

of jealousy, and he trusted that, in future, they would always meet upon amicable terms. He hoped that any intemperate attacks which had been made upon their guests since their first visit to the island, would now be forgotten and forgiven.

A beautiful foreign warbler rose and said that he spoke the sentiments of his feathered friends, when he declared that they had never entertained the least feeling of jealousy towards them. They had merely flown over from the mainland to try what effect their song would have upon the inhabitants; and, as they had been warmly received, they should, of course, continue to visit them during a certain season of the year. As for the attacks made upon them, he believed that they had in every instance, recoiled upon the attackers. The only legitimate mode of proceeding for the natives was to prove themselves their equals. If this could not be done, they would only more fully establish their inferiority by pecking at them whenever they could get a chance.

An intemperate little native bird here rose in great anger, but was instantly pulled down by the tail.

The original speaker then resumed; and, after complimenting his foreign friend upon the liberal feeling which he had just expressed, begged, in the name of his companions, to put a question to him, which, in fact, he said, was the chief object of the meeting. He wished to know why it was that their song was so much more perfect—so much clearer, and so thoroughly satisfactory to the ear—and whether in their own country, they were really as much esteemed as they were here.

The same bird who had before spoken answered in a firm and temperate tone. He was delighted, he said, to find that the question had been put to him, as he really felt much pleasure in replying to it. The fact was that there was no secret about the matter at all. When they first flew over to this island, they listened to the song of the native birds, as they warbled in the trees, and found it so crude and unpractised that they were quite astonished that the auditors could derive any gratification from it; and from that moment they resolved to try whether their voices so perfectly formed as their own would not at once secure the attention of those who could really judge of the matter. The experiment had succeeded beyond their utmost wishes; and the inhabitants of the island now looked forward to the period of their annual arrival with the liveliest feelings of pleasure.

"But," said the first speaker, "we are anxious to learn by what magic art you contrive to make your song so perfect that we can scarcely dare to approach it."

The benevolent bird pecked up a few seeds, took a few drops of water, and proceeded. "The means," said he, "which we use to cultivate our voices have not only no relation to magic, but they are the most natural and rational that could be devised. The fact is that, in our country, we consider the power of uttering notes to be a mere trifle. The voice is only a foundation upon which to erect a structure. When, therefore, one of our young birds betrays a decided inclination to sing better than his neighbours, we do not allow him to perch upon the trees, and show the immaturity of his style by singing to all the passers by, but we carefully prevent him from being heard until his voice has been properly formed and perfected. To effect this, we select the most solitary places. For years we dwell in caves, and hide in the hollow rocks, where we practise incessantly; and when the elder and experienced birds pronounce us fit to be heard, we emerge from our hiding-places and sing at once in the most public promenades. By these means, no birds are heard say, those who have practised sufficiently to give pleasure; and thus we are not only highly esteemed in our own country, but we are, as you see, enabled to fly away to distant places and fairly to supplant the natives themselves. Now, with you, the mode of proceeding is entirely different. As soon as one of your young ones shows that he has a clear voice, away he goes to the most frequented spots, and begins to sing. The listeners, having now frequent opportunities of contrasting his song with that of the many birds from other countries

who are continually arriving, naturally enough, leave the natives, and go to the foreigners, simply because they are singers before they come, and the others learn to sing in public."

The good little bird here broke off, and folding his wings, which he had begun to flay in the excitement of his speech, resumed his seat in the moss. The native birds looked at each other significantly, as if they had heard a great truth for the first time. A vote of thanks was passed to the bird on the perch (who presided), and the meeting, silently, and with subdued feelings of pleasure, separated.

And the lesson was not lost. From that day the native birds retired in bodies to large caves and unfrequented places, where they practised for years. When they came forth, but for their plumage, many of the inhabitants would have taken them for the foreigners—so perfect was their song, and so improved was their style. Not only do they now delight the natives of the island, but they often cross over to the mainland; and thus a mutual good-will is established between the continent and the island. Instead of pecking at each other they continually fly in company, and are often found singing together so delightfully in the same trees that the audiences care no longer to inquire which are the natives and which are the foreigners.—A. C. Lunn.

### MUSICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BRISTOW'S new work *The Great Republic* is in rehearsal, Mr. Gilmore being the leader.

LAST month Franz Liszt and Sophie Menter gave a concert at the Palazzo Caffarelli in Rome.

MR. MAURICE GRAU with his company, after a successful season in Havana, has started for Mexico.

THIS month Von Bulow will give a concert in Pesth at which he will play compositions by Liszt only.

MR. JOSEFFY will soon announce another series of concerts, at which many new and brilliant works will be given.

BERLIOZ'S *Faust* was given at St. James's Hall under the leadership of Mr. Charles Halle on the 8th of January.

*The Flying Dutchman*, by Wagner, has met with unexpected success at Ghent. The stage setting is declared to be marvellous.

RUBINSTEIN'S opera *Feramos* is said to have been rather a failure in Mannheim, though the composer himself conducted.

LAST month Miss Minnie Hauk sang *Carmen* in Berlin at the Emperor's request. The Emperor, the Empress and the Imperial court attended the performance.

MR. SIMS REEVES, now nearly sixty years old, announces that he will retire from the stage next year, and offers to take then a position as teacher in the Royal London College of Music.

A CONCERT was given at Northampton, Mass., last week; and by means of the telephone, people in Hartford, Conn., some forty miles off, listened to a performance of Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*.

THE New York College of Music has decided to add a Chamber Music Concert Hall to its thriving establishment in 70th Street. The pupils now number some four hundred, under the tuition of thirty professors.

MME. CRUVELLI, who has lived for many years in Nice, and given concerts in aid of the charities of the Department, on Christmas Day handed a cheque of the amount of 200,000 francs to the superintendent for distribution among the poor.

THERE have already being subscribed in Chicago fifty thousand dollars towards the expenses of the Musical Festival to be held there in June. Signor Candidus from Frankfort and Mr. Remmert of New York are already engaged and negotiations are said to be pending with Mme. Gerster and Miss Cary.

### BREVES AND SEMIBREVES.

SYMPHONY.—Anton Rubinstein has written a new symphony, entitled "Russia."

Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" is to be given in London next season, under Hans Richter's baton.

The London Sacred Harmonie Society has a force of 200 in the chorus. It is not a great number, but they are all picked singers.

H. R. H.—London *Truth* says that Princess Louise recently published a galop composed by herself, and that she describes herself on the front page as "Louise Campbell."