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RECOMMENDATIONS.

J. B. AIKIN,

My dear sir:—I have carefully perused, and I may say studied, your new system of musical notation in the Christian Minstrel. I am not sufficiently a practical musician to be able to form a judgment of the value of the collection of tunes contained in the book. But of one thing I am perfectly certain. You have simplified the method by which an understanding of the theory of music is conveyed to the mind in a remarkable degree. Of all the sciences to which my attention has been directed, music is the most complicated and unintelligible in the ordinary modes of instruction. If I had enjoyed the advantages of your book twenty-five years ago, it would have saved me some months of perplexing study. The impression that peculiar musical talent is necessary to comprehend the principles of music, has kept thousands from all serious attempts to become acquainted with the science. Your system is capable, I am confident, of conveying to uninstructed minds such a knowledge, in a few days, as would require several months in the usual mode of instruction. At a time when there are so many pretenders to improvements in every branch of science, very few of which do not prove to be mere pretenders, you will, of course, meet with difficulties in introducing your book, but the truth is mighty and must ultimately prevail.

With great respect, I remain yours, truly,

JOEL PARKER, D. D.,

Pastor of the Clinton street Presbyterian Church.

Philadelphia, June 25, 1846.

Mr. J. B. AIKIN,

Dear sir:—I have an ear and soul for music; but of the science I am no master. Yet a collection of musical airs for public worship I deem excellent. In hearing one of your lectures on your improvements, I learned more of the science of music than I could ever before acquire. I shall not despair of understanding the science if I can get time thoroughly to study your "Elements of Music." With the sentiments of the Rev. Dr. Parker I fully concur.

EZRA STYLES ELY, D. D.,

Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Northern Liberties.

Philadelphia, July 9th, 1846.

Mr. J. B. AIKIN,

Dear sir:—The Christian Minstrel should command the attention of the musical public. In your work, the science of music is so simplified as to render a practical knowledge of it easily attainable. The difficulty of mastering and practically applying the common system of notation is so great that few persons whose time is limited succeed in overcoming it. You have done a good service to the church and to the community by removing the mysticism which has been hitherto unnecessarily thrown around a science whose humanizing influences can hardly be over-estimated. You have popularized music, and made it accessible to the mass. Prejudice will doubtless look on your improvements with jaundiced eyes; but your system must succeed. I am satisfied that you have taken up the "stumbling-blocks out of the way of the people," and henceforth he who "runneth may read" music. Truly your friend,

THOS. MACLELLAR.

Philadelphia, July 13, 1846.

From the Christian Observer.

To simplify whatever is complex, is one of the great purposes to which the gifts of the arts are applied. The results of this process may be seen in most of the text-books in our

schools, and in every scientific manual. In the Christian Minstrel, by J. B. AIKIN, we have an illustration of this process in the science of music.

Mr. J. B. AIKIN,

Dear sir:—I have carefully examined your new system of musical notation, entitled The Christian Minstrel. After being engaged in teaching music for the last twenty-five years, I am free to say that your system obviates several difficulties in the old system which greatly perplex the learner. The simplification of the subject of the time, and the change of the letters on the staff greatly facilitate the acquisition of the principles of the science of music. The sound and clear reasoning contained in the preface, and the elementary principles of your book, are sufficient to convince any unprejudiced mind of its valuable worth. It must soon find its way into every church in the country. There is not a shadow of doubt in my own mind that it will soon become the general standard of church music, and that the system is of great importance to instrumental music. Your arrangement of the measures, and the joining of all the staves alike will diminish more than one-half the labour of the new learner.

With great respect, I remain yours, truly,

GEORGE H. BAKER,

Professor of Vocal and Instrumental Music.

Philadelphia, October 2nd, 1846.

We fully concur in the sentiments of approbation above expressed.

THOMAS G. ARMSTRONG,

Leader of Choir, First M. E. Church, Philadelphia.

JOHN MOORE,

Chorister of Eastburn Mariner's Bethel, Philadelphia.

WILLIAM STEWART,

Leader of Choir, Bethlehem M. E. Church, Philadelphia.

JOHN HUFF,

Leader of Choir, Nazareth M. E. Church, Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Daily Sun.

Among the valuable improvements in science of modern times, the last—not least—work on music, just published in this city by J. B. AIKIN, with a collection of the popular psalm tunes, hymns, and chants, entitled The Christian Minstrel, designed for the use of churches, singing-schools, &c.

This work accomplishes that which has been so long and so much needed, viz., rendering the science of music intelligible. The obscurity and mystery have hitherto been the way of thousands to any progress in the attainment of a clear, distinct knowledge of the principles of this science are here dispelled. The work supplies the deficiencies which have been so deeply and so deplorably felt. It cannot be too soon adopted in the churches and schools of this city, and throughout the country. It is the system which is destined to prevail. The author has erected for himself a "monumentum perennius erit."—The publication of his book is an epoch in the history of music.

To specify the radical improvements of the various arts connected with the science of music in this work, would be superfluous, since it is published to the world, and to be appreciated and admired, it needs but to be understood.