

The Violin

By M. P. WILLCOCKS

Back in the little salon, with its polished table and plaque-adorned walls, Marie Labarthe flung her hands and let them fall hopelessly at her sides. She hated the trimness of the flat, the furniture of which he had so proudly chosen two years ago. Yet across the tiny hall, under a red duvet, lay baby Maurice, taking his morning nap with forefinger tucked in his mouth. What did that matter when at the far corner of the salon lay the cause of the trouble—the violin, so tenderly packed in its case?

Marie was a housebound woman; but in her rage she crossed the room with the step of a prairie wolf, and, unclasping the case, flung it open. It was the work of a moment to snatch up a penknife and hack the strings of the hated thing that had taken her place in her husband's thoughts. Night after night he came back from his office to this, instead of to her. There were no Sunday trips now; no flowers, no boxes of chocolate, no love a la Menier, as he used to call it.

Half an hour later the front door closed on an elegant woman in black and orange, with a veil tied as they tie them across the channel—to ravish hearts. The lady carried a violin case, and walked fiercely, like a grand dame in a passion. Pictures



"The Violin Is Nothing."

of the future came where the dismal pictures of the past had been. She would go back to the life she had left for a husband—to her painting, to her student friends. For Jacques and Maurice she had toiled and slaved. Now she was free—and, hatched and mutilated, down the Seine would go the fiddle.

Artist as she was, she instinctively sought rest in the garnered beauty of the past; for in picture galleries one could rest and get courage—for the night's work. In the Louvre she stood before the most wonderful thing in the world, the Monna Lisa of da Vinci—the picture that suggests every secret of a woman, yet tells none.

It says everything that a woman's eyes ever said, or will say," cried a fat Frenchwoman at Marie's elbow.

"Not everything," said Mme. Labarthe to herself. "There is surely something wanting—something that even Monna Lisa did not understand. I don't know what it is, but I'm sure of it."

From this mystery of woman she passed to the two other glories of the Louvre—The Winged Victory of the Samothrace, with its supreme expression of power, and the Botticelli frescoes, with their ultimate expression of the youth of the world. But they brought no comfort; only pain. So far above the fret of common life, above the loneliness, above the aching pain for something unknown were they all.

Cold and shivering at last, she walked between the trees of the Luxembourg gardens, where the fauns peeped at her from their pedestals. They, like the Monna Lisa, could mock and torture, heartless in the perfection of their strength. In the warm rooms of the Luxembourg she sank with a half sob on a cushioned seat. She had taken nothing but a little soup all day; and physical fatigue was racking her. Jacques would soon be coming back to the

flat now—to the child, to the warmth of the cosy stove, to the scent of coffee. He would miss it; her lips curled under her veil as her hand clasped and unclasped above the violin case. He would care for the loss of that. Then her eye caught the great modern incarnation of passion, the Baiser of Rodin. She understood; but it seemed merely like a horrible chasm that opened before her feet, and she rose to leave this last shelter.

Opposite to her, as she raised her eyes was a bronze group—a man and a woman. Of no large, lovely life, these two, far removed from human pain, but ill-clad, ill-fed, bowed with toil and grief, they still clung to one another in the sorrow of a common loss borne together. As she gazed they seemed to breathe. And Marie understood; for even the babe at the breast of the bronze figure could not make the mother forget the other child she had lost.

"That was what the Monna Lisa did not know," said Marie. "Love and loss and motherhood."

It was Le Peuple le Peuple, the most wonderful modern statue of the pity of the sorrowful earth. As Mme. Labarthe seemed to see the child move its tiny hand a panic descended on her. For baby Maurice had been alone without her all the long hours of this miserable day.

It was quite dark in the hall, and from the salon came the sound of a child's sobs and a man's voice, soothing the babe ineffectually. She pushed open the door, and her husband turned from the red glow of the stove with Maurice in his arms.

"Give him to me," she cried, pushing up her veil and holding out her arms. To the cool freshness of the outdoor air on her face the child held up his hot lips, and, cuddling his feet in her hands, she comforted him. Nothing hurt now, not even the mutilated violin. She nodded curtly toward the case and said: "Open it and look; I did that. And I'm not sorry. You starved me. You cared for nothing but it. I was an artist once; and that's why I understood how it had taken my place with you. I hated it."

"Why did you come back?" "To get Maurice," she said. "He cried for me. He is quiet now. He wants me." She was blindly making her way to the door.

"So do I," said her husband quietly. "The violin is nothing—let it go." He pushed it till it fell with a thud from the table.

She darted forward as though to lift it. "Ah Jacques, you have hurt it more than I did. For the strings could be repaired."

"So you do care," said he. "I thought you despised me, for I was not brilliant. I could not talk. But I had one talent, and I worked to make you think something of me. Look—" He threw open his desk. It was full of manuscript music. "I tried to compose—for you. But I wanted you—always."

"Jacques!" she cried. Maurice snuggled cozily in his sleep. And an hour later, fed, warmed and infinitely content, madam sat making a silk case for the music. But the fiddle has two big dents on its polished surface today; for madam was very human—and not at all great.

Do It Now

Now is the time to get rid of your rheumatism. You can do so by applying Chamberlain's Liniment. Nine cases out of ten are simply muscular rheumatism due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism, and yield to the vigorous application of this liniment. Test it. You are certain to be delighted with the quick relief which it affords. Sold by all druggists.

Byron Short of Peirce City visited in Monett Wednesday evening.

Rheumatism

More than nine out of every ten cases of rheumatism are simply rheumatism of the muscles, due to cold or damp, or chronic rheumatism. In such cases no internal treatment is required. The free application of

Chamberlain's Liniment

is all that is needed and it is certain to give quick relief. Give it a trial and see for yourself how quickly it relieves the pain and soreness. Price 25c; large size, 50c.

A GOOD MEETING

On Wednesday evening the Odd Fellows met for the purpose of initiating candidates and having a general good time.

Four candidates, W. S. Brown, Ward Hall, Roy Hall and W. A. Payne received the initiatory degree. The work was done by the Wentworth team and their work was nicely given.

At the close of the business the Rebekahs served a nice lunch and the evening was spent in sociability until a late hour. About 150 persons were present and all enjoyed the evening very much. Peirce City, Wentworth, Sarcoxie, Verona and Purdy lodges were represented.

TRAVEL MADE SAFE

FEW ACCIDENTS ON RAILROADS OF UNITED KINGDOM.

Remarkable Work in Doing Away with Casualties That Would Seem to Be Almost Unavoidable in This Country.

The following report concerning railroad accidents in the United Kingdom is furnished by Consul Joseph G. Stephens of Plymouth:

"Serious railroad accidents are of rare occurrence in the United Kingdom, and when they do happen such genuine and thorough official inquiries are held as are best likely to prevent their repetition from the same causes. During the 30 years ended in 1906 only one passenger was killed on the railroads of the United Kingdom in every 40,300,000 journeys, while one was injured in every 2,300,000. In 1907 the figures were one killed in every 70,000,000, and one injured in every 2,300,000.

"Other interesting statistics with regard to the risks of railroad travel are given in the report of the railroad department of the board of trade. The total number of passengers and railroad employees killed last year was 1,117 and the number injured 8,811, while in the ten previous years there was an average of 1,169 killed and 7,735 injured. The increase among the injured was mainly among railroad employees. The average number of fatalities to passengers during the 30 years previous to 1907 was nearly 22. These and other figures quoted for the period take no account of the journeys of season ticket holders, and therefore they slightly exaggerate the actual risk, as this class of passengers has materially increased in recent years. The number of passengers killed in train accidents last year was 48, of whom 11 were accounted for in the one disaster at Shrewsbury, while 13 railroad employees were killed and 258 injured.

"Casualties to passengers during the movement of trains apart from railroad accidents, are of course much more numerous, a fact due largely to the carelessness of the passengers themselves. The number injured last year in this manner was 2,132 and the number killed 102, the average for the previous ten years being 1,702 injured and 121 killed. The apparently large increase in the number of non-fatal accidents to railroad employees apart from train accidents, is to be accounted for by a new order of the board of trade which now requires information of such casualties whenever they are of a character to cause the injured person to remain away from his ordinary work for a whole day. Moreover, between 1904 and 1907 the number of railroad employees has increased by about 40,000. The actual killed last year was 441 and injured 5,577, while the average in the previous ten years was 452 killed and 3,972 injured.

"The value of automatic couplings is proved by the fact that of the 18 railroad employees killed and of the 75 injured, in coupling accidents, only one was killed and one injured in a case in which the cars had automatic couplings.

"The nature of the accidents in which the 102 passengers were killed, apart from train accidents, was as follows: Six fell on the track or station platform and 27 between the train and platform in entering or leaving. Twelve were killed by being struck or run over after falling off platforms, ten met their death through crossing the tracks at stations, 31 fell out of carriages while the trains were running, and almost entirely to the way in which English passenger coaches are built, and 16 were killed in other accidents. Fifty persons were killed last year and 30 injured while passing over level crossings, although these are all carefully watched and guarded by employees of the company. The number of trespassers killed was 447, including suicides, and 133 were injured.

"When it is remembered that there are 23,101 miles of railroads in the United Kingdom, and that the total track mileage of single lines is 39,008—without sidings and 53,156 with sidings, and that the passenger traffic is enormous, it is to be seen that the dangers arising from railroad traveling in the United Kingdom are indeed slight."

WELCOME!



Walter Woodruff went to Verona on business.

Mrs. J. S. Liebenwood is visiting in Kansas City.

Miss Georgia McQuary is visiting friends in Peirce City.

A few early strawberries are being picked this week.

Mrs. T. L. Collocatt visited in Springfield this week.

Dr. Lillian Davis of Aurora, visited Monett friends Monday.

Mrs. Adair of Aurora, was in town this week.

Earl Wainwright has purchased a fine buggy.

J. R. Andrews went to Purdy on business Tuesday.

Mrs. M. C. Goodwin has returned from a visit at Pittsburg, Kan.

Rex Leckie went to Peirce City Monday night.

Walter Woodruff went to Wentworth Monday.

Allen Wicks, of Peirce City, was in Monett Monday evening.

Mrs. Louis Pratt went to Aurora Tuesday.

Samuel Gulick is about the same today.

Rev. Fr. Prendergast went to Peirce City Monday evening.

Miss Rosa Cunningham went to Peirce City Saturday.

Bert Coatney of Springfield is visiting his brother Jas. Coatney and family.

Earl Griffin of Springfield visited in the city Tuesday on his way to Neosho.

Victor Bennett and Arthur Short, of Peirce City, visited friends in Monett Wednesday evening.

Miss Amanda Butler of Ft. Smith Ark., is visiting relatives in this city.

Chas. King and family and A. King of near Purdy traded in Monett Monday.

L. C. Morgan, formerly of Monett, now living in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is in the city this week.

Rev. Blunt, of the Christian Church is the first in Monett to announce "Mother's Day."

Rev. R. W. Blunt is attending the Christian Church Convention at Neosho this week.

Mrs. Gib Withers and Mrs. Loren Withers of Stones Prairie were trading in Monett Tuesday.

Miss Hattie Hillhouse departed for Texico, N. M. Tuesday morning.

Engineer J. E. Harvey has returned to work after several week's lay-off on account of illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Campbell, from West of Purdy, were in Monett on business Tuesday.

Prof. Just, Frank Nebel and Geo. Jackson, of Marshfield, went to Ritchey on a fishing trip Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Draper left Tuesday for Joplin to make their home.

Miss Fyan has returned to her home at Marshfield, after a visit with Mrs. H. E. Blaine.

A disastrous fire visited Bocoche, Okla. Saturday night, burning eighteen stores.

Licenses to Wed.

C. A. Keeling, Cassville. Dove Ash, Cassville.

Joseph C. Hinds, Monett. Pauline Zennebul, Monett.

The Loneliest Newspaper.

The loneliest newspaper in America has been found. It is the Red Bird Mountain Journal, published at the town of Red Bird, Arkansas. This town is 35 miles from the nearest railroad station, five miles from the nearest post office, and two miles from the nearest cabin. The "town" consists of one log house, one log stable, and one log newspaper office. It is situated in the middle of a two-acre clearing, surrounded by primeval forests. The loneliness of the Red Bird Journal is equal to the fitness of the name of a West Virginia paper. It is called the Breeze and is published in Hurricane. One of its subscribers is a man named Buzzard.

Mr. Green, father of Mrs. M. J. Hall, of this city, died at Aurora Tuesday.

Miss Lola Snider went to Coffeyville, Kas., Thursday to visit her grandmother, Mrs. Periman and aunt, Miss Amanda.

Engineer F. D. Davis will move in a short time to Springfield. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are excellent citizens and we are sorry to lose them.

Edgar Bear, Mart Randolph, Morett Myer, Misses May Randolph Maude Hall and Sarah Watson went to McDowell Sunday.

Mesdames S. R. Andrews, W. E. Marion, Barclay and W. S. Blannerhasset went to Neosho Tuesday to attend the Christian Church Convention.

The contesting class of the W. C. T. U. will give their entertainment at the Waldensian church this evening.

Mrs. C. S. Simmons, of Oklahoma City, who had been visiting her sister, Mrs. J. E. Jones, went to Sterling, Kas., Tuesday morning.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of the Presbyterian church will hold a social at the home of Miss Wilma Saxe, on Frisco avenue, Friday night.

Mrs. L. Koons returned to her home at Ft. Smith Thursday after a visit with her sister, Mrs. Alice Gerhardt.

The state board of examiners for barbers will hold their annual examination in Springfield, Wednesday and Thursday, May 13 and 14.

The farmers report that there will be considerable apples and peaches this year in parts of Barry county notwithstanding the unfavorable season. South of town they report that many of the cherry trees are dying from some kind of disease.

In the Monday DAILY TIMES a mistake was made in the name of the baby receiving the second prize in Class C. Mattie Rebekah Brite was the winner. We also omitted the name of William Carson Wainwright who was awarded a picture by Otterman & Son for being the handsomest boy under three years of age.

STONES PRAIRIE

Still we have plenty of high wind. The sun is rather hot but the wind blows a gale.

Our farmers are all busy plowing or harrowing corn or doing other farm work, while the ladies are busy with their chickens and gardens and housecleaning, so items are rather scarce in this vicinity.

Mrs. Martha Higgins has been on the sick list again, this week being very poorly the first of the week but is some better now we are glad to hear.

Mrs. Nan Holmes was reported on the sick list this week but is getting better at this writing we are glad to say.

Saunders Haddock and Johnnie Banks went fishing down about Jolly Wednesday.

Mrs. Lou Holmes visited her mother-in-law, Mrs. Nan Holmes, Tuesday and assisted her in soap making.

Mrs. Hattie Haddock and children visited her mother, Mrs. Redmond Worthington, Tuesday and her aunt Mrs. Rachel Banks Wednesday of this week.

What looks pretty good in this vicinity to be off a piece from it and look over it but when you go over it you find it pretty thin and spotted and upon close inspection you find that the fly has worked on it. We won't have any great crop to brag on this year. But we had better be thankful if we raise enough to bread and seed us.

There was Sunday School last Sunday as usual; also prayer meeting Sunday night at New Site with good attendance.

There will be prayer meeting Wednesday night at New Site as usual. Everybody is extended a cordial invitation.

Next Sunday will be regular meeting day at New Site again. Everybody is given a hearty welcome.

The birds are singing, the frogs are croaking and at dusk the Indian fire-fly is lighting the scene till it looks as though spring were really here at last.

With best wishes to the TIMES and its readers I am

COLUMBINE.

The City Light Plant.

In Wednesday's Star there was printed an article, paid we presume, in reference to the petition that is being almost unanimously signed by our tax payers asking for the privilege to vote bonds to erect an electric lighting plant in our city.

The writer admits the need of a plant but claims that it would cost at least \$25,000 to build one. For his benefit we will inform him that competent authority gives the figures at not to exceed \$16,000. The writer then goes on to advise that the city purchase the present plant on which he places a valuation of \$16,000 or more. The TIMES is reliably informed that the of the present plant was purchased second hand in St. Joseph years ago for about one fourth of the above valuation and we fail to see how it could have increased in value since that time. One of the reasons why the owners of the plant asked for a 25-year franchise recently was because, as was claimed, the plant was in a condition that made rebuilding necessary and they did not feel disposed to make the tremendous outlay unless they were protected by a long time franchise.

It has been suggested that the Junk man and not the Council would be the proper party to negotiate a sale.

A card to Rev. Stevens from Mrs. Rev. B. D. Jones, who stopped between trains with Rev. Stevens on her way to Russellville, Ark., to attend her father who was very ill, reports that her father is much better and hopes for his full recovery is entertained.

The following went to Neosho Wednesday to attend the Christian church convention:—Mrs. R. Watson, Mrs. O. Kniskern, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Beckham, Elvin Dummit, Misses Fay and Dorothy Watson, Frances Kniskern and Pearl Miller.