

PERSONALITIES.

WHO PLAYS THE BANJO?

Not only the Prince of Wales, but all his children play the banjo. The Prince himself learnt it ten years ago from one of the Brothers Bohee, who related that he smoked cigars all through the lessons. This started the fashionable craze for the instrument. The Duchess of Fife used to amuse herself by picking out break-downs. The late Duke of Clarence used to play the banjo when in his regiment and at Sandringham, whilst Princess Charles of Denmark has always found its tinkling tones congenial to her high spirits. Only this year the Duke of York handled a banjo for the first time, after hearing the Pierrots, and not two months ago some banjo strings were especially ordered to be sent to Marlborough House for the Prince of Wales' American banjo.

Lilian, Countess of Cromarti, often takes her banjo on Saturday to Monday parties, and rattles off a march with deft dexterity. The young Countess of Cromarti has learnt the guitar, and touches its deeper notes with sympathetic skill. Lady Coke, not only plays the banjo with proficiency, but has an enviable reputation for singing coon songs charmingly.

Adelina Patti sings the well-known song, 'Way down the Swanee River,' to her own accompaniment on a zither-banjo;

Madame Melba, who began her musical career as an organist, is a fine banjo player; Mrs James Brown-Potter, in her globe-trotting, has often 'strummed on the old banjo' in various parts of the world; Miss Edna May is reputed to have learnt it in America; and that exquisite whistler, Mr Lawton, is no less skilled on it than in lip-music; Miss Phyllis Broughton, is no less addicted to the banjo, and suspended a course of lessons to fulfil her engagement in 'The Prince of Borneo,' at the Strand Theatre.