

**WILHELM HEINRICH,
MUSICIAN AND
MAN, A TRIBUTE**

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Wilhelm Heinrich, Musician and Man, a Tribute by Edith Lynwood Winn

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BY
EDITH LYNWOOD WINN,
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PREFACE

IN giving to the world an account of the life of Wilhelm Heinrich, this book fulfils a twofold mission. To those who knew him it is a reminder of the sunny disposition, the untiring energy, and the high ideals which made his career what it was. It is also a reminder of the sincere artist and friend, always ready to help and encourage.

To those who did not come into personal touch with Wilhelm Heinrich it is the story of one who attained great artistic heights, of one who was the center of an immense circle of friends and admirers, and who made for himself a unique place in the artistic life of America, in spite of blindness.

In estimating the artistic stature of Wilhelm Heinrich, however, it is not necessary to allow for the sad fact of his blindness. His achievements were great enough to render unnecessary any consideration of that drawback. His beautiful tenor voice

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PREFACE

has charmed thousands of people, both in church and concert. The entire song literature was familiar to him. When one considers that he played all the accompaniments as well as sang the songs of his great repertoire, one has a partial idea of his wonderful powers of memory. Loss of sight seems to have increased the activity of his other senses. Absolute pitch aided greatly in his mastery of new and intricate music.

Imagination seemed almost to have replaced sight in his case. Often, when speaking of Mme. Sembrich's first Boston appearance, he would describe minutely the different costumes she wore, and even the expression of her face as she sang "Some Day," in the lesson scene of "The Barber of Seville." When referring to his country home by the sea, which was his delight, he would describe the beautiful effect of the sun's rays on the water as seen through the trees. His descriptions of places where he had been were so accurate as to make it almost impossible for one to believe that, as a matter of fact, he had never seen them.

PREFACE

The passing of Wilhelm Heinrich has left a place in the hearts of all who knew him that can never be filled.

It may be truthfully said of him, He made the world better for having lived.

Frank Lattory

