

will have her own way, I see; even if she has to suffer for it, and suffer in silence, too." But he was, as he afterwards confessed to his wife, profoundly touched by his daughter's self-sacrifice. "It shall not be wasted," he said, "for one Corsican, at least, shall learn to loathe the vendetta." And as he spoke, he placed his hand upon the dark curls of his little son.

After a few weeks' visit, the Sea Nymph sailed once more, but one of the party she had brought remained behind. Dick had decided to rent land in Porto Vecchio, and

grow olives; for, as he told Sir Hugh, "now that his sister was married, he had no ties in England strong enough to keep him there. Dorothy did not seem greatly surprised at this decision, and a few months later, when she hears that he is engaged to be married to Josephine, she writes back to say, with much triumph, that "she had always foreseen the event!"

* * * * *

Yet another two years have passed. The olive farm is prospering, and Josephine, now

a bride, is living upon it, at a little distance from her old home. She has not lost her idea of improving her little corner of the world, and her husband fully sympathises with her. We must now leave her happy, in the hope that the good influence she has already exercised upon her father may not end with him, but may reach on to generations yet to come, until the vendetta is a thing of the past. And surely this is no unreasonable hope, for who can tell where a good influence is to end?

R. MITCHELL.

HANDEL'S MOTHER.



OROTHEA TAUST, the second wife of George Handel, father of the great composer, was daughter of George Taust, Lutheran pastor at Giebichenstein, near Halle. All accounts represent her as a woman gentle in disposition; of good sense as well as earnest piety; a good wife and a good mother. Her first-born son died in infancy,

and George Friedrich was the second of her offspring; followed by two daughters, Dorothea Sophia, born in October, 1687, and Johanna Christiana, born in June, 1690. The latter died unmarried, in 1709. Dorothea became the wife of Michael Dietrich Michaelsen, a lawyer in good position.

Dorothea Taust was thirty-two when she became the wife of doctor George, in April, 1683, his first wife having died in October of the previous year, at the age of seventy-two. From the temper shown towards the young musician in his boyhood by the father, we may infer that the mother often had a difficult position to hold in her attempt to unite conjugal obedience with maternal love. George Handel was a plodding, commonplace man, who in early life had married the widow of his master, Christopher Oettinger, barber-surgeon of Halle. The young practitioner was appointed town surgeon of Giebichenstein, then a suburb of Halle. He obtained other official appointments, including that of Surgeon-in-Ordinary to Prince Augustus of Saxony. He was sixty-three when he married the daughter of the pastor. The presence of the second child, who grew up a strong and healthy boy, kindled new hopes and ambitions in the father. These ambitions were chiefly of a sordid kind. He destined him for the profession of law, as likely to be the surest way to success in life. Perceiving the boy's taste for music, he discouraged it in every way. He was removed from school because music was taught there. He was kept from all places of amusement where music could be heard. It was in vain that the attempt was made to repress the natural taste, which increased with growing years. The boy contrived to get an old clavichord conveyed to an unoccupied room in the attics, and there with muffled wires he could practise at will, without his father's ears being vexed by the sound.

The secret practising on the clavichord can hardly have been effected without her connivance, and this she must have kept from the father's knowledge; but, with this exception, nothing is mentioned to show want of full sympathy with her husband and tender care of him in his declining years. Her children she

trained in pious and frugal ways, such as might be expected in the daughter of a faithful and worthy Lutheran minister. Whatever else she taught them, we may be sure that Luther's Bible and the Catechism were the groundwork of the training, which showed good fruit in the character of her children.

The influence of this pious mother's pains and prayers is evident throughout Handel's life. Even in the busiest time of his worldly career the good principles instilled by her protected him from much evil, and proved the germ of higher religious character in his latter years.

We see in his will, prepared in 1750, after he had long attained his greatness of fame, the grateful remembrance of the peaceful, pious Pfarrhaus of the pastor of Giebichenstein. "To my cousin, the widow of Pastor George Taust, I give and bequeath three hundred pounds sterling; and to her six children, each two hundred pounds sterling."

The warm and grateful affection shown to his mother is one of the most marked traits in Handel's character. In his young days she had done all she could for him, and when he had to leave the humble home to make his way in the world, he repaid by every method in his power the affection due to so good and loving a mother. She seems to have been left with straitened means, and on several occasions money was sent by the young musician when he was yet struggling to maintain himself. After Handel went to England the first time, his mother sent a gift of money, not knowing what his circumstances then might be. He returned the money, adding to it a sum from his own purse, and sending a most grateful and affectionate letter. On returning to the Continent, in 1711, he hastened to see his mother. She had then been a widow for fourteen years, Handel's father having died in 1697. The husband of his sister Dorothea, Lawyer Michaelsen, was generously kind to his mother-in-law, nor did this kindness cease after his wife's death, in 1718, but was continued after he had formed a second and a third marriage. In June, 1725, Handel thus wrote to his "honoured brother": "I cannot be so ungrateful as to pass over in silence the goodness you have shown to my mother in her advanced age, for which I offer you my very humble thanks. You know how deeply I am interested in all that concerns her, and can therefore judge the depth of the obligation under which you have placed me."

After he was settled in England, Handel never missed any opportunity of visiting Halle to see his mother. Whenever he went to the Continent on professional business, as manager or director, he made his way to Halle. The account of his latest interview is very touching. In March, 1729, when at Venice, he received a letter from his brother-in-law,

Michaelsen, informing him that the old lady had been seized with a dangerous paralytic attack. A subsequent letter gave better account of her condition, and on arriving at Halle, in June, he found her so far recovered as to be able to walk with the help of a stick, but her sight was gone. She lingered for nearly a year longer, and died on the 27th December, 1730, having nearly reached her eightieth birthday. He was unable again to go to see her, but a letter to Michaelsen, given by Mr. Rockstro in his "Life of Handel," in translation from the German, shows how deeply he was affected by the loss of her whom he tenderly loved, and how grateful he was for the kindness that had been shown to her. It is altogether a most interesting glimpse of the inner life of Handel:—

"London, Feb. 23/12, 1731.

"Sir, and most honoured Brother,—I have duly received your honoured letter of the 6th January, and learned from it the care you have taken to commit the remains of my late mother to the earth, conformably to her will. I cannot yet restrain my tears. But it has pleased the Most High to enable me to submit, with Christian calmness, to His holy will. Your thoughtfulness will never pass from my remembrance until, after this life, we are once more united, which may the All-good God in His mercy grant us.

"The innumerable obligations under which my honoured brother has laid me, by the continual solicitude and care with which he has always tended my late dear mother, cannot be acknowledged with words alone, but with dutiful recognition.

"I hope my honoured brother received my last letter, written in answer to his own of the 28th December, with the enclosure for Herr Consistorial-Rath Franck, and my cousin, Deacon Taust. I also expect with impatience his answer, including notice of expenses incurred, and also the printed funeral Oration and Verses. I am greatly obliged for the poem last sent to me, and shall guard it as a treasured memorial. Let me also, in the last place, condole most heartily with my honoured brother and his wife on the loss they have sustained in the death of their mother-in-law. Their Christian resignation strengthens my mind. May the Most High grant to all of us our faithful desires. To His Almighty keeping I commend my honoured brother and all his amiable family, and remain, with earnest devotion, my honoured brother's most humble and obedient servant,

"GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL."

Although thus of affectionate disposition, and with love of domestic life, Handel never married. That a man of his position, with adequate means, and endowed with moral and personal excellences above the common, lived

the life of a celibate, has been a wonder to many. As his French biographer, Victor Schoelcher says: "Not one woman occupies the smallest place in the long career of his life." This is rather a sweeping statement, and is far from correct, as the following incidents show. When he was at Hamburg, in his eighteenth year, having then an engagement in the orchestra of the opera-house, the post of organist at Lubeck became open to competition. Thither he went, accompanied by his friend and brother musician, Matheson. On arriving at Lubeck it was found that one condition in the competition was that the successful candidate must marry the daughter of the retiring organist. We are not told whether any attempt was made to see the lady, or whether the strangeness of the condition in itself disgusted them, but the two friends never put in appearance as candidates, and hastened back to Hamburg, free and lighthearted, and highly amused with the adventure.

This was Handel's first escape from matrimony. A more serious temptation occurred a few years later when he was in Italy. A lady, by name Vittoria Tesi, the favourite Court singer, who is described by Dr. Burney as "a songstress of talent," fell in love with the young composer, then twenty-four years of age. She filled the part of *prima donna* in the first of his Italian works, the opera of "Roderigo," produced by him at Florence for the Grand Duke. It may be that Vittoria was a lady of rank, a duchess one author says, for it was common for nobles, and even for princes and

princesses, to sing in pieces performed at the Courts. Whoever she was, Handel turned a deaf ear to the siren, although she is said to have followed him from Florence to Venice, when we hear of her no more.

Archdeacon Coxe, the author of the *Memoirs of Marlborough* and of *Walpole*, and other historical works once popular, is answerable for the next love story. In his "Anecdotes of Handel and of John Christopher Smith," published in 1799, he says: "Two of his scholars, ladies of considerable fortune, were so much enamoured of him, that each was desirous of a matrimonial alliance. The first is said to have fallen a victim to her attachment. Handel would have married her, but his pride was stung by the coarse declaration of her mother, that she never would consent to the marriage of her daughter with a fiddler. Indignant at the expression, he declined all further intercourse. After the death of the mother the father renewed the acquaintance, and informed him that all obstacles were removed; but he replied that the time was now past; and the young lady fell into a decline, which soon terminated her existence.

"The second attachment was a lady, splendidly related, whose hand he might have obtained by renouncing his profession. That condition he resolutely refused, and laudably declined the connection which was to prove a restriction on the great faculties of his mind."

The Archdeacon says that he gives the anecdotes on "unquestionable authority."

No names or dates appear, but it is evident that these affairs belong to the time after Handel came to England. The contempt for "fiddlers" shows this, and the condition in the second affair, that he should renounce his profession. During the eighteenth century, in fact till the days of Burke and Johnson, Reynolds and Garrick, musicians, actors, artists, and authors by profession were all looked upon with the contempt due to a common Bohemianism, and were regarded as mere ministers to the pleasures of the aristocracy, and moving in a sphere scarcely, if at all, higher than their cooks or hairdressers. They were all "outside the pale of good society," as Miss Bery tells us was the case even in her recollection. Handel's pride resented this exclusiveness, and he sought no intimacies with the great apart from his professional engagements. In his early years his attachment to his mother was warm, and for his relations he cherished the best remembrances. Mr. Coxe says that he avoided marriage, as it would interfere with his devotion to his work. We doubt if he designedly made any resolution of celibacy, but in point of fact he was as much married to his profession as other great men have been similarly described, in respect to art or to statesmanship. Certain it is, that the chances would have been more against his ever rising to renown, or against the world being richer by his mighty works, had he married the Lubeck organist's daughter, or the Italian duchess, or either of the English girls who laid heart and fortune at his feet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOPEFUL.—We have read your letter with much sympathy. We do not know what to advise under the circumstances, excepting that you should try to extend your school, and get private pupils by advertising. A daily governess-ship is also a good thing, and is well paid, but rather fatiguing. Could you not get employment as a Bible Reader, or help at a cottage hospital?

EVANGELINE.—Thousands of young and faithful Christians take a gloomy view of their spiritual state because they fall so short of what they desire and strive to be, and because they fancy that true repentance is evidenced by floods of tears and broken-heartedness. It is a false view to take of the case. The man who repents is he who forsakes every known sin, or at least makes it his daily work to struggle against all, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, for which he perseveringly prays. This is repentance. Look up for aid, grace, and peace to your loving and ever-present Saviour, who is "waiting to be gracious." Cast your soul on Him, plead His merits, His atonement, His promises; and accept His free pardon, and His salvation. Why are any that are "called," not "chosen"? Simply because "they will not come unto Me, that they might have life."

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (India).—Your kind and interesting letter gratified us much. We are indeed glad that the writings of those members of our staff have been so useful to you. The little "celestial nose" of which you speak, probably suits the style of the face, and needs no use of the clothes-peg at night! As a rule nature is even-handed in her favours, and with that little feature gives fine eyes and eyebrows; while to a large one with a high bridge, the eyes are often small and insignificant, and minus eyebrows. The word "compromise" is pronounced just as spelt—"Com-pro-mise," all dictionaries notwithstanding. Your letter is what we should expect from a "gentlewoman." We thank you for your subscription to the "Girls' Home," and we should have pleasure in hearing from you again.

PERPLEXED seems to forget that though our talents are God's gifts, we are right to make the best use of them in our power in our daily walk in life. We must not discover them from Him, for our life is hidden with Him in Christ.

A. C. B. had better consult a doctor about her little sister. There is probably a reason for the trouble complained of.

A FRIEND IN NEED should consult the various magazines, and send her article where she thinks it would be the most suitable.

RACS and TATTERS.—The verses have much merit, especially those entitled "Babyhood," which are very pretty. The others are not so good; but persevere! **PUZLED ONE (Sweden).**—We much regret that your letter was not answered, and that you have failed to repeat your question about Garibaldi. Pronounce "chemist" as kemist; "Michael" as Mi-kle; "Ralph" as Rafe; "directly" as di-rekt-lee. Garibaldi was a native of Nice, and a seafaring man, the skipper of a merchant vessel.

A. L. O. N. E.'s poetry is neither better nor worse than the usual kind of thing written at her age, the writing of which is a vent for feelings which most girls are too shy to express. But as for making money of it, that is quite another thing!

A FOSSIL has not got an answer before now owing to her dreadful handwriting, which makes the head ache to look at. 1. The crest of Sir Wilfrid Lawson is two arms rising out of clouds, holding in the hands a sun. The motto is, *Quod honestum utile*, "What is honest is useful." 2. The German authorities would probably consider him a German if he had not naturalised himself, his parents being both of them German.

DAISY TREVANNON.—"Nydia" is a character in Bulwer's "Last Days of Pompeii." She was blind, beautiful, self-sacrificing, and is a favourite subject for painters and sculptors at present.

IMPATIENT.—The way to pronounce "Elgin" is to make the final syllable not like "gin" (the spirit), but as in the word "begin."

SNOWBALL.—The lines do credit to your heart, and show the object to have been a good and pious woman.

FOUR FRIENDS.—The "fire of coals" mentioned was "charcoal," made by burning wood. This is always used at the present time in Eastern countries for cooking.

ONE OF THE GIRLS.—If in purchasing a piano you already have such excellent recommendations of some by a certain maker, and of the price that suits your means, we do not see that you need any further opinion. That of Sir Julius Benedict and the late Sir George Macfarren surely would be sufficient.

UNE FRANCAISE.—We should think Miss Leigh's Home, Avenue Wagram, Paris, would be the best place to send your old English magazines to; she would know where they would be most valued. You would have to use a glue, such as is used by carpenters, for your wicker-work.

L. A. P.—Certainly, make an apology to your step-mother for answering her disrespectfully; it is your duty to do so. To make an apology when one is due, raises rather than lowers the person who does so. It is, as it were, a "debt of honour" as well as the act of a Christian. Besides, a girl of your age should be humble, being in subjection to her parents and guardians. You have no right to apply the term "cross" to your stepmother's just expression of displeasure and her coolness with you.

COLLY HALL.—It is an old and common idea that to keep flowers in a bedroom is injurious; but with one or two exceptions this is incorrect. It is even an advantage in some cases; for example, a plant of the *eucalyptus*. Of course, if they be "cut flowers," the water should be changed at night, and all decayed leaves removed. We are glad you like our paper so much.

MATTED FUR.—You had better clean the long fur of the Persian cat by rubbing it well with flour, and then cleaning it off with a soft handkerchief. Is the "straw bed" for the cat or for the "dirty Margery Daw"?

SLAUGENGEN.—All out of door exercises, causing tremendous exertion of the bodily powers, are more or less dangerous; though we may not feel the effects at once, we may in after years. Even paralysis has been known to result from tremendous over-training for a boat race. Moderation is good in all things, we have the highest authority for believing.

PANSY.—If you do not possess vol. ii., the easiest way for you to obtain written instructions in knitting is to buy one of the many small manuals to be found at fancy work shops, but a few practical instructions from a friend would be more valuable than all.

AN OLD LOVE will perhaps think our advice rather hard and cruel, if we say that any man having a profession now had better stick to it, especially if it offers a chance of a pension in the future. Employment is so very difficult to obtain, that he would be worse than foolish to think of retiring from the army for a mere fancy. Let him try to be of service to others in his profession, and he will forget his disgust, and be happy and contented in his daily work.

GWENDOLINE may perhaps be careless of her hands, and so have spoilt their appearance. But red hands are rather common amongst young girls, and they assume a better colour when a few years older. Why does she say her "hands go red"? Half-educated girls are fond of saying that they "go red," "go faint," and "go" everything!