


In 1872, Samuel Butler wrote a novel called *Erewhon*, which features a description of some fictional aeolian devices, which are statues which make a sound when the wind blows through them;

Then came a gust of howling wind, accompanied with a moan from one of the statues above me. I clasped my hands in fear. I felt like a rat caught in a trap, as though I would have turned and bitten at whatever thing was nearest me. The wildness of the wind increased, the moans grew shriller, coming from several statues, and swelling into a chorus. I almost immediately knew what it was, but the sound was so unearthly that this was but little consolation. The inhuman beings into whose hearts the Evil Ones had put it to conceive these statues, had made their heads into a sort of organ-pipe, so that their mouths should catch the wind and sound with its blowing. It was horrible. However brave a man might be, he could never stand such a concert, from such lips, and in such a place. I heaped every invective upon them that my tongue could utter as I rushed away from them into the mist, and even after I had lost sight of them, and turning my head could see nothing by the storm-wraiths driving behind me, I heard their ghostly chanting, and felt as though one of them would rush after me and grip me in his hands and throttle me.

I may say here that, since my return to England, I heard a friend playing some chords upon the organ which put me very forcibly in mind of the Erwhonian statues (for Erewhon is the name of the country upon which I was now entering). They rose most vividly to my recollection the moment my friend began. They are as follows, and are by the greatest of all musicians:



Prelude: arpeggio.

*See Handel's compositions for the harpsichord, published by Litolf, p. 78.

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¹ Text taken from the novel *Erewhon or Over the Range* by Samuel Butler, written 1872 and originally published by Messrs. Trübner and Co., this quote and these images are taken from the Penguin Books Limited Third impression, published October 1936.