

allegro con brio and the *finale prestissimo* foreshadowing that strength of grasp and originality of idea which Beethoven afterwards exhibited in the composition of his third period. The movement played by the Club, the *Andante cantabile con variazioni*, although exceedingly melodious, is perhaps the least original, and suffered by contrast with Mendelssohn's quintette, which, as we have stated, was written during the period of the composer's greatest musical productivity. In the performance of this number, J. C. Mullaley assumed the lead; his style, however, in our opinion, although good, is scarcely polished enough to constitute him a quintette player of a high order. Mendelssohn's piano concerto, Op. 25, was played by Miss Crowle, an amateur of some executive ability. Her effort was a very promising one, but it was evident that both the "grand" and the *concerto* were too much for her. This *concerto* was written at Munich perhaps in the year 1830, and was played for the first time in London by the composer

himself at the Philharmonic Concert of the 28th May, 1832. The delicate *cantabile* of the *andante*, the forcible and impetuous character of the *allegro* require an artist of the very highest order even to do them barely justice, while the innumerable difficulties of the rapid passages demand execution nothing short of complete mastery of the key-board. It is, therefore, no disparagement to Miss Crowle to say that, clever as her performance was, it merely served the purpose of introducing to the notice of a Toronto audience this wonderful concerto, and for this alone we are indebted to her. The Club, evidently fearing to hazard the experiment of giving in Toronto a purely classical programme, introduced a number of pieces with which the public are familiar, and which, therefore, need no comment thereupon. In conclusion it might be added that the vocalist was Mrs. Osgood, who was received with the utmost enthusiasm, and who sang charmingly.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE OLD REGIME IN CANADA. By Francis Parkman, Author of "Pioneers of France in the New World," &c., &c. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1874.

This admirable historical work, although, strictly speaking, only one volume of a series, is complete in itself. To its author Canadians are deeply indebted; for he has done for us, what, we are almost ashamed to say no historical student here has had the courage to undertake on so complete a scale. It is not too much to claim for Mr. Parkman that he has made the field of early Canadian history entirely his own. Not content with studying the documents printed by Provincial or State Governments, or by Historical Societies, he has explored the unpublished sources of information oral or written. Every Canadian whose name has been heard of in connection with the subject has been consulted, and the French archives, particularly those of the Department of Marine and Colonies, have been laid under tribute. Our author's industry has been untiring, and his power of digesting the *congeries* of material at his disposal, and of presenting it in a graphic and entertaining style, are qualifications which he shares with only a few modern historians. The volume before us is divided into parts entitled, not with the author's

usual felicitousness of arrangement, we think, "The Period of Transition," and "The Colony and the King." The first three chapters of the former are devoted to the perils and self-sacrifice of the missionaries and the *religieuses*. Each of these chapters contains a romance in itself. The hazardous mission of the Jesuits to Onondaga, and their narrow escape from massacre; the holy wars of Montreal, which are like a chapter from the history of the Crusades, but far surpassed these mad expeditions in the rational objects in view and the rare self-devotion of priest and nun. The stories of miracle and portent, of Divine and angelic interposition, read like the legends of mediæval saints. And then there is the grand episode of Daulacdes Ormeaux and the heroes of that forlorn hope at the Long Sault. In reading of the alacrity of the Jesuit fathers to go where duty called, over the ice and through the forest, and into the midst of savage camps, with their lives in their hands—lives not worth a day's purchase—it is impossible to withhold our tribute of admiration. They are but counterparts to another scene enacted in North Simcoe, at the massacre of the Hurons, when the gentle Lalemant and the lion-hearted Brébœuf, after suffering the most fearful tortures, perished at the stake, mar-