

Fuel for a Musician.

When Ole Bull, the renowned violinist, was staying in Paris in 1840, he returned home late one evening from a concert, and as the night was cold, he ordered his man to make a fire in his room. The latter dragged toward the fire-place a huge box, on which the word "Firewood" was painted in large letters. In answer to Ole Bull's astonished inquiry, the servant told him that the box had been delivered that day at noon, by his master's orders, as he thought. On being broken open, the box was found to contain twenty-two violins and the following letter:

"GREAT MASTER: The undersigned, being members of various amateur philharmonic societies, hereby declare that they will henceforth cease to perform on the accompanying instruments. The same wood from which Ole Bull can draw life, love, sorrow, passion, and melody, is only to be regarded as—fuel for the flames in the hands of the undersigned, who, therefore, request the maestro to make a bonfire of the inclosures, and to look upon the ascending smoke as incense offered to his genius by penitent dabblers in the noble art."

This curious epistle bore the signatures of twenty-two young men. Three days afterward Ole Bull gave a dinner, to which he invited all the senders of the valuable "firewood." Each guest had lying before him on the table one of the violins referred to, and by its side a gold ring, with the inscription, "Solitude and Perseverance"—a piece of seasonable advice to the faint-hearted, and a symbolic indication of the means by which the virtuoso himself had attained to fame.