

horizon, and at whose sea-washed feet lay a singular rock—nature's sole assertion, on all this long reach of sandy shore, of the fierce, rocky coasts which met it abruptly both on north and south. About this knoll nestled one or two lonely farms; and further inland, sheltered by it from the edge of the east wind, lay a straggling village. But the links and the sands were lonely enough. Madge had told Faith as they came along that in all her wanderings there she had rarely met a soul.

Therefore it was the more surprising that to-day, as they advanced towards the green hill, they saw on the shore, nearer to them than the picturesque rock, a group of people. The group was gathered about something which lay on the sand, and some of the people were stooping low over it. Faith, the native of a sweet English woodland, only vaguely surmised what wonder in the form of shark or salvage had the ocean cast ashore on this calm afternoon.

But Madge Cowie stood still. And why did her face grow white and set?

A fisher lad, in a blue jersey, came running towards them, making his way to one of the farmhouses. The boy's own ruddy face was grave, and he answered the question which he read on theirs.

"It's a body, mem—a young gentleman's—and it has not been in the water long."

"I knew it! It is Hugh Duthie!" cried Madge.

And then Faith shrank back and sank down on a grassy bank.

But Madge went forward.

(To be continued.)

THE MAIDENS' BIBLE.

By CECILIA HAVERGAL.

THE readers of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER will doubtless be interested in hearing about the presentation made by their sister maidens of the United Kingdom (doubtless many of them were amongst the number!) to H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, and therefore the writer will give a short account of the event.

On the 30th of June last, at 12.30 p.m., a deputation of twenty-one maidens assembled at Buckingham Palace to present H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany with a beautiful Bible, in the name of 26,020 maidens of the United Kingdom. They were ushered into one of the numerous state apartments of the Palace, where stood Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Albany, attended by their lord and lady-in-waiting, ready to receive them. On the table near which the royal party stood was placed the splendidly carved oak casket in which lay the magnificently bound Bible, being in royal purple morocco, with a centre of deep crimson as a background for the richly-chased coronet and letter "H" in a sunken panel of cream white, with clasps in silver gilt, also tastefully chased. The three opening pages of the Bible were in vellum, and beautifully illuminated with an inscription, coronet, and text. The edges of the Bible were also ornamented with scrolls of illuminated texts. Together with the holy volume were two volumes of "Daily Light," bound to harmonise, and also two volumes, in royal scarlet morocco, containing the subscribers' names.

The Countess of Aberdeen was present to introduce the maidens, which ceremony ended, Miss Nugent read the following address:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

"Madam,—The maidens of the United Kingdom gratefully embrace the permission given to them of offering their heartfelt welcome to your Royal Highness to a home in our country, and to a place in the family of our beloved Queen.

"We have selected the Word of God as the outward sign of that welcome, because we reckon it as our own best Treasure, the Pearl of Great Price, the very voice of God speaking to man, by which the silence between heaven and earth has been for ever broken. And although the sound of axes and hammers has been lately heard in its stately fabric of hallowed words, the most searching criticism and the most complete scholarship have been able to add nothing to, and to alter little of, the words on which the hope and faith of many generations have firmly rested, and they only leave us more satisfied than before with the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

"We rejoice to be able to recognise in the doubled number of names from all classes a token of increased and deepened loyalty to our Sovereign, and also as a sign of the high esteem in which His Royal Highness has long been held.

"We would ask to be allowed to add our earnest prayer that the Book which lights the way to the Home which no sorrow can enter, and where no partings can pain, may be the Light of your Royal Highness's earthly home, and that along with the Prince, your husband, you may increasingly find the comfort in sorrow and the joy in prosperity of knowing Him 'in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,' and Whom to know is life eternal."

After which Princess Hélène gracefully showed her appreciation of the gift by reading the following reply, which she had previously signed with her own name:—

PRINCESS HÉLÈNE'S REPLY.

"Ladies,—I accept your address with no ordinary feelings of gratitude, and I can assure you that the maidens of the United Kingdom could have selected no more welcome gift than the beautiful copy of the Bible which you have now in their names presented to me. I trust, indeed, that the large number of those who have joined in making me this present testifies to the increasing veneration with which the sacred volume is regarded by all classes in the country; and I am glad also to think that the donors were actuated by a desire to seize this opportunity of displaying their loyalty to the Queen and their regard for my husband. I beg you to accept, on behalf of the 26,020 subscribers, my heartfelt thanks for their most acceptable gift and for the kind words of welcome that accompany it."

The following is a list of the names of the maidens who formed the deputation on this interesting occasion:—

The Lady Edith Bligh, the Lady Kathleen Bernard, the Hon. Edith Brodrick, the Hon. Gertrude Kinnaid, Miss Barrington, Miss A. Leslie Melville, Miss Okeover, Miss Agnew, Miss Eva Bontcin, Miss Burton, Miss Campbell Colquhoun, Miss Cecilia Havergal, Miss Inge, Miss Layard, Miss Nugent, Miss A. St. George Nugent, Miss Charlotte Stopford, Miss Symes, and Miss Mary Wellesley.



NEW MUSIC.

NOVELLO, EWER AND CO.

Sabbath Morn. Trio for female voices. Words translated from the German of Hoffmann von Fallersleben by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Franz Lachner.—Simple in character and pleasing, though rather short. In bar 7 the treatment of the leading note is objectionable.

Jack Frost. Music by J. L. Hatton.—A charming trio, bright and sparkling, written in J. L. Hatton's happiest vein.

Upward. Words by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by H. Marschner.—This is a really beautiful trio, requiring great nicety in the vocalisation. In consideration of the difficulties it presents, also the rather exceptionally high register for the first soprano, we would recommend this work to be used for three voices only, and not as a chorus.

The Nymphs of the Rhine. Trio. Words translated from the German of C. O. Sternan by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by H. Marschner.—Written in a musicianly style, though lying somewhat high for ordinary singers.

Parting Beam of Daylight. Trio. Words translated from the German of Julius Altmann by H. W. Dulcken. Music by Franz Abt.—A bright and effective piece of writing. We would call attention particularly to the clever use of the enharmonic change in bar 18.

Gipsy Life. Words by John Oxenford. Music by Robert Schumann; arranged by Arthur O'Leary.—We would strongly recommend this as one of the prettiest and most effective trios we have seen for some time. The obligato pianoforte accompaniment is especially to be admired, and though we are most unmistakably reminded of the Huntsmen's Chorus in Weber's *Der Freischütz*, this in no way detracts from the merit, but rather adds to the Bohemian character of the composition.

The Voice of Spring. Trio. Words by Mrs. Hemans. Music by A. H. Behrend.

Fancy. Trio. Words by J. Keats. Music by A. H. Behrend.

Haymakers. Trio. Words by John Ford. Music by A. H. Behrend.

We must take exception to these three trios as being eminently unvocal, and the harmonies of the crudest. It seems a pity that such nice words should be wedded to such extraordinary music.

Might I the Bird Be. Words translated from the German of Julius Schanz by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Richard Höp. —A trio written in rather unusual time, viz., 2-8, but exceedingly interesting, with a light and pretty pianoforte accompaniment.

Eat the Fruit, but Give the Seed. Duet. For female voices. Words translated from the German of Friedrich Rückert by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Carl Reinecke. Canon in unison, for two voices.

Woe to Him that, when Life doth Close. Duet. Words from the German of F. Rückert by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Carl Reinecke. Canon by augmentation, for two voices, too short for general use, consisting only of sixteen bars.

A Christmas Carol. Words translated from the German of H. C. Andersen by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Carl Reinecke. Canon in the second above, for two voices.—A charming composition, full of melody.

Invitation to the Dance. Words translated from the German of Heinrich Carsten by the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Music by Carl Reinecke. Canon in the third below, for two voices, sprightly and admirably in keeping with the words.