

# LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday Price Threepence

JUNE 12, 1942.

## Lieutenant-General Freyberg

THE promotion last week of General Freyberg perhaps reminded some of his admirers that he took the place of Captain Scott in the mind and imagination of J. M. Barrie. The story is told in the recent biography of Barrie written by Denis Mackail, and throws a great deal of light on the characters of the two central figures. Barrie when they first met was 56, Freyberg 26, and although both were shy men, and inhibited by modesty, the link between them held firmly till Barrie died at 77.

It was of course difficult for Barrie to remain indifferent to heroes. He worshipped courage, moral and physical, as some men worship women and others worship gold, and there were many reasons why Freyberg should have been introduced to him ("fitly enough by Lady Scott") as the bravest man alive. His record, as every New Zealander now knows, was almost too dazzling at 26 to seem real. It was impossible that Barrie, who was taken to see him in hospital, should see him as an ordinary man, or think of him afterwards as just one more among thousands of the brave soldiers he had (by the end of 1916) already met. Even if he had been one of those Barrie, with his romantic attitude to heroes, would have been excited at that first meeting. But the truth, as closer acquaintance proved, is that Freyberg was a romantic figure — as simple as he was brave, as modest and kind as he was simple. Nor was he, Mackail points out, simple because he lacked intelligence. It would be vulgar flattery to call him an intellectual, and Mackail nowhere suggests anything like that. But he says this — and it is a test that would have satisfied even Carlyle:

He adjusted himself, with something more than ordinary intelligence, to flattery and fame. He remained entirely himself. The background altered, but nothing could touch his integrity. If that's being simple, then simple is one of the right words.

So there he is — commander of our division in the field, but the friend also, and on his own terms, of novelists, poets, playwrights, and utopian dreamers. No doubt, by this time, he is more an Englishman than a New Zealander, but if that is the case he has become a part of the England of which Barrie himself became a part, and in which it is harder to be base or mean than anywhere else in the world.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should be as brief as possible, and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send in their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published. We cannot undertake to give reasons why all or any portion of a letter is rejected.

### THE NAME OF GOD.

Sir,—A recent *Listener* contained an article referring to the Campaign for Christian Order, expressing a layman's views well and convincingly. Since reading that article I have listened in to two fine sermons delivered in connection with this campaign, one by the Rev. Gladstone Hughes, Wellington, giving a clarion call to return to God, and worship in the Churches, the second by Archbishop Averill, Auckland, stressing the need to witness for Christ by Church members in daily living, in the home and in business, the need for a clean radio, social reforms, etc. These men ask for action. May I suggest that we try to arrest the use of the name God and its corruptions, "gor," "gawd," so commonly in use in daily speech and leave off the radio songs with such words as "gor blimey" (or was it god?) as came over the air on Monday morning from 1ZB. Even small children can repeat and pick up the lilt—ing refrain without knowing the meaning of such words, and the habit grows. How can the true spirit of worship become part of our country's life, when the name of God is so used?

JANET ARCHIBALD (Titirangi).

### MENDELSSOHN'S "ST. PAUL"

Sir,—*"Marsyas"* this week has some spicy things to say about Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," and I agree with him. Apart from a few snippets like the "Wedding March" and "Hear My Prayer" Mendelssohn is at best a copyist, derivative rather than original, as was Schubert, apart from his songs. We

### Hit Song For Muss

(By WHIM-WHAM)

[To-day is the third anniversary of the Axis alliance which the dictators like to call the "Pact of Steel"... Mussolini, in a message to Hitler, spoke of his confidence in victory, and Hitler replied, saying: "I am always thinking of you."—*Cable news item.*]

WHATEVER may happen, Benito,  
Your Adolf will always be true;  
The Earth contains only one Axis,  
Which is me, dearest Duce, and you!  
Oh, your Conversation  
Is my Inspiration—  
I'll always be thinking of you!

THERE'S just one Dictator, dear Duce,  
Although you may think there are Two,  
And I'm planning the wonderful Future  
That's waiting for me and for you!  
Your Fuhrer won't grieve you  
Or love you and leave you,  
He'll always be thinking of you!

OH, think of that blessed New Order!  
Oh, steadily keep it in view!  
For it's Men and Munitions at present  
Your Fuhrer's expecting of you!  
Yes, this is the Day for  
Italians to pay for  
The Way he is thinking of you!

OH, how can you doubt such Affection?  
There's Love in each Turn of the Screw.  
Death cannot divide us—your Soldiers  
Are doing the Dying, not you!  
It's their Satisfaction  
To put into Action  
The Thoughts I am thinking of you!

### To Save Paper

TO save paper "The Listener" will cease next week displaying a contents poster. "The Listener" itself will of course continue to be sold at all the usual places, and these fortunately our subscribers all know.

Do not therefore misunderstand. The poster will not be there but "The Listener" will be. You will help your newsagent, and guard against disappointment, if you order in advance.

should conduct an intelligent purge of uninspired work so that the general public's conception of "classical music" as a weary and apparently aimless succession of dull sound may be corrected.

TRINITY COLLEGE (Auckland).

Sir,—The criticism of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul" which appeared in your issue of May 15 is a show-up of your musical critic. He says that the chorales were just too "Moody and Sankey for words." All I can say is this: either your critic has never heard Moody or Sankey, or else he doesn't know what a chorale is. His remark that "it was a pleasure to hear the orchestra alone at odd moments" jars on my mind, as all I recollect of that bevy of artists is a jungle of hopeless discords. The strings dragged horribly. MEZZO-FORTE (Christchurch).

### DEMOCRACY AND QUINCES.

Sir,—*"Less on the Eats"* has very ably expressed the thoughts of many women (and men too). I would go further and say that many cooking recipes printed in *The Listener* and given over the air are poor because many of them are so similar. Very much time and space could be saved if the basic recipe were given in full with a short list of variations in quantities, ingredients and methods. Quite often a page of recipes could be condensed to a quarter page.

Women who are interested in the questions asked by *"Less on the Eats"* are also interested in good cooking based on scientific diets for their families, but what authority have you for implying that ten times more of your women subscribers are interested in only the cooking? There are plenty of homely magazines for women, but *The Listener* has given us wider interests. I can assure you that many of your readers keep hoping and expecting you to go still further. Please give us a lead.

NOT BREAD ALONE (Dunedin).

(We must not have statements attributed to us that we have not made. We said: "For every woman who is interested in art or divinity or education or democracy, ten are interested in cooking." It would be what Dunedin would call a work of supererogation to establish this statistically.—Ed.)

Sir,—Your correspondent *"Less on the Eats"* certainly lets us know what she expects in *The Listener*, but does she expect any programmes at all and should she not be content with material referring to subjects which are figuring largely in the programmes? I am not specially interested in cooking, but I watch those cookery pages closely, for the matter is always topical and very useful. The Dunedin writer doesn't do herself justice in scorning them as merely "eats." In the particular issue in question the subject of quinces actually occupied less than half a column of the supposed two pages. There were, in addition to other recipes, directions for making necklaces with shells, and for making face cream, suggestions for conserving stockings, for packing jam for overseas, and even for poultry keeping. I was interested in *"Two Views of Democracy"* in the same issue; those reviews occupied nearly a page!

A RADIO LISTENER (Dargaville).