

WATCH FOR HERO OF LOOS.



The Lord Mayor shaking hands with Piper Daniel Laidlaw, V.C., after presenting him with a gold watch on behalf of the Musicians' Company.

Presentation to Piper Laidlaw, V.C.

"For most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos and Hill 70 on September 25th, 1915. During the worst of the bombardment, when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his Company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas, with absolute coolness and disregard of danger, mounted the parapet, marched up and down and played his Company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate, and the Company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes till he was wounded."

This was the deed which gained for Piper Daniel Laidlaw, of the 7th King's Own Scottish Borderers, the distinction coveted by all soldiers, the Victoria Cross, and, incidentally, it gained for him also a gold watch, suitably inscribed, from the Musicians' Company. The presentation took place on February 28th at the Mansion House, and, by a happy thought, it was decided to combine with it a concert to a large number of wounded soldiers from the Dominions over the Seas. There were songs from Miss Phyllis Lett, Mr. Lloyd Chandos, and Mr. Alfred Heather, recitations from Miss Kate Rorke, and violin solos from Miss Daisy Kennedy, while Mrs. Frank Hodsoll acted as accompanist. In addition, the band of the Grenadier Guards, under Lieut. A. Williams, Mus.D., M.V.O., played a number of pieces.

Half-way through the programme the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and the leading members of the Musicians' Company mounted the platform, the while that the pipers of the Lord Mayor's recruiting bands "piped up" the hero of the occasion round the Egyptian Hall.

In asking the Lord Mayor to make the presentation, Mr. C. L. Collard, the Master of the Musicians' Company, remarked that no fewer than four men who had won the Victoria Cross were connected with music.

The Lord Mayor, addressing Piper Laidlaw, said that the thought of his heroism dimmed the eye and quickened the blood of all, and he was sure it would be an incentive to those at home to do their duty as well as he had done his.

Piper Laidlaw thanked the Lord Mayor and the Musicians' Company for the gift. Some people could not find any music in the pipes; in London they seemed to be of a different opinion. He did not wish to take all the credit for winning the Cross; if it had not been for the support of his regiment he would never have got it. He then played the tune with which he encouraged his comrades at Loos.

After the soldiers present had disposed of a generous tea, the musical programme was resumed.

Two unrehearsed items were a song by Mr. Lloyd Chandos, "Keep the home fires burning," and he begged the soldiers to sing out the chorus, which they did heartily; and Miss Daisy Kennedy played on the violin the Australian National Song, Major Stretton ably supplying an impromptu accompaniment on the piano.

At the close of the entertainment Sir Charles Lucas, on behalf of the Colonial Office, thanked the Worshipful Company of Musicians for the attention bestowed on these soldiers who had so gallantly served their King and Empire, and the Lord Mayor for allowing the convalescent men to come to the magnificent hall of our great City, and do all possible to make them enjoy themselves on the occasion. He remarked that according to the ancient charter the Musicians' Company were charged to look after wandering minstrels; he thought they might quite as well suppress the German bands, if in the future any came here to afflict us. Rousing cheers for the men, the Musicians' Company, and the Lord Mayor concluded the entertainment.

STRATFORD. STRATFORD EMPIRE. HOSPITAL MATINEE.

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right direction; and we hope that at no distant d

they will see their way not only to restore the gra to the English Musical Schools, but also to incre them substantially. Another step which we cor ally endorse, and which we asked for at the v beginning of the war, was a larger official recognit of the army bands in France. The advent on Fre soil of Captain Mackenzie Rogan and his fine ba cannot fail to have the effect of making more wid known on this side of the Channel the immense go which well-organized army music can do. We a draw attention to a minor issue of no little impo ance—the value of fine recruiting music at home. this connection we have pleasure in inserting Lord Mayor's appeal in our Correspondence Colu