

Musical.

All correspondence intended for this column should be directed to the Musical Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Notices of Concerts in Provincial towns, &c. are invited, so as to keep musical amateurs well informed concerning the progress of the art in Canada.

A CRITIC CRITICIZED.

The London *Musical Times* seems to have lowered its standard considerably. It publishes in its last number a "Song with Chorus" (by Barry Cornwall, and H. Hugo Pierson) worthy of the lowest class of American trade-journals. The words (which we annex) are poor enough, but the music is even more commonplace, and altogether unlike what we are accustomed to receive from such a source. Surely something more elevating than the following could be found for the leading journal of its kind in the world:—

Hurrah for Merry England!

Hurrah, hurrah, for the land of England! Firm set in the subject sea.
Where the women are fair, and the men, like air, are lovers of liberty.

Refrain:

Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah for merry England!

Long life without strife for England.

Hurrah, hurrah for the *Spirit of England*, the bold, the true, the free;

Who stretched his hand, with a King's command, all over the circling sea.

Hurrah, hurrah, for merry and noble England,

Long life without strife for England.

The music set to the above is of the "Trafalgar Boy" order, with a 'rub dub a dub dub' at the end of each phrase, and the accent is almost invariably placed on the wrong syllable. Can the sons of this great nation not send out a better specimen of artwork in their leading art-journal?

NEW WORK BY SULLIVAN.

Dr. Sullivan has written a new work for the Leeds festival, entitled "The Martyrs of Antioch." It is described as "learned, without being stiff; melodious, yet not trivial; original and scholastic, without being dry or tedious." He conducts the orchestra in person, and has as interpreters of his music Mesdames Albani, Osgood and Williams, *Soprani*; Patey and Trebelli, *Contralti*; Messrs. Maas and Lloyd, *Tenori*; and Messrs. Heuschel and King, *Bassi*. The Duke of Edinburgh has consented to grace the occasion with his presence, and the Cantata is expected to add additional lustre to the name of the celebrated composer of comic opera. It is said that the Doctor had chosen for his subject "Jonathan," but lest his American friends might deem it a personal allusion, he considerably chose another one.

Apropos of the above, we insert the following from an exchange:—

"If the *Dramatic News* is to be believed, Dudley Buck mistook his vocation when he undertook to write a 'comic opera.' It says it is not comic and not opera. Perhaps that is where the comic comes in. The *News* further says: 'This comes of an organist going out of his legitimate sphere of work. He has grown into one thing, and cannot in a day separate himself from the teachings of a life. He should no more expect a real comic opera from Mr. Buck than a Requiem Mass from poor Offenbach. To us "Deseret" is a dreary, dismal sort of thing, that leaves a sort of nightmare impression behind it.'"

What does the *News* say of a man who jumps from church music to "Pinafore" AND SUCCEEDS? then returns from the "Pirates of Penzance" to classical concerts and "The Martyrs of Antioch"?

St. George's Church is rapidly going ahead of all competitors so far as regards musical attractions. Mrs. Thurston, the celebrated Soprano has been engaged to fill the position vacated by Mrs. Thrower, and an elaborate musical service is performed every Sunday evening. Mr. Fisher, of Trinity College, London, is the organist, and other artists of merit occupy the principal positions in the choir. The organ build by Messrs. Warren & Son has not given entire satisfaction, and some alterations are contemplated.

Messrs. Bolton and Smith started work in their new factory in Mountain Street on Monday last. It is a large and commodious building, and admirably adapted for the manufacture of monster instruments. The "Queen's Hall" organ is already in hands, and we were shown some excellent kiln-dried lumber which we were informed is to be used in its manufacture. The idea of using the pipes of Zion Church organ has been abandoned, and plans are already drawn out for a new instrument.

THE Strakosch and Hess English Opera Company will begin their season at the Globe Theatre, November 8th. The Company includes the following-named artists, most of whom are already well known in Boston:—Mme. Marie Roze, Mlle. Torriani, Miss Abbie Carrington, Miss Laura Schirmer, Miss Sara Barton, Miss Lizzie Anandale, Signor Giovanni Perugini (the stage name of a young American tenore di grazia), Signor Augustus Montegriffo (an American of Italian parentage), Mr. W. Carleton, Mr. Henry Bragau (a young American baritone), Mr. G. A. Conly, Mr. Henry Peakes and Mr. James Peakes, with competent "seconds." Mr. Behrens and Signor de Novellis will be the conductors.

THE Musical Festival Association of Cincinnati has issued its manifesto concerning the fifth festival to be holden in that city in May, 1882, and in pursuance of the policy adopted by it in connection with its last festival, the Association offers a prize of \$1000 for the most meritorious composition for chorus and orchestra, to be performed on that occasion. Competition shall be open to all citizens of the United States, irrespective of place of birth. The following distinguished authorities have kindly consented to act as judges, in conjunction with Theodore Thomas, namely:—Herr Kappellmeister, Carl Reinecke, Leipzig, and Monsieur Camille Saint Saens, Paris. Works offered for competition must not occupy more than one hour in performance. A full score and piano score, accompanied by a sealed letter, must be placed in the hands of the committee on or before September 1, 1881, and should be addressed to "Committee on Prize Composition. Musical Festival Association, Cincinnati, Ohio." The scores submitted of the successful composition shall belong to the Association.

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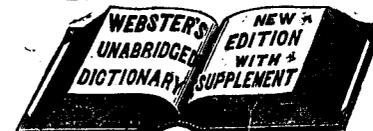
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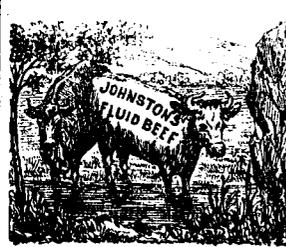
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