

## MUSICAL.

## SINGING AND VOICE CULTURE.

(Continued.)

Many persons vocalise tolerably well, producing an even tone throughout the entire register of the voice, but when words are added fail to obtain a good tone, except on a few open sounds, the result being that the tone is so feeble on some words as to be almost completely lost, whilst on others it bursts out at irregular intervals, the whole melody being full of inequalities. In speaking we are accustomed to sound the vowels and consonants in each syllable simultaneously, the pronunciation of the syllable being instantaneous; in singing, on the contrary, each syllable is sustained for a given time, and, as the consonants are never used to sustain musical tones, the vowel sound must be formed as the note is struck, and continued without variation to the end, the final consonants, if any, being formed at the precise moment at which the sound ceases.

The formation of language and the production of sound are—although often performed together—two totally different operations, and call into play different classes of organs, the functions of which must not be confounded. The lips, teeth and tongue are the organs used in the formation of language, and this is their special office. It is quite easy to go through every motion necessary to the formation of language without emitting any sound; and it is also an easy matter to produce vocal sounds without the slightest use of either lips, tongue or teeth.

It is necessary, in order to sing well, to train not only the vocal organs, but the organs of speech, so that both the tone and articulation may be perfect; indeed, unless the latter be good, the former is sure to suffer.

Let us suppose the word *plant* to be written in the form of a minim, as C natural in the treble clef, we must sound the first three letters simultaneously, rest on the vowel sound, and, as the note terminates, form the final consonants, the pronunciation being as it were suspended during the continuance of the sound; many singers, however, do not give this matter a thought, but begin by sounding *pl*, gradually opening into a broad tone on the vowel *a*, and humming the final consonants through the nose with the mouth almost closed.

Sometimes a word is written to two or more notes, and the tendency there is to change the formation of the mouth with the change of pitch at the second note. This, of course, must be avoided, and the vocal organs contracted or relaxed sufficiently to obtain the sound required, whilst the mouth is kept firmly fixed in the same position.

When a syllable terminates with the sound of *r*, as in *fear* or *desire*, care must be taken not to change the formation of the mouth, as the word would sound as if it had two syllables; in words containing elements of a diphthory character as *joy*, *time*, *future*, &c., great care must also be taken. The initial consonants must in no case be sustained after the note is struck, and, no matter to what extent the music on the syllable may be prolonged or varied, the final consonants must not be shaped by the organs of speech till the end of the last note.

(To be continued.)

The Philharmonic Society have again earned the praise of the citizens of Montreal, by giving a performance of "The Messiah." On Friday evening, May 31st, at the Rink, this Society made another and more successful effort. Much praise is due to all concerned for the disinterested zeal shown in the endeavour to cultivate a desire for music of a high class character, and we heartily wish them "to go on and prosper." That their efforts are appreciated was demonstrated by the large and attentive audience, and the—in some instances—well-merited applause. The choruses were rendered in an efficient manner, the Hallelujah Chorus being exceptionally well done. In fact this part of the Festival shewed the careful tuition of, and the attention devoted to it by, the Conductor, Dr. MacLagan; for nothing reflects so much credit upon the teacher and conductor as a well performed chorus. The solos, for the most part, were weak, the only soloist coming up to the mark at all being Mrs. Osgood. We understand, however, that the others were unfortunately suffering from colds, which would of course largely affect their successful efforts. We would suggest to the Committee that if another concert be given in the Rink, a Sounding Board be erected over the whole of the orchestra. This would materially assist the vocalists, and tend to carry their voices to the extremity of the Rink. As it was, those persons at the far end of the building could hear very little if any of the solos, and even the choruses lost much of their beauty from the bad acoustical properties of the place. Now we are on this theme: How is it that a city of the dimensions of Montreal has not a proper hall for the performance of good music. With a population of 150,000, the best place in which a good concert can be held is—well, the Rink. Why, if all the people in Montreal gave but twenty cents apiece, a splendid hall might be erected, and a much felt want supplied. Surely the inhabitants of this city will not allow the present state of affairs to continue. Why do not the Philharmonic Society see to this? If their energetic and praiseworthy Secretary-Treasurer would but give his attention to this matter, we feel certain he would be successful. However, let the Society try, and if they fail, the disgrace will not lie with them, but with the citizens of Montreal.

The following is a synopsis of the report presented to the annual general meeting of the Montreal Philharmonic Society, held in the Synod Hall on Tuesday evening, the 4th June, 1878, by Mr. A. M. Perkins, the Secretary-Treasurer:—

The Society was organised in September, 1877, at a special meeting called for the purpose. Several of our principal vocalists attended and became members. The President, Vice-President, Conductor, Secretary and Treasurer and Committee were elected; bye-laws were also prepared, compiled from those of the Handel and Haydn Society, of Boston; Apollo Club, of Boston, and various other societies. A plan of operations was laid down for the ensuing musical season. The income of the Society was to be derived from 200 subscribers, at \$10 each, gentlemen members of the chorus paying \$4, no charge being made for lady members. Three concerts were to be given during the season, the third concert only being open to non-subscribers.

The Secretary further called attention to the fact that the expenses of the Society had exceeded the revenue, and gave the following reasons:—Solo singers were brought from the United States at great expense, and the large city of Montreal not having a hall with sufficient accommodation for a large chorus and orchestra, extra expenses were entailed.

All rehearsals had been fully attended by the choir, and the subscribers turned out *en masse* to each concert. A full financial statement was laid before the meeting, which then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Theodore Thomas is giving band concerts in Gilmore's Gardens, New York.

Mr. Gye's season at the Royal Italian Opera, London, will be noteworthy for the production, beside "Carmen" and "Paul et Virginie," of Hewold's "Pre aux Clercs" and Flotow's "Alma." In the corps of artists Adeline Patti is engaged, and will return from Italy, where she has been reaping such signal triumphs. Albani is also announced to appear. Signors Bagagiolo and Capponi are the bassos of the company.

By the bye, we understand that Madame Albani is engaged to be married to Mr. Gye, notwithstanding rumors to the contrary.

The largest organ in the world is in the Albert Hall, London. It has 111 stops and 7,879 pipes.

Her Majesty's Opera, London, Mr. Mapleson has dropped Nilsson and Faure. Minnie Hauck, the well-known American singer, is engaged, (to appear in "Carmen"); Paypenheim, Marimon Mathilde Wilde, Faustini, Belocca, Campanini, Del Puente, Fali and others are secured. Sir Michael Costa will, as usual, act as conductor.

The way to alter belief is not to address motives to the will, but argument to the intellect.—*Essay on the Formation of Opinion.*

Whoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious, to the test of free discussion, seems to be more in love with his own opinion than with truth.—*Bishop Watson.*

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

IS HE POPENJOY? By Anthony Trollope. The Franklin Square Library, New York. Montreal: Dawson Brothers. Price 15 cents.

This is certainly a novelty in the way of novels. The book has the appearance of a periodical without the usual paper covers; the pages are large and the print is small. It is doubtless intended to meet a want felt most of all in the summer by those who travel. Holiday-makers want to read in the train, on the boat, or in the shade of the trees; but they do not want well-bound books that must be taken care of; they want something that may be dropped on the chair or under the chair—may be sat upon, or strapped up with the sundries of travel. The yellow covers came in long ago to meet that demand; but the age progresses, and now the cry is for something cheaper yet. Here is the trade's response: no covers at all keeping after read. The publication of a story in this form is a sign of the times—everything is rushed. Books must be cheap enough to be flung away when read.

The story Mr. Trollope gives us in this shape is after his own fashion. Of course the usual characters—a marquis, a lord, a dean, a bishop, a good man, a bad man, an innocent unsuspecting young woman who gets into sundry difficulties, a base designing woman who ends badly of course. Those are the dramatis personæ. We have met them often before, and shall expect to meet them again if Mr. Trollope shall give to the world any more books. "Is he Popenjoy?" is asked of the son of the marquis—said marquis having married an Italian lady when she was known as the wife of another man. The child born to them is heir to vast estates and great titles, if legitimate. That Popenjoy is not Popenjoy, the dean—whose daughter is married to the lord, who is brother to the marquis—sets himself to prove. But Popenjoy wisely dies off; the marquis follows suit; the dean is made happy by seeing his daughter become a marchioness, and all ends well.

Not much of a plot; but it is told in an easy, graceful way, and is worth the reading to those who have plenty of time and nothing better to do.

REPORT OF THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO for the year 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO for 1877.

Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

No better evidence could be furnished of the material prosperity of the Province of Ontario, and of the education and intelligence of her agriculturists than is afforded by the above reports, contained in a pamphlet of 140 pages, which has been sent to us by a subscriber in Ontario.

The Report is illustrated by a chromo-lithograph of "The Ontario Apple," and the report of the Entomological Society contains some hundreds of illustrations of the farmers' enemies, the insects which destroy fruit and grain.

The annual address of the President, the Rev. R. Burnet, contains much information of practical value to Horticulturists, and a full description of the various insects injurious to fruits, and the means of destroying them. Meetings appear to be held at different towns at regular periods, when papers are read and questions of importance to fruit growers are discussed. The report includes several prize essays, on "Hybridisation," "Fertilizers," "The Most Profitable Fruits," and other subjects. Several new varieties of fruits of great value are reported. The Treasurer's Report shows the Receipts to be \$4,262.04. This includes the Provincial grant of \$1,000. We are sure no more useful grant is made by the Ontario Government. We have not space for further notice of these excellent Reports, but we shall avail ourselves of the rich stores of information they contain, for future use.

In concluding, we must say that such a volume is an honour to the Province of Ontario, and a credit to the Fruit Growers' Association and the Entomological Society of that Province.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA: A. F. C. Selwyn, F.R.S., F.G.S., Director. Report on Canadian Graphite, by Christian Hoffman.

This pamphlet of twenty-two pages represents a vast amount of scientific skill and patient labour, and is of very great value in an economic point of view, as illustrating the mineral resources of Canada. Such Reports as this and those on the phosphate of lime deposits are evidence of the important advantages of the Geological Survey of Canada. We are indebted to this commission for the discovery of the gold, copper, coal, petroleum, phosphate, graphite and other mineral deposits which will have an important bearing on the future prosperity of Canada. The object of the investigation into Canadian graphite was to determine experimentally its relative value as compared with that of Ceylon for the manufacture of black lead crucibles and for other economic purposes. The methods employed in the investigation are very minutely given. To arrive at an accurate judgment of the value of the two minerals, both the Ceylon and Canadian were subjected to the same process of analysis. Without entering upon the details of these analyses, which would not interest the general reader, we will give the result. The test of the value of graphite for crucibles is its combustibility. Taking as the standard of combustibility the best Ceylon foliated graphite as 1.00, we find that the same variety from the Buckingham Mine is precisely the same, viz., 1.00. Taking another variety, the columnar, the mean combustibility is 1.01. The same variety from the Buckingham Mine is precisely the same. A second sample of the Ceylon foliated is placed at 0.99; the Buckingham of the same variety is 1.00; the Ticonderoga, N.Y., of the same variety 1.01. Analyses were made of other mines, as the Grenville, which showed a trifling difference in favor of the Ceylon.

When we consider that Ceylon graphite readily brings £20 sterling per ton, and the difference in freight between Ceylon and England as compared with Canada and England, it is evident that we have in the Ottawa district mineral wealth of greater value than even gold mines. The late Sir William Logan regarded the average wages of the gold digger not greater than those of the farm labourer. If this be true, and statistics give this result, we have minerals of more importance and value than the gold mines of California. The analyst sums up his report as follows:—

"From these experiments it will be seen that in respect to incombustibility the Canadian graphite may claim perfect equality with that of Ceylon, and that consequently—apart from the consideration of the proportion and nature of the associated foreign matter—it is in no wise inferior to the latter as a material for the manufacture of crucibles."

There are other qualities of Canada graphite, which are of great economic value for the manufacture of lead pencils, stove and iron polish, lubricators, for piano manufacture and other purposes.

This Report reflects great credit upon the head of the Geological Survey as well as upon the chemist, Mr. Hoffman, whose exhaustive analysis has developed the fact that the Ottawa district has mineral resources which will yet rival in value and extent the lumber trade.

PEACE WITH THE WORLD.—The arms by which the ill dispositions of the world are to be combated, and the qualities by which it is to be reconciled to us, and we reconciled to it, are moderation, gentleness, a little indulgence to others, a great deal of distrust of ourselves, which are not qualities of a mean spirit, as some may possibly think them, but virtues of a great and noble kind, and such as dignify our nature as much as they contribute to our repose and fortune; for nothing can be so unworthy of a well composed soul as to pass away life in bickerings and litigations, in snarling and scuffling with everyone around us. We must be at peace with our species, if not for their sakes, yet very much for our own.—*Burke.*

THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO. OF CANADA is now issuing Policies and Permits for Travel, covering all accidents by land or water—fatal or non-fatal—at the same rate which had hitherto been charged for Insurances covering accidental death only when beyond the limits of Canada. An Insurance of \$5,000 if killed, or \$25 a week if injured, for a three months' trip to Europe, costs now only \$25 in this Company. The Head Offices at 103 St. Francois Xavier Street.—EDWARD RAWLINGS, Manager.—*Adv.*