

this Society, but the training of its singers was productive of lasting benefit, many of our most successful singers dating their love for choral music to the opportunities for progressive study afforded by the rehearsal of the high class works from time to time produced by the Society.

The Sacred Harmonic Society was next organized, and Mr. Geo. Robinson, who, in 1869, had succeeded Mr. P. Grossman as leader of what is now so well known as the "Thirteenth Battalion Band," was made conductor. Mr. Grossman, who had been a band leader for a great many years, desired to retire from that work, and Mr. Robinson has held his position since the date mentioned, (with the exception of a very short interval) until the present; and the band has been brought to a state of perfection which is creditable alike to its leader, its members, and the city it has so worthily represented in its particular line. The Sacred Harmonic Society's work included three performances of the "Creation," on April 9 and 10, and again on April 17, 1878, with Mrs. Caldwell, Miss Maggie Barr, Mrs. Keltie, and Messrs. J. Herald, W. H. Clark and J. F. Egan, as soloists. The performances were most successful in every way. In this year also two performances of "The Messiah" were given on the evenings of Thursday and Friday, Dec. 26 and 27. Mr. Geo. Robinson was the conductor, and Mr. W. E. Fairclough the organist. The soloists were: sopranos, Mrs. Caldwell, Miss Egan, Miss Chittenden and Miss Jones; contraltos, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Chittenden, Mrs. Bull, and Miss Howard; tenors, Joseph Herald, James Johnson, and C. Powis; basses, J. F. Egan, W. H. Clark, and Jas. A. Patton. The officers of this Society were: Messrs. B. E. Charlton, president; Geo. Roach, first vice-president; J. F. Egan, second vice-president; Thos. Littlehales, treasurer; J. A. Patton, secretary. On April 14, 1879, the Sacred Harmonic Society gave a performance of oratorio selections under Mr. Geo. Robinson, among the soloists being Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Chittenden, Miss Chittenden, Mr. Joseph Herald, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. W. H. Clark, and Mr. J. F. Egan. In August following the Society prepared a programme to be given in Dundurn park, but on the day of the performance the weather was unpropitious, and after a few numbers had been sung, under the baton of Mr. L. H. Parker, while the choristers were pealing forth a song of praise the rain came down in torrents and put an end to their rejoicings and to the concert.

On April 13, 1880, a performance of Rossini's "Stabat Mater" was given, with chorus, orchestra and organ, in Christ Church Cathedral; Canon Givins making an address before the musical service began. The conductor was Mr. Geo. Robinson, with Mr. W. E. Fairclough at the organ. The soloists were: Mrs. Caldwell, soprano; Miss Maddison,