

Excerpt from
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WHEN ASKED TO ‘TALK’

When asked “to talk” this morning Miss Powell replied that talking was not at all her forte. “I can talk well enough with my fingers,” she said, archly raising her white hands, “but words--why, when I first made my debut an interview was a torture second only to thumbscrews. I had nothing to say--what could I have to say? I was only a girl. I could only smile.

“Oh, yes, we stay in New York during the season. There is so much there to fill one’s artistic life, but now I am not sure that we will not come to Chicago since Theodore Thomas is to be here. I do not understand how New York could let him go--unless, indeed, neither he nor New York was strong enough to resist this westward current. Everything seems coming to Chicago.

“Camilla Urso was my inspiration,” she said. “I heard her when I was 9 years old, and then and there she and her art became my ideal and idol.”

“And does she still seem so great to you?”

“Yes, yes; she is a great artist,” she replied, with enthusiastic allegiance.

“The violin is studied a great deal of late by the young girls, but it is an instrument whose study demands so much physical endurance and so much of one’s thought and life that few are willing to make the sacrifice that it entails. That is why there are so few violinistes.”

From the Archive of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education