

1. It has not yet been proved that he was actually put on the rack.

2. The *original* record of the Verdict and Abjuration was written in Italian but has at various times been translated into Latin.

3. The passage (quoted in *The Open Court*, Jan. 1908, p. 9, par. 3) "and you Galileo Galilei defendant, question examined and having confessed as above, we say judge etc.," might lead some to suspect that actual torture was applied, but in the Italian original it runs thus: "e te Galileo Galilei, reo, quà presente processato, e confesso come sopra dall'altra, diciamo, pronunziamo etc."

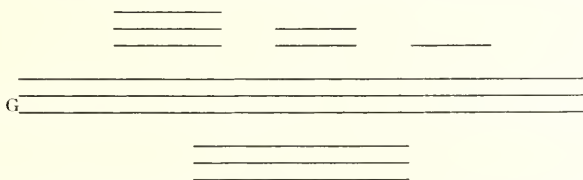
4. Those who maintain that Galileo was actually tortured have endeavored to make the most out of the words "*rigoroso esame*" in the passage "giudicassimo esser necessario venir contro di te al rigoroso esame," by putting on them the construction that the Inquisitors judged it was necessary to put Galileo to *actual* torture in order to test the sincerity of his submission. In the translation you have used, the passage occurs on page 9, par. 2.

5. The most that can be said, it appears to me, is that Galileo was *threatened* with torture, but it has not been proved, nay more, it seems very unlikely that torture was actually applied.

LONDON, ENGLAND.

JOHN F. SUBRA.

THREE-LINE STAFF FOR MUSIC NOTATION.



The three lines represent *do, mi, sol*, or 1, 3, 5, of the scale in all musical expression, and for all the "parts," the left-hand as well as the right-hand. The staff is transposable, the key being denoted by letter, as G, from the middle octave of the standard absolute scale. Of course *re* and *fa* come in the spaces, and between the main staff and its duplication above or below come *la* and *si*.

This method dispenses with "signatures" and many of the "accidentals." For an illustration of the latter, a run of five octaves in "The Flower Song," having nine accidentals, has not one on this three-line staff with A for the key-line.

But the greatest advantage of this proposed system is rapidity of reading. For illustration, it is difficult for one standing at a distance to count the stories of a "sky-scraper" building, on account of the uniformity of outline; but were they marked off in threes the task would be easy. This fact, in conjunction with the unchangeableness of the syllables and numerals on the staff, reduces the burden of learning to read, and the reading and manipulation on the piano or organ, to less than a quarter of what it is now; and this is true whether one plays by letter, syllable, numeral or interval.

This plan, in connection with the transposable key-board for the piano or organ, formerly manufactured to a small extent, still farther reduces the labor of reading and playing, probably to a tenth of the present requirement. Every performer has favorite scales of touch keys which he can manipulate

more easily than others, as D, F, G, or Bb; and by this adjustable key-board he can properly play any piece with his favorite scale of touch-keys. This sliding of the key-board to the right or left requires only the time of a quarter note, and therefore generally can be done quickly enough where the key (or signature) changes. Whatever handicap from this source may exist is many times offset by the greater freedom supplied the composer in its other features. All music, indeed, has to be composed with reference to the limitations of the instruments for which it is designed.

By the way, it is a great pleasure, as well as profitable, to transcribe music from the present five-line system to this three-line staff method, whether for the voice or almost any instrument, as by this means difficult passages are rendered clear and easy to the vision and fixed in the memory.

But inventions, as you already know, that are made to supersede a universal custom, cannot be made to succeed in public use, as for example reformed spelling of the English language, artificial language for universal use, etc. Pity!

EWING SUMMERS.

314 7th St., N. E., Washington, D. C.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

LES RELIGIONS ORIENTALES DANS LE PAGANISME ROMAIN. Par *Franz Cumont*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1907. Pp. 333.

Prof. Franz Cumont, well known in the world of scientists as the greatest authority on the history and development of Mithraism in the Roman empire, has written this exceedingly interesting book for the *Annales du Musée Guimet*. It is the result of a series of lectures before the College of France at Paris, and has been published by Ernest Leroux, of Paris, Rue Bonaparte 28.

The book is interesting mainly because it gives us several new points of view, and removes a misconception of the conditions in the Roman empire which will be surprising to those who are otherwise well versed in the history of classic antiquity. We are accustomed to think of Rome as having conquered the Orient and Romanizing the entire Eastern world, and Roman civilization appeals to us as a more powerful factor which seizes upon and changes the Orient. We are too much accustomed to look upon the Orient as being the same as it is now, impoverished and degraded in financial as well as moral respects. Professor Cumont teaches us that conditions were different in the last part of Roman history. In the days of Augustus we find the Roman empire having conquered by its superior militarism the entire Mediterranean world. Rome preserves the form of republican institutions and the conquered territories enjoy a certain local self-government subject only to the appointment of governors dependent upon the emperor. How different are the conditions of the later empire, as for instance in the days of Diocletian. Everything is centralized and the emperor has become an absolute monarch. Local autonomy in the province is lost and the Roman empire has been modeled after the pattern of an Oriental state, and the political situation is only one side of a change which extends to other branches of the social and political life of the empire. Professor Cumont calls it the pacific penetration of the Occident by the Orient. He reminds us that in the days of Augustus the Orient was not yet the degraded Levant which it is to-day. Though the Roman soldier was superior, the Eastern countries were after all the seats