THE RUDIMENTS OF THE ART OF PLAYING THE PIANOFORTE, WITH NUMEROUS EXERCISES AND LESSONS, WRITTEN AND SELECTED FROM THE BEST MASTERS

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PREFACE.

As this little work is designed solely to give elementary instruction in the art of playing a musical instrument, all teaching in the science of music is purposely avoided, this having been already done in another work. To this latter Treatise* the student is referred for explanations of those terms of pure science made use of in the course of the present treatise; and it is presumed that the student has acquired some of the earlier information, such as notation, formation of scales, at least the major, and some of the simpler notions of metre, &c. &c. before attempting to acquire the art of performing a musical composition, however simple it may be.

The student must not expect to find a complete treatise on the subject in so small a compass as the present volume, but it is hoped that the more early and essential information concerning the art is herein imparted, either by precept or example.

In acquiring the art here treated of much more is to be attained than can possibly be imparted by writing, and the

[·] Runnestes or Music; two role in one.

student should take every opportunity of listening to the most eminent artists, and make it a rule to peruse and study only the compositions of the best masters, in order that the taste and judgment may be early and well trained; and there will be no fear, hereafter, that the student's performance of music however inferior in itself will be more elegant and accomplished than it would have been had the trifling works of petty masters only been attended to.

The study of the works of Mozart, Beethoven, and others, however difficult some of them may be to acquire, will make a scholar of the Pianoforte player, and enable him to perform legitimate Pianoforte music, whoever may have been its author.

Considerable care has been taken to lead the student onwards gradually, yet rapidly; and the explanations and rules are those adopted and sanctioned by the best performers of Pianoforte compositions.

The exercises and lessons are, for the most part, selected from the standard works of the best masters; the choice being made, chiefly, with reference to the pupil's advancement in fingering the instrument, and the formation of a pure style.

In some of the lessons the fingering is only partially given, it being presumed that the omissions can be easily supplied by the knowledge gained by the study of the preceding lessons and exercises. Whatever assistance can be afforded by instruction, there will always be a considerable part to be acquired by the student's own industry; for books and masters can only teach; the pupil must study and practise until the acquirement is attained.

Even large works on the art do not, and cannot, supersede the assistance of a teacher; much less can a work so limited as the present. Yet a large portion of knowledge can be obtained by the study of books on the subject, and it is hoped that this little work will assist both instructor and pupil.

