

1-1884

The Voice of the Phi Sigma -- 1884 -- Volume 06, No. 01

Phi Sigma

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/phisigma_voice

 Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Phi Sigma, "The Voice of the Phi Sigma -- 1884 -- Volume 06, No. 01" (1884). *The Voice of the Phi Sigma*. 31.
http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/phisigma_voice/31

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Phi Sigma Collection at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Voice of the Phi Sigma by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago.



THE VOICE

OF THE

PHI SIGMA.

Vol. 6

No. 1

— EDITORS —

HARRIET M. JANNER.

FREDERICA BEARD.

The Voice of the Phi-Sigma-

Volume II

Number I

Editors -

Harriet M. Tanner -

Fredrika Beard.

Contents.

Editorials - - - - -

Answers to Inquiries - - - - -

Roman's Mission - - - - -

Harriet M. Tanner.

Notes - - - - -

Similes - - - - -

Roman in Art and Science - - - - -

Fredrika Beard.

Editorials.

"A Happy and a prosperous New Year to all the 'Tri Squidilli' ours our Voice, and although this is an idle superstition, that a masculine Voice wishing Happy New Year is more propitious, yet this little has a ring of honesty and good-will that is pleasant to hear. It is our earnest desire that our Voice may utter something worth listening to and remembering. But if it is too sharp in ^{some} places and falls flat in others please recollect that no musical composition is of any especial merit without a good reliable base. We figured on a base, but you made an inharmonious change and, like the musicians in the Surprise Symphony, the ~~chorus~~ orchestra has all quietly deserted leaving the helpless women to make the best they can of a difficult soprano and an intricate alto part. So we decided to compose in a rather ancient fugue-like style, the Soprano suggesting the theme and the alto following up and elaborating it. We hoped to have a grand-ful little melody to which the women, but she - or rather it - became frightened and discouraged and returned her voice. And so wishing you every joy and happiness, and that the New Year may be a bright cheerful allegro the Voice executes its prettiest cadenza and demands an encore.

Those who have never heard Nilsson as Margherita should make the best of their opportunities by attending the Matinee on Saturday next. Nilsson's Margherita stands first among

2.
artists everywhere. The charm of the Abbey group is that all
the roles are filled by artists, in every sense of the word, even
the chorus being perfectly refreshing because it is pleasant to see
and still pleasanter to hear. Capoul, though the freshness of
his voice has gone, is such a consummate actor that one
forgives an occasional falsetto. As for Norma, he is - well.
Mephistopheles himself, and Schalchi is perfectly captivating,
as Siebel. Liguori Kaschman has scored a triumph by his
fine rendering as Valentin. Although the stage setting is in-
ferior, Faust as given Monday evening is worth hearing,
and one comes away feeling as if he had read a very beau-
tiful but distressingly sad poem.

The Mayor and the Common-Council of our city have either
deliberately defied the law, or shown their dense ignorance of
it, by giving to numerous Catholic institutions a rebate of
on the water-tax. Perhaps they do not know that in America
we have "millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."
The Roman Catholic Church has never done anything to help
America and it is enough that our country has the Church
paupers and criminals to support. We owe nothing to the
Papacy and we ask nothing but to be left severely alone.

For the beautiful lettering upon the cover of our paper we
are indebted to Mr. W. N. Beard, and for the extremely
extremely artistic cover itself we express our hearty thanks
to all the members of our class who were so kind as to send,

the silk pieces required without demanding and explanation.
If the literary merit of the Prize approaches ~~it~~ in excellence
the beauty of the cover, or exhausted Editors will dis content.

Woman's Missions.

"Woman's mission begins at home and ought to stay there."
This aphorism was uttered by one of the dear Madras whose
whole hours are spent in caring for the temporal necessities of
their large families. Brought up, in the good old-fashioned
way manner, our Martha looked well to the ways of her house
and trusted no hirelings. To her the making of butter, mince-meat
and cream cheese was a mysterious process worthy of Druidical
rites. She never left her presence to the care of good-for-nothing
servants and was to the luckless mortal who dared, unbidden,
to penetrate the mysteries of that holy of holies, the rose-scented
biscuit press-chest. Like good Mrs. Poyser our Martha ruled every-
thing from her husband's door. There was never a clog in the
domestic machinery, and thanks to Mrs. Martha's excellent cooking
and careful dieting, dyspepsia found no victims among the
stomachs and tempers of that house-hold. To be sure there was
little time devoted to the spiritual and mental wants of the
children, but they all ~~grew up healthy~~ developed into healthy, com-
mon-place men and good-natured, healthy, practical women.
These old-fashioned house keepers are almost out of date, and
when one is discarded she is held up as a model to the so-
called "feminine" rising generation. To this rising generation
with its antefatherly housework and its clamorings for
rights and privileges, our Martha said, "Woman's work begins,
and ought to stay, at home." Now every sober-minded woman

2.
Must acknowledge that her first duty is to her home
and family. It is her greatest privilege to be given a home of
her own and it is her duty to make that home the very
center of life, light and happiness to its inmates. The world
should be the sun whose light never disappears and who
keeps by some divine attraction, all the elements of this
little home-universe in their proper places. No woman
has such a wide influence, such opportunities for doing
good or such a heavy responsibility as a wife and mother.
And it seems one of the inexplicable things that such a
woman can feel that she has not all the rights and privileges
she can possibly improve. The eternal fitness of things demands
that there should be mothers and housekeepers, but their office
do not degrade women and they are not a whit inferior to
men because their work is different. Women are ~~not inferior~~
~~clay~~ but refined, not inferior clay; their ~~reasons~~ ^{intellect} may not
be as deep and profound as man's, but it is quicker to per-
ceive, more delicate and sensitive in every way. There are,
among women, masculine minds as there are among men
weak, less than feminine ones. The mind of woman was
created entirely different from man's, but it is no more
inferior than the Venus de Milo is less a work of art
than the Sphinx, the Pendone column or the Arch du Tri-
omphe. Some one has said that woman's work, especially
that of married women, becomes a lost force, because it
is absorbed and appropriated by men. It is true that
a woman is often the means of great achievements;

as in the case of Mrs. Rothing, who ~~was the~~ studied^{3.}
engineering and bridge-building thus making it possible
for her husband to construct that marvel of modern
works, the Brooklyn Bridge. Mrs. Carlyle, Caroline Ter-
schel and Mendelssohn's sister are all examples of women
who gave their life, talents and intellect to the aid, encour-
agement and glory of husband or brother. When a woman
marries she need look no further for her life-work - it is
before her, and surely no work of less is then a lost force.
But there are in America alone, twenty five thousand
more ~~more~~ women than men. There is a positive
certainty that there will be at least twenty thousand of
those undeservedly unpopular things, old maids. Among
this army of women are many who are real geniuses and
who make themselves famous by some noble work in
art, literature or science. But, alas, it is only a too well
established fact that women are so seldom educated
to care for themselves, that when the hour falls and they
find themselves dependent upon their own exertions
like Helen in Arnold's last novel. their superficial education un-
fits them for any remunerative position. The reason for this
is that women are only just beginning to realize that, although
they are disfranchised, there are hundreds of vacant places
for them to fill, and every talent and inclination can be cultivated
and indulged to its the highest degree. Saying nothing of
the noble work done by women - physicians, ~~and~~ missionaries
and nurses, no class has a larger influence or really accom-

phies more actual good than the women teachers in our
 public schools. Their influence is paramount to that of the
 parents of the children they teach. To the honor of our Board
 of Education be it said that the time has past when ~~men~~
 men receive larger salaries than women, simply because the
 latter at present will do more thorough, conscientious work
 for less pay. I assert, without fear of contradiction, that there
 is no branch of work in Art, Literature, Science or the indi-
 vidual branches of these great fields where woman is not wel-
 come, honored and given equal advantages with men, - if
 she is properly educated and fitted for the work. If women
 are such a despised ~~and~~ useless and inferior class why has
 God honored them in so marked a manner? Why did he
 create Eve? To tempt Adam? No, for Adam would have yielded
 as readily to the Serpent as he did to her. Eve was created Adam's
 help-mate - that is, assistant, companion, helper. Why was
 Esther selected deliver Israel? Why should Christ have delighted
 in the society of the home in Bethany? And, glorious proof of
 all, why did He choose to become a little child and receive
 the tender care of a mother whom he loved so devotedly that
 his last thoughts were for her safety? Then, you remember, it
 was to women he revealed himself first after his Resurrection.
 It is a mistaken idea that women are not recognized as
 the equals of men. All the greatest thinkers and writers
 of the age are earnest advocates of woman's cause, and

the college doors flung open to women are ample evidence that she is advancing rapidly to the highest plane of learning and intellectuality. There is still one great step to be taken, according to some, and that is in the direction of the polls. It is true that there are unjust laws especially in the law of marriage. "The law strips a woman of her property and leaves her fortune at the mercy of her husband, the husband can also seize his wife's earnings unless she is protected by a judicial separation or by an order from a magistrate." Thank God it is only the exception where a man is base enough to take advantage of these unequal laws. There are few men who would care to see their mothers, wives and sisters at the polls, and I do not think the right to vote would be beneficial - on the contrary - as we are so nearly like men, some of us might yield to the bribes and temptations of political life, and surely corrupt, intriguing women are worse than men, and women should shun every thing that takes away in the least degree that indefinable charm of purity, dignity and truth that is the glory of true womanhood. But men can and ought to regulate the laws so that a woman has equal rights and privileges with men. Then, if girls are educated I feel that they have a definite aim in life, that they are accountable for every talent God has given them, men will honor and respect them more than if they elected Presidents and filled the House of Representatives and the Judges' benches. So lead a happy, useful busy life is to be cheerful and contented, and every girl who has some definite work to do

6.

is not only happier herself but is a delight and a comfort to those about her. It is not necessary to be so wholly engrossed in this work that she becomes sharp-tongued and aggressive, with a profound contempt for society and a sublime disregard of personal appearance. These are not the attributes of independent, industrious helpful lives. We owe a portion of our time to our friends - to society - but not all of it.

The girl who devotes her life to fashion and gaiety not only loses dignity and self-respect, but throws away that pearl of great price "Health", and this once lost, a woman becomes an affliction to herself and a discipline to her friends.

We were created with a love for the beautiful with instincts that teach us what is harmonious in colors and dress, as well as in music and family life! Here fore let us not neglect this both talent - let us make ourselves neat and attractive - a cause that is one way in which we can work and influence for good. Last, but not least, dear girls, let us learn to govern that unruly member, the tongue! I don't believe that women are the only gossips and mischief makers, - indeed ~~there~~ ^{I know} are men who are perfect cyclones of current gossip. But - especially if we have no work to do, and nothing in particular to occupy our minds, we are apt to fall into a habit of talking of people not objects. It is impossible to discuss people without criticizing them, and words are the only things that last - reputations that have been built up by years of earnest endeavor may be ruined by one little word.

To let us take this little maxim home with us.

"Talk about objects not people and if you can't say
anything good of your friends, be silent."

Answers To Inquirers.

A. S. K. We can think of no more deplorable nor deplorable than an interrogation point.

E. N. B. Darwin has left no record of the tribe you mention, but recent investigation proves that such a race exists in our own country. These peculiar creatures are called "Migrati" and are of skin musical. They change their habitations frequently and without a note of warning.

C. P. A. Yes, Leap Year was invented for the benefit of gentlemen who find it hard to talk.

Prof. We heartily recommend Lincoln's celebrated work - "Critical Moments in a President's Life." His advice to youthful aspirants is excellent. We quote these characteristic passages. -
"The Alpha and Omega of good government is comprised in a little rule of three words - "Always Adjourn Early!"
"Let your department be dignified and judicial."
"Do not tilt your chair nor rifle aimlessly into the articles on the President's table."

A. S. K. You are right. All well regulated clubs meet at sundown and adjourn before early candle light. This custom was established by William the Conqueror. There are, however, a few exceptions. For example see the charming ball poem, "Carpenter Hall Not Ring Tonight."

H. N. B. I cannot answer personally all inquiries but employ competent assistants to attend to the "small trade."

Wm. It is not necessary to sign your name to a note written in the third person, singular.

E. W. P. Yes, Edmund is much more aesthetic, much more uncommon than Edward. If you will become the owner. We advise our "esteemed friend" henceforth to sign all documents with his name in full.

Young Langer. If you earnestly desire popularity and your name, age and a flattering biographical sketch to the *Inter-Ocean*. There is nothing like bringing one's self before the public.

Notes.

On account with the thought of occupying the Presidential Chair on this first evening, it was found necessary to assist our President to the place of meeting. Two young ladies - at his request - undertook the arduous task, of preserving him from fainting by the way.

There's consolation in this thought
For anyone who weeps
For all the absent Phy. Leguistics -
"Bacon always weeps."

On receipt of postage we will mail to our subscribers any number of patches for silk quilts. Please state what color is most desirable. We have some fine specimens of "stationary" colors, any number of "Lard" silks, and rest of all some genuine board-of-trade certificates in all the fashionable shades.

Similes.

Why is one of our members like an awe-inspiring structure?
Because he is a solemn Atty.

Why should we call Mr. Bacon in case of hydrophobia?
Because he will administer Blackstone.

Why is Mr. Wilson both a Republican and a Royalist?
Because while vying for the Presidency he seems a King.

Why is the tongue of the first vice President like the planet
Mercury? Because it goes so fast you can't see it.

Why do we need a plumb line in the Phi Sigma?
Because the meters of Messrs. Ballentine and Kimball
register too much gas.

Woman, in the Arts & Sciences.

Woman, — what has she done? — What power, what influence has she exerted in the building up of the world's civilization, to the high it has reached to-day? — By what she has done in the past what may she accomplish in the future? — As women, we can but rejoice that we live in the nineteenth century, — that, at least in Christianized lands, the day is gone — & gone forever — when woman was but the slave in social life, — was as a pet animal in the higher classes of society, — a beast of burden in the lower. — Yea, also, that the second stage of European civilization is fast passing away, when (as one writer says) women were recognised as beings meant to keep house, — perform works of charity, — smile winningly, but if they possessed genius or intellect — put it carefully under a bushel. Woman has rebelled, — her genius has come forth from the bushel, to become a light in the world. —

We shall not speak of what woman has done in literature or in politics but simply of her relation to the Arts & Sciences. —

To-day it is a disputed question whether woman's intellect can equal that of man's, — whether her genius is capable of attaining

the height reached by his. True it is, that woman's intellect, as yet, has rarely equalled that of man. There are no names of female composers to place side-by-side with those of Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart & Mendelssohn; - no female artists to compare with Michael Angelo, Raphael or Titian. - But why?

The training, the privileges, the opportunities for development open to man, have been denied to woman, - her capabilities have not been tried. - There are startling instances where, - like opportunities having been granted to both - women have, not only equalled but surpassed their fellow-students of the opposite sex. - For example at the Royal College of Science in Ireland, it was a woman who, at the first examination in 1856 - won the first prize in zoology & botany. In 1859 the first prize in physical science was awarded to a lady. - & again in 1862 the first in chemistry was gained by a female student. It is but here & there that the large colleges of either of Europe or America have opened their doors to women, & it was not long ago that both the Royal Geographical & Royal Astronomical Societies of London determined "not to recognise or reward services to science when rendered by a

woman." This decision, made by the latter arose, when Miss Caroline Howard made her discovery of five comets, & the gold medal usually awarded for such services, was denied to her. - We have here an example that woman may accomplish something in the science of astronomy. - Countess of Lovelace's name (Byron's daughter) became famous in connection with the meteorological Society. - At present in Rome, is the Contessa Ersilia Lovatelli, daughter of the Dante scholar, Duke di Serravalle. "This lady is a wonderful Latinist, - writing in Latin as Cicero might; she is also a Greek scholar, has studied the Oriental tongues & is a profound archeologist." One of our daily papers says - "While American colleges & universities are making much a-do about women-students the question is settled very naturally & quietly in Italy. She has always been celebrated for her learned women, though the average feminine education is not & never has been so good as in our own country."

The title of *dottressa* or Doctor of science has often been conferred on women by the Italian Universities, above all in 1851 two young Italian women received university honors from the Roman University. "Never (says one)

4
"since the thirteenth century, when Brunscut-
founded this celebrated old school of learning,
has a petticoat been tolerated within its walls,
as student, except, to be sure, priestly petticoats
of the "male persuasion". The two young women,
referred to, are remarkable examples of the
capabilities of woman. - Signorina Carolina
Magistrèlli of Mantua & Signorina Evangelina
Bottero of Aqvi, at the early age of twenty-three
-having studied in Rome four years, received
the degree of dottresse in natural sciences,
zoology & all the other "ologies" scientific.
They received also the unanimous vote &
congratulations of the faculty. Their memoirs
or graduating theses were so remarkable that
they were sent to the Academy of Lincei. —
It is very interesting to note how women
have distinguished themselves as explorers, —
both singly - as Madame Pfeifer - & with their
husbands as Lady Baker, Madame Helper,
& Madame Sneyer. Whilst the Geographical
Society would not recognise such services,
Mr Bates, of that Society, writes of the two ladies
last named "Madame Helper accompanied her
husband to Burmah & the Andaman Isles, in his
scientific investigations. Madame Sneyer travelled
with her husband in the Phillipine Islands.
He owed much to the enterprise, endurance

courage & scientific enthusiasm of his partner. They travelled in a boat round the Islands dredging the sea-bottom for marine animals & had to run in ashore to escape from pirates. The result was a magnificent collection of the animal production of the Phillipine Archipelago". Lady Baker shared with Sir Samuel Baker his hardships & perils & by her presence & interest aided him in his scientific explorations. But perhaps the most interesting example is that of Miss Bird, who in the last few years has travelled on horseback through the northern interior of Japan, spent six months in the Sandwich Islands & lived in the Rocky Mts. Her travels are best-told by herself in her books "Six months in the Sandwich Islands", "A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains" & "The Unbeaten Tracks of Japan". It is a noticeable fact that ^{whilst} leading such a life Miss Bird has not lost her womanliness when in one of these, she says "I have seen a great deal of the roughest class of men, both on sea & land during the last two years, & the more important - I think the "mission" of every quiet refined, self-respecting woman, - the more mis- taken I think those who would forfeit it for a noisy self-assertion, masculinity or gallantry." - It has been considered an established fact that the feminine mind is not inventive - it can suggest, - it often does,

6
but man's mind must carry out. Therefore it is thought-useless for girls to study mechanics, but (in the words of a writer in one of our noted periodicals) "How shall the bird fly if it is born & reared in a cage?" The most valuable mental faculty in invention is imagination. Women certainly have this. The seeing a want prompts to a lively imagination of a way of supplying that want. Of the other three essentials to invention, - patience, work, & a knowledge of the laws of mechanics, they lack but in the latter. - "Educate women to see the relations of things & understand something of this branch of study & feminine inventions will quickly follow." In fact the Patent-office reports already contain a considerable number of patents issued to women, some of which have proved of great-commercial value. In an exhibition lately opened in Boston there were exhibited some of the more recent inventions, improved & brought to a practical use by women - such as articles of furniture, a trunk, stove grate, oil stove, life preserver, etc. - the most promising design of all being an adjustable book-cover. In practical scientific work there was also a display of chemicals & dye-stuffs, all made by women.

Though not strictly relating to our subject, it may be interesting to notice how the invention of the Telescope was suggested by a little girl. - In the town of Middleburg, in the Netherlands, lived a poor optician, named Hans Lippersheim.

One day he was working in his shop, his children amusing themselves with the tools & objects lying on his work-bench, when suddenly his little girl exclaimed "Oh Papa! see how near the steeple comes". Half startled, Hans looked up & turning toward her he saw she was looking through two lenses, one held close to her eye - the other at arm's length. Taking the glasses he repeated his daughter's experiment, discovered she had chanced to hold the lenses apart at their exact focus, & this had produced the marvelous effect. Thus was this wonderful discovery made. In many of the Industrial ^{arts} women are largely employed. - In the photographic art - much of the work is done by them, such as retouching etc. Numbers of women spend their lives as watch-makers. In the Elgin Watch Factory ~~the~~ great proportion of the workers are females. In Decorative Art - women have excelled, especially of late years. Perhaps the most important ^{branch} of this work is wood-engraving which to-day is the means of livelihood to many of our sex.

This naturally leads us to speak of Women as Architects, as yet not much has been accomplished in this line, though it has been said that woman is well-fitted for such a work, as she, as

8,
housekeeper can know best the most convenient arrangement of a house. The only famous name in Architecture is that of Sabina of Steinbeck who, at her father's death completed the Strasburg Cathedral, whose tower reaches higher than St. Peter's or the great pyramid. - Amongst sculptors, Harriet Hosmer is the most celebrated. An American, she went to Rome some years ago where her famous statues have been chiseled. "Miss Hosmer has gained a place in her art, never before occupied by woman." Names of other sculptors come before us but none of great celebrity.

As Artistes women have done more in painting than in sculpture. From the days of the Greeks & Romans to our own times we find names of female painters, & if in this art woman does not rise to the very pinnacle of greatness, she at least attains excellence of no common order. But lists of names are uninteresting & we refrain except to mention one or two of the most famous. Anna Schurman must ever be celebrated not alone as an artist but as a remarkable woman in her learning & genius. Henrietta Waters a Dutch Artist, born in 1692 rose to such ~~great~~ a reputation that both Peter the Great & the King of Prussia sought for her to reside at their capitals. Angelica Kauffman was the greatest female painter of the 18th century. Of our own times

Rosa Bonheur, excels all others. In 1860 the grand medal of the Legion of Honor was conferred upon her. — As a musician's woman's practical career, only began with the invention of the opera in 1600. We have little trace of her as a composer but what may she not have done as friend, consoler, & inspirer of the inspirer? Would Goethe have accomplished all he did, if ⁱⁿ his Weimer circle he had not friends like the Duchess Amelie, Madame Von Stein, Bellina & many others? Who does not recall the exalted friendships of Vittoria Colonna, & Michael Angelo; of the Countess of Albany & Alfieri. — So among the friends of the composers. Mme Von Breunig has been called the intellectual mother to Beethoven. Mlle Roselli was Haydn's inspirer. Mozart's wife was his best friend & the closest intellectual companionship existed between Mendelssohn & his sister Mme Hensel.

Of Feminine composers the names of Leopoldine Blahetka, a famous pianiste, — Josephine Lang, a friend of Mendelssohn, — Louise Puget of France, & Elise Polka are the most celebrated. — The names of modern musicians are too well-known to need mention.

— Of late years Woman has become famous as a Physician. Though her path has been beset with obstacles both from the medical

Roman's mission begins at Lope

practitioners & the world in general, she has risen above it. Elizabeth Blackwell is the first Doctor of her sex in the United States. By her own testimony she fought her way into the medical profession & tells us that while she found in the United States four colleges willing to admit black men, she found only two willing to extend the same courtesy to white women. At twenty-three she devoted herself to this work, - was called in England "The Lady Surgeon." In 1850 she was admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. - According to statistics lately published, there are about 400 women physicians in actual practice in the United States.

And what of woman's work in the art of nursing & in the noblest department of Social Science, - that of the reformation of juvenile criminals & the education of vagrants & paupers? We can but mention this grand & glorious work of women. The names of Florence Nightingale & Mary Carpenter will "ever be remembered by what they have done" - With this hasty glance at the work of women in the past, the question comes to us, what may she not reach out to in the future?

Another question comes to us, -

What a sad world would this be
If all the women were transported
Far beyond the Northern Sea?

"

Blest

be

the

TIE

that

binds."

