

neutralising the atmospheric pressure, incident to pent-up throngs within a given space, were observed huge blocks of Wenham Lake ice, which not only afforded refreshing coolness to all within their immediate neighbourhood, but, being lit up with variegated colours, gratified the eye. Signor Arditì, the long experienced and distinguished conductor, is re-engaged, and for the opening evening, the fine band of the Coldstream Guards reinforced the usual orchestra of eighty. The selections included an arrangement of prominent themes from Gounod's latest opera, *Cinq Mars*, a movement from Spohr's 3rd symphony, and singing from three debutantes, Mdles. Celega, Derivis, and Raymondi. Mdle. Pommerane, the youthful violinist, was the chief attraction, however, and she is expected to prove herself in a few years' time, the equal of Camilla Urso or Mdme. Noemar Neruda. Prospective arrangements include Miss Rose Hersée and M. Victor Maurel.

When directing recently his concerts at the Albert Hall, Wagner took a strange delight in getting up conversations with those near him. At the last concert, during a—by no means easy—piece from *Tristan and Isolde*, he chose as the recipient of his utterances Herr Tombo, the harpist from Munich. But that gentleman did not appear particularly inclined to reply. At length, in answer to an oft repeated question of Wagner's, he rose and said : “ *Seven—* please do not talk to me, *eight—for* I cannot reply, *nine—I've* seventeen bars rest, *ten—or* I shall mull the whole thing.” Hereupon Wagner made a low bow, and counted the remainder of the eventful seventeen bars with his neighbour. The upshot was that Herr Tombo got triumphantly over the seventeen bars' rest, and Wagner gave him a friendly shake of the hand.

The oldest of existing Conservatories of Music is the School at Palermo, founded in 1747. They come in the order of their respective dates : the Conservatory of Paris, 1795 ; the Liceo di Bologna, 1798 ; the Conservatories of Naples, 1806 ; of Milan, 1808 ; of Prague, 1810 ; of Parma, 1825 ; of Madrid, 1831 ; of Brussels, 1832 ; of Leipsic, 1843 ; of Berlin, 1850 ; of Cologne, 1850 ; the Musical Institute of Florence, established in 1860, and opened in 1862 ; the Conservatories of St. Petersburg, 1862, and of Moscow, 1866. More recently founded were the Conservatories or Schools of Music at Vienna, Warsaw, Buenos Ayres, and the Liceo Marcello, at Venice.

Madame Adelina Patti is somewhat perplexing in her movements. She has lately paid M. Leon Escudie the “dedit” of 100,000 francs, as she will be prevented from appearing in the coming season at the Theatre Ventadour. Madame Patti has abandoned all idea of visiting the United States. There is some talk of a winter series of performances in the principal Scandinavian towns, to precede those for which she has already stipulated in the Austrian capital. One thing is certain,—that she will be one of the company at the Royal Italian Opera next year. The Caux-Patti case attracted much notice in Paris. A correspondent says : “The property vested by the Marquis de Caux for his wife in France amounts to nearly £80,000 sterling. As they were married without a contract he will, at the winding-up or liquidation, get the half of it. Her diamonds and other jewels and trinkets,—and I am told also laces, velvets, and shawls, which come under the head of articles of luxury—will be sold ; or, if she chooses, she can take one-half, and the other at a valuation.”