft a Constitution and By-laws for the government of this Association, and to report the same at the next annual meeting.

Voted, That Messrs. A. Bigelow, Rev. H. Ware, Jr., and H. J. Bigelow, of the graduate members, and A. H. Whitney and J. H. Adams, of the immediate members, be a committee to report at the next annual meeting, on the subject of providing a permanent place of meeting for the Sodality.

The second resolution was considered and adopted, and Messrs. Rev. H. Ware, Jr., G. B. Emerson, and Rev. J. M. Wainwright, were appointed a committee in conformity with said resolution.

The third resolution was considered and adopted, and Messrs. Rev. J. M. Wainwright, H. Gassett, Jr., and H. W. Pickering, were appointed a committee upon the subject embraced in said resolution.

Mr. Henry S. McKean was appointed Recording Secretary, and Mr. Henry W. Pickering, Corresponding Secretary of the Association.

The subject of an annual Concert was discussed, and referred to the next annual meeting.

Voted, That the arrangements for the next general meeting be referred to the immediate Club, in connexion with, and subject to, the approval of the Treasurer.

Mr. H. W. Pickering, from a committee, of the Sociality appointed to procure a medal, as an appropriate badge of the Club, read, for the information of the meeting, a report upon the subject, stating that the committee had selected a design, and caused a medal* to be struck.

Voted, That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the Rev. Dr. Wainwright, for his urbanity in the discharge of the duties of the chair.

Voted, On motion of Mr. G. B. Emerson, that the thanks of the meeting be presented to the members of the Committee by which it was called together, for the very distinct, accurate, and satisfactory manner, in which they have prepared and presented the business of the meeting.

Voted, On motion of the same gentleman, that the report of the said Committee be printed, at the expense of the Association, a copy of the same sent to every past and present member of the Pierian Sodality. *Also*, That a succinct statement of the proceedings of this meeting be appended.

The meeting was then adjourned.

HENRY S. McKean, *Secretary*.

* The obverse of the medal, for the chaste elegance of which great credit is due to the committee, presents a lyre, correctly antique in form, surrounded by a wreath of grape vine, with the motto, "Sit musa lyræ solers." The reverse bears the words, "Pierian Sodality, 1808."