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THE singing societies have started practice for the coming season—*Eli* and *The Golden Legend* are the leading novelties announced.

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WE are sorry to learn that the Toronto String Quartet has disbanded, owing to Mr. Corell having removed to Boston. Mr. Jacobsen, too, has left to take the position of Musical Director of a leading Ladies' Seminary in the States.

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WE trust the management of the *Saturday Pops* will come at once to the front with a good prospectus for 1887-8. We should be sorry to see these concerts discontinued, as they afford a commendable means of recreation at a reasonable figure, and if continued will undoubtedly do good service to the cause of music in our city.

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WE have at hand the prospectus of the Guelph Academy of Music, which has for its object the affording of reliable instruction in Vocal and Instrumental Music, and Musical Theory. A staff comprising some of our leading musicians has been engaged, and the promoters of the school hope to meet with encouraging support.

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By the courtesy of the publishers, Messrs. I. Suckling & Sons, we are enabled to submit to our readers this month several pages of the *University of Toronto Song Book*, which is now in the press. This collection of college songs promises to become exceedingly popular, the object of the compilers having been not so much to get together a collection of songs of the higher grade, as to place in the hands of the collegians, and the public at large, a first-class song book, including numbers of patriotic, humorous, convivial, and, of course, the full (and varied) musical repertory of the jolly "under grad," to which, however, are added a large number of standard songs, which will give permanence to its intrinsic value.

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WHAT will the admirers of the "only Patti" say to the following utterance of the *Musical Herald*:—"It is a startling coincidence that a good larynx and a poor brain often go together. Why singers should be poor musicians, and should lack general education, is

a question that may fairly be asked, and the answer is not far to seek. It is because their entrance into music is much easier and pleasanter than that of pianists, organists and composers. A few years spent in drill, in constant exercise of a few muscles, and the deed is done. Many singers, even of the highest rank are not musicians. *Patti is not a musician, and has given abundant proofs of the fact*; and there are many others who could be named to bear her company. Meanwhile the pianist and organist plods on, and feels that the verse which Mrs. Browning applies to women—

'Man's work is from sun to sun,
But woman's work is never done.'

applies to the musician yet more truthfully; and the composer not only must work continuously and study while life lasts, but must be content to be scantily paid, and to see every time his songs are performed, the singer receive all the glory, almost everybody exclaiming, 'Did she not sing that exquisitely?' while one in a thousand may say: 'What an exquisite work! The composer deserves all praise.'

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Speaking of the latest musical (?) craze, the passion for the banjo now displayed by the fashionable musicians of society, the same paper says:—"In sober earnest, this outrage in art is deserving of the most outspoken condemnation. A crude musical toy, specially adapted to the musical needs of the negro race, which has hitherto been exclusively devoted to its use, save when introduced for the edification of the *habitués* of the lowest drinking saloons and resorts of more than questionable repute, has now been transplanted to fashionable drawing-rooms in the highest circles of young ladies of social eminence, and their imitators. As a matter of fact, this disreputable substitute for a musical instrument has become 'the fashion.' In this age of boasted art progress, such an instance of inconsistency as this banjo craze, affords a curious commentary on 'intellectual growth' in the realm of 'society.' The next innovation will probably be the adoption of 'bones' as fashionable musical instruments, specially well adapted to ladies of high art tastes."

"Specially well adapted," we presume, is "pure Bostonian."