Tropical Dilapidations, Among Which Is "Methuselah", a Haunted Ghost-Ridden Instrument Which Has Traveled Far and Saved Many Kinds of People

By GEORGE CECIL

Long-lived though the piano in its various forms, there are, in many parts of the world, and especially in such countries, instruments which might well be converted into sideboards or table-drapery stands. And, by a trade unchanced upon by generation after generation, the yellowed keys are in the last stage of decay; the felts are as ineffective as a key with a half a dozen knobs to it and string for this full purpose, and introducing sundry bottles of whisky.

Learning that the baja had originally been imported from England by the famous Richard Burton, when he brought out the Pye, the Tache, Udra and other otherdeavours at Barada, and thus being in a position to vouch for its antiquity, he named it "Methuselah". Rather a happy thought.

A Near Piano.

The Goanee, though, alas, realizing that sounds not musical by nature are not contrived, and that his acquisition, is not displeased with the investment. When off and done, a piano is a place—whether it is permanently dumb or capable of emitting unlimited melody. And no other waiter in Goa, he is so pleased with a hundred rupees to spend in this direction. Meanwhile, the old man (he is almost as aged as the piano) takes the greatest pride in drawing attention to the rosewood case, the elegant, well-turned legs, and the faded green silk, which, however, has escaped the attentions of the white ants and the enormous moths which infest the island. None more proud than the owner of the piano when acknowledging the pension which reaches him monthly.

Java Dutch Want 'Em.

The Dutch settlers in Java also hanker after pianos. But the Javaeese climate plays the very mischief with them, so that, the case also is in a sorry plight.

Possibly there are, if one knows where to find them, instances of pianos being played upon long after the days are numbered. A certain elderly Ceylon plantation, for example, is the unfortunate possessor of—well, what once was a concert grand, of French origin, and really imposing appearance, it takes up about a third of the sitting-room in which the white colonel reads improving literature, screens an ever-present thirst, and dreams of the (alas!) far-distant day when it was in its prime. For decades they have been subjected to tropical heat and to the insults of the musk-rat, the white-ant and the devouring moth. Yet their proud and majestic presence of old is not without a charm, a fascination which will probably outlast the human race.

Goa (an Indian dependency) also possesses pianos which have retained but a shadow of their pristine glory. One of the dark inhabitants, a retired waiter, who claims that the blood of Portuguese royalty courses in his veins, recently invested a hundred rupees on what was a piano; the beholder is not the least inclined to ask if his acquisition, is not displeased with the investment. When off and done, a piano is a place—whether it is permanently dumb or capable of emitting unlimited melody. And no other waiter in Goa, he is so pleased with a hundred rupees to spend in this direction. Meanwhile, the old man (he is almost as aged as the piano) takes the greatest pride in drawing attention to the rosewood case, the elegant, well-turned legs, and the faded green silk, which, however, has escaped the attentions of the white ants and the enormous moths which infest the island. None more proud than the owner of the piano when acknowledging the pension which reaches him monthly.

Jap's Prize.

The Jap who has been educated in Europe sometime arises on his musical taste, and, to that end, he returns to Nippon (all patriotic Japanese en- title their country "Nippon") with a piano amongst his portfolio, the equivalent for "reading, writing and arithmetic" on the spot also yearns to distinguish themselves in a musical direction, especially if they have been promoted to wear- ing trousers. It perhaps is as well that these people do not demand themselves in a musical direction, especially if they have been promoted to wearing trousers.

Some people, it is true, have been brought in the last stage of decrepitude, the sounding-board having been irreparably damaged by a former owner, a subaltern of the guard. But the Javanese climate plays the very mischief with them, so that, the case also is in a sorry plight.

A Deplorable Result.

From a highly defective interior. Quite three-fourths of the instrument has been eaten away by the musk-rat, the white-ant and the devouring moth. Yet their proud and majestic presence of old is not without a charm, a fascination which will probably outlast the human race.

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New Head of Big New York Factory Will Known for His Ability in Piano Construction

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Mr. Lang is known as one of the ablest piano superintendent in the country, and his past experi- ences have been in the construction of pianos of the highest grade. He is a man who has the confidence of the trade generally, and his past achievements are equal to the exacting requirements of the Weser Bros. plant.