

ST. PATRICK'S CHOIR CONCERT AT THE WINDSOR.

The grand concert given in the Windsor Hall on Friday evening last, was a distinguished success artistically as well as financially. This is hardly to be wondered at when the noble object for which the concert was given is taken into consideration. It was in aid of the Catholic High School, and it was under the patronage of the English-speaking Catholic ladies and gentlemen of Montreal. Prof. J. A. Fowler was the musical director, and with this fact in mind it seems superfluous to refer to the quality of the musical entertainment provided. Few men have labored as hard or achieved better success in the line of work which Prof. Fowler has marked out for himself in the musical world, and certainly to no man in the city of Montreal do the English-speaking Catholic musical circles owe more, not only in his capacity of musical director of St. Patrick's, but also for his own excellent compositions, which are always marked by a deeply religious feeling and the simplicity of style that goes to make for the best in church music. In Mr. Geo. Carpenter Prof. Fowler has an able assistant, as conductor both in church and concert work, and gives a choir in which harmony prevails and where every one works conscientiously to the great end of singing the praises of God, it can be readily understood how the grand concert at the Windsor Hall, was such an artistic success.

The programme was of such a lengthy and diversified character that it would occupy too much space to enter upon a criticism of it, or give it its due measure of praise. The soloists were most happy in their selections and they had a responsive audience, one not easily pleased, but one that was appreciative in the fact that the rendering well of good music should be encouraged. If the applause which greeted almost every number might be taken as a criterion, there certainly, never was a more acceptable entertainment given in the city. The programme appealed more to the heart than to the head. It did not run to the extremes of classicism and was devoid of the incomprehensibility of Wagnerism.

Songs are scathed by simplicity in music as in other things, and men are moved by melody oftener than by the intricacies of a fugitive or tremendous effect of technically difficult harmonies. The programme selected was thus remarkably pleasing, three of the numbers being selected from the immortal bard of Erin. The choral effect of the opening number, "The Masque Boy," almost startled the house, so well was it rendered, and so beautifully was the effect of vocal bell and shade worked in. It was a promise of better things to come, and the promise was kept. The next number for the chorus was Carlisle's "The Away." This was even more brilliantly rendered, than the previous arrangement of Moore's re-learned melody. There was no hesitation in the attack, and the way a crescendo was worked out was a masterly piece of artistic work. "Abhey's Land of my Home," was another number very successfully sung, and the programme was brought to a close with a delightful rendering of Moore's "The May Moon."

The playing of Mr. du Domaine finds a fitting interpretation of his exquisite style if we take the title of his second number "La Reve." He opened with Ten Have's "Allegro Brillante," a work that gave every opportunity for the exploitation of difficult bowing and rapidity of treatment. His technique is about as near perfection as mortal may hope to arrive at, and this was only accentuated when a comparison was made in the playing of Golgermann's "Dream" where brilliancy gave way to pathos, and the sensitiveness of sympathetic sound made one forget somewhat the pyrotechnic effect of the allegro.

The singing of Miss McAndrew was cultured and tasteful in the extreme. Her two numbers on the programme were deliciously given, and it is needless to say, rapturously applauded, Moore's "The last glimpse of

Erin," was a dainty morceau, and in "Love's Dreaming" (by Spence) the singer was particularly happy. Mr. Edouard Le Bel's splendid voice was heard to excellent advantage in "L'Adieu," a song by Dubois. It is unnecessary to touch on his artistic method, which embraces a great depth of natural feeling with a thoroughly artistic mode of rendition. The Schubert Octett sang Ingall's part song, "Her Laugh" in charming style. They were very thorough exponents of how to overcome the difficulties which arise in these part songs, and the result attained was delightfully pleasing.

Mr. G. A. Carpenter's number "The songs we used to sing," (Mascaroni) was splendidly sung. The number just suited his fine baritone voice, and added effect was got by the violin obligato played by Mr. du Domaine. The recall was imperative and Mr. Carpenter had to sing it over again.

Mr. J. J. Rowan, the sweet leading tenor soloist of the choir, in Prof. Fowler's "Benedictus" was one of the beautiful features of the concert. Mr. Rowan holds a foremost rank in choral circles in this city, and on this occasion his interpretation the selection from the Christmas Mass was a masterly one. Last but not least were the recitations of Mr. Jas. S. McCarrey. He struck a happy thought when he selected Dr. Drummond's French-Canadian poems for a subject, and the manner in which he read "De Little Cure of Calumette" and "De Stove Pipe Hole," would have delighted the heart of Dr. Drummond himself.

A word as to the stage grouping of the different sections of the chorus of 150 voices. It was superb. The ladies in their handsome gowns looked the fairest that ever occupied the Windsor Hall stage; while the young men in their immaculate white and deep black formed a very striking background. The chorus, for the most part, was made up of ladies from the five Irish parishes of Montreal. Altogether the concert was a grand success.

During the intermission the Rev. Father Quinlivan addressed the audience. It made his heart glad to see so much enthusiasm displayed, for he knew that it was not the magnificent concert alone which had brought them there, but rather practical sympathy with the most laudable object, the Catholic High School. It was unnecessary for him to dwell on this subject at this date, because all Catholics in Montreal, speaking the English language had had ample opportunity of knowing what the aims of the school would be and how necessary an institution it was. The spirit of the age and educational advancement required that nothing should be left undone in early youth which would fit the coming man for the struggle of life. In Montreal the conditions were different and more complicated than in any other city on the Continent. There were three well-defined elements—French-Canadian, English-speaking Protestants, and Irish Catholics. The two former elements have distinctive educational establishments of their own, which are supported in a most generous manner, and such an institution it was intended the Catholic High School should be.

The establishment Father Quinlivan said, would cost \$90,000. Referring to the magnificent gift of \$5,000, by Lord Stratheona, the Rev. speaker said that the donor was well known, and although a Protestant he was broad-minded enough to appreciate the need of a Catholic High School and generous enough to express his appreciation in a very tangible manner. His was an example that could well be followed by all Catholics according to their means. Father Quinlivan then complimented the choir and the other artists on the splendid programme provided, and thanked them for their services. The reverend gentleman had a pleasant word to say for every one, including the ladies who had so enthusiastically supported Prof. Fowler in his laudable undertaking.

GRACEFUL SPEECH.

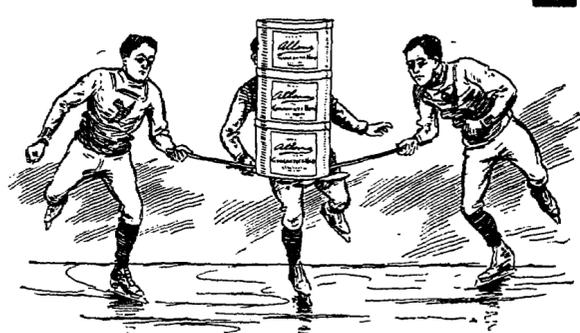
In a model school of New York, it is a practice in one class to have the pupils slowly increase their speaking vocabulary by learning three new words a week. An effort is made to have these words suggested by some difficulty of expression that is experienced during the week. This practice could be admirably applied in any family of children. Much graceless speech heard is the result of uncorrected carelessness in early life. In the school referred to the qualities of the different words are shown. The interest taken by the pupils when they find that Saxon words are strong and simple, that Roman words are apt to express brutality, and that

the Greek derivatives are dramatic, leads them out of philology into geography and history. While the home teacher need not go so far as this, it is worth some effort to put children in the way of giving up sloverly careless speech, and acquiring the knowledge and use of good, expressive words.

CANDOR.

Candor is a disposition to form a fair and impartial judgment on the opinions and actions of others; or a temper of mind unshowered by envy, puffed by malice, or seduced by prejudice, sweet without weakness, and impartial without rigor.

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Lord Russell for the Commission.

The London Times says:— "The Government will probably appoint Baron Russell of Killowen (Lord Chief Justice of England) to succeed the late Baron Herschell on the Joint High Commission. This would be a highly advantageous selection. Though it would be difficult to spare him from his important functions at home, it would not be easy to suggest an alternative appointment."

Ex-Comptroller Wood Dead.

The Hon. J. F. Wood, M.P. for Brockville, and ex-Comptroller of Inland Revenue, was found dead in bed on Thursday, in his room at the Queen's Hotel, where he had been staying for several days. Heart failure is supposed to have been the cause of death.

Irish Exhibits at the Paris Exposition.

The Irish Committee, at Dublin, appointed to organize the Irish exhibits at the Paris Exposition has been dissolved by the Central Committee at London, which has withdrawn its subsidy and directed that Irish exhibitors correspond directly with London committee. This action is regarded in Dublin as false economy.

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