

History of Music in McGill.

Although music has not yet obtained a permanent footing in McGill, many efforts have been made from time to time to cultivate musical taste among the students, and to improve college singing. As far back as 1860, a philharmonic society was organized, and a professor of music appointed as conductor, but misunderstandings arose, and unfortunately the society was short lived. The conductor wanted his daughters to assist at the practices, the authorities objected, eventually the society died out. The next serious attempt to introduce music officially into the University was in connection with the "Founders Festival"—James McGill was born 6th October, 1744, hence 6th October is called Founders Day, and used to be celebrated by a Conversation or Festival, usually in the month of November, to which the friends of the University and prominent citizens were invited. When the Military were stationed in the city, "Founders' Festival" was always one of the great social events of the season—the officers took an active part in decorating the Wm. Molson Hall and corridors with evergreens and bunting. A military band played throughout the evening, and the *élite* of the city joined with professors and students to do honor to the memory of the illustrious founder. From 1865 to 1869, the students met at the house of Mr. Bayne, Registrar of the University, to rehearse college songs and choruses. The following are the programmes of two "Founders Festivals."

November 29th, 1866

Wedding March—(Mendelssohn)—Band 25th K.O.B.
Address—(B. Chamberlain, M.A., B.C.L.)—The Chairman.
Chorus—"Alma Mater"—Students
Overture—"Italiana in Algieri"—Band.
Address—"The Vice-Chancellor."
Oboe Solo—Cavatina from Nornin ("Rossini")—Sig. Barri-

celli.

Valse—La Mazurka (Godfrey)—Band.
Reading—John Andrew, Esq.
Chorus—"Trancidillo"—Students.
Selection—From "Traviata" (Verdi)—Band.
Address—On behalf of the University Society.
Duet—Euphonia and Cornet (Donizetti)—Band.
Reading—John Andrew, Esq.
Oboe Solo—Cavat from Lucretia Borgia (Bellini)—Sig.

Barricelli.

Address—On behalf of the Undergraduates.
Air—from "Rigoletto" (Verdi)—Band.
Chorus—"Gaudeamus"—Students.
Valse—"Farewell"—(Relle)—Band
God Save the Queen—Band.

Mr. F. H. Torrington, *Pianist*.

27th November, 1868.

Overture—L'Italiana in Algieri (Rossini)—Band 60th Rifles.
Address—On behalf of University Society.
Chorus—"Gaudeamus"—Students.
Song—"McAppan," Martha (Plotow)—Mr. C. J. Geddes.
Selection—Le Pré aux clercs (Herold)—Band.
Song—The Day is done (Balse)—A Lady Amateur.
Address—On behalf of the Students.
Song—"Vi Ravoiso." Soumbambula (Bellini)—Mr. Reid Taylor.

Aria—(Beyson)—Clarinet Solo.
Song—"The Village Blacksmith" (Weiss)—Mr. C. J. Geddes.
Selection—"Martha" (Plotow)—Band.
Song—"The Menage" (Blumenthal)—Lady Amateur.

Variations—"Mary of Argyle"—Cornet Solo.
Song—"Hearts of Oak" (Boyce)—Mr. Reid Taylor.
Chorus—Students.
Valse—"Die Weiber," (Lanner)—Band.
Vivat Regina!

Mr. F. H. Torrington, *Pianist*.

In 1871-72, Dr. Harrington, an enthusiastic lover of music, and a lecturer in the University (then a bachelor, and living on Beaver Hall Hill), had the practice meetings at his own house, and acted as accompanist himself. In 1872, the Founders Festival music differed from that of previous years by the absence of students, songs and choruses, and instead, the prominence of solos. Professor Armstrong, who had recently come from England to join the Department of Applied Science, as professor of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, had a fine baritone voice, and contributed much to that year's entertainment.

The programme on that occasion was as follows:—

26th January, 1872.

Overture—"Zampa" (Herold)—Gruenwald's Orchestra.
Song—"Quando ate lieta" (Gounod)—Mr. Kedsle.
Quadrille—"Fest" (Jos. Strauss)—Orchestra.
Song—"Notte a Giorno" (Mozart)—Prof. Armstrong.
Medley of Scotch Airs—Orchestra.
Song—"Merry Birds" (Gumbert)—Mr. Brailey.
Overture—"Tancredi" (Rossini)—Orchestra.
Duet—"Cruel Perche" (Mozart)—Mr. Kedsle and Prof. Armstrong.
Valse—"Mince Kinder" (Jos. Strauss)—Orchestra.
Song—"Nightingale's Trill" (Gonz)—Mr. Brailey.
Selection from "La Gazza Cadra" (Rossini)—Orchestra.
Song—"Will he Come?" (Sullivan)—Prof. Armstrong.
God Save the Queen.

Dr. Harrington, *Pianist*.

In 1876, a University Glee Club was organized, the officers being: President, Dr. Harrington; Secretary, Mr. A. Taylor; Conductor, Mr. E. Houghton. A public concert was given in the Wm. Molson Hall, and the following year another was given in aid of the Montreal General Hospital; of the latter, the following was the programme:—

31th February, 1877.

Part I.

Overture—Organ and Piano "A night in Grenada" (Kreutzer)
—Dr. C. F. Davies and Mr. Houghton.
Carol—"The first Nowell" (Traditional)—Glee Club.
Flute Solo—"Fantaisie sur un air National Russe" (Heinemeyer)—Mr. Quinones—A Student.
Glee—"Hark the Lark" (Dr. Cooke)—Glee Club.
Piano Solo—Andante Sonata, G major, opus 14 (Beethoven)
—Mr. Houghton.
Carol—"Good King Wenceslas" (Traditional)—Glee Club.
Sextette—"The Cloud Capt. Towers," Stevens—Glee Club.

Part II.

Carol—"The Boar's Head" (Traditional)—Glee Club.
Duet—Organ and Piano, "Tancredi"—Dr. Davies and Mr. Houghton.
Quartette—"Integer Vetae" (Fleming)—Glee Club.
Chorus—from "Lily of Killarney" (Benedict)—Glee Club.
Piano Solo—"Tarantelle" (Heller)—Mr. Houghton.
Carol—"The Manger Throne" (Dr. Steggat)—Glee Club.
Glee—"King Arthur" (Old English)—Glee Club.

God Save the Queen.
(To be Continued)

G. F. S.