

OUR MUSIC PAGE

An Old and Popular Song





A Musical Reminiscence

I N a recent issue of the Toronto Star Weekly, "Walther" told of some old programmes, mentioning that of a concert given in St. Lawrence Hall, in honor of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, (the late King Edward VII., who was visiting Canada at the time). Among the names appearing on the programme was that of a Mr. J. B. Davis, who sang "The Death of Nelson" and also sang in the duet "On to the Field of Glory!" Mr. Davis, it seems, is still living in Toronto, and, although eighty-three years of age, is keenly interested in musical affairs.

I ames Boyd Davis, says the sketch, was been in C.

still living in Toronto, and, annough eighty-three years of age, is keenly interested in musical affairs.

James Boyd Davis, says the sketch, was born in County Caven, Ireland, upon the 19th of April, 1828. He attended Trinity College, Dublin University, and came to Toronto in 1847. One of the text-books which was used by the students of Dublin University was an edition of the Latin poet Horace, edited by the Rev. John McCaul, LL.D., and great was the surprise of Mr. Davis to find upon reaching Toronto that the same Dr. McCaul was the president of the university here, then known as King's College. Mr. Davis entered as a student at this latter institution and after attending for a few terms he registered at Osgoode Hall, where he graduated as a barrister.

He was the possessor of a fine tenor voice, and took part in many of the musical events of Toronto's early history. Mr. Davis remarked to me that his first speculation was on a ticket to Jenny Lind's concert when she sang in St. Lawrence Hall in the fall of 1853. The price of admission was ten shillings, and long before the time announced for the sale of tickets to take place the citizens were thronging the outside of Nordheimer's store, the window shutters of which were put up and the door strongly barricaded to keep back the crowd and to allow the applicants to enter in batches. The tour of the Swedish Nightingale in America created a similar sensation at every city. At her initial coningale in America created a similar sensation at every city. At her initial concert in New York the privilege of first choice of a seat was put up at auction, and was purchased by one Genin, a Broadway hatter, for five hundred dollars,

A Canadian Vocalist

M DME. EDITH GREY-BURNARD, whose photo was printed in a recent issue of the Courier as a "Type of English Beauty," is a niece of Sir Frederick Burnard, late editor of Punch. Mdme. Grey-Burnard is now in London, settling her affairs, but hopes to return to Toronto in September, when she will be available for professional engagements. Her voice is a true and beautiful soprano and she is also a teacher of recognized merit. She is a delightful conversationalist and always ready to recount anecdotes of Sir F. C. Burnand, known so well the world over as author of "Happy Thoughts" and "More Happy Thoughts." Mdme. Grey-Burnand has a brother living in Toronto, Mr. Burnand of Burnand & Spain, which makes it very delightful for her socially. Mrs. Burnand was well known in Ottawa prior to her marriage, as she was Miss Muriel Church, daughter of Dr. Church, a leading physician.