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## MR. A. T. CRINGAN.

ALEXANDER THOM CRINGAN, now one of the best vocal music teachers, and the apostle of the Tonic Sol-fa method in Toronto, was born in 1860, in Lanark, Scotland. He joined a choir at eight years of age, and received his first impulse to adopt the musical profession from the precentor of the church. His father, intending him to succeed him in business, gave him a thorough business training; and while in Glasgow, finishing his course, he studied music under the best masters available. He was appointed choir-master at 18, and held the position with success for four years. He renounced all idea of business and vigorously pursued his musical studies, winning a three-year Scholarship from the Tonic Sol-fa Coll., London, and while there studied under such men as Behnke, the eminent scientist and lecturer on voice physiology, Droudman, of Paris prize-choir-fame, and McNaught, Inspector of Government Training Colleges. He received a thoroughly sound musical education, specially fitting him for teaching, and gained a Certificate of Graduation and as Licentiate, being the youngest man who at that time had passed these examinations. He decided to come to Canada in fall of 1885, coming direct to Toronto, where he has now established the Tonic Sol-Fa system, against considerable opposition from a source which was pledged to support him, for unfortunately, Toronto is not without its disagreeable side in musical matters. All opposition has, however, melted away under the influence of what this system has shown itself able to produce. Mr. Cringan established the Tonic Sol-Fa Society for the study of lighter works by this system, producing them without accompaniment, and meeting with great success (see the reports in this Journal, Feb., 1887). He was appointed music master, Toronto Public Schools, and at once began teaching the system, and has had under his training 16,000 pupils and 220 teachers. Another of his organizations is the Juvenile Select Choir, the members of which are from the ranks of the Public Schools. Mr. Cringan has been twice selected by the American

Vocal Music Association to conduct the Teachers' Institute in New York, and has received several large offers to reside in the U. S., but has refused them all. He is choir-master of the Central Presbyterian Church, his choir having made great advances under his direction. He edited the "Canadian Music Course," which has proved successful and meets with the approval of the teachers; though not officially authorized, the first edition being sold in less than six months. Mr. Cringan will teach Tonic Sol-Fa in Mr. Torrington's new College of Music.

He is the happy possessor of a pure tenor voice. In conclusion Mr. Cringan is a thorough gentleman, and a reliable man, and is one of those pushing Scotchmen who make the world turn round, and should he remove from amongst us the results of his judicious and conscientious training of our children would even now be inestimable.



## SIR JOHN STAINER.

THE honour of knighthood conferred by the Queen upon Sir John Stainer is thoroughly well deserved. Sir John is certainly the most eminent church musician now living in England, and he has also done useful work in other branches of art. Born in London on June 6, 1840, Stainer was originally a chorister boy at St. Paul's Cathedral, where he entered in 1847. He remained at St. Paul's until his voice broke at the age of sixteen. But even as a boy young Stainer was considered a "prodigy" player. While at St. Paul's he learnt harmony under Bayley, and counterpoint under Steggall. Miss Hackett took an interest in him, and paid his fees to study organ playing under George Cooper at St. Sepulchre's. At the age of twelve Stainer sang the soprano part in his master Steggall's degree exercise at Cambridge, and at the age of fourteen he took his first organist's appointment at the church of St. Benedict and St. Peter, Paul's-wharf. In 1856 he resigned that berth and left London, having accepted the offer of Sir F. Gore Ouseley to become organist at St. Michael's College, Tenbury. In 1859 he matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford. In 1860 he went to Magdalen