



### **The Staff Band at Chalk Farm.**

It was a large audience which sat before the Staff Band in the Public Hall, Kentish Town, on Monday night, March 25th. But every member of the Band must have felt that the audience was a very critical, as well as a large one. Were there not Army Bandsmen in every part of the Hall? From all sides of London, Highgate, Clapton, Tottenham, Leyton, Walthamstow, Nunhead, Lewisham, Willesden, Watford, Derby, etc. There were, too, keenly alert from the beginning to the end of the festival, which for several reasons must be reckoned among the notable Army musical events of 1907.

How deep was the interest could be seen in the faces and attitudes these comrades assumed in their efforts to catch the run of every part, and to watch the sailing of the Band round the rocks and through the danger zones of the pieces taken up for performance.

What were the issues of the ordeal? A triumphant vindication of the place claimed for the Band as the best The Army possesses. It takes first place by right of musical merit as well as by its official standing.

It is true playing did not remain throughout at one uniform level of excellence, and there were moments when the Band did not go beyond ordinary degrees of good interpretation. But, after fairly weighing these against the inspired moments, those passages of grand, broad, rich tone, of passionate emotion, glowing emphasis, splendid attack, and charming unity in the choral or contrapuntal sections.

We do not hesitate to say that, for the great number of the highest qualities of Brass Band playing displayed, the Band maintained a general level of excellence no other Army Band could, at the present time, reveal. What grand, broad, exultant tone appeared in the reading of the 24th Psalm in the "Hebrew Melodies"!

What grand, broad, exultant tone appeared in the reading of the 24th Psalm in the "Hebrew Melodies"! What an ocean of passionate grief was opened out to us in the "Wailing for Jerusalem" section! The closing notes for the basses here were very fine for their musical quality and true intonation, and they also did well almost throughout the festival.

They played with electrical expression, for instance, in the upward introductory scale passage in "The Heavenly Music", after 5 bars from the end.

We have spoken of the bold, broad, majestic, and also passionate tone and expression of the Band, but the peaceful gentle, tender kind of tone and manner of reading were also exemplified, as in the fine closing section of the Prize section, by Staff-Captain Goldsmith, which it was impossible to listen to without being deeply moved, likewise in the "Welcome of the Sabbath" in the "Hebrew Melodies". Brilliance, command of tone, fine gradations in degrees of force, and good quality of tone were very striking merits in the reading of the "Warrior" march, with which the festival was opened.

A triumph in various qualities of Band work was "The Heavenly Music". The rippling semiquavers in subdued tone from E for the euphonium, and a little later for the solo cornet, gave evidence of the high capacity of these sections of the Band.

While dealing with the solo sections, we must just say that our preference was for the euphonium efforts, for the tone was so pure and expressive. The solo cornet sections were equally good in places, but not so level in degree or merit.

The trombone was at times a little rough, and a little out as to manner of reading, for how tamely the intervals of a minor 7th were taken in "Swiss Melodies", in bars 12 and 13 from I. But how fine was the trombone trio in the Prize Selection on "The Great Physician."

For beauty of tone, intonation, and balance it was a rare piece of trombone work. Least satisfactory was the solo horn. Having spoken of the many and preponderating good qualities of the playing, in

pointing out a few of the weak places we shall not be thought lacking in appreciation. The "Swiss Melodies" for instance, were not given above the ordinary level. The opening was unrest full. At B, J, and M there was an uncalled-for quickening of the tempo. At the 4th bar before E the instead of G sharp, and the semiquaver triplet that ends the ad libitum passage in the bar before E was rushed instead of being retained in a lingering manner.

From E the tone was hard and somewhat screechy, and the certainty not sufficiently leggiero. The pui mosso at the double bar after H was taken too fast, and made somewhat of a minor interlude instead of a very important part of the movement. A want of understanding between the conductor and the Band led to a blemish in the start of the "Hallelujah" Selection. While there was a quick recovery of balance, the playing was not very striking in this piece, nor in "Songs of Praise", although breath marked the opening.

We have left little space in which to refer to the varied and interesting vocal pieces. These were excellent rendered.

By Richard Slater (The Bandsman and Songster, April 6, 1907)

### **The Staff Band at Sunderland.**

It is reliably estimated that fully seven thousand people welcomed the International Staff Band on their arrival at Sunderland on Saturday. The greatest enthusiasm also prevailed in Sunday's meetings, which were attended by large crowds. Lieut.-Colonel Wilfred Simpson led in the morning and Lieut.-Colonel George Mitchell at night. 12 souls sought salvation, and there were 2 seekers after holiness. Our correspondent with the Staff Band wires: "Success to "The Bandsman and Songster" from the Staff Band." (The Bandsman and Songster, April 6, 1907)

### **Coming Events:**

The Staff Band - Kettering, Saturday and Sunday, April 20th and 21st. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 13, 1907)

### **Staff Band Stirs at Sunderland.**

Shipyard-workers, colliers, and thousands of other sons of toil, greeted the Staff Band on its arrival at Sunderland on Easter Saturday. Station Road being black with people, and the Band with difficulty making its way to the Hall.

Begun thus, the campaign for a high standard of musical proficiency and spiritual fervor has seldom been surpassed. The close and critical attention given to its playing put the Band upon its mettle, and the heartily Blood-and-Fire Salvationism of the Wearsiders found a ready counterpart in the spirit manifested by the visitors, with the result that as stated by the Provincial Commander, D.O., and Corps Officers, the very highest expectations were more than realized. The audiences were truly magnificent, and highly appreciative.

Some pathetic scenes were witnessed at the mercy-seat, among the seekers being backsliders of many years' standing. A bookmaker, a poor drunkard who has a brother an Officer and a son a Bandmaster, an aged man, who tottered to the penitent-form with face bathed in tears, a seafaring man, who first met The Army in South America, and a fine old gentleman, a ship's captain, who had attended the meetings throughout the week-end.

The Staff Bandsmen were pleased to meet comrades during the week-end from numerous towns on the Wearside and Tyneside, as well as from places further afield, such as Edinburgh, Berwick, York, etc.

What the Northern Salvationists enjoyed the most was to watch the Bandsmen lay aside their instruments and engage in desperate hand-to-hand conflict for the salvation of souls, at which they never tired. For instance, the Monday night's festival was closed three times, and reopened as often, by the leading of souls to the mercy-seat. Nineteen seekers were recorded during the visit.

The Band left Sunderland at midnight, arriving in London about nine o'clock next morning, and thence straight to their desks at International Headquarters. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 13, 1907)

### **Greetings from our readers.**

The Staff Band.

I welcome your first issue very heartily.

Much is expected from and of your paper, so much that I suppose no new publication of The Army's ever set out to supply so widely spread a "long felt want."

I wish you all success, especially that you may be successful in raising still higher our standard of musical expression and attainment.

I trust also that the paper may succeed in bringing together in a manner not yet accomplished the whole of The Army musical world, so as to make each serve each other, and by co-operation and perseverance make in the future mighty advances upon what we have hitherto considered our best. And may God be glorified in it all.

George Mitchell. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 20, 1907)

### **The Staff Band.**

Kettering, Saturday and Sunday, April 20th and 21st.

Switzerland May 7th to 21st. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 20, 1907)

### **Staff Band at Kettering.**

The Staff Band visited Kettering this week-end for the third time.

Kettering Band met their comrades at the station, and with them were a crowd of Soldiers and townspeople.

The greetings were very hearty, both from the visitors and visited.

Quite a number of comrade Bandmasters and Bandsmen from the surrounding towns and villages came into Kettering during the week-end to hear the Band, amongst whom were the Bandmasters from Wellingborough, Irthlingborough, and Burton Latimer.

Bandmaster Smith bade the Staff Band welcome in his usual quite but impressive way, and his sentiments were heartily endorsed by the Deputy-Bandmaster and Ensign Bateman.

Each of these comrades told how the local Band and Corps had prayed that the visit of the Staff Band might be the means of impressing their comrades who had left them to join other bands in the town, and who they knew were unhappy.

On Saturday evening a fine open-air was held on the market-place and inside the Citadel a musical festival was given, which was enthusiastically received by the large congregation.

Sunday's meetings were good, and although it rained all day without cessation, good crowds of men gathered round the open-air stands.

The morning meeting was led by Staff-Captain Hammerton, and a profitable time was spent.

In the afternoon a festival was given in the Victoria Hall, our Wesleyan friends who hire the hall every Sunday having given up their meeting in order that the Band might occupy the Hall.

At night the Citadel was crowded.

Adjutant Drage read, and led the prayer meeting, at the close of which we rejoiced over fifteen at the penitent-form.

The playing of the Band was an improvement upon that of their last visit, and was listened to with intense interest by a number of the members of outside bands as well as by Army musicians.

Major Cheadle was present during the week-end, and both he and Ensign Bateman spoke well of the excellent way in which the Band had played and worked.

This was the first time they had met the Band in the prosecution of their evangelical work, and they both expressed the desire that it should not be the last.

The local Bandmaster and Bandsmen seemed rather unwilling to part with their comrades of the Staff Band. Nicol Smith. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 27, 1907)

### **Staff Band movements tour of Switzerland.**

Arrangements for the Staff Band's tour in Switzerland are now complete, and a comprehensive and a busy program has been provided.

Leaving London on the evening of May 7th, the Band will spend Ascension Day in Zürich, taking part in the great Salvation demonstrations to be conducted by Commissioner Booth-Tucker upon that occasion.

As to the remainder of the tour, the following are the places to be visited: Basle, Constance, Schaffhausen, Herisau, St. Gallen, Berne, Interlaken, Lausanne, Geneva, St. Aubin, Neuchatel, Locle, Chaux de Fonds, Winterthur, and Zürich.

The largest buildings available have been secured for the Band's meetings, and these fixtures, with the travelling involved, promise a great deal of hard work for the Bandsmen.

They have, however, long since learned how to "hustle", and will no doubt come through the campaign with credit to themselves and their British comrades generally. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 27, 1907)

### **The Staff Band.**

Switzerland, May 7th to 21st. (The Bandsman and Songster, April 27, 1907) (The Bandsman and Songster, May 4, 1907) (The Bandsman and Songster, May 11, 1907) (The Bandsman and Songster, May 18, 1907)

### **Staff Band in Switzerland.**

The Staff Band, when they left London on Tuesday night, had pleasant recollections of the grand reception of which they were the recipients at the hands of the Swiss people upon the occasion of their former visit to that interesting country.

But, prepared as they were for a reception of those times, they were quite taken aback by the magnitude of the welcome which they experienced from the moment they landed at Zürich, until the time of wiring.

Upon their arrival at Zürich on Wednesday evening, they were met at the station who had assembled at the station.

On Thursday (Ascension Day), in the morning march, there were 2,500 Salvationists and ten Bands, from the German side of the country, taking part.

The crowds on the sidewalk were standing four and five deep for the whole of the journey, which occupied an hour, to the Festival Hall, where the day's meetings were being held.

Crowded audiences listen.

The Swiss Bands are growing in number and efficiency, and there are women players to be seen in almost every one of them!

Of course, the great musical attraction was the Staff Band, and very fine indeed was the rendering of the "German" march, the "Vesper Hymn" march, and also the lighter strains of "We are marching on." The vast Hall, holding five thousand people, was crowded, morning, afternoon, and night.

Commissioner and Mrs. Booth-Tucker led the series of meetings, which were crowned with abundant signs of the favor of God.

Seventy-five souls knelt at the mercy-seat at the close of the morning meeting.

The afternoon's meeting was productive of another batch at the mercy-seat, to the number of eighty.

An interesting and homelike feature of the evening gathering was the telling pictures if the Commissioner's and Mrs. Booth-Tucker's recent journeys in country was placed before the audience in a most realistic manner.

Ensign Riedmore's solo, the words of which, written by the Commissioner, appeared in the current issue of the Swiss "War Cry," proved very effective.

Half an hour before the services were timed to commence, the Staff Band worked valiantly, and also during the collections, their truly fine playing holding the artistic Swiss people as by a spell.

"Hebrew Melodies," "Songs of Praise," "Famous Welsh Hymns," and the Prize marches of the 1906 competitions were given in a style that proved a source of unlimited delight.

The selection, "Swiss Melodies," brought forth a shout of joyous applause.

The old Bernese March at the end, coming upon the people unexpectedly, received so fine a rendering that it caused the whole audience to burst forth again and again into cries of delight.

The record of captures for the day amounted to 155.

Olten, Monday.

The International Staff Band has every where been triumphant.

At Basel permission was for the first time granted The Army to march with Flag, while in Schaffhausen permission to march has been granted for the first time since the opening of the Corps eighteen years ago!

A grand musical festival took place in the thirteen-century-old church at Olten.

A fine reception was given to the Band at Herisau, where two thousand people listened to the music in the market-place, while eight hundred people were present at the musical festival on Sunday afternoon.

At St. Gallen at night, where the finest meeting so far took place, a great work was done for The Army, the Band playing to one thousand people, and excelling from a musical and salvation fighting point of view.

The Campaign has, so far, exceeded all expectations.  
Richard Slater. (The Bandsman and Songster, May 18, 1907)

### **Staff Band in Switzerland.**

Army Bandsmen naturally feel an interesting in so important a musical event as the Staff Band's visit to Switzerland, where they are spending some ten or twelve days in a musical campaign.

Is there a possibility of anyone thinking the tour took the form of a holiday trip?

If so, their conclusions are very wide of the mark.

The tour has involved right down hard work.

In almost every meeting the program has included eighteen to twenty musical items, to say nothing of receptions, marches, and playing at market-places and in public gardens.

It has been late at night before the work of the day has been finished, although the days generally began, so far as journeying was concerned, at five or six a.m.

Just look at a simple day's work.

Train leaves Schaffhausen at 7.10 a.m.

Change at Winterthur at eight.

While waiting for the next train the Band plays in front of the station the "Still Unsaved" selection and "The German" march.

At 11.15 Herisau is reached, and after a reception, marked by great heartiness, there is a march to the market-place.

"Onward," "Marching On," and the "Southall" are the marches played in the market to some 1,500 people.

The Band then forms a ring and plays "Songs about Jesus" and "Songs of Praise."

After dinner, there is a festival at the new Town Hall, a beautiful wooden building, perched on a hillside.

Some eight hundred persons comprised the audience, and the hall was made a little too warm for comfort by an almost summer's sun.

The Band is at its work, however by the stroke of three p.m., and this forms the program: "Prize" march, vocal solo, by Staff-Captain Goldsmith, new selection of "Swiss Melodies," violin and piano duet, by Brigadier Slater and Captain Green, "The Happy Day" selection, testimony by Bandsman Astbury, vocal octet, "Which way you goin' to take?", instrumental quartet, "Early Songs of The Army," "Old Times" prize selection, testimony by Bandsman Hammerton, drum solo by Bandsman Jackson, "The Melbourne" march, "The Salvation Life-boat," "The Hallelujah" selection, vocal solo, by Brigadier Hurren, "The Peace" selection, vocal solo, and ,as item eighteen, a closing march.

Sore lips.

It is a wonder that after so much singing and playing lips are a little sore and energies flag a little?

A refreshing cup of tea seems, however, to put things right for the next engagement.

There is now a hurrying off to catch the train.

Arrived at St. Gallen, there is a march from the station to the Hall, where tea is spread.

As soon as tea is over, a private spiritual meeting of the Band takes place, followed by thirty minutes' walk to the large Hall, where the festival is to take place.

It is summer-like weather, and dust and heat are certainly not friendly to Bandsmen, but the Staff Band, to a great extent, is now hardened to meet such conditions with resolution.

Punctual to time, the Band is ready for the night program, which again consists of eighteen items as varied and interesting as the one in the afternoon.

We have gone over this day's work somewhat in detail, for more than one reason.

It will be seen that selections predominate in the programs, and a little thought will make it evident that twenty selections of the most varied character during one day is in itself a striking proof of endurance, apart from the maintained.

The Band works hard in fact, at an almost express speed in all its engagements, and what pleasures it gains in short intervals during the journeys in this lovely land are most thoroughly deserved.

Critical remarks.

From place to place, in buildings of varying sizes, with audiences of differing degrees of responsiveness to musical influences, it has become possible to get a very clear estimate of the chief characteristics of the Band.

As to intonation, the Band is scarcely ever at fault.

At times, in the *piano* passages, the cornets, in restraining the tone, sharpen somewhat.

The four trombones give at times a volume of tone somewhat out of balance with the rest of the Band, but as the players do so well, one is apt to pass over this slight defect.

Another small point that has been noticed in the ensembles is that in the release of chords, the tone gets choked, so that the chords finish with a lack of resonance.

Occasionally, the playing gets a little loose, and the Band is quickly influenced by passing emotions, as shown by a little uncertainty in beating and indications of *tempo*.

But, with the great merit of close intonation, there is that of a full, firm, rich-tone.

The basses are remarkable for the liquid quality of their playing, and form one of the finest sections of the Band.

A point of great interest, and one showing progress in a fresh direction, is that of the variety of tone color it is becoming master of, so that the playing varies appropriately in tone in close agreement with the moods of the music.

In "The Swiss" selection, No.2, the tender and delicate movements, and sweetness and purity of tone, have been most apparent, and those in the last movement, "The Berne" march, rugged strength and ponderous weight have come forth in a way which suggests a different combination of instruments. This progress in command of tone color, as well as in flexibility, forms one of the most praiseworthy and important of the Band's characteristics.

It brings about finer interpretations, and makes the playing as a mirror on which the changing moods of such selections as "Swiss Melodies," "The Great Composers," "The Heavenly Music" are fully reflected.

In this respect, the Band is without rival among Army Bands.

The Band is also quickly responsive to the Conductor, but is, in spite of its fine ensemble, a little apt to err in impulsiveness, and to let loud and forceful movements become rough and short in finish.

But music deals with emotion, and a good Band needs to have readiness to yield to the winds that play on human feeling.

The Band needs, however, to keep within the limits of the artistic.

Energy that causes tone to border on rough sounds, such as gives up beauty for strength, is not guard against this fault.

The Band has a striking repertoire, for it ranges from the smallest and most simple hymn tune and march, to the highest form of music yet reached in the development of the musical life of The Army. Its success is most commendable in all styles, although, of course, the Band has preferences, and its special delight is in what is strong, brilliant and forceful.

Yet at times it handles a piece with the utmost tenderness, but the qualities of the Band are distinctly masculine, and not feminine.

As to the solo sections, we have had some fine work.

Bandsmen Fuller and Buckman have risen again and again to fine heights of expressive cornet playing, the former being in excellent form at Neuchatel.

At times the solo horns have produced a charming velvety tone.

The trombones have been very evenly up to the demands of their solos.

The euphoniums have done such playing as to resemble a rich baritone voice, as in the splendid reading of "Who's that knocking at the door?" in "The Mercy" selection.

The soprano has done artistic work over and over again, playing with great caution and taste, but is hardly assertive enough in the passages that require dash and abandon.

Imaginative work, however, always finds Bandsman Goldsmith in perfect sympathy, while his keen ear enables him to keep remarkably true intonation.

The Band is, indeed, a combination of most varied ability, and is a wonderful proof of the influence and creative power of The Army.

At another time we must give some particulars of the actual impressions made by the Band on Switzerland.

R. Slater, Brigadier (The Bandsman and Songster, May 25, 1907)



Back row: Captain Astbury, Captain A. Halsey, Bandsman Greenwood, Bandsman E. Halsey, Staff-Captain Goldsmith.  
 Fifth row: Major Haines, Staff-Captain Smith, Adjutant Baugh, Captain Bell, Staff-Captain Symons.  
 Fourth row: Lieut.-Colonel Braine, Adjutant Mitchell, Ensign Collier, Major Giles, Bandsman Hodder, Bandsman Buckman.  
 Third row: Staff-Captain Hammerton, Captain Green, Adjutant Richardson, Captain Hodgson, Bandsman Taylor, Adjutant Murch, Bandsman Sherwood.  
 Second row: Brigadier Hurren (Secretary), Colonel Simpson (Leader), Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell (Bandmaster), Adjutant Fuller (Deputy-Bandmaster).  
 First row: Bandsman Jackson, Adjutant Drage. (The Bandsman and Songster, June 1, 1907)

**The International Staff Band.**

From the earliest days of the International Headquarters, when a combination of five or six instrumentalists was considered a remarkable aid to Army work, there has been a Staff Band, and the Band at present bearing the name is the result of evolution from the era of small things, and the outcome of hard work and careful selection.

The Band, as at present organized, was formed by the Chief of the Staff, in 1893, for the "assistance of the work of The Army in and around London," but has since well earned the title of "International," by extending its operations into much wider fields, visiting the Continent, as well as campaigning in all parts of Great Britain.

The first campaign of the Band held at any distance from London, was that at Birmingham, in 1895, in assisting the then British Commissioner (Commissioner Howard), and old Staff Bandsmen recall with

amusement the excitement and anticipation with which they then viewed a visit to a place so far away from the Metropolis!

Since then most of the principal towns in England and Wales, and Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland, Holland and Switzerland, have been captured by its music.

And "the end is not yet."

The members of the Band are Officers engaged at the International Headquarters, amongst them many of high rank in The Army, holding positions of importance and responsibility.

Of the early members of the Band, Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell, Brigadier Hurren, Major Haines, Staff-Captain Smith, Adjutants Fuller, Richardson, and Drage, are still Bandsmen, and were also members of the Junior Staff Band, while many other of the "old boys" are scattered up and down the world, serving The Army in a manner which gives their comrades every reason for pride and satisfaction.

An ideal training ground.

Not the least of these are Brigadier Geo. Holmes, Provincial Secretary for Scotland, Major Haines, of Germany, erstwhile drummer of the Band, Major Deverell, of South Africa, and Major Findlay, recently appointed D.O. for the Norwich Division.

Others have been sent to the Training Homes, and are today Officers in the British Field, their musical and other Band experiences now proving of great value to them.

Indeed it would be difficult to find a more suitable training ground than the Band affords for gaining experience of men and affairs, and the development of ability and confidence in addressing and handling vast crowds of people.

Every Bandsman has regular opportunities for taking part in the spiritual work of the Band, each campaign being carefully planned out with different leaders and speakers for each meeting, outdoor and in.

During the recent tour in Switzerland every Bandsman was able to address the meetings in a manner that caused the deepest impression upon the listeners, and again and again reference has been made to the Bandsmen's testimonies being the most remarkable part of the program!

Of the receptions accorded to the Band during its fourteen years' work, we cannot speak now at any length.

But amongst the most impressive occasions have been perhaps those at Amsterdam, where the Band was welcomed by a crowd of fifty thousand people, and where it afterward spoke, sang, and testified to audiences numbering over seven thousand persons.

Oldham, where no less than ten thousand people assembled in the vicinity of the railway station to greet the Band upon its arrival.

Northampton, where a Sunday night open-air service was attended by upwards of ten thousand people.

Gratifying records.

The Band's records, however, are a constant reiteration of the same story, immense crowds in the streets, "the largest halls unable to accommodate those desiring admission, successes everywhere, and a general state of things which may well justify the Bandsmen being termed "The Apostolic Musicians."

The Band does not exist for the mere display of musical ability.

Its aim is the salvation of souls.

Its success, therefore, is a spiritual force is encouraging to note.

During the past five years of its work the Band has had the joy of seeing nearly two thousand persons at the mercy-seat on the meetings, and communications have repeatedly been received from those converted or helped through its ministrations.

Thus, a backslider of many years writes thanking the Bandsmen for their testimonies, which led him back to Christ, another for the rendering of an old song in a way that broke his heart, a third for having been led to Christ in his own home by a Bandsman billeted there.

The men, as fishers, are excellent for dash and determination, and do not retire from a fight for souls till after a meeting has ended.

As an instance of their general spirit may be mentioned a case occurring a few weeks since, when a Bandsman, seizing upon a man under conviction in a Sunday morning's meeting, repeated his attacks

persistently at each succeeding gathering, eventually leading him to the mercy-seat of the close of the Monday evening's festival.

Unity and devotion.

Not the least happy feature of the Band is the affection and comradeship existing between the men. All are united in such a way as has repeatedly given pleasure to those who have observed the Band in a more than a superficial way.

The men are devoted to their leaders, Colonel Simpson, the spiritual leader, and Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell, the conductor, now in his thirteenth year in the position, and to whose efforts the present position of the Band is largely due.

The tour in Switzerland, recently concluded, has been the most brilliant and successful in which the Band has ever engaged.

At every place visited the Band has been accorded almost "royal" receptions, while its indoor meetings, attended by all classes of society, have been crowded to excess, the audiences often even thronging the small platforms from which the Band has played.

On the financial side of things the Band is not less successful than in other directions.

During the past five years no less than £3,285 has been raised in its meetings.

The Staff Band is a living evidence of what can, with God's blessing, be accomplished by persistent, faithful work, and unwavering devotion to the principles and regulations of The Salvation Army. (The Bandsman and Songster, June 1, 1907)

### **Staff Band in Switzerland.**

The tour covered eleven days of actual meetings, often four or five, or more, engagements per day being dealt with.

These took various forms, such as receptions at railway stations, marches through the principal thoroughfares, festivals on market-squares, and a few meetings of the usual style.

But the majority were important indoor festivals, extending to eighteen or twenty items, two of these per day being the rule.

After one's mind has become a little released from the effects of the swirl and rush that characterized the tour, some clearer ideas become possible as to its extent and importance.

Although no collections were made in any open-air gathering, the income averaged about £45 per day.

The lowest charge to the festivals was equivalent to 5d. in English money, and yet, again and again, the largest buildings were so full that many who would gladly have paid to stand the whole time, had to be turned away.

It is very difficult to estimate the crowds that filled the streets and market-squares, but very often the entire traffic seemed to have come to a stop, and the greater part of the populations appeared to be upon the sidewalks, or crushed together on the fine market-places of the Swiss cities.

Many times, as at Zürich, Basel, Neuchatel, and Geneva, three to five thousand persons made up the open-air audiences.

At the indoor meetings an average of something like 2,500 persons per day paid for admission.

As the tour extended from one end of Switzerland to the other, from St. Gallen and Herisau in the North-East, to Geneva and Lausanne, in the South-West, touching both the German and French-speaking sections, the whole population had been affected.

The Salvationists that were to be found everywhere, for The Army is in a most healthy and progressive state in this country, were greatly inspired.

Improvement in Swiss Bands.

Not the least important of the influences exercised has been that of stirring the Swiss Army Bands.

There are some fifty or more of these.

Since the first tour of the Staff Band they have made very marked progress, for they perceived in them a model to work up to, the style of rendition to emulate, and the vast field that is open in their country for soul-saving work through real musical efficiency.

The recent tour will deepen those convictions, confirm the lessons already learnt, as well as fan to greater enthusiasm the spirit of musical progress that animates our Swiss Band comrades.

By what means was the success of the visiting Band obtained?

Solely by Army music, which has demonstrated its power to grip the greatest crowd, hold by a spell the most intellectual and cultured people, as well as the working-class, and to arrest the attraction of all for the forcing home of the truth.

Most of the pieces played and sing have been Army compositions, but in every case, even where the melodic material had been borrowed, as in the Swiss selections, the harmonic and instrumental arrangements have been entirely the work of Salvationists.

Among the great successes have been the two new Swiss selections, Nos. 2 and 3, which will appear in the Band Journal in due course, and which were specially written for the tour.

Also "Thoughts from the Great Masters," a group of sacred pieces by Beethoven, Mozart, Meyerbeer, and Mendelssohn, and two short classical pieces, "The wondrous cross" (Himmel), and "Oh, Thou who driest the mourner's tear" (Haydn), arranged as cornet solo with Band accompaniment.

Majestic rendering.

The "Hebrew Melodies" selection was everywhere an unqualified success, and the Band rose to truly wonderful levels of fine playing in the different movements.

At Schaffhausen, for instance, in an old church of great size and splendid acoustical merits, the playing of the 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm (B section), was overwhelmingly majestic, and almost painful was the passionate grief that seemed to pervade the building in the rendering of the "Wailing" (C section), while the peace of Heaven spoke in the calm, sweet, soothing "Welcome to the Sabbath" (D section).

As to vocal music, "which way are you goin' to take," "The Salvation Life-Boat," the solos, "Shout, boys, shout," "Dash on, ye waves," "From the regions of woe," etc., were never failing in their interest.

But the deepest of all impressions was the soulful singing in parts by the Band of "Nearer, my God to Thee!"

Eternal things came very near as the Spirit of God took hold of this old simple song, and made it the medium by which to speak to every soul in the vast audiences.

The drum solo, was of course, a tremendous success at every place.

Beyond a doubt, the greater part of the success, so far as it depended on human means, was due to the ability, experience, and toil of Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell, the Staff Bandmaster.

As a conductor he is very magnetic, and is able to obtain from the individual players effects that, unaided by his personality they could not produce.

The Colonel's own ideal of Band work is deservedly high, and this he has no concessions to make to anything of a fault or slip that arises from insufficient effort or instrumentation.

The result is, the Band, in attack, in precision, energy, emphasis, volume and quality of tone, and flexibility of execution, is the finest of Army Bands, and certainly in Switzerland it has won another triumph that has brought honor to The Army and glory to God.

Richard Slater, Brigadier. (The Bandsman and Songster, June 1, 1907)

### **The International Staff Band.**

The musical comrades of Adjutant Fuller, of the Staff Band, will sympathize deeply with him in his sad bereavement, his father having passed away during the time he was touring with the Band in Switzerland.

We can assure him of the prayers of every Bandsman and Songster throughout the country. (The Bandsman and Songster, June 8, 1907)

### **The International Staff Band.**

St. Albans, Saturday and Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. (The Bandsman and Songster, June 8, 1907)