



Bandmaster Thomas F. Black, Dundee 2.

The Army Bandmaster who, in his nineteenth year, composed the popular "Sheffield" March, and is now the leader of Bonnie Dundee 2, came up from the Juniors.

In other words, Bandmaster Thomas F. Black is "Army made."

It was at Heeley where, as a Salvation Army Junior, he had formed a resolution to be a Bandsman, that he was given his first instrument.

It was not a plated one, and would in fact have done credit to a scrap heap, but The army Junior saw as many possibilities in it as the Bandmaster saw in him.

Fired with enthusiasm, young Black made such progress that he soon became a valuable acquisition to the Band.

The Bandmaster gave him every opportunity of acquiring an all round knowledge of the various instruments in the Band, and the young Bandsman, when only eighteen years of age, had a practical knowledge of all of them.

The instruments on which he displayed more than ordinary skill were the euphonium, the tenor and bass trombones.

At this period of his life, having spent five years with the Heeley Band, he was transferred to Sheffield Citadel, where he played G trombone.

In twelve months' time he was made Deputy-Bandmaster, which position he held for eighteen months.

It was about this time he thought he would try his hand at composition, with the result that he produced the "Sheffield" March.

Eventually he was appointed Bandmaster, and during his command the Band made rapid progress.

The time came when the Bandmaster felt that a change from Sheffield would be beneficial, and in this connection he found his Army service very useful.

Godliness is profitable for both worlds, and although our comrade has always given his services to The Army with a single eye to God's glory, yet he found, with gratitude, that his talents were blessed to his earthy advantage.

He saw an advertisement for a Bandmaster at Dundee 2, offering at the same time a good situation.

His application was successful, and very soon the comrades at Dundee 2 were welcoming Brother Black.

At that time the Corps had "a comparatively young Band" of sixteen players.

Now there are twenty-four uniformed Bandsmen, and six waiting to be drafted into the Band.

The instruments are new "Army made," and plated, "Class A," a recent presentation.

Our correspondent writes: "The Band and their playing are now the talk of the city.

Where they used to draw their hundreds, they now attract thousands.

Every Sunday afternoon large crowds of people listen to the delightful rendering of Army music on the Shore Terrace."

Bandmaster Black is not only an accomplished musician, but an out-and-out Salvationist.

He is ever ready to do anything that lies in his power likely to be he means of extending the Kingdom of God and leading souls to seek the Saviour he loves.

Still a young man, Bandmaster Black has, we hope, many years in which to carry on he good work.

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