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EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

"Tessin" 66 Greenways,
ESHER, Surrey.
Nov. 10, 1952.

The Editor,
"SWISS OBSERVER",
23, Leonard St., E.C.2.

Sir,
On February 19, 1803 at Les Tuileries in Paris, Napoleon Bonaparte handed to the Swiss Deputies his Act of Mediation, which abruptly ended the Helvetic Republic. One and Indivisible, restored sovereignty to the former Thirteen Cantons, and gave sovereign powers to further Six Cantons, namely Aargau, Grisons, St. Gall, Thurgau, Ticino and Vaud.

Such historic act which re-confirmed Switzerland's unique character of unity in diversity is being celebrated at home next year in the Cantons concerned.

As some of the six "new" Cantons are strongly represented in the London colony, I hope that the anniversary will not give rise to a spate of celebrations in a year which will be notable, here in England, for functions connected with Her Majesty's coronation.

It would be most fitting on the other hand if all the "ressortissants" from these Cantons joined forces and organized a joint 150th Anniversary of their Cantonal Independance at once decorous and stirring.

The centenary of the same event was celebrated at Monaco's 50 years ago at a memorable function over which Minister Gaston Carlin presided; the Unione Ticinese were then the promoters. Will the "Vaudois", or perhaps the "Grisonais" give the lead this time?

Yours faithfully,

J. Eusebio.

VOR GOTT.

Wie nehmen wir uns so wichtig,
Wie kränken uns Wort und Spott
Und alles ist doch so nichtig,
Einmal vor dem ewigen Gott.

Wie müssen wir haschen, jagen,
Nach etwas Glück, Ehre und Ruhm.
Wie müssen wir uns doch plagen
Für ein klein wenig Heldentum.

Doch berührt uns der Tod flüchtig
Und bricht er ab unsere Zeit,
Dann wird alles gar so nichtig,
Vor Gott und seiner Ewigkeit.

Max Berlinger-Hilty.

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JUBILEE OF Mme. SOPHIE WYSS.

To celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of her baptism into English musical life Mme. Sophie Wyss, who by virtue of her art and her Swiss origin has provided a liason between French and English art during that time, gave a recital at the French Institute on Friday, Nov. 14th, at which she sang a complete programme of French songs written for her by English composers. Berkeley was the first of them, the last Richard Bennett not out of his teens; in a folk-song group, there were settings by Britten, Matyas Seiber, and Vaughan Williams, who made a new setting for her of "Le paradis." Philip Cannon's "Cinq chansons de femme" for voice and harp, skilful essays in an unusual medium, formed the centre-piece of a happily conceived and charmingly executed programme.

T.

GRENZEN.

Wer gross denkt kann nicht kleinlich denken,
Wer hart ist, kann nicht gütig sein,
Wer geizig ist, kann nichts verschenken,
Wer einsam ist, bleibt stets allein.

Und färben sich die Blätter gelber,
Biegt sich zum Abschluss unsre Bahn,
Am Schlusse ist man stets sich selber,
Nimmt willig seine Grenzen an.

Max Berlinger-Hilty.

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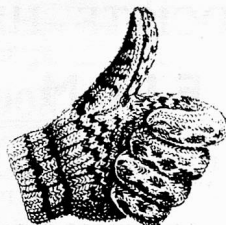
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