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The Man Who Wrote "Sweet Marie."

How the Inspiration Came to Him.

Song. 6. A mere trifle. Something of little or no value, as "I bought it for a song."—(Colloq.) The Century Dictionary.

There are songs and songs. Some songs have precious little value. But "Sweet Marie" is not one of them. "Sweet Marie" is the song that all the organs are grinding out; that the messenger boys are whistling; that the young woman with the shrieky voice in the next flat to you is singing at 7 o'clock in the morning. But that all proves that "Sweet Marie" is immensely popular, and that is to say it is immensely valuable.

"Sweet Marie" has already brought in \$13,000 to the man who wrote both its words and music, Raymon Moore. And he confidently expects to make \$20,000 out of the song after the returns from all the back counties are in. Mr. Moore receives eight cents royalty on each copy of the song that is sold. So 162,500 copies have already been sold. If the composer makes \$20,000, 250,000 copies will have been sold. There is a great responsibility in adding 250,000 "Sweet Maries" to the population of this song-loving country. But Mr. Moore accepts the responsibility and is happy in the certainty that they have been welcomed from Portland, Ore., to Portland, Me.

Mr. Moore composed "Sweet Marie" last September. He was on his way across the continent from San Francisco with W. H. Cronk-hite, John Coleman, the dancer, and Otis Harland, the leading man in Hoyt's new play, "A Black Sheep." To relieve the tedium of the journey, these four played poker. It had cost Mr. Moore \$300 or \$400 to relieve the tedium, and he was beginning to feel slightly wearied, when he picked up a hand, and lo! there were three nines in it.

Mr. Moore, with great promptness, raised the ante to come in, and everybody came in. He drew one card and, on careful inspection, found four nines in his five cards. The train was then just east of Denver, and Mr. Moore mentally determined to bet that hand as far as Chicago.

The other man called.

"Four nines," said Mr. Moore, reaching for the money.

"Four tens," said the other man, taking the money.

Mr. Moore, quite naturally, felt rather sad and pensive after that. It was then that the inspiration came to him from which sprung "Sweet Marie." He jotted down the music and elaborated the words, "Sweet Marie" was born.

Mr. Moore is twenty-eight years old, and New York State claims the honor of his birth, for he

first saw the light at Amsterdam. He went to San Francisco with his parents when he was very young. His genius was hidden for a time while he acted as book-keeper in a haberdasher's shop in 'Frisco. One lucky day he went on a holiday to San Diego. On his return to 'Frisco by boat, it happened that "Chris" Buckley was his fellow-passenger. Mr. Buckley was then at the height of his power. He controlled Democratic politics in San Francisco as absolutely as ever did Richard Croker in New York.

Mr. Buckley heard Raymon Moore sing, and was drawn to him by the sweetness of his tenor voice. The blind political leader made him his secretary at a salary of \$150 a month. He filled that position with great credit for two years, and then resigned to become a member of Emerson's minstrels. As such he has become known and popular all over the country.

Mr. Moore not only composes the music, but writes the words of all his songs. He thinks that "Eilen Aroon," a song he has just finished, is the best he ever wrote. Another very successful song of his is "My Fair Colleen." Mr. Moore has not yet published one of his best efforts, "Don't Quite Forget Old Dad." He is rather surprised by the vast popularity of "Sweet Marie."

Will the Conn Factory be Engulfed?

AT Elkhart, Ind., the home of the Conn band instrument works, a singular phenomenon has been witnessed during the past week. It was noticed last Thursday, says the *Sun*, that a crack, about three inches wide, had started back from the south bank of the St. Joseph River, and that it extended to a considerable depth. Nothing was thought of the matter until it was observed that the crack was rapidly increasing both in depth and width. At this time it is between 50 and 60 feet in depth and 3 feet wide, and is still growing. In length it is 400 feet.

A portion of the foundation of the stone bottling works building has fallen into the fissure. If it continues its course for any length of time great damage must result to property, as that part of the city is thickly built up. No one has ever known anything of that kind to occur there before, and some attempt to explain it on the theory that an underground stream branches off from the river at that point.

A Home for Old Musicians.

THE Musicial Mutual Protective Union of New York city will give a summer night's festival at the Old Homestead, Ninety-first street and Third avenue, on the afternoon and evening of Monday, Sept. 10, the first of a series for the purpose of raising a fund to establish a home for old musicians in New York.



FREDERICK T. STEINWAY returned yesterday morning to American shores on the steamer "Fuerst Bismarck."

GENIAL "Tom" Evans, who for the past ten years has been a prominent figure in metropolitan newspaperdom, has resigned his position as Eastern manager of The San Francisco *Chronicle* and Chicago *Tribune* and has entered the insurance business, as special representative of Equitable Life Assurance Co. "Tom" leaves behind a brilliant record as a newspaper man, and it is certain that a man of his restless energy will achieve a mighty big success among insurance men.

THE business of the Alcott & Maynor Co., of Dallas, Tex., is in the hands of the sheriff. They handled the Shaw and Gabler pianos, and the Chicago Cottage Organ Co.'s goods up to a recent date.

THE Mason & Hamlin Organ and Piano Co., Lyon & Healy and Joseph Bohmann, of Chicago, are the three American exhibitors of musical instruments at the Antwerp Exposition.

WE are pleased to learn that Mr. C. J. Heppe, Philadelphia, who has been seriously ill, is now greatly improved in health. If this change for the better continues, it is expected that he will return to his city home from the seaside this week.

MR. H. D. CABLE and wife, of Chicago, and Mr. Lew H. Clement of the Ann Arbor Organ Co., will return from Europe next week.

IT is said that the houses of Williamson Brothers and Exton & Cist of Los Angeles, Cal., have been consolidated.

THE importations of goods from England to the United States for the year of 1893 was \$560,345. In 1887 they amounted to \$330,000. The highest point in importations was reached in 1891 when they were estimated at \$971,425. It is not at all improbable that this year the imports will equal if not excel 1891; chiefly on account of the new tariff law.

MR. WILLIAM E. KAPS, piano manufacturer of Dresden, Germany, sailed for home last Thursday. Mr. Kaps has been in this country for the past eight months, getting a knowledge of the American system of pianoforte manufacturing.

MR. ROBERT M. WEBB, who had intended sailing for Europe last Saturday, postponed doing so until Wednesday, when he left by the "New York" of the American line.