



CHAPTER X

NUANCE—THE SOUL OF INTERPRETATION

PHRASING

The average young violin student does not take to heart as he should the great importance of shading, of *nuance*, in music. He is inclined to believe that if he plays correctly, rhythmically, and, perhaps with temperament, he is doing all a player can be asked to do. Nevertheless, he can never hope to be a genuinely accomplished violinist if he neglects that important phase of music which involves musical sensibility, a proper understanding of the composition to be played, and that great wealth of nuance of which the violin is peculiarly capable. A genius of Beethoven's caliber excels in teaching us how to shade, how to develop nuance. Study his quartets, his trios, his violin sonatas—not to forget his symphonies!—and you will find them replete with