

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S CONCERT.—The first concert this season by the above society took place in the Pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens before a large audience on the evening of the 15th. The vocalists, among whom were distributed the solo and concerted parts, were as follows: Soprani;—Mrs. Bradley, and the Misses Dervieux, Torrington, Berryman, and O'Leary. Alti;—Mesdames Petley and Morrison, and Miss Scott. Tenori;—Messrs. Taylor, Warde, Wilkinson and Doherty. Bassi;—Mr. Stoddard (of New York) who sang the part of Elijah, and Messrs. Schuch and Oldham. The chorus numbered over two hundred voices, which, with the exception of the tenors, who were perhaps a little weak, were fairly well balanced. In this respect the orchestra was not so happy, the tone of the violins being quite insufficient to counterbalance the bass instruments, brass and string, or to give the necessary support to the voices in full chorus; while the horns and trombones, were, as usual, uncertain in intonation and attack, greatly marring the efforts of the vocalists on more than one occasion. The difficulty of obtaining good horn players is, however, well known, so the critic, while chronicling the fact, makes the necessary allowance. Among the soloists, excepting Mr. Stoddard, as Elijah, there was nothing to call forth enthusiasm. Mr. Taylor, to whom was entrusted the beautiful air "If With All Your Hearts," gave a careful, but colourless, rendering thereof, while in the recitative which preceded it his voice and method proved quite inadequate to its demands, possessing neither the vigour of attack nor the necessary *timbre*. The recitative, airs and duet, ("The Widow and Elijah,") by Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Stoddard, was pleasingly sung. The double chorus "Baal We Cry to Thee," the choruses "Thanks be to God," and "Behold! God the Lord Passed By!" were powerfully and vigorously given and fully sustained the favourable reputation the society has now, under the able and patient training of Mr. Torrington. The double quartette "For He Shall Give His Angels Charge Over Thee," sung by Misses Berryman and Scott, Mesdames Morrison and Petley, and Messrs. Warde, Doherty, Oldham, and Schuch, is especially deserving of credit; the voices were nicely balanced, and the expression carefully observed, produced a general effect which was very pleasing; indeed, the same might fairly be said of all the part singing. The singers before named, although not possessing voices or sufficient artistic training to enable them to render the noble recitatives and solos of this great sacred drama in such a manner as they demand, nevertheless, through much practice in chorus and part singing have succeeded in presenting an *ensemble* in which *artistes* less accustomed to sing together not infrequently fail. Mr. Stoddard's voice is of good power and compass, of a pleasing tone quality, and well under control. His recitative is perhaps, for oratorio a little too dramatic, *i.e.*, not sufficiently calm and impassioned. Nevertheless, his "Elijah" was a very satisfactory performance. Mrs. Petley, to whom fell a large share of the work, sang her numbers in a careful and painstaking manner, including the recitative and air "O, rest in the Lord." Of the last and greatest of Mendelssohn's works a few words may here find place. The "Elijah" was first produced at the Birmingham festival, (Eng.), 1846, Mendelssohn conducting in person. It is said that the excitement and toil incident upon so great an undertaking hastened his death, which took place in November of the year following—at Leipsig—the composer being then in his thirty-ninth year. In closing our notice of the concert, we cannot help expressing regret that better taste did not prevail in the getting up of the book of the words. We refer to the printing of business cards on the pages opposite the text. It cannot be claimed that it is conducive to a calm and devout state of mind, or that it is calculated to produce that repose and abstraction from every day life, necessary to the proper enjoyment and appreciation of a great lyric poem to read \* \* \* "Lo! there came a fiery chariot with fiery horses and he went by a whirlwind to heaven," \* \* \* "J. Young, Undertaker." \* \* \* —Or, "Behold! God the Lord passed by!"—"Cab, Coupé, and Livery," etc. The price of the books was ten cents each, and a large number is always sold, which should suffice to pay for the printing; and even if it should not, a sense of Art taste and decency should rise in protest against its re-occurrence.

"Who is that man with the eye-glasses?" "That's the musical critic my dear." "What does he have that note book and pencil for?" "So that people will know that he's a musical critic." "Does he think he's a musical critic?" "No, my child, he's far wiser than those who read his writings." "Who reads his writings?" "People that don't know anything about music." "Why don't they know anything about music?" "Because he doesn't tell them, my dear." "Does he know anything about music?" "Of course not, dear." "Then why does he write about music?" "He doesn't my child. He only writes a column and leaves a blank, which he fills in from English and French, and Italian, and German dictionaries, in order that the public may be incited to a beneficial study of those languages."—*Ex.*

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

IN *Longman's Magazine* Mrs. Oliphant commences a new serial entitled "Madam."

THE son of Mr. Robert Browning has executed a striking life-size statue of Dryopé with her serpent.

A LATE issue of *The Continent* contains an illustrated paper on the Canadian Capital, by Mr. James M. Oxley.

MR. SWINBURNE has written for *The Fortnightly* four sonnets under the agreeably suggestive title "Post Mortem."

PHILIP BOURKE MARSTON, the blind poet, has issued a new collection of his poems and sonnets under the title "Wind Voices."

AT the meeting of the Canadian Institute on Saturday evening last Mr. Waugh Lauder read a paper on "The History of Musical Instruments."

A VALUABLE paper on "The Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., LL.D.," by Dr. Hodgins, has been reprinted from the *Methodist Magazine* for April, 1882.

DISRAELI said a short time before his death: "You cannot convert fifteen thousand tons into twenty thousand tons." This will cause ice dealers to smile.—*Ex.*

ACCORDING to *Bradstreet's*, Canada had forty-two failures last week as against twenty-five the corresponding week of 1883, and eight the corresponding week of 1882.

IN St. Louis has been started a new illustrated monthly magazine, the name of which is *Legion*. We tender it our wish that as its name is, so may its subscribers be.

THE New York *Christian Witness* published the Ten Commandments the other week, and now Texas papers are reprinting them under the head line of "Pearls of Thought," credited to *The Witness*.

MESSRS. HUNTER & ROSE have in the press a pamphlet by Mr. W. D. Le Sueur, of Ottawa, entitled "A Defence of Modern Thought," which, it is expected, will be issued next week. It is intended as a reply to the Bishop of Ontario's pamphlet on "Agnosticism," published some time back.

M. JULIA, of Passy, is the present possessor and owner of the original manuscript of Heine's "Memoirs." It consists of 147 large leaves of paper and is written with pencil. The whole is perfectly legible. M. Julia, it need not be said, is very jealous of his treasure, and rarely allows it to be handled.—*Ex.*

"THE GOSSIP" cannot refrain from a word of commendation for the December and January numbers of *The Canadian Missionary*, which comes from Arnprior, Ontario. The appearance of this magazine is very attractive, and the contents of the Christmas number particularly, are well varied and interesting.

"SONGS UNSUNG" is the name of a new volume by Lewis Morris, author of "The Epic of Hades." Mr. Gladstone has expressed strong admiration for this volume, which, it is therefore to be hoped, has more poetry and more originality in it than the previous works of Mr. Morris, who is not either the brother or the peer of William Morris the singer of "The Earthly Paradise."

"THE GOSSIP" records as an event which will probably give rise to much literature, the fact that Mr. P. T. Barnum has secured from the Siamese Court nothing less than a white elephant, which will be exhibited in America next summer. This is the second white elephant of which Mr. Barnum has been the happy possessor. The first was poisoned before Mr. Barnum had had time to get used to it.

*Littell's Living Age* for Jan. 12th is a particularly good number. It reproduces from the *Contemporary Review* Professor Goldwin Smith's article on "Evolutionary Ethics and Christianity," and Mr. Andrew Lang's "Literary Forgeries." From *La Nuova Antologia* it translates a paper by Professor Villari on "J. Addington Symonds"; and from the *Saturday Review* it takes an article which deals with the memorials of the Princess Alice. It contains also a beautiful and striking poem by Mr. Rennell Rodd, author of "Rose Leaf and Apple Leaf."

"MAMMA," said a fashionable New York young lady to her mother, "the papers are making a great fuss over a Mr. Tennyson, of England." "Yes," responded the mother. "He has been raised to the dear, delightful peerage." "He has been made a baron, I see," said the daughter. "Yes; and his wife will be a baroness, I suppose," reflected the old lady. "How exquisitely beautiful it must be to be a baroness!" "What has he been a-doing of to be a baron?" asked the cultured young lady. "What has he been a-doing of?" repeated the mother. "Why he is the sole survivor of the noble six hundred who made the famous charge at Balaklava."