

tion. Mr. Warrington, whose fine baritone voice was occasionally muffled in tone, sang the lines of "Jesus" in a satisfactory manner, without, however, receiving any special recognition for his good work on the part of the audience, perhaps because his voice may be rather light for the rôle. Mr. Kaiser sustained his previous reputation as a conscientious artist by his sympathetic narration of the acts describing the surroundings of the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of the Saviour; in this he was ably seconded by the manly tones of Mr. Schuch, as the bass narrator. Both of these gentlemen received due recognition from the audience for their effective efforts, though there was a marked absence of sympathy between the two voices in the duetts, owing to an evident divergence in tone production. Mr. Schuch's enunciation is distinct, though his vowel quantities in some words suggest a simulation of an alien tongue. Mrs. Petley could hardly be said to have filled the rôle of *Mary* to satisfaction, her voice lacking the evenness and volume demanded by the subject matter, and the full, sustained character of the music contained in this minor part. The other lesser parts were creditably sustained by the Misses Patterson, Flint and Mortimer, with Messrs. Shaw and Curran in the quartette. The orchestra did especially good work in the delineation of "Darkness" and "The Earthquake," the playing of the chromatic passages by the strings revealing a well-defined distinctness of tone; indeed, unstinted praise is due to our local orchestra, which has not the superior advantages that naturally accrue to those in the large cities, whose constant *ensemble* work and association goes far towards establishing perfection. Four harps were introduced, which gave a specially fine finish to several of the accompaniments. Mr. Bowles played the incidental organ part on a Mason and Risch vocalion organ, with care and precision. It is to be hoped that this parent society will be enabled to bring about the much discussed festival of 1893.

#### THE TORONTO ORCHESTRAL SCHOOL.

MR. TORRINGTON and the members of the above school desire publicly to acknowledge the kind recognition of His Worship the Mayor and City Council in consenting to become patrons of the first concert of this public institution, to be held on June 7, and in voluntarily granting the free use of the Pavilion for the entertainment. This concert is given partly to show what advance has already been made by the present students, and, furthermore, to add to the fund used in meeting the incidental expenses of the school. This is a worthy object, and should be assisted in every possible way by all lovers of the art divine. The Pavilion should be well filled on the evening of Tuesday, June 7. It is intended to establish free scholarships when the funds will permit.

#### MR. THOMAS HURST'S CONCERT.

A BENEFIT concert has been tendered the veteran handler of musical merchandise, who, regretted by all who ever came into contact with his genial personality, is retiring from A. and S. Nordheimer's music store, intending to settle down in England, his native country. The following numerous list of local lights have kindly volunteered their services for the occasion when a bumper house should be seen in the Pavilion, June 2nd: Queen's Own Band, Royal Grenadiers' Band, Frederick Boscovitz, Bengough, Fox; Mesdames D'Auria, Scrimger-Massie, De Garrett, Blight and Ramsay; Misses Gaylord, Hillary, Severs, Bonsall, Patterson; Messrs. Ebbels, Smiley, Taylor, Gorrie, Richards, Lye, Warrington, Blight, Schuch, Baugh, Rich, Ramsay, Torrington, D'Auria, Kuchenmeister, also the beneficiary in choice selections and the Orpheus Quartette. Reserved seats at Nordheimer's, May 30th, fifty cents.

#### CHURCH CHOIR FESTIVAL.

TWENTY-THREE choirs, numbering over six hundred voices, assembled in St. James' on Friday evening, 20th inst., to inaugurate the first annual festival of the Toronto Church Choir Association; Mr. Harrison acting as Conductor. The surpliced choirs completely filled the chancel seats, overflowing into the front seats of the congregation, and behind whom the non-surpliced singers were ranged. The Cathedral was thronged with an immense concourse of people, filling up the isles, halls and doorways, hundreds going away for lack of room. Among the many representatives of the clergy were the Revs. Provost Body, Canon Dumoulin, Professor Huntingford, Dr. Langtry, Canon Sweeney, Septimus Jones, Charles Inglis, F. G. Plummer, John Pearson, R. Harrison, G. Lewis, Street Macklen, A. J. Broughall, G. J. Taylor, L. J. Smith. Mr. E. W. Phillips, of St. George's, presided at the organ. The singers marched to their places singing the hymn "Light's Abode Celestial Salem," then the Rev. John Pearson, of Holy Trinity Church, who intoned the service throughout in clear and distinct accents, commenced the evening service as prescribed in the "book of common prayer"; Tallis's service being used for the responses, the Psalms for the evening being chanted in full, the "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" being sung to Goss's service in A. The anthem was De Stainer's "Leave us not, neither forsake us" for Ascension-Tide. The lessons were read by the Rev. Septimus Jones and the Rev. Chas. Inglis. Then the choir sang the hymn "Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven." The offertory hymn being "All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name," in which the vast congregation joined with impressive effect. The "Te Deum" was next chanted, after which Canon Dumoulin

gave a short but stirring address from the pulpit, in which, after expressing regret on the part of the Lord Bishop of the diocese for being absent, owing to an unavoidable previous engagement, he told his hearers how glad he was to witness the first meeting of the combined choirs of the Church in Toronto, to bring about which, great diligence and care had to be constantly exercised, and it was exceedingly gratifying to notice that it had been brought to so successful an issue and that the citizens of Toronto had by their attendance showed their deep interest in the good work. The service was simply following in the footsteps of the psalmist David and the 4,000 musicians and singers who offered their praises to God in the olden Scriptural time in His Temple. These services were revived in England early in this century, their being now seventy-nine such organizations in the old land, consisting of about 20,000 choirs, the services being in every way beneficial; the last, held in St. Paul's Cathedral, numbering 150 choirs and 1,000 voices; Canterbury, 68 choirs, 659 voices; Exeter, 76 choirs, 1,585 voices; Salisbury, 220 choirs, 1,953 voices, etc. The service was brought to a conclusion with the singing of the recessional hymn "Saviour, blessed Saviour." The massed congregation evidenced the deep appreciation of the proceedings by their reverential and devotional demeanour throughout the entire service.

#### THE DAMROSCH ORCHESTRA.

THE devotees of orchestral music had their innings on Thursday, 19th, when Mr. Damrosch's fine band of sixty-five musicians, every man a soloist in his special line, fairly delighted a large and representative audience which assembled at the Grand Opera House, and which constantly paid unmistakable tribute to the genius of the conductor and the splendid execution of the several choice gems on the programme. To many the Mendelssohn *Concerto* for violin and grand orchestra was the *piece de resistance* of the evening; in this, Mr. Brodsky proved himself to be a violin soloist of the first rank, his tone being rich and smooth, his execution, more especially noticeable in the *chromatics* and *trills*, being facile and clean, the *finale* being taken at a rapid *tempo*; the orchestral accompaniments being played in perfect accord with the talented solo artist. Raff's beautiful symphony, "Leonore," was executed to perfection, the description of the story being accurately portrayed by the musical setting, and, though the absence of a Beethoven selection was a regretful incident, yet this fine composition of the more modern musical giant gave evident satisfaction. Schubert's stirring and characteristic "Marche Militaire," arranged by Mr. Damrosch, was re-demanded, while the variations of the "Austrian National Hymn," by Haydn, for string orchestra, gave every opportunity for a display of lights and shades, as well as delicacy of execution, which evidenced the charming virile tone of this section of Mr. Damrosch's forces. The Tchaikowski number brought to a close a memorable musical event. Miss Pevuy sang the "Styrienne" from "Mignon," for which she was recalled. This lady's voice is a strong mezzo-soprano, a little thin in the highest register, but otherwise full and rich; her trilling and execution of *fiorture* is somewhat stiff and laboured, yet she seemed to please. Mr. Shepherd must be greatly complimented for the enterprise that brought Mr. Damrosch and his artistic associates to Toronto, the impression left behind them being a universal desire to again enjoy so pleasant an event in the near future. The fine *ensemble* playing of this orchestra is marvellous, when it is known that only a year ago Mr. Damrosch induced several New York millionaires, including W. K. Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie, D. O. Mills and C. P. Huntingdon, to establish a guarantee fund of \$50,000 to place New York on an equal musical footing with Boston and Philadelphia, and which is already an accomplished fact.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

SAN SALVADOR. By Mary Agnes Tincker. Price, \$1.25. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson. 1892.

A very pretty book in every way, telling the story of a new, a lovely, and, we fear, an impossible Utopia. Why cannot men be something like the people we find in this charming San Salvador, shut off from the world? we ask. But we can only answer: Not yet, if ever. The heroine is a girl whose grandfather dies in Venice, and bids her go back to the place from which her mother came, which she finds after a period to be this lovely city of San Salvador, hidden away among the mountains of Spain. There she makes the acquaintance of people almost perfect, and of the hereditary ruler—yet hardly ruler—of the commonwealth which his forefathers had created. It was not the first time that he had seen Tacita, the heroine, and soon he asks her to be his wife. What difficulties had to be surmounted and what dangers threatened the peaceful community the reader must learn from the book itself.

OUR LORD'S SIGNS IN ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL. By Rev. John Hutchison, D.D. Price, 7s. 6d. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark; Toronto: Presbyterian News Company. 1892.

Dr. Hutchison is already favourably known to the religious public by his lectures on St. Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians and to the Philippians; and these "discussions exegetical and doctrinal on the eight miracles in the

fourth Gospel" will sustain his reputation. He has brought together a quantity of valuable matter, which could not be got at without a good deal of trouble on the part of the student. His book has a double aim, first, to give a very careful exegesis of each narrative, and, secondly, to set forth what each sign, as recorded by the Evangelist, is designed to teach or emphasize. In doing this, he has set himself to find out the central point of view from which each sign ought to be considered. This work he has accomplished with great success. The book will be most valuable to preachers. We would draw attention to the second lecture, on the "Healing of the Courtier's Son," as a good example of the successful treatment of a difficult subject.

BELLEVILLE, Ontario, has a publication which calls for the warmest sympathy and encouragement. It is the *Canadian Mute*, an extremely well-printed and interesting journal.

THE *Queries Magazine* for May has, apart from its characteristic department, other matter of interest. "Mulum in Parvo" treats of a variety of subjects; and Science, Electricity, Industry and Literature receive attention.

H. R. H. PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES appears in portrait and letter-press in the *English Illustrated* for May. The Dean of Gloucester contributes an interesting article on "The Vanished Abbey" of Evesham. "On Muleback in Morocco" is a glimpse of Eastern travel, with appropriate illustrations. "A Day in a Spice Factory," and "Match-box Making at Home," are two industrial articles; and "Some Musical Performers" is an article of critical merit, by Mr. Joseph Bennett.

*Blackwood* for May opens with a second article by some modern Juvenal, who, under the caption "Civilization, Social Order and Morality in the United States," excoriates the model Republic. "The Yarrow of Wordsworth and Scott" is a delightful piece of descriptive writing. Opium-smuggling in India is amusingly referred to. The interesting tour in Palestine is continued. The eight hour question and the double-shift system are explained, and the fiction of the number is, as usual, good.

*University Extension* for May opens with a very hopeful and informing article on "University Extension in Canada," from the scholarly pen of Principal Adams, of Bishop's College. It refers to the rise and growth of this important movement in England, and its recent development in Canada. The learned writer wisely says: "The work, as a rule, should not be done by members of a college staff—for their own proper work is, in general, quite sufficient—but by a class of men set apart for the purpose."

IN the *Westminster Review* for May, Matthew Macfie writes of "The Great West" of Australia. Evelina Fairbairn's article on Laurence Oliphant will interest many readers. Clement M. Bailhache argues for Land Nationalization. Frederick Dolman has an interesting literary study on "The Social Reformer in Fiction." Henry W. Wolff writes on "The Remnants of a Great Race." The fragment, "Two Early Romances," is of especial interest, and gives a modern connection to a classical subject. The departments are as full and varied as usual.

"DON ORSINO" maintains its interest in the *May Macmillan*. Mrs. Ritchie's delightful "Memoirs" bring the artist John Leech and other well-known men before the reader. Mr. C. B. Roylance Kent has some serious thoughts on "The Next Conclave," in view of the attitude of the present Pope to the kingdom of Italy. Walter Pater discourses learnedly on Plato, whom he considers not too much an originator as an adapter of other men's views. Mr. Rennell Rodd describes the Greek Mainotes, a fierce and troublous people, under the heading "The Land of Evil Counsel." Henry James' "Lord Beauprey," glides on towards completion; and "The Stranger in the House" ends a capital number of this excellent magazine.

*Poet Lore* for May has a number of Browning articles, the most remarkable of which is that by Daniel G. Brinton, M.D., entitled "Browning on Unconventional Relations," in which he puts in print the monstrous assumption that John Milton "and all the great poets—and Browning among them— . . . declare war against the conventional relations between men and women," and seeks to establish the sweet reasonableness of that view by referring to the scandalous state of the laws relating to marriage and divorce in the States of the Union, and the 60,000 annual divorces in that country. Surely the writer of *Blackwood's* leader for this month has an "undesigned co-incidence" in the pages of the current number of *Poet Lore*.

IN THE *Contemporary* for May Mr. Poulteney Bigelow makes a dashing attack on the leading article of last month, "William," under the caption "Bismarck." The argument *tu quoque* is applied with force to the man of blood and iron. The veteran Sir Henry Parkes in the article "The Protectionists of New South Wales," threatens his opponents with "the next election." "Pitt's War Policy," by "A. Foxite," is a bit of historical colouring. Arnold White's strong argument from personal knowledge in favour of the Russian Jew is worth considering. The Bishop of Colchester begins a series of replies to Professor Driver in defence of the Old Testament. The Rev. H. Haweis contributes a readable article entitled "Vignettes in Spain."