



CHAPTER VIII

ORNAMENTS—PIZZICATO

The Italian *mordents* and *grupetto*—known in English as the “turn” and “grace-notes”—were the widely prevalent and freely used ornaments of the violin compositions of centuries past. They were mainly employed in airs, in slow movements whose expressive playing depended on the good taste and musical feeling of the artist. It is true that the use of ornamentation was overdone, yet this whole question of embellishment is an obscure one, and we have still to develop an authoritative body of rules which may serve as a guide to teacher and pupil. Now as in days gone by, the use of ornament in violin playing is taught in accordance with the individual teacher’s point of view, and embellishments are played as the individual player’s artistic good sense may dictate.

Even in his day, however, Leopold Mozart,