

Selections.

CHURCH MUSIC.

The cause of true Church Music appears to be making good progress in England. Evidence of this was to be shown the other day in the success of the first meeting of the Staines and Clonbrook Choral Association. It consists of ten combined parishes, each of which pay their quota towards the salary of a singing master. The choirs of the various parishes met at 10 o'clock in the schoolroom, and moved into the parsonage meadow at eleven. At half-past eleven, the Bishop of Oxford having arrived, the procession formed the various singing boys and men, leading, followed by the Bishop and clergy and the female members of the association, with the general company. The *Benedictus* was sung to the first Gregorian, second ending, harmonized, and all moved into the Church. The Morning Service was said in monotone by the incumbent; the Litany by the Rev. Seymour Neville, vicar of Wyrdisbury. The *Venite* was sung to the fifth tone; the Psalms of the day, the 90th to the sixth, 91st, 92nd to the second tone, to which the *Te Deum* was sung, and the *Benedictus* as before. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford, taking for his text Revelation xiv. 2, 3. After tracing the history of Church music through the Scripture story, he enlarged upon the object, the use, the dangers, and the guards of the association which was assembled. His words are described as being eloquent and earnest; his concluding address to the choirs was such as to go home to the hearts of all. After Church, the choirs dined in picnic style on the terrace and lawn of the parsonage, and from that time till Evening Service the air rang with the shouts of those who were engaged in playing every conceivable game in the adjoining field. At Evening-song, the choirs again assembled in the Church, and gave sublime effect to the service. "The good which such associations do," says the *London Guardian*, from which we abridge this account, "the harmony, vocal and social they engender, the life and energy they put into our Services, render them very valuable aids to the Church. And, which is a great advantage, if sufficient number (twelve) of parishes combine, the working is very simple: in most places of about 700 population a single class may be got up, while, if fourteen members subscribe, a quarter, is self-supporting, and music is published at so cheap a rate that but a small sum suffices for this item. As a consequence, the Church Services are rendered more attractive, and influence is gained over a class difficult to reach—the young men of the Parish."—*N. Y. Churchman*.

A little paragraph in our Church of England column affords an instance of the admirable manner in which the cause of true church music is being advanced there, which, we heartily wish, could be made available among ourselves. It is a simple, easy method, applicable alike to town and country, and suited to all who wish to have music appropriated as it ought to be, in the services of the sanctuary. Several adjacent parishes combine together, and form a choral association. Their united means will enable them to procure the best instruction for their classes, to qualify the requisite number for choirs, and to train the other members to acquit themselves creditably as singers in the congregations. They meet together, and practice together, and emulate and encourage one another. And thus, in process of time, they are enabled to apply it all to the public worship of their respective parish churches, infusing a degree of life and spirit into their services which they never possessed before, and which all find to be most conducive to true devotion. And this is just what we want in this country. The present most profane and preposterous orchestral system is an utter disgrace to us, in our Christian worship, and must be broken up, root and branch. It is the people themselves, the whole congregation, that is required to sing the praises of God in his sanctuary, and not an orchestra to perform the duty for them. A choir, of course, there must be, to lead and sustain the congregation, but it should be placed side by side with the officiating ministers, whose own co-operation herewith is indispensably necessary to the proper celebration of Divine worship, according to the ritualism of the church. All this, then, may be done by association,—invariably, of course, including therein the rector himself, whose sanction in the first place, indeed, must as a matter of course be secured. The occasion to which the paragraph of English Church news we point to relates, was the annual meeting; it will be seen, of such an association, when one of the most exemplary and distinguished bishops of the church did not hesitate to identify himself with

the proceeding—taking part (as he always delightedly does) in the choral service, preaching to them an appropriate sermon, and mingling in the subsequent festivities of so harmonious a gathering, sanctified throughout to the praise and glory of God. Would that we might soon be called upon to report such a meeting in our own church!—*New York Churchman*.

THE "GREAT EASTERN."—She will sail a thousand yards per minute. Let us fancy her rushing through the night in full career—an arrow 27,000 tons in weight propelled by a bow 3,000 horse power. Can we, without a shudder, contemplate the possibility of a collision with such a resistless force? A line of battle ship with a thousand hands on board, cleft in two as swiftly as the apple by the shaft of Tell.

Every precaution will indeed be taken to avert such a catastrophe. The electric light will be fixed at the mast head, so that in dark nights the ship will carry a moonlight atmosphere wherever she goes. In case of any fatal injury to herself, boats have been provided capable of taking off her passengers even if counted by thousands. She will have two screw steamers, of ninety feet in length, a paddle box boat, and will carry a large number of the collapsing air bellows boats. These expand and shut like a Gibus hat or a hood of a carriage, occupying so little room that half a dozen of them of large size, can be stowed away in the space occupied by a jolly boat, and seem to be as easily opened as a parasol or umbrella. The *Himalaya*, as she steamed up the Bosphorus, filled the lazy Turks with astonishment; and the cloud of steamers and sailing vessels which carried the allied armies to the shores of the Crimea, was an exposition of maritime magnificence such as the world never witnessed before; five vessels such as the *Great Eastern* could bring home over 50,000 troops from the Crimea, with all their artillery and baggage, in ten or twelve days.

THE LONDON WILD BEAST MARKET.—Every one knows that London can furnish anything for money, and if any lady or gentleman wants lions and tigers, there are dealers in Ratchiff Highway and the adjacent parts who have them on the premises, and will sell them at five minutes' notice. They "talk as familiarly to lions as ladies do of puppy dogs;" and a gentleman who purchased a bear of one of them, lately informed us that the salesman coolly proposed that he should take him home in a cab! We once had occasion to visit the establishment of one of these dealers, and were shown up a ladder into the cockloft where, bearing a bumping, and perceiving a lifting motion in a trap door, he enquired the reason, which called forth the dry remark that it was only three lions at play in a box below.

Although these men generally manage to secure their live stock in a satisfactory manner, yet accidents will occur in the best regulated lion stores. A wild beast merchant, for instance, informed me that one night he was awakened by his wife, who drew his attention to a noise in the back yard, where he had placed two lions on the previous evening. On putting his head out of the window—his room was on the ground floor—there were the lions, loose and, with their paws on the window sill, looking grimly in upon him. A good whip and a determined air consigned Leo to his cage again without further trouble. On another occasion this same man, hearing a noise in his back premises, found to his horror that an elephant with his picklock trunk, had let out a hyena and a nyctau from their cages, and was busy undoing the fastenings of a den full of lions! The same resolute spirit, however, soon restored order. Amateurs have not always the same courage or self-possession, and they immediately have recourse to the Garden folks to get them out of their difficulties, as a house keeper would send to the stationhouse on finding a burglar secreted in his cellar. On one occasion a gentleman who had offered a rattlesnake and its young to the gardens at a very high price, sent suddenly to the superintendent to implore immediate assistance, as the said snake with half a score of venomous offspring, had escaped from their box and scattered themselves in his nursery. The possessor, to avoid worse losses, was only glad to be rid of his guests at any pecuniary sacrifice.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN HIS GIG.

It is now about a century since Benjamin Franklin, Postmaster-General of the American Colonies, by appointment of the Crown, ... out in his old gig to make an official inspection of the principle routes. It was about eighty years since he held the same office under the authority of Congress, when a small folio, (now preserved in the department at Washington,) containing about three quires of paper, lasted

as his account book for two years. These simple Lots bring up before us, more forcibly than an elaborate description, the vast increase in post-office facilities within a hundred years; for if a postmaster general were to undertake to pass over all the routes at present existing, it would require six years of incessant railroad travel, at the rate of a hundred and twenty-five miles daily, while, if he were to undertake the job in an "old gig," he would require a life time for its performance. Instead of a small folio, with its three quires of paper, the post-office accounts consume, every two years, three thousand of the largest sized ledgers, keeping no less than one hundred clerks constantly employed in recording transactions with thirty thousand contractors and other persons.—*Am. Register*.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE LATE CALAMITY.—Among the forerunners among the benevolent institutions of Philadelphia, perhaps the foremost of all in opening its doors and extending its aid to the sufferers of the late terrible accident on the North Pennsylvania Railroad, was the hospital of our own church, to whose great usefulness we have frequently borne tribute. Those who were injured, as is well known, were almost exclusively members of an excursion party from St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. The opportunity has thus been opened for a kind and cordial interchange of generous sympathy and kind aid on the part of members of other religious bodies. It may not be hereafter forgotten that, when the Roman Catholic priest who had charge of the excursion, lay crushed under the ruins, it was an Episcopal clergyman who was the first minister of religion to arrive at the spot where the dead and dying were collected, and it was to an Episcopal Hospital that the first of them that were brought to the city were conveyed. It is well that it is so; for it is another lesson to remind us, that above all denominational limits, there extends the catholicity of a common nature, of common sympathy, and of a common Saviour. And, in this light, it gives us additional cause to be satisfied with that wisdom which under Providence, enabled our own communion in Philadelphia to put herself, in this way, in a position to dispense, in a district where no similar opportunities exist, these charities, which tend so greatly to the refinement, as well as the relief, of society.

One other remark we may be permitted to make. It was a body of Christian Sunday school children upon whom this great disaster has fallen. Most of the sufferers belong to the most destitute classes, and have small means to procure for themselves those comforts which their sufferings require. Will not some of our own Sunday schools step forward to relieve, as far as they can, some of these little sufferers? Now that the first flush of public sympathy is over, aid is peculiarly needed for those whose sickness will be protracted, and we should be most glad to be the channel through which it is to pass. In one Sunday school, that of St. Paul's Philadelphia, the contributions amount we learn, to fifty dollars.—*Episcopal Recorder*.

MAN'S PLANS AND GOD'S PURPOSES.—The following illustrations of human folly and Divine power, is worthy of public attention:

There is one circumstance connected with the Napoleon family which historians have not, as yet observed, but which is well worth mention. Napoleon the Great set aside his own best friend and counsellor, to obtain an heir to the throne of France. He married a princess of Austria, and by her he had a son. That birth was the culminating point of his power and his dignity. From thence he did nothing but descend. He died in exile—his son also. Who succeeded to his name, his fame, his power? The child of Hortense, who was the child of Josephine. In the person of the Emperor of the French, we find not the offspring of Napoleon the Great, but the offspring of his discarded wife. What an illustration of the truth of the adage, "That it is man who proposes, but God who disposes!"

HOW TO DEAL WITH COLONIES.—A letter from Rotterdam says.—"The Dutch Government, having resolved to attempt to acclimatise the quinquina tree in Java, procured last year some plants from Central America, and in January last obtained a further supply. The Government has already introduced the cultivation of indigo, tobacco, tea, &c. into that island, and that cultivation has prospered so greatly that in 1854, 600,000 kilogrammes of indigo, worth 7,600,000f.; 2,217,000 kilogrammes of tobacco, worth 3,760,000f.; and 1,030,550 kilogrammes of tea, worth 5,621,000f., were exported.

Idleness is the mother of many wanton children. They that do nothing, are in the ready way to do that which is worse than nothing.