

is assumed in the command to prepare for the Divine advent which is declaimed with the utmost dignity. The air to which this leads is at once a joyous and devout enunciation of the reign of peace that is to prevail throughout the earth. There is great merit in the manner in which the first phrase in this air is worked, both in the accompaniment and in the voice part, and a remarkably grand effect is produced upon the repetition of the words "*Every valley shall be exalted*," where a very hold modulation takes place. Handel's notable weakness for word-painting is to be traced in the sinuous passage set to the words "*the crooked straight, and the rough places plain*," but the beauty of the passage pardons the weakness and silences criticism.

5. ANTHEM..... "Judge Me, O God"..... *Mendelssohn*
CORONATION CHOIR PARTY.

"Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation, O deliver me from deceitful and unjust men. For Thou art the God of my strength; O why dost Thou cast me from Thee? Wherefore mourn I because the enemy sorely oppresseth me? Send out Thy light and truth, Lord; O let them lead me and bring me unto Thy holy hill and to Thy dwelling place. And then will I go to the altar of God, the God of my joy. I will praise Thee upon the harp, O my God. O my soul, why art thou cast downward, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in the Lord, O my soul, for I will praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my gracious Lord and God."

Mendelssohn in his treatment of this Psalm has not pretended to be scientific, but has just thrown life and feeling into the sublime character of the words which makes one forget the vehicle and live only in the noble sentiment of the text. This Motette of great nobility was originally composed for the Cathedral choir of Berlin, Germany, and was selected by the late Mr. Henry Leslie to be sung by his famous London Choir at the International Choral competition which took place at Paris in 1878, at the suggestion of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (now King Edward VII.), and at which, by the unanimous vote of the thirty-two judges, the English choristers were awarded the first prize.

6. SOLO AND CHORUS. ... "O Thou That Tellest." *Handel*
MADAME M. HOOTON (*Contralto*) AND UNITED CHOIRS.

"O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain: O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God.

"Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

This, another beautiful number from Handel's "*Messiah*," is, in its broad, clear and continuous melody, an acceptable relief to the more declamatory character of the music that precedes it. But not as a relief only is it acceptable; we can but admire the charming effect which occurs several times by the voice sustaining the key note while the accompaniment descends. Handel has used this method elsewhere, but never with more effect than in the present instance.