

The University College Song Book has met with the most gratifying reception on the part of our musical public. One hears it favorably spoken of in all circles. It is already in its second edition.

Edwin Ashdown, the well-known English music publisher, has opened a Toronto Branch, under the direction of his son, Mr. Sydney Ashdown, a young man of considerable push and business experience. A full line of the Ashdown and other standard publications will be found at the Toronto Branch, No. 89 Yonge St., comprising the best music, old and new, vocal and instrumental. Music for the pianoforte a specialty.

Henri Herz, the octogenarian piano manufacturer, head of the Paris house of Herz, whose products have long since been ranked with Erard and Pleyel, Wolfe, died in Paris, on January 6, aged 82 years. He was born in Vienna, January 6, 1806. His tours throughout the United States, Cuba, Mexico and California between the years 1846 and 1850 were undertaken to rebuild his fortune, lost in the manufacture of pianofortes in Paris, when he was associated with Klepfa. He was very successful, and literally coined money on his tours in America. Returning to Paris he established the house of Herz, and carried off the first prize for his pianofortes at the Exposition of 1855. For 32 years he was a professor of the pianoforte at the Paris Conservatoire, in which capacity he won the esteem of the musical lights of France, who conceded him to possess the teaching gift in a remarkable degree.—*Art Journal*.

#### TONIC SOL-FA NOTES.

Since its introduction, the Tonic Sol-fa system has had a considerable amount of opposition to contend with, but its promoters, nothing daunted, have steadily continued to advocate its claims. The spirit of opposition has been succeeded by the more liberal spirit of investigation. The *Century Magazine* for December contains two long articles from Mr. Kroebl, a well-known musician and critic, and Mr. Theo. F. Seward, one of the foremost teachers of music classes in the States, who was intimately acquainted with the late Dr. Lowell Mason in the preparation of his admirable work, the "Pestalozzian system of teaching music." Both of these writers advocate the use of the system in all classes where pure part singing is the object desired.

There is also an excellent article in the *Musical Courier* of last month, from the pen of Dr. Wm. Mason, the well-known pianist and teacher.

When musicians of this class have investigated and pronounced so favorably on the merits of the system, we cannot but admit that it must be something more than "a system suitable only for the most elementary school children." Underneath we give a few reports of the work being done by Tonic Sol-fa teachers in our Canadian cities.

#### TORONTO.

The Tonic Sol-fa Society which was formed last winter has now in hand a splendid selection of high-class glees and part songs, which they have been studying during the past two months. This society is unique in its method's of practice as no instrumental aid is used in the preparation of the music, all the members being able to read from the Tonic Sol-fa Notation from which they sing. The executive are making arrangements for the first concert of the season to be given in February. The society is under the leadership of Mr. A. T. Cringan.

The system has been introduced by Mr. Cringan into the Public Schools, and is now taught in all classes under the Sen. 3rd book. Two choirs have been formed in connection with the schools; one of six hundred voices, which meets monthly for rehearsal of music to be sung at the annual closing in June. The other is a choir of one hundred selected voices, styled the Toronto Juvenile Select Choir. The practices are held in the Mission Hall on College Ave. every Saturday afternoon. All the music is in two and three parts, and the children sing readily at sight.

We understand that a parlor class has been formed by a few well-known local professionals who are studying the system enthusiastically.

#### HAMILTON.

Mr. Johnston has been teaching the system in the public schools for several years with the most gratifying success, and has several evening classes.

#### STRATFORD.

Mr. Freeland, who was appointed in August last to teach the system, with the sanction of the Minister of Education, has been most successful in creating an enthusiasm among the teachers and pupils of the public schools. At a recent meeting held under the auspices of the School Board, the young folks gave a demonstration of the progress which had attended their teaching, which proved satisfactory in every respect.

#### ST. THOMAS.

Mr. J. H. Jones, the well-known organist of Trinity Church, has been investigating the system, and writes concerning the result, "I have come to the conclusion that it is the only system that can be made a success in our Public Schools, and as such have advocated it at the Elgin Teachers' Convention." This is exceedingly gratifying to the promoters of the system, as previous to his investigation, Mr. Jones was opposed to it, and had been more than ordinarily successful with the teaching of the staff.

#### INTOXICATING SUCCESS.

Our travelling agent is laid up, very much so! He thought he could have a lively time and rope in a good round "commish," by going to the London Convention, and being forewarned as to the danger he incurred from the open-handed generosity and genial hospitality of the members of the C. S. M., he started for the Forest City armed with a patch of blue ribbon on the breast of his coat as large as the left ear of a Riverside belle. Poor fellow, despite all his precautions the C. S. M. got the better of him. They did not get him on his skates with "Carling's Amber," it is true, but they sent him back to the Queen City fairly "paralyzed" with success? So much so, indeed, that in walking up from the Union Station he resolved to celebrate his good fortune by a real live oyster supper. It was when he got home and started to open the can that the fun commenced. After his recent experience at the Convention he thought the task of opening that can with his wife's best scissors a veritable picnic, and tackled the job with commendable ardour, while his wife got out the crackers and vinegar. The scissors, however, seemed to have some rooted objection to going through the lid, though, when, after an impatient jerk, they slipped against his left hand, they went through that in the most accomodating manner, and as he hastily dropped the oysters on his pet corn, flung "those confounded shears" to the far end of the room, breaking off *en passant* the nose of a plaster Beethoven that decorated the side-board, and ruefully began stanching the blood with his handkerchief, he almost wished himself back in London canvassing the Convention. Our drummer, however, is a man of determination and is not to be daunted by trifles. His motto is "try again" and he did try again, though not with the scissors. He tackled those oysters the second time with the big bread knife. But it was no go, and after spoiling the table-cloth and cutting a fair-sized steak off his arm he gave up that method as impracticable, and cast about for some better weapon. Suddenly bethinking himself of the old axe used for splitting kindling, in his haste to secure that implement he nearly broke his neck by falling down the celler steps; but his face wore a revengeful smile as he emerged from the stairway with his shirt collar flying by one button, his coat split down the back, and a big rip in the seat of his pantaloons. He triumphantly laid the oysters on top of the bread-board and brought down the axe with a tremendous thwack! Crash! a section of the severed can caught his better-half in the right eye, while the oily liquor squirted over the wall-paper and carpet in all directions. A flying fragment of the bread-board upset the cruet, knocking out the stopper of the vinegar bottle, while another struck his young olive branch in the pit of the stomach, causing him to set up a howl that formed a fitting obligato to the marital duetto! Still our valiant friend was not conquered; but when he gathered up the fragments of that can, and only succeeded in finding *one oyster*, he caved. Such a denouement following in the wake of his London experience (for he had returned from the Convention with a single subscription) knocked him out. As he said, when we called on him yesterday on a visit of condolence, the *coincidence* was too much for his nerves!