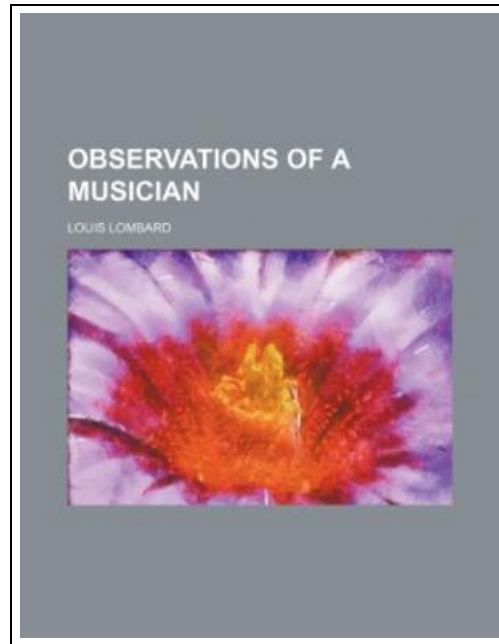


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OBSERVATIONS OF A MUSICIAN



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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1894 edition. Excerpt: . fiddlers outnumber the professional violinists. The rare skill and marked individuality of many native violinists must be acknowledged with pride. But no one should blind himself to the fact that these artists are only a handful compared to the legions who scrape a living out of catgut under the Stars and Stripes. The national vice of acknowledging no superiors, engendered by the visionary doctrine: All men are equal, is another cause of our musical imperfection. Nobody in the United States wants to play second violin. In the helter-skelter chase after the almighty dollar, vaulting ambition o erleaps itself, and the second violinist wants to be first. No sooner is he promoted than he seeks a leadership; and it is but too true that he easily finds a small body of players in need of a conductor--the blind leading the blind 1 Then begins, indeed, the struggle for existence, ending with the survival of the noisest, for most of our small orchestras produce a volume of sound in inverse ratio to their size. Among the many reasons for the scarcity of good native violinists is the indifference of American men to the fine arts--natural result of a spirit of utilitarianism which should be swept as a cobweb of log-cabin days from the threshold of the twentieth century. CHAPTER XX. OUR SONGS. The American popular song is rarely worth the paper upon which it is printed. Who would compare it with even the coarsest German lieder,...



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