

Scottish songs. The Bairnsfather Family now hold the first place as the exponents of Scottish song and verse on this continent, and the press, wherever they have been, accord them hearty praise in no measured terms.

HAMILTON.

ON Friday evening, December 18, the Mendelssohn Quintette Club played here, under the auspices of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society. There was a large and very enthusiastic audience, and *encores* were numerous. Miss Edwards, the soprano, did not please, because of her persistent tremolo. The concert was given in the Royal Roller Rink, which proved a good concert room, although the electric lights worked badly and interfered with the comfort of the performers and enjoyment of the audience.

On Monday evening, December 21, D. J. O'Brien, one of the best local music teachers, gave a concert at the Grand Opera House, which about seven hundred people paid fifty and seventy-five cents each to hear. The performers, with the exception of a few orchestral players, were pupils of Mr. O'Brien's. The concert was chiefly notable for the *début* of Miss Maud Hare, a Grimsby lady, who sang "Ernani Involami," exhibiting a brilliant soprano voice of great range, good volume, and much flexibility. Miss Hare sang in a style which showed her a singer with the natural ability of a true song-bird. Training has not yet done much for her voice, but nature has done a great deal, and it is much to be hoped that she will study earnestly and acquire a method which will supplement, and not substitute, the gifts of nature. She has started well, and her course will be watched with great interest by musicians here. Those in attendance at this concert were good-natured, and *encores* were numerous.

The cast for the coming performance of the "Sorcerer" by the Hamilton Musical Union has been announced as follows:—John Wellington Wells (the Sorcerer), Mr. Fred Warrington; Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, Mr. J. H. Stuart; Alexis, Mr. T. D. Beddoe; Dr. Daly, Mr. E. W. Schuch; Notary, Mr. T. H. Stinson; Aline, Mrs. George Hamilton; Lady Sangazure, Miss Marie C. Strong; Constance, Mrs. McCulloch.—*C Major*.

ARCHITECTURE has been termed frozen music. A pointed gothic arch is therefore a frozen fugue. In a contrapuntal work fugues are like the final pointed completion of these arches in our Gothic cathedrals. Ehlert, in his letters on music, says, "Whenever a noble, a believing mood of mind, strives upwards to the highest, wherever a last majestic result must be brought forward for universal recognition, the fugue becomes the most natural means of expression, for no art-form embraces such consciousness within itself; not one is so well capable of preaching the truth at once. For the peculiar characteristic of this form lies in the fact that several voices have united to say the same on different intervals." The fugue naturally takes its place in great vocal and instrumental works wherever a feeling of noble completion is to be expressed, but this tone of universality must arise as naturally out of the subject as does the capital complete the pillar.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE *Philadelphia Record* has presented its subscribers with a very useful almanac for 1886. It contains a vast quantity of information respecting public matters in the States, besides astronomical and household matters.

A PARAGRAPH running the round of the German papers says that "the English statesman Goschen is writing a biography of his grandfather, the publisher of the works of Goethe, Schiller, and Wieland." It is reported that a considerable number of hitherto unpublished letters of these poets will appear in the volume.

"CALLED BACK" has been translated into Spanish, and is issued by D. Appleton and Co. in light blue paper covers, at fifty cents per volume. About 2,000 copies were ordered while the book was still in press. It is the first novel translated from the English for the Appletons' Spanish Department, and its success has determined them to follow it up with others. The title of this new version of Hugh Conway's popular romance is "Misterio."

HARPER'S MAGAZINE for January, in richness of illustration and in its literary attractions, seems like another Christmas number. It has, indeed, several articles especially appropriate to the season. Not the least remarkable of these is a Christmas sketch—"an echo of plantation life"—entitled "Unc' Edinburg's Drowndin," by Thomas N. Page, the author of "Marse Chan." Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent, tells the story of a Christmas holiday spent with the Germans on the fore-posts of Paris during the Franco-German War.

THE New Year's number of the *Magazine of American History* is as interesting to the society or business man as it is to the teacher and student. Its contents are fresh, varied, and informing. The origin of "Slavery in America" is ably discussed by General John A. Logan, whose portrait, exquisitely engraved on steel, forms the frontispiece to the magazine. This number, however, is by no means given up to the Civil War studies. "Washington's First Campaign," by T. J. Chapman, A.M.; "Princess or Pretender," by Charles Dimitry; and "The New Year's Holiday—its Origin and Observances," by the editor, are delightful reading.

"POOR old Kossuth," says Edmund Yates, "being no longer able to earn his living by teaching languages in Italy, has now found a home in the house of his sons, who are shepherds in the valley of the Sixt, in Savoy. Patriotism does not seem a lucrative calling."

If Monsieur de Lesseps continues augmenting his family as he has hitherto done he will be able to supply labour to excavate his canal out of the ranks of his own flesh and blood when all the rest of the available bone and muscle of the world has succumbed to Chagres fever.

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