

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

VALUE OF FOLK SONG MUSIC

What a Southern Newspaper Says of Our Progress as Composers

Under the caption, "The Negro In Music," the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch in a recent issue says:

Assuming that the basis of what is termed national music is found in folk song, it may be urged that American music, so far as it is peculiarly American, is based on Negro melodies. This finds support, for example, in Dvorak's "Symphony From the New World," which abounds in melodies strikingly suggestive of our plantation tunes.

True, it is contended that none of these melodies is to be found in Negro music in the form in which Dvorak wrote them, but the influence of the plantation song is apparent in every interval, every melodic curve. Of Indian music as it survives to us there is much to be said, but the scope of Negro folk song is of more immediate importance since its effect is more widely felt.

But the Negro is not confined in music to melodies crooned in the field or wailed in meetings or chanted on decks. The Negro musician is becoming less essentially Negro and more widely musical. In other words, here and there Negroes are writing music, not merely repeating traditional tunes from generation to generation, but composing music that has no racial qualities to set it apart.

In churches all over the English speaking world choirs are singing the works of Coleridge Taylor, a Negro whose death a few years ago was regretted by all the world of music, and choral societies are singing his beautiful setting of "Hiawatha."

Only recently Amato, the great Italian baritone, sang in a concert in New York a song of warring Italy which was composed by Harry G. Burleigh, a modern American Negro, whose music has been played here frequently.

A GIRL'S FRIENDS

Much of the happiness of life depends on making a wise choice of friends.

A girl's friends and companions show just what sort of a girl she is. A girl who is refined in her tastes will not associate with those who are loud in manner, coarse in speech, conspicuous in dress.

One must remember that "no friendship is worth the name which does not elevate and does not help to nobility of conduct and to strength of character. It should give new zest to duty and new inspiration to all that is good."—Ex.

"IS IT I?"

The following conversation took place between two unlettered Ethiopians who had been listening to the grandiloquent expostulations of one of kindred color with mediocre attainments who was afflicted with a bad disease of "egotitis" and an overweening sense of his own importance and accomplishments. "Who am dat, Sam?" "I dunno what his name am," Sam replied, "but he certainly do recommen' hisself mos' highly."

"Lord, is it I?"

(This lullaby, written by a Negro, is taken from a new Negro publication, "The Brown Book.")

LULLABY

Frankie Carter DeBerry

Rocky-by-by! Rocky-by-by!

Time dat yo' aih sleepin';

See de moon des ober de hill

At dis bad boy a-peepin'?

Down in de medder de li'l lam's

Side ba side, quiet dey's layin';

En yo' so ugly—Ah, 'clare, whut a boy!

W'en yo' b'en all day a-playin'

Rocky-by-by! Rocky-by-by!

Com' heah, ole moon, wid yo' wun

big eye;

Tek dis boy ouden his mammy's ahms,

En tek him way wid yo'—way up in de sky!

Rocky-by-by! Rocky-by-by!

Katy-dids dey aih a-singin'—

Doan yo' heah de frogs by de pon'

How de got dey musick a-ringin'?

But de moon es watchin' yo' des de same,

Wid his big bright eyes des a-gleamin'!

So hug me up closter, ter keep him erway

Whole yo' ob termorrow es dream-in'—

Rocky-by-by! Rocky-by-by!

Stay 'way, old moon, stay up in de sky;

Leabe dis boy in his mammy's ahms, Kase he draf ter sleep 'way bimeby!

MISS MADELINE ROBERTS

THANKS FRIENDS

Omaha, Neb., July 18, 1916.

Editor Monitor:

Please grant me space in your columns to thank my many friends for their loyal support and assistance in the Free Trip Contest, by which that very worthy institution, the N. W. C. A., has been enabled to practically pay for its home. It was because the cause was so worthy that I consented to become one of the contestants. I knew it meant a great deal of hard work, but I was willing to do what I could. My votes were all secured from Omaha friends and from friends in Oakland, Cal., Seattle, Wash.; and Twin Falls, Idaho. None of the donations were in large sums, but every dime given counted and was fully appreciated. I am sure all the girls did their best and I hope and believe they are all as happy as I am to know that the home will be paid for. I congratulate Miss Shaw upon her success in winning the first prize. And I do want my friends to know how grateful I am for the 2165 votes they gave me.

Sincerely and gratefully,
MADELINE Z. ROBERTS,
2610 North Twenty-eighth ave.

Mrs. Mary E. Allen, matron; Mrs. Lucy Wade, past matron; and Mrs. Kate Wilson, past grand lecturer, left Tuesday for Kansas City, Mo., where they will represent Shaffer Chapter No. 42 at the Grand Chapter, O. E. S., of Missouri and its jurisdiction, which convened in that city on Wednesday. Mrs. Wade, who was the first matron of Shaffer Chapter, is being sent this year as delegate, as a token of the love and esteem in which she is held by the members of her Chapter, which she has so faithfully served.

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