

The MUSICAL JOURNAL

Published Monthly, in the interest of the Art Universal in Canada.

No. 8.

TORONTO, AUGUST 15TH, 1887

\$1.00 per Annum.
Single Copies to cents.

WE must apologise to our readers for the omission of the music pages in this number. The absence of some of our staff for their holidays, together with an extra press of work for those remaining, rendered it impossible to include them in this issue. We hope, however, to present our readers with a double number for Christmastide.

* *

FOLLOWING the example of other musical instrument manufactories throughout Ontario, Messrs. E. G. Thomas & Co., Woodstock Ont., have determined to have a band formed by their employees, which, under the leadership of Mr. Watters, promises to be a good one. They have just received their instruments, 16 pieces, and a handsome uniform.

* *

WE learn that Mr. John Spencer Curwen, President of the Tonic Sol-fa College, and son of the late John Curwen, whose name is so well known in connection with the Tonic Sol-fa system, is about to visit Canada and the States for the purpose of looking into the condition of musical affairs, and has signified his intention of visiting Toronto about the beginning of October.

WE understand that the promoters of the T. S. system are making preparations to accord him a hearty welcome, and in consideration of the great benefits which the system has conferred upon the English people we wish them every success.

* *

WHEN one hundred to one hundred and fifty school teachers meet together in midsummer—the thermometer registering 90° “in the shade,”—to study methods of teaching music, it is a gratifying sign of the times. The meetings have been enthusiastic, and judging from the manner in which the exercises have been performed, the teachers who have attended the “Summer School of Music” will return to their respective posts imbued with new ideas and fired with an energy unknown before in this much neglected department of education. We may reasonably hope for a “boom” in music in the public schools.

MR. HOLT is an able teacher, and in the course of his lectures propounded many sound theories, which he supported with marked ability. Still, like many others, he appears to claim considerably more than his own. Judging from his remarks, so far as we had opportunity of hearing him, he has adopted the Tonic Sol-fa theories, slightly modified, for solfeggi; Mr. Hullah's ladder, the French numbers, and the alphabetic symbols for the scale, Mr. Hullah's hand signs for the staff, the French time names and the primitive tape and weight metronome as a guide to tempo. For the above he certainly cannot claim originality, though his treatment of the diatonic scale as a “unit” certainly possesses that attribute, and we must leave it for our theorists to work it out on that line. We have no wish to criticize adversely a talented gentleman whose whole soul is in his work—who believes thoroughly what he teaches, and who fearlessly enunciates his views, but we must protest against the belittling of our own Motherland. Where else, on the face of creation, is music so well studied, fostered and remunerated? What a galaxy of sound musicians has the Church produced. Britain is the true home of oratorio. The madrigal, the glee the catch, the part song are all essentially English. Let us hear less of the ignorance of the Old Land, and honestly accredit her for the glorious progress she has made and is ever making in the art of music. Remember, too, that the ablest and most profound musicians, in this country, at least, are eminently British. We cordially extend a most fraternal greeting to our cousins across the line—we delight to talk, to sing, to play with them, to learn from them when they have some new thing to teach us, for the art universal knows no bounds—but let us respect its birthplace!

* *

An interesting exposition of two systems of teaching was given at the Normal School on Monday the 8th inst. Mr. Cringan with the Tonic Sol-fa and Mr. Holt with the Staff Notation. It was a most enjoyable and interesting source of instruction. Intense enthusiasm was displayed on both sides; and the two rival methods, considering the time available, were very ably and earnestly exhibited. Messrs.