

July 31

Wor L Langley . 1899

George C. Dobson's New School for the Banja ALSO, METHOD FOR PLAYING THE BANJO AND STOHT,

WITHOUT STUDY.

In addition to the above, are new instructions, valuable information concerning the instrument, together with new Banjo music never before published, composed, selected, and arranged by the author.

GEO. C. DOBSON'S TESTIMONIALS AS PERFORMER AND TEACHER.

From the N. Y. Clipper.

Geo. C. Dobson, one of the well-known Dobson Brothers, of Banjo celebrity, closed a week's engagement at the City Museum Theatre, Philadelphia, on the 10ht inst. We were present on the 9th, when Mr. Dobson performed a variety of popular airs on the Banjo, to the delight of the audience present. It was the first time we had listened to the playing of this gentleman, although we have heard nearly, if not quite all, the great players in this country. We have no hositation in pronouncing him, in our opinion, equal to any other player in America; his touch is easy, graceful and true; he produces a pure tone, whether in the higher or lower register, and in subdued passages his notes are as clear and musical as those given out by the light Guitar when touched by the fingers of a skillful player: his execution is remarkable, his fingers running all over the Banjo with an acuracy which few other players have ever attained. In a word, Geo. C. Dobson is a master of the instrument, and, in our judgment, is excelled by no other player. The audience were profuse in their applause, and gave him the compliment of an encore. He appears in white face.

From the Boston Herald.

Mr. Geo. C. Dobson's performance on the Banjo at the St. James Theatre was the finest we ever had the pleasure of listening to.

From the Daily Courant. Yartford Conn.

Mr. Geo. C. Dobson, the well known Banjoist, favored us with a specimen of his skill on the Banjo, in a style and manner entirely different from anything we have heard on that instrument. The New York Herald says "he is universally acknowledged to be the best performer on the Banjo in the world." His style of instruction is by a new, simple and original method, which is thoroughly explained at the first lesson.

Boston Daily Globe.

Mr. Dobson's style of playing is very refined, and his refinement and facility of style is imparte successfully to his pupils,

Boston Daily News.

Being a lover of music, I thought it might not be uninteresting to your many readers who have a like taste, to know of the pleasure experienced by the writer a short time since in vistting the mome of Prof. George C Dobson, a:

the residence of the professor we met him on the walk, and having a slight acquaintance with him, on invitation, accompanied him to his music room, which of itself is a perfect gem, its walls are hung with pictures rare and beautiful, and all the surroundings are so homelike, that one forgets he is in the presence of so gifted an artist. Prof. Dobson's great forte is in teaching the Banjo and Guitar, and it was to listen to his performance of selections from Mendelssohn and the operas that we had accepted his invitation. We had heard a great deal about this truly great player and teacher of these instruments, but we were wholly unprepared for such a display of talent: we were forced to acknowledge a beauty and grandeur about his performance, not easily excelled by any other. From the soft low notes as of the zolian harp, to the rapturous cadence of a grand piano, he would glide with ease and grace, holding us spell-bound. We left the artist with a feeling that our hearts were more closely knit together by the enchanting witchery of music. We were satisfied with Mr. Dobson, and only wished ourselves a little way back in early life, that we might take lessons of such a teacher, and on such instruments as we had never before known to appreciate; and we would advise all our young friends, in particular, to avail themselves of the advantage of instruction, by Prof. George C. Dobson, at SELPATIS, Boston.

Testimonials from Professional Pupils now on the Stage.

BOSTON THEATRE, July 15, 1871.

MR. WILLIAM ASHCROFT presents his compuments to Mr. Geo. C. Dobson for his careful attention and kindness, during his term of instruction on the Banjo.

GEO. C. DOBSON, ESQ.:

Dear Sir,-I thank you kindly for all the pains and attention you have given me on the Banjo, and can assure you I have profited by your instruction. You are at liberty to use my name as a recommendation. Very respectfully,

HOWARD VARIETY TREATRE, Boston, Mass.

MR. GEO. C. Dobson is the best teacher and performer on the Banjo. I received lessons from him, and use one of his instruments. SAM DEVERE.

ST. JAMES THEATRE.

GEO. C. Dobson,-Having tried all Banjos by recognized makers, I pronounce yours the best for stage or parlor use. I am using one of them in preference to all others. I acknowledge you a perfect master of the instrument, you, method being casy, sure and BILLY ABTER

CEO. C. DOBSON. 254 SHAWMUT AVENUE. BOSTON. MASS.

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RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC.

Relative Value of Notes.

Every musical sound is expressed by characters called Notes; and, as these sounds may be long or short, their duration is indicated by a particular form of the note

The longest sounds are designated by this character, , which is called a Whole Note, the duration or time of which is determined by counting four, or making four beats by movements of the hand or foot. When measured by the hand, the direction is made in the following order:— down, left, right, up.

A sound continued but half the time, that is while counting two, or making two beats, is expressed by a HALF NOTE, the stem of which may be turned either upward or downward, thus:

A QUARTER NOTE, the time of which is but one beat, is made thus: \(\) or \(\begin{aligned} \) with the stem either way.

All notes of shorter duration are expressed by bars across the beans, thus EIGHTH NOTE, Nor Z.

A SIXTEENTH NOTE, thus: S or

A THIRTY-SECOND NOTE, thus: | or |

When several notes of the same character follow in succession, the bars are usually connected in this manner. Eighth notes with one bar, thus:

Sixteenth notes with two bars, thus:

Thirty-second notes with three bars, thus:

Often we find eighth and sixteenth notes connected in this manner,



And various other combinations, as follows:



RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC.

TABLE OF THE NOTES AND THEIR PROPORTIONS.

One whole note,	•		•	-	•	•	8
is equal to two half notes,	-	-		-	-	•	
■ equal to four quarter notes,	•	-	-	•	-	•	
mequal to eight eighth notes,	•	•	•	•	-	•	
is equal to sixteen sixteenth notes, -	•	•	-	•	•	•	FFI FFI FFI
equal to thirty-two thirty-second notes,	•	•		•	•	•	

The Staff.

As every note has a definite tone or pitch, being either high or low, the sound is indicated by its position upon a staff, which consists of five parallel lines, and their intermediate spaces, the under line being called the first line, and the lowest space the first space.

THE STAFF.

Fifth line.		
Fourth line.		irth space
	A PERIOD	rd space.
Third line.		
	. I Sec	ond space
Second line.		
First line.		t space.
TREETIMO.		

A note is on the line when the line basses through it, and on the space when between the lines.

On the 2d. line.	On the 3d. space.				

When more than five lines are required to designate any particular note that is too high or two low to be represented upon the staff, we use small lines both above and below the staff. These lines are called Leger Lines, and are designated as the first leger line above, second leger line above, &c., or first leger line below, second leger line below, &c.

The first note above the staff is said to be upon the space above.

Space	os abo	70.	Leger li	nes si	bove.	 estates	
F						 	
			 Leger	lines	below.	 Space	a below

The first note below the staff is said to be upon the space below

There are two clefs in common use. The TREBLE, or G CLEF which is used for the right hand in Piano-Forte or Melodeon music, also for all music written for the Violin, Guitar, Flute, Banjo, Accordeon, Flageolet, Fife and Clarionet. The Bass or F CLEF, is used for the left hand in Piano-Forte or Melodeon music, also for the Violoncello, Double Bass, &c. When music is written for two or more instruments or voices, the staves are connected by a Brace.

A duet for two violins, or for Flute and Violin, would be connected thus:—



Music for the Piano-Forte or Melodeon, thus:-



The Rests.

Every note has its corresponding REST, denoting silence, or a stop they are not placed upon any particular line or space of the staff, but in such order as best accommodates the eye,—sometimes being above the staff and sometimes beneath.

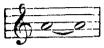
A whole rest, corresponding with the whole note in respect to time, is situated under the fourth line. A half rest is situated above the third line. A quarter rest turns to the right. An eighth rest turns to the left.

THE USE OF NOTES AND THEIR CORRESPONDING RESTS.





A TIE — above or below two or more notes that have the same attuation upon the staff, shows that they are to be performed as one note, the duration of which is equal to the time of all combined.



is equivalent to one note, the time of which is eight beats.



is equivalent to one note, the time of which is seven beats.



is equivalent to one note of five beats,



is equivalent to one note of six beats,

By combinations of this sort we can express a sound of any duraion required.

A dot following a note or rest makes it half as long again.



is equal to



is eq





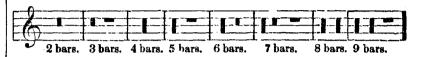
is equal to



Rests are never tied, but are arranged one after the other until the required time is made up, thus:—



When more than one bar rest is required, it is indicated as follows:



Two dots placed after a note, or rest makes it three fourths longer than its actual length, thus:



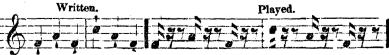
When the slur or tie is placed over or under any combination of notes that are on different lines and spaces, it signifies that they must be performed in a smooth and connected manner, which is called particle to Legato movement, and is written thus:—



Dots placed above or below any series of notes indicate the opposite style of playing, which is termed Staccato, signifying in a marked and distinct style, represented as follows:—



When marked in this manner, each note must be made particularly short, and very distinct.



We frequently find the Legato and Staccato movements combined, which mostly occurs in music written for the violin, and is played by detaching the notes with the movement of the bow in one direction, either up or down.



A TRIPLET is a group of three notes played in the time of two.

A figure 3 is always placed over or under a triplet.



A figure 6 signifies that six are to be played in the time of four.



Other combinations of notes are made, and the number marked above them, thus:

Seven to be played in the time of four.



Ten to be played in the time of eight.



Nine to be played in the time of eight, &c.,

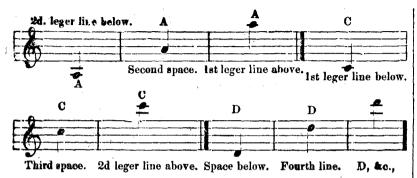


The Scale.

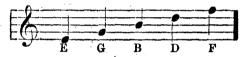
Notes are named after the first seven letters of the Alphabet, A, B, C,D, E, F, G. When these notes follow in regular succession, they form what is called a SCALE. It will be observed that notes of the same name or letter occur several times in a regular scale, but a ways in a different position on the staff.

THE SCALE.





The notes upon the lines are

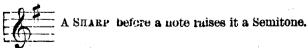


The notes upon the spaces spell the word Face.

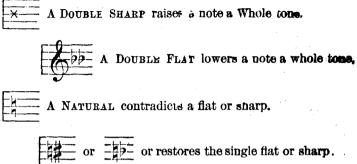


Sharps and Flats.

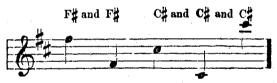
The pitch of any noce may be changed by prefixing any of the following characters.



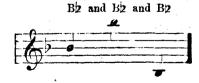
A FLAT nefore a note lowers it a Semitone.



Flats or Sharps placed at the commencement of a piece of music affect every note throughout the piece upon the lines and spaces where they are situated; also, any other notes of the same letter upon the staff. Any flat or sharp that is not so situated is called an ACCIDENTAL.



Here every F and C are to be made sharp, no matter what their situation upon the staff.



When flats are situated in the same position, the effect is the same as that of the snarp.

All music is dir ded into equal portions of time by perpendicular fines called BARS, and the music between any two bars is called a MEASURE. When an accidental sharp, flat or natural is prefixed to a note, all the following notes of the same name contained in the measure are affected by it, thus:—

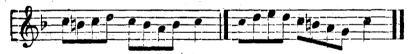
EXAMPLE OF THE SHARP.



EXAMPLE OF THE FLAT.



EXAMPLE OF THE NATURAL



When the last note of a measure is influenced by an accidental flat, sharp or natural, if the next measure should commence with the same note it is also affected likewise, thus:—





Thus it will be seen that every note can be made sharp or flat; and therefore the signature which determines a key, may contain seven sharps or flats.

Time.

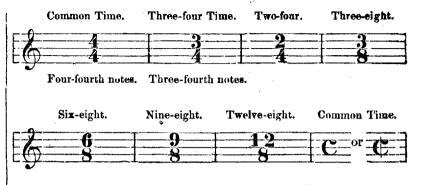
By Common Time, which is expressed by this character, and sometimes by the figures we understand that each measure contains music to the value of four beats, or one semibreve, which is made up in time by any combination of notes or rests, thus:







The various kinds of Time are indicated by the following figures. The upper figure indicates the *number* of notes to a measure, and the under one the *kind* of notes.



This mark > is used to indicate a particular accent or stress upon a note. Common time, and all other kinds expressed by the even numbers 4 &c., must be accented upon the beginning and middle of the measure, thus:



These accents are not marked, but are to be understood; it is only when particular force or stress is required to be given to a note that it is indicated by the mark. In and time the accent occurs only upon the first note in the measure.



It will be observed in time indicated by the even numbers, that notes requiring bars across the stems are combined in groups of even numbers. And in and and they are tied together in groups of three. This is not always the case, but most generally so.

When the unaccented part of a measure is to receive a particular emphasis, it is shown by the characters fz or rf, or \sim , or \wedge . And when the weaker part of a measure is made of more importance than the strong, such deviation from the regular accent is called Syncopation.





Double Bars indicate the end of a strain and the conclusion of a tune, thus:—

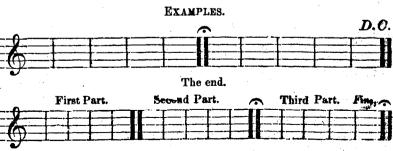


Dots before or after a double bar, signify repetition.

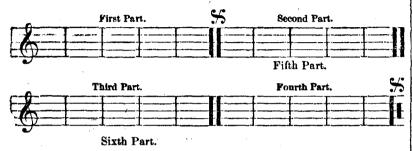


When the letters D. C.—which signifies Da Capo—are found over a double bar, it signifies that the first part of the piece must be played again before proceeding to finish the piece. When it is found at the last strain, it implies that we must return and finish with the first strain: but, if we find this character, which is called a Pause, over any double bar, it signifies the end, or conclusion. The Pause is sometimes for another purpose: that is, when placed over a rest or note, the performer must dwell upon it, or can introduce an embelishment, such as he may think proper, for effect.

This mark is called a Sign. When it appears the second time it signifies that we are to return to where it is first found, and this at the pause which occurs over the first double bar after it.



us to play the first part again which makes the the third strain; and then we skip the second part and proceed to the fourth strain, and faish at the pause.



After playing the first four parts, the # appearing the second time directs us to where it appeared at first, when we play on till we reach the ...

The word BIS placed over one or more bars signifys repitition. It is sometimes accompanied with the dots for repetition, or detached lines to indicate the number of bars repeated,



8va written over any number of notes implies that they are to be played eight notes, or an octave, higher, until the word Loco appears. which signifies as written



Abbreviations.

When a successions of similar notes is required, we sometimes use the following characters, which are termed abbreviations.

A whole note with a single dash signifies that it is to be played as eighth notes.



A double dash, to be played thus:-



OTHER EXAMPLES OF ABBREVIATIONS.





This character signifies repetition:



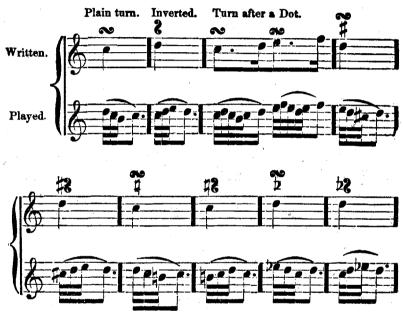
A SWELL and DIMINUENDO are often united,

he first is executed by commencing the note gently, and gradually increasing the tone; the second, by commencing with force and gradually diminishing; and when united, it is executed by touching the note over which it is placed, at first gently, and by degrees increasing the tone, till it arrives at its full pitch, then diminishing it till it falls off to its first softness.

This character is called a TURN, and is executed in the following manner:—



There are several kinds of turns: the plain turn 30, inverted turn 2, turn after a dot, &c., which are fully explained in the following examples:



A SHAKE (**) is one of the principal embellishment of music. if well performed, but should not be so frequently and injudiciously used as is often the case. A plain shake is the sound of two notes put in equal motion. A turned shake is composed of three diatonic notes, the first of which is called the preparative note, and the last two its resolution. Shakes, and all other kinds of Graces, must be played in proper time





PASSING SHAKE.



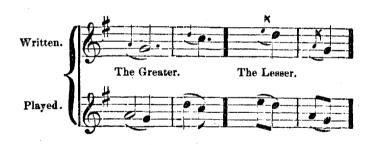
TUBNED SHAKE,

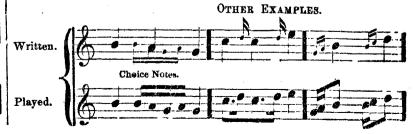




Appogiatura or Grace Note.

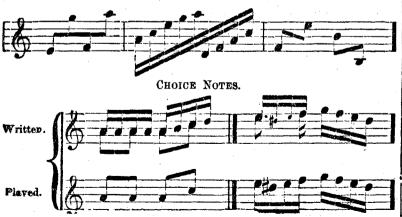
The Appogiatura, or Grace note is a small note reversed and added to other notes for sake of expression. Whatever length is given to the small note must be taken out of the time of the principal note immediately after it. There are two kinds of Appogiaturas, the greater and the lesser.







Notes are always connected in the most convenient form, for this reason we sometimes observe them in this manner:



When the last two bars of a strain are marked 1mo and 2me, (that is, to be repeated,) it implies that when played the second time, the 2mo is to be substituted for the 1mo, which is of course omitted.



Intervals.

An Interval s the distance from any one tone or note to the following one. The smallest interval is that of a second. The first and last note are included in counting the distance.

A Second is the distance from any one note in the scale to the next following one.



It must be observed that the interval of a third is composed we three notes, E, F, G, or A, B, C, &.; the intervals of a sixth. of six notes & F, G, A, R, C, or F, G, A, B, C, D. &c.

Some intervals are small, and others large. In the regular Major Scale we find tones and semitones in the following order:



A Semitone always between E and F, also between B and C, which are the third and fourth and the seventh and eighth notes of the scale this is called the Natural Key, (because it has no signature of flats or sharps.) or the key of C, because the tones and semitones are calculated from the note C.

Transposition of the Keys, or Scale.

When C is taken as 1, the scale is said to be in its natural position; but either of the other letters may be taken as 1, in which case the scale is said to be TRANSPOSED. As 1 is the basis of the scale, the foundation on which it rests, so the letter which is taken for this sound is called the Key Note. Thus, if the scale be in its natural position, it is said to be in the key of C; if G be taken as 1, the scale is in the key of G; if D be taken as 1, the scale is in the key of D; and so on with the rest of the seven letters; whichever letter is taken as 1, that letter becomes the key-note of the scale.

In transposing the scale, the order of the intervals, or tones and semitones, must be preserved. Thus, the interval must always be a tone from 1 to 2, a tone from 2 to 3, a semitone from 3 to 4, a tone from 4 to 5, a tone from 5 to 6, a tone from 6 to 7, and a semitone from 7 to 8. The interval from one letter to another is always the same, and cannot be changed,—thus, it is always a tone from C to D, and from D to E, a semitone from E to F, a tone from F to G, from G to A, from A to B, and a semitone from B to C. In the transposition of the scale, therefore, it becomes necessary to introduce sharps and flats, or to substitute sharped or flatted letters for the natural letters, so as to preserve the proper order of the intervals.

First transmosition by charps from C to G, a fifth higher or a fourth lower.



The same method is followed in all the transpositions by sharps, viz., the fifth above or fourth below is taken as 1 of a new key, in every succeeding transposition, and an additional sharp will be required also in every succeeding transposition.

To transpose the scale by flats, we take the fourth (instead of the fifth) of every new scale. F is the fourth of C; hence it is 1 of the new scale (key of F.) The order of intervals must be the same in the flat keys as in the sharps; hence the B must be made flat.

THE SHARP KEYS.

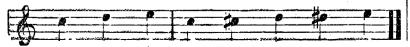




The difference between the major and minor key is a minor third, (three semitones.) The major third contains two whole tones, (four semitones.)

EXAMPLE.

MAJOR THIRD.



SCALE IN THE KEY OF C. MAJOR MUDE.



The third in the minor scale contains one whole tone and a semitone.

MINOR THIRD.



SCALE IN THE KEY OF A, MINOR MODE.



The relative minor of a major key has the same number of sharps or flats, and is found one minor third below the key note.

Minor Scales.

E MAJOR.



B MINOR.



Chromatic Scale.

This scale contains all the notes, natural, flat and sharp, to D above the second leger line.



Chords.

CHORDS, or double notes, are written one above the other, and can be played upon the Banjo, Guitar, Violin, Piano, Melodeon, &c., in music for the Flute. Clarionet, Fife, &c., the upper note only must be played.



A Dictionary of Musical Terms.

5: en Italian preposition, meaning to, in, by, at, &c. ACCELERANDO; accelerating the time, gradually faster and faster. ADAGIO, OF ADASIO; slow. ADAGIO ASSAI OF MOLTO; very slow; AD LIBITUM; at pleasure. AFFETUOSO; tender and affecting. AGITATO; with agitation. . ALLA CAPELLA; in church style: ALLEGRETTO; less quick than Allegro. ALLEGRO: quick. ALLEGRO ASSAI; very quick. ALLEGRO MA NON TROPPO; quick, but not too quick: AMABILE; in a gentle and tender style. AMATEUR; a lover but not a professor of music AMOROSO, or CON AMORE; affectionately, tenderly. ANDANTE; gentle, distinct, and rather slow, yet connected. ASDANTINO; somewhat slower than Andante. ANIMATO, or CON ANIMA; with fervent, animated expression. ANIMO, OF CON ANIMO; with spirit, courage and boldness. ANTIPHONE; music sung in alternate parts. ARIOSO; in a light, airy, singing manner. A TEMPO; in time. A TEMPO GIUSTO; in strict and exact time BEN MARCATO; in a pointed and well-marked manner Bis: twice. BRILLANTE; brillant, gay, shining, sparkling. CADENCE; closing strain: also, a fanciful extemporaneous embelishment at the close of a song. CADENZA; same as the second use of Cadence. See Cadence. CALANDO; softer and slower. CANTABILE, graceful singing style; a pleasing, flowing, melody. CANTO; the treble part in a chorus. CHOIR; a company or band of singers; also, that part of a church appropriated to the singers. CHORIST, or CHORISTER; a member of a choir of singers COL. or CON; with. CoL ARCO; with the bow. COMODO, or COMMODO; in an easy and unrestrained manner CON AFFETTO; with expression. CON DOLCESSA; with delicacy. CON DOLORE, or CON DUOLO; with mournful expression. CONDUCTOR; one who superintends a musical performance; same as Music Director. CON ENERGIA; with energy. CON EXPRESSIONE: with expression. Con Froce; with arder, fire. CON GRAZIA; with grace and elegance. Con IMPETO: With force, energy. CON JUSTO: with chaste exactness. Con Moro; with emotion. CON SPIRITO; with spirit, animation Coro; choins; Da: for, from, of

DUETT: for two voices or instruments. DIMINUENDO: gradually diminishing the sound. DA CAPO: from the beginning. DECLAMANDO: in the style of declamation. DECRESCENDO: diminishing, decreasing DEVOZIONE: devotional. DILETTANTE; a lover of the arts in general, or a lover of music. DI MOLTO: much or very. Divoro; devotedly, devoutly, Dolce; soft, sweet, tender, delicate. DOLENTE, or DOLOROSA: mournful. Deloroso: in a plaintive, mournful style. E: and. ELEGANTE: elegance. ENERGICO, Or CON ENERGIA; with energy Espressivo: expressive. FINE, FIN OF FINALE; the end. FORZANDO, FORZA or Fz; sudden increase of power. FUGUE OF FUGA; a composition which repeats or sustains, in its several parts, throughout, the subject with which it commences, and which is often led off by some one of its parts. FUGATO: in the fugue style. FUGHETTO; a short fugue. GIUSTO; in exact and steady time. GRAZIOSO: smoothly, gracefully. GRAVE: slow and solemn. IMPRESARIO: the conductor of a concert. LACRIMANDO, or LACRIMOSO; mournful and pathetic. LAMENTEVOLE, LAMENTANDO. LAMENTABILE; mournfully. LARGHISSIMO; extremely slow. LARGHETTO; slow, but not so slow as Largo. LARGO: slow. LEGATO: close, gliding, connected style. LENTANDO: gradually slower and softer. LENTO OF LENTAMENTE : BIOW. MA: but. Maestoso: majestic, majestically. MAESTRO DI CAPELLA: chapel-master, or conductor of church music. MARCATO: in a strong and marked style. MESSA DI VOCE : moderate swell. MODERATO, or MODERAMENTE; moderately, in moderate time. MOLTO; much or verv. MOLTO VOCE; with a full voice. Morendo: gradually dying away. MORDENTE: a beat or transient shake. Mosso; emotion. ANDANTE Con Moro; quicker than MOTO: motion. Andante. Non. not. as: Non Troppo: not too much

ORCHESTRA; a company or band of instrumental performen-PASTORAL: applied to graceful movements in sextuple time Pru: more. Pru Mosso: with more motion, faster. PIZZICATO; snapping the violin string with the fingers. Poco: a little. Poco ADAGIO; a little slow. Poco A Poco; by degrees, gradually. PORTAMENTO; the manner of sustaining and conductine the voice from one sound to another. PRECENTOR: conductor, leader of a choir. Presto: quick Prestissino: very quick. RALLENTANDO, ALLENTANDO, OF SLENTANDO: slower and softer by degrees. RECITANDO; a speaking manner of performance RECITANTE: in a style of recitative. RECITATIVE: musical declamation. RINFORZANDO, RINF, or RINFORZO; suddenly increasing in nower. RITARDANDO: slackening the time. SEMPLICE: chaste, simple. SEMPRE: throughout, always; as: SEMPRE FORTE: loud throughout. SENZA: without as, SENZA ORGANO; without the Organ. SFORZANDO, or SFORZATO; with strong force or emphasia rapidly diminishing. SICILIAN; a movement of light, graceful character. SMORENDO, SMORZANDO; dving away. SOAVE, SOAVEMENTE; sweet, sweetly. See Dolce. Solfeggio: a vocal exercise. Solo: for a single voice, or instrument. SOSTENUTO: sustained. Sorro; under, below. Sorro Voca: with subdued voice. SPIRITOSO, CON SPIRITO; with spirit and enimation STACCATO; short, detached, distinct. SUBITO: quick. TACE, or TACET; silent, or to be silent. TARDO; slow. TASTO Solo; without chords. TEMPO: time. TEMPO A PIACERE: time at pleasure. TEMPO GIUSTO: in exact time. TEN. TENUTO: hold on. See Sostenuto. TUTTI; the whole, full chorus. Un; a; as. Un Poco; a little. VA; go on; as VA CRESCENDO; continue to increase. VERSE; same as Soio. Vigoroso; bold, energetic. VIVACE; quick and cheerful. VIRTUOSO: à proficient in art. Voor Sous : roice alone Voltt Subito, turn over quickly

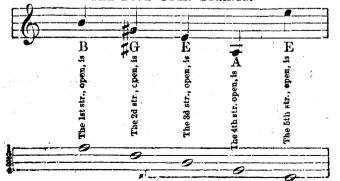
ORGANO: the organ.

George C. Dobsons' New School for the Banjo.

SELECTING AND ADJUSTING THE PROPER STRINGS.

Select a very fine E string, which is called, four lengths for the Violin, cut the same in two equal parts, and use one for the first and the other for the fifth string. Select for the second string, an E string, also, a grade heavier. Select for the third string, an A string for the Violin, of medium size. The fourth string is the Bass, which should be a fine silver string, wound on white silk, which are wound of late, expressly for the Banjo, while formerly a Guitar D string was used in its stead, which is not so good for the Banjo, in tone or durability. On inserting the strings in the tail piece, fasten the knot on the upper side of the same, which lifts it from the head, and in winding the string around the peg, always let the coil lie close to the surface of the handle, thereby holding the peg in place, while, if the string be wound on the upper portion of the peg, it continually slips and gets out of tune.

THE TONES, AS REPRESENTED ON THE STAFF, PRODUCED ON THE FIVE OPEN STRINGS.



It will be seen by the above diagram, that when the Banjo is properly tuned, the first string, open, is B.

the second string, open, is E.

the third string, open, is E.

the fourth string, open, is A.

Now take four of these notes, as per example, and we produce the chord of E Major, the chord most readily performed on the Banjo, especially by a beginner, as they are all on open strings.



Having performed the above chord in arpeggio style, (arpeggio is to play one note after the other, commencing with the lowest, in quick succession, the sign for which is a curved line,) we place down two fingers of the left hand, as follows: The first finger at the first fret of the second string; the second finger on the second fret of the first string, and we produce the following chord of A Major.

New School for the Banjo



It will be observed that there is an additional sharp to the one occurring on the second string open, that one which occurs on the first string, at the second fret, C, will be explained farther on.

How to Tune the Banjo to Produce the Tones as Shown in the Diagram on Preceeding Page.

Tune the fourth string to A, from a pitch pipe, then place the second finger on the seventh fret of the fourth string, which tone produced will be E, then tune the third in unison with it, place the second finger on the fourth fret, of the third string, which gives \$\sqrt{G}\$, and tune the second in unison with it; then place the second finger on the third fret, of the second string, which gives B, and tune the first in unison with it, then place the second finger on the fifth fret, of the first string, which gives E, and tune the fifth in unison with it; then play the following exercise on the two chords already explained to familiarize the sounds.

EXERCISE AFTER TUNING.



How to Hold the Banjo.

The rim of the Banjo should rest on the centre of the right thigh, and kept in that place by the right breast resting on the upper portion of it. Rest the left foot flat on the floor, and elevate the right foot on the ball, rest the neck (or handle) of the Banjo in the hollow of the left hand, the first and second fingers directly over the second and first string. (See cut.)



The wrist of the right hand should rest directly over the tail piece, bringing the right hand just in front of the bridge, resting the 3d or 4th finger on the parchment, (or head) to steady the hand while picking.

SIGNS FOR RIGHT HAND FINGERING, IN PICKING, OR GUITAR STYLE.

For the first finger, one dot, thus, . ; for the second finger, two dots thus, . . ; for the third finger, three dots, thus, . . . See cut showing the position of the right hand, in picking or guitar style.



LEFT HAND FINGERING.

One figure above or below the staff, indicates the finger employed, also, the fret at which the string is stopped. When there are two figures added to a note, the upper one indicates the fret, while the lower one indicates the finger that stops the string. The zero, thus, o, indicates an open string.

Exercises.

STROKE PLAYING.

Partly close the hand, bringing the forefinger near the palm, then each of the following fingers a little farther from the palm, bringing the forefinger an inch and a half from the inside of the thumb. Notes to be made by the thumb will have a cross, thus: x. Notes to be made by the back of the nail of the forefinger, will have the letter N.



See following cut for position of the right arm from the shoulder, also of the right hand in playing the stroke.

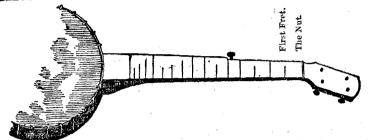


THE RULE FOR FRETTING THE BANJO.

As many Banjos vary in size, it would be useless to make a diagram (to insert in this book) to fret them all by, therefore, whatever length the handle of your Banjo is, the following rule will enable you to fret it correctly: Place the bridge on the parchment, about three inches from the edge of the hoop, (the edge where the tail piece rests,) and mark the same with a pencil, then divide the distance from the nut (the small piece of wood over which the strings pass to the pegs) to the bridge into 18 equal parts, and mark for the first fret to the bridge into 18 equal parts, and mark for the second fret, and so on until you get 16 frets. The frets should be of fancy wood, about an 8th or a 16th of an inch in width, inlaid level with the surface of the fingerboard. The first, third, sixth, ninth, and thirteenth frets, should be inlaid half the width of the fingerboard.

The second, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, twelfth, and sixteenth, should be inlaid the full width of the fingerboard, while the rest of them should taper from two-thirds a little less than each other, as shown in the following cut.

ILLUSTRATING THE ABOVE MANNER OF FRETTING THE BANJO.



By this manner of fretting, the positions on the Banjo can be readily committed to memory, and greater facility in performing can be attained in less time, than where the frets extend the entire width of the fingerboard.

HOW TO PUT A HEAD ON A BANJO.

. Select a good lime cured, calf skin head, one that is not too thick, or too thin. It should be even in all parts, be sure to not get one that is made transparent by a preparation, as they are without tone or durability. Where a portion of a head is clear, (transparent) and a portion is white, they are the best, as there has been no artificial means employed to make it clear. Wet the head for about five minutes, until the rattling stiffness disappears, then place it over the top of the hoop, place on the wire hoop, then the brass hoop, upon which the hooks are used to stretch the same, if the head is too small to pull it through, with the fingers, use a small pair of plyers, and get all the wrinkles out around the wire hoop, before pressing the upper hoop down, then put on the screws, about four, in equal distances around the hoop; these four hooks will hold the rim in its place, while you once more go around the hoop of the Banjo, and see that the edge of the head is wel drawn through, having every wrinkle

drawn out. Then put on the remainder of the hooks, and with your wrench, draw down the head, until it is within an 8th of an inch from the edge of the wooden hoop, then take and trim the surplus head, with the sharp edge of a small knife; let it rest, while trimming the head, on the brass hoop, taking care not to let the knife slip, and cut any other portion, but the part you are cutting off. Let the brass hoop remain up the 8th of an inch, until the head becomes thoroughly dry, and then tighten it a little, from time to time, (every few days), and by the time the brass hoop is drawn level with the wooden hoop, it will have become thoroughly dry, and seasoned, and will not be apt to stretch much more. All Banjo heads, no matter how tight they are. are more or less effected in damp weather, and at such a time, they should not be meddled with, as the head will resume that toughness and tightness, as the atmosphere changes; but in a case where the performer wishes to use the instrument, specially, the head may be tightened at any time. The best Banjo may be spoiled, as far as tone is concerned, in putting on the head, while an inferior Banjo may be greatly improved, when the head is properly put on.

HOW TO CLEAN A SOILED BANJO HEAD WITHOUT REMOVING IT.

Wet a sponge, or cloth, in a little soap water, and rub lightly over the part soiled, which will remove all the dirt, at once, then rub it off with a moist cloth, of clean water. finishing with a dry cloth The dampness you have subjected the head to through this process, will soon dry off, leaving the head looking as clean and good as new.

THE CARE OF THE INSTRUMENT.

The Banjo should not be kept in a hot, or damp room, as excessive heat would be apt to warp the wood work, while the head would absorb the dampness. The bridge may be left up, in its place, if the instrument is freequently used, otherwise, taken down. The Banjo is an instrument which requires great care and nursing, to give, at all times, satisfaction to the performer and his auditors. When not in use, it should be kept in a green baize bag, or a box, lined with the same.

THE PROPER DIMENSIONS FOR CONSTRUCTING A BANJO.

The width of hoop should be eleven inches; the depth, two and five-eighths inches. The length of the handle, from the nut to the front edge of the hoop, seventeen and one-half inches. The 5th peg should come directly opposite the 5th fret. The handle should be black walnut, veneered with rosewood, or ebony, on the surface, The hoop may be ash, maple, or oak, (a good, heavy rim should be selected.) The number of hooks and brackets generally used in tightening the head, are 16; 24, however, adds to the appearence of the instrument, and subjects each hook to less strain, whereby, the threads are less liable to give out, and a still better tone may be produced, as the tighter the head the better the tone, of a properly constructed Banjo. The above dimensions for the length of the handle, (with a 11 inch hoop) bring all the chords in a natural order of fingering, that is, the frets are just a proper distance from each other. Where the handle is longer, the fingering is more difficult, as the frets are wider apart. A bridge made of soft wood, pine, or cedar, is best for tone, a hard wood bridge deadening the tone.

THE NATURAL KEY OF THE BANJO, (A MAJOR,) EXPLAINED.

The natural key in music is C Major, having for its signature

the G clef. The natural key, however, for the Banjo is the key

of A Major, which has, in addition to the G clef, (and placed
next to the same.) three sharps, thus:

degrees, F, C, and G, and are equal to a
sharp occuring before each individual tone, during the

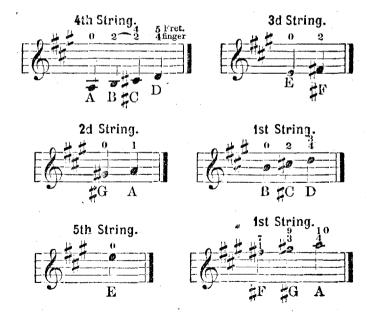
progress of
the scale, a piece, or an exercise.

Why is the key of A Major, with three sharps, the natural key of the Earjo? Eccause the size of the strings adopted, is suited to the bulk and structure of the instrument, and when tuned with the male voice, the strings are less liable to break, than if tuned to a higher pitch; and the tone is more brilliant and satisfactory, than if tuned lower. The Banjo, like all other instruments, has its favorite keys, and those keys most suitable for beginners are A and E Major, and F Minor, and for those ad-

vanced, the following keys are often performed in: B Major, D Major, G Major, C Major, F Major, C Minor, B Minor, D Minor, A Minor, E Minor, &c. All of these keys may be performed in without tuning the Banjo, any different from the instructions already given.

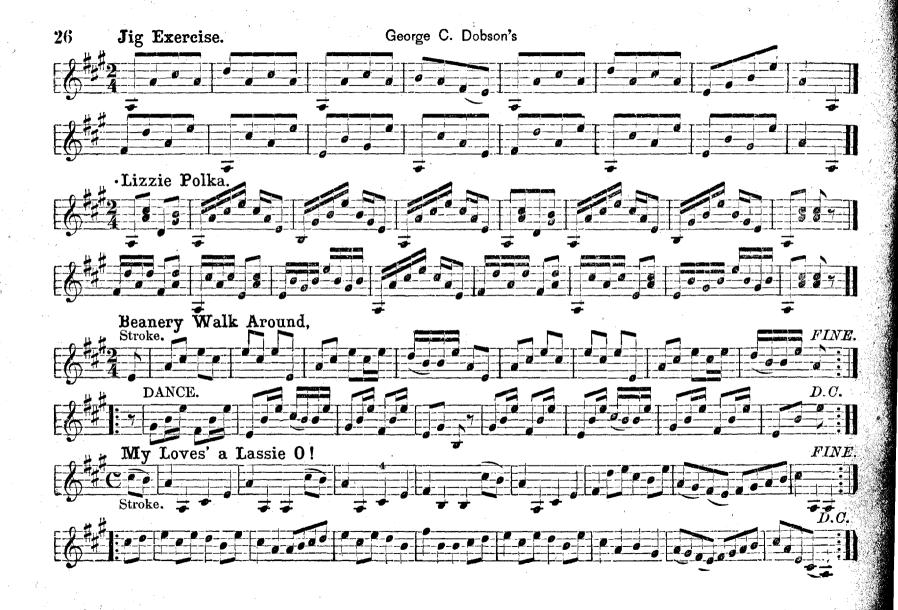
THE SCALE OF A MAJOR, IN SECTIONS.

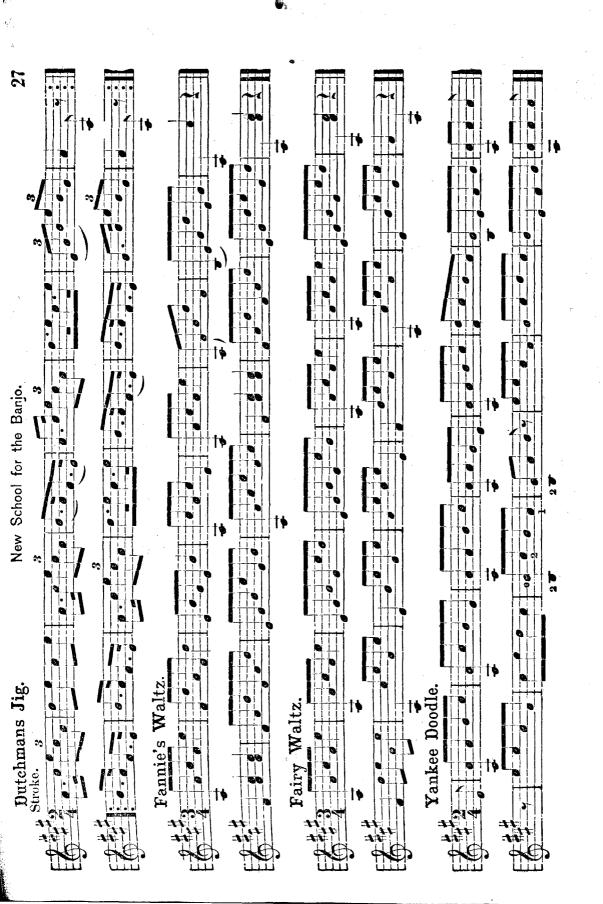
The first four notes of the scale are all made on the fourth string, and are represented below the staff. These four notes must be committed to memory, (before going to the next string,) the literal name, also, at what fret each note is made on the finger-board, also, the position of the note on the staff, and the fingers of the left hand that stops it, must be committed at one and the same time, practically and theoretically.



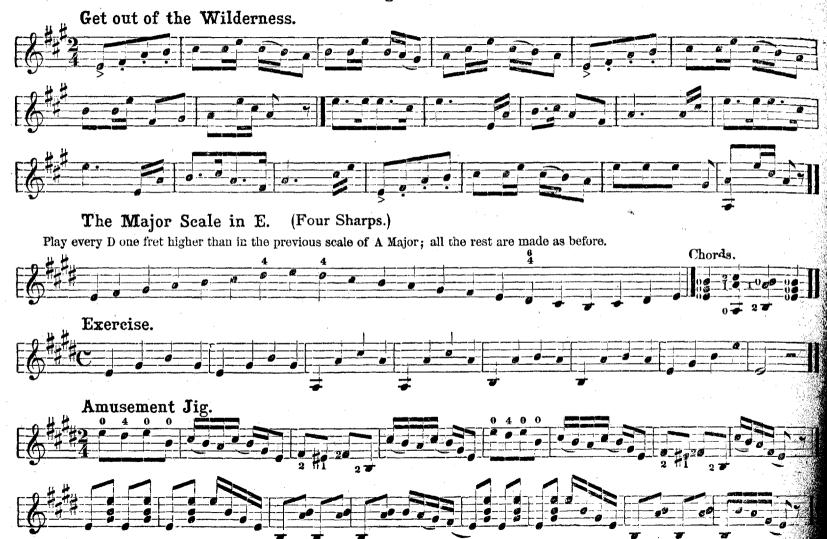
Having learned the notes and at what fret each note is produced, the sharps will be no longer placed before each note as it may occur, but next to the clef only, which is equal to the same, and whatever line or space a sharp may be placed upon next the clef, all notes that occur on that degree are played sharp throughout the peice, unless contradicted by a natural.

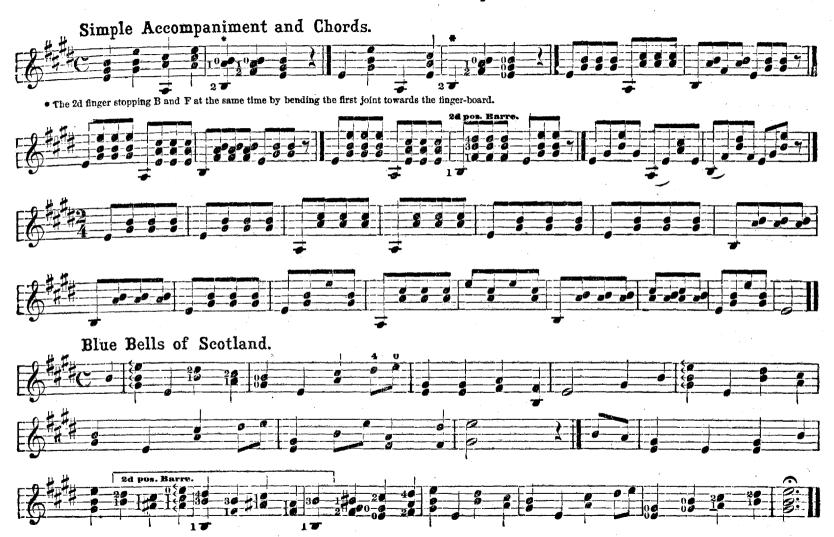












The Barre.

When the forefinger is placed lengthwise across the finger board, stopping all the strings at one and the same time, it is called the Barre. We sometimes are required to stop two strings with one finger, this is also a Barre. Let us designate each by calling the first Barre No. 1, and the latter Barre No. 2.

EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATING THE BARRES.



POSITION OF LEFT HAND MAKING BARRE NO. 1 AT 7TH POSITION.



Exercise in Barre Chords.

KEY OF A MAJOR.

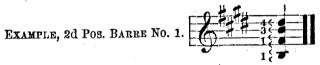


KRY OF E MAJOR.





In making the Barre No. 1 at the first, second, third and fourth position, use the third and fourth finger.



THE SAME CHORD ILLUSTRATED IN THE FOLLOWING CUT.



For those Barre Chords occurring at or above the fifth fret, use the second and third finger in place of the third and fourth finger, as the frets are nearer together. The fourth finger is reserved for further use.

EXAMPLE.



Barres showing further use for fourth finger.





EXERCISE INTRODUCING BARRE No. 2.



Harmonics.

The principal harmonics are found at the fourth, fitth, seventh, twelfth, twentieth and twenty-fourth frets. Also at the eighteenth fret on the fifth string.

In making harmonics, use the same right hand fingering as illustrated in guitar style, while the fingering of the left hand is as follows:

Press the fore-finger lightly on the string, sufficiently to preventits vibration, as if open.

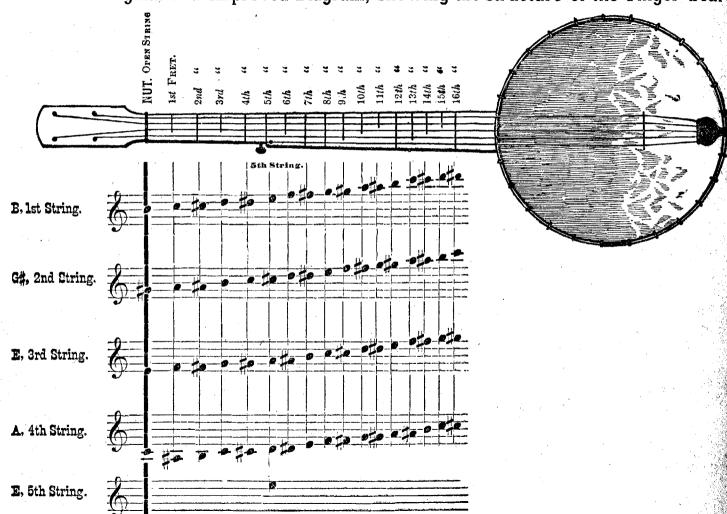
Touch the strings delicately with the right hand: all the notes on the banjo may be played harmonically; that is, a harmonic tone may be produced at any fret; but, like the Guitar, there are just so many which sound the best. These are the ones which give the most clear and distinct tone, which have been mentioned, and will be made use of in this work.

Cut showing the delicate manner of touching the strings with the third finger of the left hand in producing harmonics.



The following "Barra Polka" is an excellent piece for practising the Barras and introducing Harmonic tones.

George C. Dobson's Original and Improved Diagram, showing the structure of the Finger-board.













George C. Dobson's



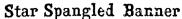




















George C. Dobson's

Strauss Thousand and One Nights Waltz. Continued.











Wait till the Moonlight falls on the Water.

For Banjo by GEORGE C. DOBSON.

Words and Music by S BAGNALL.

Tune the fourth string to A, or to key-note most suitable to voice, then play as written.









New School for the Banjo.



George C. Dobson's Method for Playing the Banjo at Sight,

WITHOUT STUDY.

and and y,
Five lines, thus: 2 represent the five strings of the Banjo, thus;
(Five Strings of the Banjo.)
1
The five lines upon which the music is written, number from the appermost downwards, 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. [when the Banjo is held in proper position on the Centre of the right thigh,] represents the five strings of the Banjo numbering uppermost 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The shortest string in the Banjo is the fifth.*
• See Part 2d. for manner of Holding, Tuning, Fingering, Stroking, &c.,
Two kind of characters only, are made use of to express a closed
and an open string. The round ring thus; — signifies the third
string one time open, or one open note produced on the third string.
The black dot, thus: signifies the third string one time
closed, or one closed note, produced by placing the second finger of the left hand endwise on the second fret.*
See Day 24 in reference to fretz and fretting the Dance

The Key

Whatever line the first note is written on, strike or pick the corresponding string on the Banjo, to commence the piece. There are so many closed notes represented by the black dot only, and those are as follows. The second string closed at the first fret with the first finger, the first, third, and fourth string closed at the second fret with the second finger. This is the usual left hand fingering for the first chord in the first position. When a different position is required. there will be added two figures, the lower one indicating the finger employed to stop the string, whil the upper figures will indicate the fret at which it is stopped.

A Cross (×) added to a note thus: refers to the little finger of the left hand, if it occurs with the black dot only, then the string is to be closed at the third fret, no matter on what line it may be written, stop the corresponding string at the third fret, with the little finger.

When a figure is added to a cross, thus: _____ the little finger is to stop the string on the given fret,

EXAMPLE,

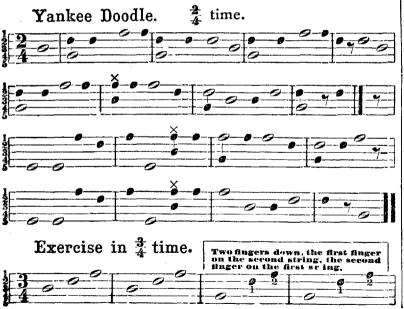
The little finger on the seventh fret,

One figure only added to a note, refers to the finger of the left hand employed to stop the string, also the fret at which it is stopped.



The letter S, added to a note, is the sign for snapping the string, After having first produced the closed note, pullthe finger of the (left hand) quickly sideways off the string, which gives another note on the open string, without again striking or picking the string with the right hand. Snap or snapping is principally used in quick pieces to facilitate the execution. When there is not enough open or closed notes in any piece or exercise written to complete each measure, rests will be substituted to fill out the count, as follows,—(Rests are fully explained in Part First and how to count time.)







The Same Exercise.

Picking up with the first and second fingers two notes at one and the same time,

Two or more notes struck or picked at one and the same time are called a chord.



Exercise.

Introducing the Cross (\times) , the sign for the little finger of the lett hand,

1	-1	2	1		1	3	1	2	1	X	2	2	1	×.	2
2-2-	-0-		-0-		0		-Ø-	40	- 6-		-0-	9	-0-		-0-
1-1-0				9				1=				Ĕ.			



In the third measure of the above exercise place the second finget on the third string, the first finger on the second string, then place the little finger at the third fret, first string. Fix the fingers in this manner before playing any note in the measure, then retain them so until the third and fourth measures are performed. Then place down the two fingers again as in the first measure, before playing any note in the fifth measure.

Exercise.

Introducing three notes to be played at one and the same time.



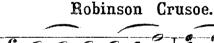
When a sign, the Curved line, occurs before a clord thus;

it indicates that one note is to be struck or picked quickly after each other, commencing with the lowest note, which has a more elegant effect on the banjo than a chord struck at one and the same time. As the fifth string is the highest note in the following chord, the note occurring on the third string would be the lowest.



Exercise in chords having curved lines.







The Banjo on my Knee. CHORUS. The Young Man from Canorsey. CHORUS. Joe's Jig.



Melody with Accompaniment.



