

# The MUSICAL JOURNAL

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"ALLE guten dinge sind drei!"

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VERDI says the most difficult work in composition is an "autograph with something besides the name."

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THE MANDOLIN is the new fad with fashionable *Bostoniennes*. It is a small and pretty instrument, shaped not unlike a pear, with a maple back and spruce face. The Neapolitan Mandolin has four double (eight) strings, while the Milanese has five double strings. The instrument is played with a plectrum of tortoise-shell.

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THE edict of the American Cardinal, who represents the Church of Rome, ordering that no paid musicians shall take part in the services of that Church, and that persons outside its communion shall not be members of the choirs, is causing many changes, and more will take place when the singers' contracts expire.

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A PRIMA DONNA in the Far West sometimes receives very odd tributes from her admirers. When Minnie Hawk lately sang in a remote town in Montana, one enthusiastic gentleman sent her two gold nuggets; another presented a silver-mounted bear's tooth; a third contributed a Sioux war-bonnet, found on a famous battle field; and the most devoted admirer yielded up his greatest treasure—an Indian's scalp.

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WE hear nothing definite as yet about the arrangements for a grand Victorian Jubilee celebration, but trust the matter will not be allowed to fizzle out. It is an opportunity for a great musical demonstration which will not occur again. Let the citizens of the Queen City of the West be up and doing. Remember *there's money in it* if properly managed. Thousands of people do not come into the City without spending something—witness the Knights of Pythias demonstration.

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It appears that Gounod will visit Rome this winter, by command of Leo XIII., in order to set to music some hymns written by the Pope. The distinguished poet hopes to gain, by a musical setting,

a wider circle of readers than his works have hitherto enjoyed, though they are much appreciated by connoisseurs. The Pope is a great admirer of Gounod's music, and it has even been said that he tried to write religious words to the cathedral air in *Faust*, but had to relinquish the attempt owing to the too theatrical spirit of the music! Should the new plan be successful, and the music of the hymns be found appropriate to the words, the pontiff will probably undertake his long cherished idea of writing a hymn to Queen Christina, to music by Gounod.

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THE Melan Male Quartet, of Detroit, scored a decided success on their first appearance in Toronto. The artistic rendering of their numbers was much appreciated, as evidenced by the enthusiastic encores, and reflects the good taste of Mr. W. H. Adamson, director of the concert, in bringing them to this city. The management of the "Saturday Pops" may feel assured that music of this class, by such performers, will always be acceptable to the concert-going public. The Quartet took part in a concert in Carlton Street Methodist Church, on the 28th ultimo, and their singing was superb, excelling, probably, their first performance.

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CANNOT one of the "great heads," so numerous at the present time, suggest some satisfactory means of solving the "seating" problem? There is always more or less dissatisfaction among the subscribers of the various musical societies over this point. We had at one time a strong conviction that the method lately followed by the Toronto Choral society—having no reserved seats—was the best, and indeed that method has many advantages, not the least of which is that it insures punctuality on the part of the audience. Still it also has its disadvantages. A society, after all is said and done, depends, to a very great extent, upon its honorary subscription list for its efficient existence, and only enthusiasts will be content to wait in a concert-room a dreary half-hour or so, before a programme to last some two hours and a half, though such is the only means of securing a fairly good seat where none are reserved. The people who form the bulk of the honorary membership will soon drop out unless means are provided by which they shall have a reasonable chance of securing