

quite unequal to the demands of such a number. Affectation in speech should be carefully avoided in singing. Such errors as the following will have a depreciating effect upon a song in other respects ever so well sung, viz., "Behold Him!" Here the long note is sustained upon the vowel *o* which should have the long sound as in *bow*, and not be pronounced from the lips and front of mouth as *our* (beheured him). Again, "Darkly brooding seems to *lour*." *Lour* here rhymes with *power*, but the vowel *o* was vocalized as *e*, making *leur* of the word, *onxious* for *anxious*, &c. These in themselves are errors easy of correction, and we point them out in a spirit of friendly criticism. "Love Sounds the Alarm," (*Acis and Galatea*, Handel), is utterly beyond Mr. Jenkin's powers as a vocalist, and was rendered, rather than sung, by sheer force of muscle. Mr. Jenkin's evident musical taste and naturally good voice, deserves better treatment at his own hands. The concert closed with the Quintette and chorus, "Ah, 'Mid Shades of Error," (*Trovatore*) Verdi, by Chorus and Orchestra. This dramatic and rather lengthy number was spiritedly rendered and received an *encore*. Toward the latter part of the evening Mr. Nordheimer, the president of the society, addressed the house, and in a few well turned sentences on behalf of the society, thanked the audience for the generous manner in which they had assembled, and told them he was pleased to be able to state that the Philharmonic Society was now on a substantial basis. Taking the concert as a whole, we congratulate the society upon its success, and shall look forward with pleasant anticipation to the next one, to take place toward the latter part of the season, when "Judah Maccabeus" will be presented.

### THE RATIONAL SINGING-BIRDS.

In days of yore, it happened that the inhabitants of a certain beautiful island took much pleasure in the varied songs of the birds with which the land abounded. So delighted were they with the melody which many of them poured forth that they would sit for hours to listen to them, and bribe them to sing by every means in their power. The birds, thus pampered, became somewhat idle; and finding that the admiring crowds beneath were easily satisfied, they hopped about from tree to tree, enjoying their freedom, and contended both with the applause and with the more solid remuneration which their exertions produced.

Now, when matters had gone on in this manner for some time, it came to pass that the listeners under the trees grew by degrees thinner and thinner. The birds sang as well as ever; but the auditors were restless, and began to mutter amongst themselves. Many, who had previously been the foremost in their applause, now turned away and smiled; and one day when a pretty little bird began her well-known song, which had always been favourably received, a person was distinctly heard to say that it was "nothing to what he'd heard the foreigners do."

The truth was now too evident to be doubted. A number of birds from the main land had evidently come over to this peaceable island to take the seed out of the mouths of the natives. A general consternation ensued; and it was agreed that they should proceed, in a body, to the place where their enemies were assembled, and convince themselves of their misery.

Scarcely had they flown more than half a mile, when the most delicious notes burst upon their ear, and they shortly arrived at a beautiful amphitheatre, where crowds of persons were assembled. The stranger birds, perched upon the surrounding trees, were singing in the most enchanting manner, and the audience were tempting them to remain by throwing the things they most delighted in before them. Ever and anon a favourite bird would descend from a tree, and picking up two or three of these articles, fly with them to his companions, amidst the applause of the spectators; and then they would sing more beautifully than before, and the air around was filled with melody.

The native birds could not help acknowledging to themselves the superiority of the song of these foreigners to their own; yet a feeling of envy took possession of them, which they did not care to question the justice of. They imagined that the public ought to listen to them in preference, because they were all *born and reared* upon the island; and they accordingly came to the resolution of henceforth considering themselves very ill-used birds.

As they could not meet their opponents in an open trial of skill, it was agreed that they should peck at them whenever they could get an opportunity; and this was consequently forthwith acted upon. Stimulating themselves by the cry of "native talent!" they endeavoured to prove that no bird had a right to sing, save in his own country; and, by an analogous chain of reasoning, that no patriotic person ought to desire him to do so. During this petty war, many wise birds would continually represent to their weaker companions the folly and irrationality of their conduct; but it was of little avail; and the good old counsellor was usually told, more emphatically than delicately, to "shut his beak."

But what rendered this encroachment upon their privileges the more galling was that the foreign warblers only stayed a few months, and then flew away in a body, carrying with them large stores of what, by right, belonged to the natives. At first it was thought that, as soon as they had taken their departure, the old state of things might be brought back. Even this hope, however, was deceptive; for although the original vocalists filled the trees and warbled as before, the country was deserted, and the few passers-by were not of a class to be attracted by their voices. They waited in patience. But when the warm weather returned, and the country around resumed its green attire, one by one, the trees were filled with the birds from over the sea, and audiences admired and applauded as before.

For many years matters went on thus. At length the native birds, tired of continually pecking at their rivals, began seriously to consider how it was that their song was so much admired, and whether this admiration was really traceable to the mere fact of their coming from a foreign country. This rational mode of viewing the case gradually spread; and many even who had hitherto pecked most unmercifully at the foreigners, began to see that it would be much better to meet them in a spirit of friendship. Accordingly it was agreed that they should all be invited to discuss the matter fairly and openly, and an early day was fixed upon for the purpose. A beautiful part of the country was selected, and every accommodation that could be thought of was made for the guests. A soft mossy bank, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding landscape, was fixed upon for their use. The peculiar seed, and other food, to which they were accustomed in their own country, was plentifully strewed within their reach, and small vessels of the purest water were placed to each bird, so that he could dip his beak into it without moving from his warm place in the moss.

The morning was charming; and the gay chirping of the birds, as they arrived at the appointed spot, from various parts of the island, shewed that the invitation had been numerous accepted. As soon as a sufficient number had assembled, one of the native birds rose and opened the business of the meeting. He began by stating that they had all come to the resolution of throwing aside any lurking feeling