



### **Bandmaster Steele, Swansea 1.**

For souls and music!

The little lad playing a tin whistle, the best instrument he can afford, shows that he has the love of music ingrained in his nature.

what use will he make of it?

Will his talent, as he grows older and throws away the whistle for the cornet or euphonium, lead him into temptation or place him on the high road for Heaven, a pilgrim making others into seekers after God and the Better Lands on high.

The love of music can be either a curse or a blessing, and like everything else in this world it is made to influence others.

It is eternally true that no man lived or died to himself, and so the tin whistle player may live to charm others to Heaven or debase them down to hell!

Who does not know the Army Bandmaster, clear of eye, erect of form, simple of soul, and enthusiastic where Salvation music is concerned, who rejoices in his talents because he knows they help the Band to bring sinners to the Cross and cheer saints on their way to Glory?

Who, also does not know that music, sweet, seductive music, full of whispers of unholy love, rife with suggestions of the " short life and a merry one" , day by day and night by night plays its part in leading souls along the flowery path which ends in death and destruction?

Some there are who know personally the talented musician, weary of eye, debilitated in body, and already " tired of life" , who wields the conductor's baton in some gilded haunt of vice, or, not being " so fortunate" as this world goes, plays the piano in a public-house saloon while fools make a mock of sin.

To give a right bent to an undeveloped talent, to train it so that it shall become a blessing to the man or woman who possesses it, and to use it so that when life is over a good account may be rendered of it to Him who gave it, is one of the strongest points of the Salvation Army.

Bandmaster Steele, of Swansea 1, had no idea when his musical talents found expression in learning how to play the tin whistle that The Army would show him how to use those talents for God; but so it has been.

He loves both souls and music, and at the end of a tiring day if only one penitent comes to the mercy-seat, will turn to his Bandsmen and say, " We are well repaid for our labors. Glory be to God!" But for The Army he might only have been a lover of music; and, beautiful as it is, music has led many of its lovers eternally astray.

Bandmaster Steele was converted when young.

Like Timothy, he profited much from the salvation earnestness of his grandmother.

Paul wrote to Timothy of " the unfeigned faith" which dealt " in thy grandmother Lois"; and the same faith, at the distance of many centuries, dwelt in young Steele's grandmother Kidwell, " a red-hot Salvationist" , as a correspondent aptly phrases it.

It was in her memorial service that he gave his young heart to God, and The Army took care to train his musical abilities so that they should be a blessing to him and others.

After the tin whistling days he began to study music in earnest under Bandmaster John Cann, now in Heaven, one of the early directors of the Band at Swansea 1.

Bandmaster Cann was also a lover of souls and music, and those who studied under him and the advantage of his Christian life and example.

Our correspondent writes that he is one of the Bandsmen of Swansea 1 who will never forget the right impressions they received from godly Bandmaster Cann when they were mere lads.

"From Bandmaster Cann", says Bandmaster Steele, "I received my first music lesson" , and he went on to acquire a practical knowledge of the solo euphonium, baritone, trombone, violin, and mandolin. In recognition of his many and varied talents he was made Bandmaster, and under him the Band has made rapid and substantial progress.

His heart and soul are in his work, he seldom misses a practice, he is beloved by his Bandsmen, and Swansea 1 are proud of him. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 27, 1907)