

Hotel de Venise et Rome

Princes Street

1875?

Leicester Square.

AL/3070

Dear Madam,

I have not been able, forming  
partly to many journeys & much work, &  
partly to very unsatisfactory state of health  
to push forward with the question of work  
for women as it might be found in &  
round my own profession. I very seriously  
doubt whether piano-forte tuning would be  
of much use. Very few men succeed in  
becoming efficient tuners who have not got  
their training in a factory: It is not an  
art that can be taught theoretically: this  
branch of the profession is subject to the



same low as that which obtains generally: that having learned how a thing is to be done one has yet to acquire the practical force & readiness that makes the art itself commercially available. In the case of

pipe-making, the beginner is generally set to work to "rough tune", under superintendence, the half finished instruments in the work shop: I do not think that

women could obtain a footing - or would care to keep it: unless some very powerful firm would take up the matter. and the success

of the experiment is so doubtful: I mean the question is so very two-sided, whether women could afterwards earn a decent living by the occupation, that the difficulties attending

the experiment would make the game not worth the candle. To mention only one circumstance the physical atmosphere inseparable from the manufacture of pipes would be terribly trying to women (it is so even to men) whose nerves are sufficiently delicate for the task in question. I think however the question

would be laid before such a firm as Messrs Broadwood: privately: & their answer accepted as final.

Some girls who are trying to get into the musical profession, pick up in the meantime some assistance by colouring photographs.

It is an art easily learned but of some commercial value. The larger photographic firms would give information. I don't notice this on your list. Probably only about 10 per



cent of the girls who begin this would find  
it a final means of support: but the others  
would help themselves while training for  
something else.

Another thing would be easily acquired.

The art of writing, on lithographic paper.

This, in connection with copying music,  
would be of great service. The haste with  
which multiplied choral & orchestral parts  
have to be copied renders them usually  
illegible: & there are few people who can  
give the lithographer a "prototype" for  
printing from, on the prepared paper,  
which alone ensures a clear copy. I could  
give further information on this point.

~~But~~ I believe that very shortly I  
could give a small order of this



kind is only <sup>conv</sup> I will find a small staff of  
people able to execute it quickly & neatly.  
And during the last 6 or 7 years I have  
seen many small opportunities which have  
been lost for want of some ~~few~~ few people  
ready to execute such a task. This is  
but one small thing among many.

I think I mentioned the harmonium as  
a useful instrument. Those who already  
can play it should get some easy  
violin or violoncello music & learn to play  
it on the harmonium: afterwards get  
oboe or bassoon parts of orchestral  
pieces: & practice playing it in strict  
time; counting bars rest &c. Further  
steps in the direction of general musical



usefulness may easily be suggested, and a market soon found. To sing "Il Barbiere" or play Thalberg's "Home Sweet Home" on the Piano is about the least useful form of musical accomplishment that I know of.

The Instruments open to women are

1. The Violin (difficult but possible)
2. The Viola (or tenor violin, suitable for a rather large hand: easier than the violin).
3. The Harmonium, used to fill up missing orchestral parts: & as an obligato to the voice. most valuable in suburban concerts or travelling musical companies.
4. The Piano - not a solo instrument, but as an accompaniment

to choruses &c, when there is a conductor. I have often wished for a lady who could play through the accompaniments to the Messiah, or the Elijah - under the baton. But alas few are able to play them at all, not because they are difficult to execute but because they don't know them. I have occasionally ~~met~~ met with a worthy schoolmistress who played the piano abominably: but who had spent off hours in playing through the Messiah & Creation herself - & who, when it came to the rehearsal could get through them - knowing them so well as to be able to give all their attention to the baton



Such a performance is well worth a journey  
to any amateur society.

Generally, I think it should be urged upon  
everybody that it is of no use to sit still &  
wish for something to do - or some impossible  
opportunity. Say to people "The thing you can  
readily do is the next thing - make that  
perfect & fit for use if called for: & then  
begin something else." So many come & tell  
me "Oh I could easily do that if it were  
required" - but there is nothing they can do  
at the time.

What I have suggested is the easiest work  
of any use that occurs to me at the moment.

Believe me

Very truly yours

C. P. Mann