

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

MADAME ANNA BISHOP (SCHULTZ), the great English prima donna, was born in London. Belonging to a family of affluence and excellent social position, she received at an early age the advantages of a thorough musical education.

As her studies progressed, it became apparent that she possessed very remarkable musical talent, and, by the advice of her friends, she was entered in the Royal Academy of Music, where she became remarkably skillful as a pianist. The parents of Madam Anna Bishop at first destined her for this instrument, and, eventually, confided her to the care of M. Moscheles, the great German musician, who was the instructor also of Mendelssohn and Liszt.

In the meantime her voice developed into a sweet and pure soprano of extraordinary capacity, and it was decided for her to become a singer. The wisdom of such a decision has been proved by the wonderful success that has crowned her efforts as a vocalist.

Madame Bishop's progress in vocal art was so rapid and pronounced that, when quite young, she was prepared to make her *debut* in London at a concert, at which also appeared Grisi, Garcia, Persiani, Rubini, Tamburini and Lablache; Thalberg and Dohler presided at the pianoforte, and Bochs at the harp. Notwithstanding this stupendous array of talent, never exceeded, if equalled, in the annals of concert-giving, the youthful cantatrice created a *furor*, and made one of the most brilliant *debuts* on record.

Madam Bishop was engaged to appear at the great musical festivals of Gloucester, Worcester, York, and Hereford. Not satisfied with her great successes in Great Britain, Madame Bishop started upon a grand tour of Europe, and sang before nearly all of the Crowned Heads of that continent, receiving superb gifts from Royalty, being received socially in their palaces, and producing an enthusiasm among all classes. At Upsala, after her concert, three hundred students assembled and escorted her as far as the hotel where she resided, and afterward serenaded her, under the window. The next day they formed a cavalcade, and accompanied her as far as the gates of the town, making the air ring with their huzzas.

Madam Bishop is not only a great vocalist, but is also an extraordinary linguist, speaking fluently eight or nine languages. In Russia, Denmark, and elsewhere, she sang the national ballads in their native languages, producing an immense sensation. At Moscow, in Russia, she sang the part of *Alice* in "Robert le Diable," in the *Russian language*, a feat of stupendous difficulty. Madame Bishop had a *three years' engagement* at San Carlo Opera House, in Naples, a success never achieved by any prima donna since Malibran.

During Madame Bishop's European tour, she appeared in opera and concerts for several years, her popularity never waning, but absolutely increasing. As the radiance of her charms became steadily augmenting, her auditors joined in the most extravagant tokens of delight and appreciation.

With a love for travelling that almost amounts to a passion, Madam Bishop decided to make a concert tour of the entire globe, and if our space permitted, we might go into detail and mention the enthusiastic reception this great vocalist received in China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Sandwich Islands, India, Africa, North and South America, and elsewhere.

Suffice it to say that Madam Bishop's progress was a series of successes, whereby she reaped fame and fortune, and also caused her to become the greatest female traveler as well as THE MOST WIDELY KNOWN LIVING PRIMA DONNA.

Of course such a musical career has been necessarily replete with the most exciting experiences. Many remember reading of the time when Madam Bishop and troupe were traveling through a forest in Mexico, and were attacked by bandits. Upon learning the name of their fair captive, Bochsa was required to get down his harp and perform, and Madame Bishop's silvery tones rang through the forest in some of her choicest *morceaux*. The delighted bandits then graciously allowed the troupe to proceed unmolested, although their fair captive