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Columbia National THE BANJO OF THE PLANTATION NOW A SOCIETY FAVORITE.

> Classical Music as Well as Cotton Field the Dainty Fingers of Fortune's Fair Favorites.

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INCE the days when Ham went to sea in de ark," and with the laudable intention of dissipating the ennui of his fellow voyagers played the first hoe-down on the first banjo, that lively instrument has passed through many changes and chances incident to mortal life. It is possible that Ham himself did

importance of his own invention. It is certain that the was not made until ten years ago. Yet, even of old, made of cheap material and played upon by a class of people igno-rant of any part of music except melody, when skilled fingers fell upon its strings the most critical were fain to listen and appland. But such a thing as elevating its social standing, of admitting it to the ranks of the Four Hundred, as it were, never entered the mind of its most ardent admirer.

Played on Mississippi river steamboats and in minstrel shows the banjo never of Wales, at her house, failed to rouse enthusiasm, but when a gentleman wished to serenade his lady love he never thought of taking anything along to accompany his tenor voice but a guitar. Complete Pullman Vestibuled Trains ever If you are 40 or past just remember back how you used to sally forth summer nights and sing under her window "Oh, the tone, starry hours give me love," and 'List, while I touch my guitar." Fancy her horror if you had asked her to list while

you picked your banjo! But in 1880 came a change in the affairs of the despised instrument. Society took it up. The first sheep jumped over the



FROM THE OLD KENTUCKY SHORE. tomary promptness. Musicians discovered that what they had heretofore considered plebeian and vulgar was chic and dashing.

Then all the hard up minstrels abandoned the stage, set up "studios," put "professor" on their car's, and in less than no time had more pupas than they could attend to.

Various improvements on the old fashioned banjo were brought out; manufacturers began to produce silver rimmed pearl inlaid instruments, marvels of beauty fit for diamond ringed fingers to play upon, and the banjo's social career began in earnest. Today it is estimated that in New York city alone there are 100,000 people who play. That does not look as though its popularity were waning. A prominent teacher told me the other day that out of his fifty pupils, two were taking lessons on the mandolin, five on the The Direct Texas Route guitar, the rest were studying the banjo. from fifteen to twenty instruments a week. Then the banjo clubs. Every college has one. West Point has one in training. The Brighton quartet is composed of five of Staten Island's handsomest young ladies. The New York Banjo club is the most exclusive and aristocratic organization in the city. The president is a Wall street broker, son of an ex-mayor of New York. The club has a suite of rooms at the Murray Hill Lotel.

The fact is the banjo has many points of excellence that put it above all other stringed instruments. The violin is too difficult. Mrs. Cleveland plays it, and perhaps a half dozen other well known society women, but few amateurs are willing to devote enough time to become good per-



ON MURRAY INILL.

formers. The guitar is too sentimental and old fashioned. Besides, it is large and unwieldy, and many of its octaves very difficult for a woman's fingers to stretch. The guitar is still played, of course, but chiefly as an accompaniment to the banjo. The mandolin tried hard to become popular, and really did make a sensation for a time. But the mandolin is worth very little by itself. In an orchestra is its proper place, and there it is certainly charming. As an accompaniment to the voice it is a distinct failure. It is rather hard to learn

and very awkward to handle. But the banjo fills every requirement. > is the amateur's instrument par ecellence. It is comparatively easy to learn it is sweet to listen to, either individually or collectively; it readily adapts itself to an air of sparkle and piquancy that per-

FROM CABIN TO PARLOR. on the banjo. The very best music has THE GREEK SHRINE OF DELPHI. Hope," the march in "Tannhauser," even

Liszt's wierd fantasias. There are various ways of touching the strings. The "stroke movement" is employed in playing classic music. For negro melodies and old plantation airs you can "plinketty plunk" as much as you like, Melodies Evoked from Its Strings by and then you can fan the strings for dainty gavottes and Spanish dances, or you can strike them boldly for "La Marseillaise" or the soldiers' chorus from "Faust."

For a while the thimble, a little instrument worn on the finger, was used, but it soon went out of fashion. The sound produced was barsh and unmusical, but rather effective at times. It took immensely in London because it was the first banjo playing of any kind the English had ever heard. All fashionable London got the banjo craze. The Prince of Wales is a good player, Lady Randolph Churchill is an ex-pert, and so is Lady Sullivan.

Then Ruby Brooks, the American cham pion, went over and showed them what real good banjo playing was like, and they discarded the thimble and learned to handle the instrument scientifically.

Yes, the banjo is here to stay. Ten years trial has proved that "age cannot wither nor custom stale its infinite variety." The banjo concerts arranged every year in the arger cities are as crowded and as enthusiastic as ever. At a recent concert in New world was very slow to recognize its York hundreds of people who couldn't get merit. Its appearance in polite society into the body of the house were accommodated with seats on the stage.

As a drawing room entertainment banjo playing from a professional is very popular in the most select circles. Mrs. Paran Stevens, Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt and other queens of society often amuse their guests in this way. In London one well known New York banjoist played for the Rothschilds and received \$50 for the evening. Lady Paget was equally generous to Ruby Brooks, who entertailed a brilliant company, including the Prince and Princess

All sorts and conditions of people play the banjo. Talmage is a devotee. P. T. Barnum was an accomplished player. Frederick Vanderbilt, Miss Daremus, daughter of Professor J. H. Doremus; Pauline Hall, Minnie Palmer, A. J. Cummings, of the New York Sun, and the late Fletener Harper are numbers in the ranks of banjo players. All over the land its musical tinkle is heard. Long may it RHETA LOUISE CHILDE.

ABSENT FROM THE WEDDING.

A Bride's Relatives Stay Away from the Church.

The recent wedding of Admiral Porter's daughter with Mr. H. C. Campbell at Washington appears to have been an occasion for mingled smiles and tears. Along with these there was a good deal of wonder and of curiosity, which is not yet gratified. As it took place in the Ascension church, and the groom's friends made a special effort, the assemblage was large and brilliant, but not one of the bride's family was present. It was hoped to the last minute that some of them would re lent, and many anxions glances were cast at the door, but they came not.

The navy was splendidly represented Mrs. McKee, the president's daughter, honored the occasion conspicuously. Lieut. Archibald Campbell acted as best man for among financiers his cousin. Mrs. Archibald Campbell, mother of the groom, sat in a front pew active. The curiwith her brother-in-law, Gen. Campbell, and the large array of distinguished guests included all ranks, from general to ensign, of Philadelphia, a but there was no Porter there. Senators and diplomats, foreign notabilities and prominent ladies, including some titled persons, filled the forward pews, but the whole Porter family and relationship were ter, late Republicconspicuous by their absence.

Dr. Douglass, of St. John's, officiated, as-



stalwart officers and gentlemen led the way up the aisle, and after them came eight bridemaids, all in demi-trained gowns of white, one-half wearing pink sashes and wreaths and the other half blue, the first four carrying large La France roses and the other four the so-called American Beauties, all the roses set off active Democrat, he has the best wishes of with long streamers of appropriately twisted satin. Then came the bridal couple, and the rest of the ceremony was in thregulation order.

The bride's creamy white satin robe had a sweeping court train. The front was draped in tulle, festooned with garlands of orange blossoms. A tulle veil completed her costume. The engagement of the pair had created a romantic interest in Washington, and the bride's people consented to receive her for a time after the ceremony The pair took a short tour and will for some time reside in Washington.

"Civilization" in Siberia.

A funny tale comes from St. Petersburg regarding a recent effort of the czar's ministers to make administrative and educational reforms in Asia c Russia. Circular letters were sent Siberian officials which embodied among other things inquiries regarding the progress of civilization. The governor of Akmolinsk district got into trouble by replying to the query as follows: The civilization is not to be found in the terri tory under my supervision. It may have withdrawn to the Chinese border, although I cannot say to a certainty. The governor, however has sent out two Cossack horsemen to look it up, and they may have found it at the present writing. In response to the uncomplimentary

comments of the St. Petersburg office the Akmolinsk official explained that he thought that by "civilization" the government had meant an obscure tribe of Kir geez, and that, acting in accordance with this belief, he had instituted the search menticued in his first answer.

A Queer Place to Find a Mine.

A story which reads something like one of the erstwhile famous productions of Mr. Joseph Mulhatton comes from the southwest. It is to the effect that some days ago a party of hunters in Indian Territory chased a fox until it found refuge in a rocky eleft. In trying to dislodge the ani mal the men discovered the opening to a large c number, with a passage leading off began law practice in Hartford; was chosen on each side. In it were tools and traces of human occupation and evidences of minpiano, guitar or voice accompaniment, and ing work. The place is conjectured to be last, but by no means least, it has about it an old Spanish mine, and it is said that an reputation as a speaker. He served as deleassay of the ore gives a good percentage of feetly accords with the modern girl's type | copper and silver. The hunters propose to work the claim as soon as they secure legal. Nor must it be supposed that nothing but clogs and breakdowns can be played its where abouts

America is Anxious to Purchase the Site

of the Ancient Temple. The Hellenists of France and the United States have got into a curious contest for the ownership of the old Greek shrine of Delphi. It has lately been proved that the modern village of Castri stands upon the earth covering the ruins of the ancient temple, and as it is reasonably certain that many instructive remnants of the classic age in Greece are in the ruins, the importance of a complete excavation is plain. In 1870 an earthquake destroyed most of Castri, and the owners propose to sell the entire plot for \$80,000.

The Hellenists of Yale college, led by Professor Goodell, took prompt action, a committee was appointed, and the desired

sum was sub scribed, when information came that the classic scholars of France had procured a promise from the Greek minister to England that they should have the first chance. The Yale committee applied to Secreta

ry Blaine, who has PROFESSOR GOODELL. directed the Amer lean minister at Athens to act in the matter at once. The result is of course uncertain, but the prize is, in a sentimental and scholarly view, well worth a struggle.

According to the legends Apollo searched the earth for a fit place to found a temple, and found it in the vale of Phocis, at the foot of Mount Parnassus. He slew the great scrpent which had thus far ruled the vale, and so the place was named the Pytho. In actual history it is known that the priestess of Apollo sat over a cleft in the rock, and being influenced probably by a rising vapor, delivered the oracles which the priests put into rude verse. At least 800 B. C. a magnificent temple stood there. The valley was declared sacred ground, and was made neutral by the Amphictyonic league. It is gravely related that the army Xerxes sent to rob the temple was dispersed by a miracle. The wealth concentrated there was immense until it was dissipated in the civil wars.

The temple was restored ar 'improved by various rulers, from Philip of Macedon to Hadrian, but Constantine, the first Christian emperor, plundered it. The oracle, however, continued to flourish until about 380 A. D., when the Emperor Theodosius suppressed it, as he vigorously warred against all forms of heathenism and heresy. The barbarian invasions com-pleted the destruction, and so ended Delphi's 1,200 years of prominence as a shrine of religious devotion. Hellenists of all lands look eagerly for rich finds amid

NOT THE RESULT OF POLITICS. Ex-Senator Wallace's Failure Due to En

tirely Different Causes. The failure of ex-Senator William A Wallace and the collapse of the Clearfield bank, of which he was principal manager

and stockholder. have excited all Pennsylvania, and the discussion continues very ous fact that Wharton Barker, leader of the Independent Republicans, failed, and Senator Delamaan candidate for

governor,fellowed VILLIAM A. WALLACE. an assignment, only to be followed by Senator Wallace, naturally created a belief that "politics had something to do with

It appears, however, that Mr. Wallace has engaged very extensively in developing new mines of coal in Pennsylvania, of silver in Colorado, and of other minerals elsewhere. He had invested heavily in valuable property, and the financial stringency came just when he needed money most. His liabilities are placed at \$400, 000, and his assignees are confident that his assets will be twice that amount if time can be given for conversion. Since his retirement from the United States senate Mr. Wallace has been active and prominent as a railroad builder and coal operator. He has done more than any other man to develop Clearfield county and make its name famous wherever bitu minous coal is burned. Though a very men of all parties.

Views of a Pessimistic Scientist. A decidedly gloomy view of the future of America is taken by Professor Otis Mason, of the Smithsonian institution. Within a century, he declares, the western hemisphere will be exhausted as a support for civilized man, and will be relegated to the dominion of savages of a very low or der. He says, "the so called Ameri-can people have camped over the continent regardless of their future. They have delved into the soil, chopped into the mountains, and used up the land until there stares them in the face the almost immediate prospect of starvation."

Was a Noted Kentuckian. By the death of Hon, Henry D. McHenry



zen and the Demo cratic party an able worker. Mr. McHenry's life is also worthy of note because was among the first native west ern men to rise to prominence. Until recently, when ever a man in any district west of the western Ohio line became prom-

HENRY D. M'HENRY. inent enough to be mentioned for the United States senate, the question was at once asked as to where he came from. It was taken for granted that he began life in some older

Mr. McHenry was born in 1826 in Ohio county, Ky., had lived there all his life, and died in his native town of Hartford. His father, John H. McHenry, was a distinguished jurist, and the family has produced several other eminent men. He was educated at Transylvania university and to the legislature in 1851 and at various times since; was elected to the Forty-second congress, and in that body made a national gate to many Democratic conventions, and for eighteen years had been a member of the national committee. At the time of his death he was a member of the constitational concention of Kentucky.

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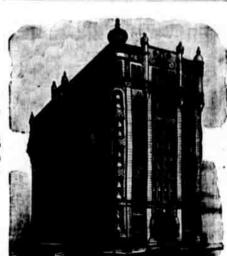
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