

MUSICAL NOTES & COMMENT

A LAWYER-IDEALIST IS NEW IMPRESARIO

Edward K. Baird Tells of the "Opera for the People" Movement Under City Club's Auspices.

New York has a new operatic impresario. He is Edward Kellogg Baird, and of him up to the present Broadway has known little or nothing.

believe that at this point I worked thirty-six hours a day. I continued as usual for the Remington until 1906, when I entered into general law practice.

"I am not a musician, nor have I been a regular subscriber to the Metropolitan, but I have been a constant operagoer since I came to New York. I began at the Metropolitan, and as my means increased I gradually worked my way

STIMULATED BY ADVERSITY. "To begin with," said Mr. Baird, "I am an idealist, so much an idealist that difficulty, and what is usually called impossibility, only excites me to greater effort.

When I came to New York from Missouri, eighteen years ago, I was only nineteen. I was then employed by the Remington Typewriter Company and knew nothing of the law.

down, gallery by gallery, but I never forgot my feelings as a gallery boy, and this is why I am now so strong a believer in opera for the people.

At this luncheon, however, Gardner Sampson, who had sung in opera in Germany, made an address, in which he declared that the time had come for our cities to do something for popular opera.

AN ILLUSTRATIVE INSTANCE. "Here is a hand that was played at a prominent club in the central part of the state that still recognizes the obsolete system of bidding two on the weaker suits. The hand:

♠A9642 ♠10875 ♠KQJ10832 ♠K65 ♠A96 ♠AQ975 ♠A6 ♠AQ645 ♠10875 ♠KQJ10832 ♠86 ♠A96 ♠AQ975 ♠A6 ♠9843 ♠10875 ♠KQJ10832 ♠5

Score: Love all, rubber game. Playing his partner's system left South no alternative but to declare two clubs, leaving the diamonds to show later if necessary.

With four losers in adversaries' suit, besides two other small cards, West was cautious about assuming a high contract, and limited his declaration to two in spades.

EAST KEPT UP THE FIGHT. The historic remark, "Bridge is an easy game," might apply equally well to auction, judging from the way things worked. With six losers staring him in the face,

MUSIC NOTES.

On Thursday evening, May 22, in Carnegie Hall, the concert to have been given by the Italian Philharmonic Society on April 12, and postponed on account of difficulty arising over the use of the name of the society, will be presented by the Italian Philharmonic Society of New York (Inc.).

There will be no change in the personnel of the orchestra, which is composed of the best musicians procurable in the city, or in its leadership, Cesare Sodero postponing a trip abroad to bring out the program arranged. There will be a change in soloists, however, Mme. Albi having departed for Europe.

The complete program with the exception of the solo numbers, follows: Beethoven, Symphony No. 3, Op. 55; Chopin, Nocturne in D, Op. 9, No. 2; Liszt, Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 23; Mendelssohn, Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 64; Wagner, Tristan and Isolde, Act I.

The first public performance in the English language of "A Lover Quarrel" was sung last Sunday at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, in conjunction with the regular Sunday evening programme of the Aborn Opera Company.

Miss Julia Chip is to sing a number of folk-songs at the first of the Madison Square Garden Symphony Concerts, at a popular price on Sunday evening, May 18.

There will be a concert at Governor's Island on May 22 at 2 p. m. for the Army Relief Society. It will be given by the 25th United States Infantry.

The New York Military Band, under the direction of Edwin Franko Goldman, which is composed of the best known wind instrument players of New York City, has just been engaged to give a series of four concerts at Columbia University on the evenings of July 17, 22, 24 and August 12.

At the Women's Club of Worcester, Mass. Miss Foret will be heard in Fort Chester, N. Y., on the evening of May 5.

Next Wednesday evening Miss Beatrice Wainwright soprano, will sing old French and English songs in the lecture hall of St. Mark's Church, 9th Street and Second Avenue.

An enthusiastic audience assembled in Carnegie Chamber Music Hall on Tuesday afternoon, April 29, to hear the pupils of Victor Hart, pianist and teacher, of Studio Hall, give a piano recital of compositions of classic masters, including numbers by Heller, Chamade, McDowell, Chopin and Liszt.

The pupils of Theodor Lesbia Irvine, dramatic reader and teacher, of Carnegie Hall, gave one of their best programmes at their annual recital in the Waldorf Apartments, at the Waldorf, on the evening of May 6.

On Friday evening of last week Auguste Furet, soprano, gave one of her charming programmes of old French songs in costume, before an audience composed of the Alliance Francaise and

will be obliged to return in July, in order to sing at the Knoxville festival and at other concerts in Tennessee for which he has been engaged.

Henry Holden Huss gave an artist pupils' recital in Carnegie Chamber Music Hall on Monday evening, May 5. Among those who played were Winthrop Parkhurst, Miss Helen Orent, Miss Elizabeth Parker, and Miss Florence Bachelder.

In St. Peter's Church, Chelsea Square, this evening, at 7:45, Sir Alfred Gueden, cantata, "The Holy City," will be directed under the direction of George Henry Day, with a chorus of thirty-five voices.

Miss Annie Finckberg, concert director, Metropolitan Opera House Building, No. 147, Broadway, announces a preliminary list of artists under her management for the season of 1913-14.

Mr. William C. Carl on his recent concert visit to Buffalo was entertained socially by several well-known people of that city, among them Mr. Burroughs, the organist, and Mrs. Burroughs, who gave a dinner in his honor, as also did Frances Helen Burroughs.

The sixty-third free organ recital in the popular series in the "Good Post" Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue and 12th Street, under Dr. Carl's direction, will be given to-morrow evening by Harold Vincent Milligan, F. A. G. O. Mr. Milligan is a post-graduate of the Guildman Organ School.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

Esperanza Garrigou's pupil, Enrico Alessandrini, lyric tenor, will have a benefit recital in Greenwich Conn., May 16. He sails on June 1 for Italy, where Miss Garrigou has made arrangements with the Music College, Santa Cecilia, Rome, to continue his preparations for grand opera.

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AUCTION BRIDGE CLINICS

Auction Players Found Everywhere, but Codes of Conventions Are Local.

The proper and legitimate conventions of auction bridge are varied to a considerable extent in different communities. Peculiarities of conventions in both bidding and play are generally local, and the same code attaches in nearly all cases in the same localities.

The travelled player is required to use a great deal of elasticity in his game in order to cope with the situations that arise in the various clubs and communities.

A well known auction player who is also one of the old and well-travelled whist players, and who has a justifiable pride in his well rounded game and his many championship medals, travels continually throughout the East. He states that his observation is that while the best auction players are generally found in the large whist and card clubs in the large cities, the four suit without the tops, has not yet permeated all the suburbs.

The main difference he finds is in the fact that the smaller towns are more prone to observe the conventions of the game as they were used at the beginning. The fact that the original bid of two by the dealer has been superseded by the more modern and up-to-date style of game to show strength rather than weakness, is four suit without the tops, has not yet permeated all the suburbs.

There is no logical reason why a player should bid two originally upon any suit to indicate weakness, and in addition such a

point from which it is impossible to escape, whereas by the modern method of passing on the suit or by a proper two-suit bid the partner may switch the bidding to other and less dangerous channels.

The following is a hand which was given up by the travelling player above referred to and which illustrates the point.

Score: Love all, first game. South declared two clubs. While South's hand contained the requisite strength for a light no-trump, the conventional declaration of supporting strength was in this case preferable.

Although a two-spade declaration naturally directs attention to a no-trump, the inherent strength associated with the declaration allows wide latitude in reaching a declaration which combines successfully the partnership strength.

What led to East's declaration of two no-trump it would be difficult to explain. West by his later bid of two showed more than a mere desire to direct his partner's lead, which his original declaration might have meant.

Probably more points are given to the opponents in penalties and premiums and in showing them over the coveted goal line by the doubtful double than by any other one blunder possible in the entire game. We have given considerable space

to the discussion of this point in previous articles and we wish again to call attention to the fact. Here is a hand which was played at a local club in an important game by star players, and which shows with what emphasis should be put upon avoiding the doubtful double. The hand:

Score: 2-0 dealer's favor, second game. North and South one game in. South declared one royal and West went to two hearts. North with two kings and four spades to support his partner's, declared two royals. East also supported his partner with a three heart declaration.

South said three royals, and West, who usually "holds them up," strangely passed. This was a curious exhibition on West's part, as he often achieves considerable success, whether deserved or otherwise, by forcing the opponents to an unfavorable contract. At a strong adverse score West, void of one suit, with a long suit to make up and with the knowledge of his partner's support, had an ideal hand for a speculative make.

South's declaration was doubted by East when his turn arrived for declaring. Whether this apparent digression from the accepted standards of supporting bids was due to previous observation of his partner's inclination to overbid or to an effort to recoup a heavy adverse overline score was not explained.

At a two diamond declaration North would probably open with the ace of spades. South could only get in once with the ace of clubs to stop a cross ruff. Dummy would still have one trump left for a club ruff. Besides the ace of diamonds, West would make three small diamonds by ruffing. With five trump tricks and three tricks in plain suits the contract would just have been made.

Some difference between a fulfilled contract and a defeat to the tune of 100!

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Danger That Bad Take-Outs May Follow Dealer's Original Suit Bid of Two.

hearts, and dummy's cards were exposed. West's next lead of the jack of clubs, with only three clubs unaccounted for, was of doubtful value. His being void of trumps probably influenced his choice of the longer suit. South won West's club lead with the ace.

Finding West void of trumps upon lead of the king, South switched and led the ace of hearts. Following this with the nine of clubs, West covering with the ten and dummy playing the king, the trick became top card. East refused to take the lead, discarding a small diamond. South reciprocated, also discarding a diamond when East ruffed dummy's high club to the next trick.

East was now placed in an unenviable position. A lead in any one of his three suits meant the sacrifice of the most likely choice the diamonds as the suit. This suit, leading the ace, won two tricks in the suit endeavor to secure two tricks in the suit failed, however. Besides the ace of diamonds, East made a trump trick later. East's efforts, therefore, to secure the fifth trick necessary for opponents' defeat were unavailing.

VARIATIONS POSSIBLE. This hand of pretty position play admitted of a number of variations. South, with the opening leads, however, held the contract safe. His early lead of the king of hearts, while not essential to success, made a play that always proves embarrassing to the adversaries. That is, in substance, forcing the opponents to another suit, at the risk of a trick lost by a ruff and discarding attendant upon a subsequent lead in the suit.

FRIENDLY HINT. "I'm not afraid to say exactly what I think," said Governor Blawie. "That's interesting," replied Senator Scrogium. "But a man who adopts that principle ought to be more careful about what he thinks." - Washington Star.