

which had been arranged by Mr. Crowe with an accompaniment for violin (Miss McLaren), violoncello (Mr. Crowe), and piano, (Mrs. Crowe,) might be called the gem of the evening. The music was very taking, and Mr. Scoon's playing was excellent. The number well deserved the applause with which it was greeted. His cornet solo "Columbia," in the second part, was splendidly given, and the rendering of these pieces gave the audience some new light as to Mr. Scoon's proficiency with the cornet. The accompaniments throughout the programme were faithfully played by Mrs. and Mr. Crowe.

Mr. Crowe may be congratulated on the success which has attended this effort, as a concert better appointed in all its details has not been held in this city.

Should Mr. Crowe repeat his performance in Guelph there is no doubt but he will be greeted with an even larger house than that which assembled on his first appearance in his native city.

LONDON.

In my last paper I had occasion to remark upon the dearth of concerts at the beginning of the season. The prospects, however, were encouraging, and we are now having almost a hurricane of good things. One special feature of the steady musical progress this city is undoubtedly making, is the great improvement in part singing, for which we have to thank several of our church organists. The sacred concerts of the past few months, and the various Christmas and Easter services, have amply proved the capability of our choirs. At the Queen's Avenue Church concert on the 20th inst., at Victoria Hall, the unaccompanied part singing was really admirable. At the recent concert given by Mrs. Moore, her "Ladies' Choral Club" also did remarkably well in the *Sea Maidens* cantata, especially as the Club is composed almost entirely of young ladies unaccustomed to singing publicly. The "Arion Club" concert given lately was a great success. This Club of about 25 male voices is making very steady progress under the direction of Mr. Birks. The New York Philharmonic Club and Mrs. Annie Louise Tanner were an added attraction. As this Club has so lately performed in Toronto, comment upon it is needless. But a word of high praise is due for the admirable performance of Dudley Buck's short cantata *The Nun of Nidaros*. Through the unavoidably late arrival of the Philharmonic Club in London, there had been no rehearsal of this work, but thanks to the steady baton of Mr. Birks, and the good musicianship of the New York Club, Mrs. Tanner, and the "Arion Club," the whole was sung in a manner which left nothing to be desired. The last of Mr. Thomas Martin's Piano Recitals took place lately, a series which has been both interesting and instructive. The Hellmuth College concerts are (as I write), in full swing. The competition for the Leipzig Scholarship takes place next week, and is between Miss Elinor Gable and Miss May Hamilton, two very clever young ladies and graduates of the College.

A FLAT.

RICHMOND HILL.

The concert at the Methodist Church held on the 24th of May was well attended, though doubtless the heavy rain prevented many from attending who would otherwise have been present. The Mehan Quartett, of Detroit, appeared several times in each part of the programme, their number being heartily applauded. The performers are real artists, and the pieces sung were of a high class. Miss Corlett gave several solos which were well received. The evening's performance was made complete by the part taken by Mr. J. Churchill Arldige, of Toronto, the celebrated solo flautist. Mrs. Harry Blight was accompanist, and gave every satisfaction.

On the same evening a highly successful concert took place in the Presbyterian Church, and, considering the inclement weather, was very well attended. The performers were Mrs. Martin Murphy, Miss L. Thaft, Messrs Clark and Wodell and Mrs. C. L. E. Harris, accompanist.

An entertainment in aid of the library was given in the rooms of the Collegiate Institute at Barrie on Friday evening May 20th. An elaborate programme was presented. The affair was well patronized, and well carried out.

A musical entertainment was given in the Town Hall, Markham, on May 23rd, by the Metropolitan Quartet, and afforded much satisfaction to all who availed themselves of the opportunity to be present. The opening piano duet was brilliantly executed by Miss M. and Miss Lizzie Bucham, and awakened a lively expectation for what was to follow. Then came an overture by the Quartett—Miss M. Bucham on the piano, and the three sisters on violins. Interest was kept up from beginning to ending, and expressions of satisfaction were heard on every hand. At the close of the programme, the chairman expressed the hope that the Misses Bucham would again visit the town, when, he had no doubt, a much larger audience would greet them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

All letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

TONIC SOL-FA.

To the Editor of THE MUSICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I was much pleased to notice in last month's issue that you had undertaken to create an interest in school music, and as my name has been used in connection with the matter I take the liberty of writing a short explanation of the Tonic Sol-Fa system, which seems to have aroused the animosity of the majority of your correspondents. I am not in the least afraid of their opinions damaging the success of Sol-Fa, as in conversation with each of them they have admitted their lack of knowledge of the system, and anyone who knows anything about the matter will see at a glance that their arguments are put forth with a degree of prejudice and conservatism unworthy the name of modern educationists, and in nearly every case without due investigation. Tonic Sol-Fa has done good work among the so-called "illiterate (?) classes" in England, but that is certainly not its only mission, as Mr. Preston would have us believe. Years ago, John Curwen, the founder of the system, in speaking of its object, said, "Our aim is to make all the people and their children sing, and to sing for noble ends." This purpose has been strictly adhered to by the promoters of the system, and who can say that they are not rapidly accomplishing the desired result? Let me give you a few facts:

1st. In the Public schools in Britain over three million children are studying music on the Tonic Sol-Fa system.

2nd. By the testimony of impartial judges who have compared the singing in British and American schools, the former are admitted to be infinitely superior to the latter.

3rd. Ordinary school songs have been found too simple for use in English schools, and a higher class of music has been adapted, from the best composers, and now the pupils can sing readily, and with confidence, music equal in difficulty to any oratorio ever written.

4th. Tonic Sol-Fa has made more readers (vocal) of the staff than all other systems combined.

However, these statements may be treated as unfounded assertions. I have tested all practically, and am prepared to advance proof if necessary. Knowing that the Minister of Education is deeply interested in the subject of music in the Public schools, and has always treated new systems of teaching other subjects with liberality and fairness, I would request that a public trial be made of the Tonic Sol-Fa system, and that the opinion of practical school teachers be taken equally with that of musicians, who cannot be supposed to have a very intimate acquaintance with the requirements of the school-room of the present day. In order to demonstrate the usefulness of the system, I will take a class of children who have studied from Sol-Fa not more than eight months, and have never had a lesson on the Staff notation, and after one hour's lesson on the transition from Sol-Fa to the established notation, they will read at sight any tune containing modulation to related keys or relative minor, written by any musician of known impartiality, such as Mr. A. E. Fisher, or Mr. Torrington.

I shall be pleased to hear of any class, trained on the Holt system of teaching the staff, by Mr. Preston or any qualified exponent of the system, for double the time, being