

It is a new experience to watch the hush which comes over the multitude packed into Main Hall, when this great musician raises his cornet to his lips, and as he proceeds to perform impossibilities, to whisper as light as the zephyr's murmur to the rose, or ring out a challenge like him "whose blast upon a bugle horn was worth ten thousand men," the excitement becomes painfully intense.

This is how they advertise talent in Baltimore. Some of our local *impresarios*, when at a loss how to describe their artists, may find the descriptions of service: "The flute-voiced cantatrice, Miss Lulu Richardson; the melting tenor soloist, Mr. L. G. Gibbs; sympathetic tenor soloist, Mr. G. W. Palmer; the mellow, rich basso soloist, Mr. S. G. Wesley; the world-entrancing basso soloist, Mr. F. Johnston, and the grand *ore rotundo* baritone soloist, Mr. William F. Taylor."

PATTI begins another "farewell" American tour on December 8. The United States, Canada, and Mexico will be included and grand opera will be played. Let us hope that it will be modern grand opera, and not altogether that of the past generation, and we also devoutly pray that she will not, this time, adopt the baneful "star" system, but bring a support that may be in a measure worthy of her. In the meantime, as long as America pays her about four times as much per performance as England does, Patti's farewells may fairly be expected to be perennial.

MR. TORRINGTON has been the recipient of a complimentary notice in the *American Musician* nearly a page in length, with illustrations of his well-known face and of the College of Music.

B. NATURAL.

NOTES.

JOSEF HOFMANN's young rival, Hegner, appears to be a genuine musical prodigy. The *London Times* speaks of one of his recent performances as follows:—"The piano-forte recital given by little Otto Hegner at St. James' Hall was an occasion of special interest for those among the numerous audience who have watched, and continue to watch, the progress of the boy pianist's powers as time goes on and programmes become more ambitious. All controversy as to the nature of those powers may be considered at an end. Events by this time have clearly shown that, as far as young Hegner at any rate is concerned, no undue strain upon the faculties has been imposed either by study or by the fatigue incidental to public appearances; that here, in short, is one of those cases, familiar enough to readers of musical biography, where an exceptional gift, following its natural course, obtains exceptionally early development, and the so-called precocity is a thing of seeming, not of reality."

A NEW operetta, by B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier will be produced at the Lyric Theatre, April 30. "Dorothy" will be withdrawn April 13, after a run of 938 performances.

NAT. GOODWIN opens his new play, *A Gold Mine*, in New York, on March 4. He claims that the character of "Silas K. Woolsoote" will fit him better than any he has ever had before.

THE 200th performance of *Nadja* takes place on March 8th. *Nadja* is highly remunerative to its managers, but not to its composer, M. Chassaigne, who disposed of his rights in the opera over a year ago for £1,000; since then it has been performed in America at the Avenue Theatre, London, to upwards of \$400,000, and royalties have been paid to the amount of \$40,000.

MILLE RHEA has completed negotiations for a new play on a historical subject, which will admit of handsome scenery and beautiful costumes. The accomplished actress is delighted with the principal rôle. She will produce it next season.

PSALMODY in its modern sense may be regarded as having originated in the sixteenth century, when Clement Marek, the court poet of Francis I., translated fifty-two psalms into French verse. Psalm-singing was at first a fashionable amusement of the gay courtiers of Francis.

THE Czar of Russia has donated the St. Petersburg Balshey Teatr' (Grand Theatre) to Anton Rubinstein, the director of the local Imperial Conservatory, who intends to transform the immense edifice into a concert hall and class rooms for the use of the institution over which he presides. The Grand Theatre was for many years the home of the Imperial Italian opera and was abandoned owing to doubts as to its stability; it will be entirely rebuilt at a cost of 3,000,000 roubles (about \$1,200,000) and it is expected that it will be ready for occupancy about 1892.

NEW MUSIC.

WE have received from Messrs. Oliver Ditson and Company, Boston, the *Popular Piano Collection*. A splendid collection of good piano music, in one large book, sheet music size, finely printed and bound, which has just been published, and will, without doubt, find a ready welcome among all who admire music that is above the ordinary, and yet not too difficult for the young player. The choice piano pieces in this new book are by the well-known composers, Bohm, Behr, Ardit, Wilon, Mack, Sudds, King, Hoffman, Eilenberg, Lange, Popp, Goerdeler, Smith and others, and have been carefully selected, with the view of satisfying tastes and meeting the requirements of ordinary performers on the piano. \$1.

The same publishers have recently issued:—*Gethsemans* ("Thy will be done"). A sacred song; words by Alois Volkmer; music by Odoardo Barri. 35 cents.

Across the Bridge. A song by George L. Brun.
Sleep, Baby, Sleep. A lullaby; words by Ada M. Simpson; music by J. DeW. Lovett.
Polonaise, by L. Gobbaerts.
An Old Garden. A song; words by Helen M. Burnside; music by Hope Temple.
Expand Thy Wings Celestial Dove; Soprano Solo and Quartet, by F. D. Andrews.
The Angels' Serenade (La Serenata), by Braga. Transcription by Sidney Smith.

MESSRS. SUCKLING AND SONS, Toronto, have recently published Canadian Copyright Editions of two songs—*Thy Captive*. Words by William Boosey; music by Frank L. Moir. 50 cents.
More and More. Words by John Muir; music by F. Paolo Tosti. 50 cents.

LIBRARY TABLE.

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY. Edited by Leslie Stephen. Vol. XVII. Edward—Erskine. New York: Macmillan and Co.; London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1889; Toronto: Williamson and Co. \$3.75.

When it is remarked that this volume begins with the Edwards, it will readily be judged that it will be one of the most interesting of all which have yet appeared; and so in fact it turns out. There is indeed a prodigious amount of information on English history furnished in the present volume, with marvellous accuracy, and in a form so interesting as to be still more marvellous in a book which is described as a "Dictionary."

The very first article on Edward the Elder, son and successor of Alfred the Great, is brief, yet full, and gives an excellent notice of the reign of the "unconquered King," as Florence of Worcester, calls him. This article, like most of those on this period is from the pen of Mr. Hunt, who is thoroughly at home in this period of history, and shows himself a true and loyal disciple of his great master, Dr. Freeman. He writes the following article on the brief reign and tragic ending of Edward the Martyr, murdered at the instigation of his step-mother, so that his place might be taken by Ethelred the Unready—a crime which proved the cause of "woes unnumbered," directly and indirectly, to the English people.

Very admirable, too, is the article on Edward the Confessor, giving as complete and accurate an account of the disputed questions of the time as perhaps will ever be possible. Here we see the truth about Godwin and Harold and the great William; and how the fortunes of nations are determined by what seems to men the merest accidents, although there are higher points of view from which such subjects may be regarded. The account of the founding of the great Abbey of Westminster, with the brief references to its subsequent history, is, of course, full of interest.

The article on Edward I., "the greatest of the Plantagenets," is admirable from beginning to end. It is one of the strange contradictions of character that Henry III., the English king who was the most completely under foreign influences of any sovereign of the period, should have been precisely that member of the great Angevin family who was most jealous of his rights to be an Englishman. He was the first descendant of the Conqueror who was English-born, and in whose reign English began to be the prevailing language of high and low throughout the kingdom. Glorifying in his descent from the old Saxon stock, he rebuilt the choir of Westminster Abbey in honour of the Confessor, and called his eldest son by his name. Hence, all the line of the Edwards from the First to the Sixth. To the present generation it will probably be given to see a Seventh. As far as we can judge, Mr. Hunt's treatment of the difficulties of the first Edward's reign is thoroughly satisfactory. The story of his wildish youth among his foreign retainers will be new to many readers of English history. The story of Queen Eleanor sucking the poison out of her husband's wound is discredited, and still more strongly under "Eleanor." The question of the rights of the English Crown over Scotland or any part of it is stated accurately, and probably neither Scotsmen nor Englishmen will find any serious fault with the writer's statements, especially if they are tolerably well informed and sensible. Mr. Hunt mentions the king's dying request that his bones might be carried at the head of the army in the campaign against the Scotch, and the manner in which it was disregarded. Dean Stanley used to point out that the tomb of Edward I., with its well-known inscription, "Malleus Scotorum," was the only royal tomb in the Confessor's chapel which had no canopy—a difference which may have been occasioned by the wish to preserve the appearance of conforming to the desire of the king. As a matter of fact, there was a wooden canopy which was destroyed by fire and never restored. And this circumstance may equally harmonize with the Dean's theory of the tomb being left in such a condition that the body might, if necessary, be removed.

The history of Edward II., and his miseries and misfortunes is treated at considerable length. Mr. Hunt here gives place to Professor Tout, who has no doubt that the ordinary account of the king's death is the correct one. He mentions the story of Edward's having escaped from Berkeley Castle, and, "after long wanderings in Ireland, England, the Low Countries and France, ended his life in a hermit's cell in Lombardy," and some of our readers may remember an attempt made, a few years ago, in some of the periodicals, to give evidence to this story; but there is no real doubt that Edward was murdered, in the most barbarous manner, in Berkeley Castle, and that his remains

were deposited and still remain in the splendid tomb which stands on the north side of the choir in Gloucester Cathedral.

Of the great Edward III., Mr. Hunt says: "In person he was graceful, and his face was 'as the face of a god.' His manners were courtly and his voice winning. He was strong and active, and loved hunting, hawking, the practice of knightly exercises, and, above all, war itself." The glorious story of his reign—with the eternal memory of Crécy and Poitiers—and, alas! also the inglorious end of it, are too well-known to need anything more than a reference to them; and the same may be said of his great son, Edward the Black Prince.

Touching King Edward VI. we have a very excellent article, but is Mr. Lee correct in saying that "no monument marked the grave?" Unless we are greatly mistaken, an altar tomb was placed over the remains of Edward VI. to the west of Henry VII.'s tomb. This altar tomb, in memory of the only Puritan King that England ever had, Dean Stanley used to tell visitors, was the only monument destroyed by the Puritans in Westminster Abbey during "the great rebellion." Stanley, however, found a piece of the white marble of the tomb in the king's grave, and from that had the whole tomb reconstructed, working the fragment of the old one into the structure. It may be interesting to remember that it was at this altar that Stanley gathered the New Testament revisers in 1869, to receive the Holy Communion before beginning their work.

We are indebted to Dr. Jessopp for an enjoyable article on Queen Elizabeth, written with his usual literary ability, although perhaps not with the exact accuracy which is generally found in these columns. As one instance of a slight slip, attention has been drawn to his speaking of "Shane O'Neil's savage murder in a characteristic Irish brawl and massacre," whereas O'Neil was murdered by the Scots under young Alister McDonnell. This has been pointed out in the *Academy* by the Rev. H. S. Fagan; and we imagine that there is no doubt of the fact. We must, however, add that Dr. Jessopp's view of the character of the great queen commends itself to our judgment, and we recommend it to those who have formed hasty and superficial views of her character and reign.

Among the minor notices, we came upon the name of one who had somewhat more than a local reputation, especially among campanologists, the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe. We need hardly say that we have crowds of Ellises and Elliots and Eliots and Elliotts and Eliotts. But we must hold our hand. We think we have said enough to show the extreme value and interest of this volume; and we can assure our readers that it would be quite easy to pass over all the illustrious names which we have mentioned, and yet find matter no less attractive than that which we have indicated.

THE MANIFOLD CYCLOPEDIA. Vol. XI. Debt—Dominie. New York: John B. Alden. Pp. 640. Cloth, 50 cents; half Morocco, 65 cents.

This volume has all the commendable characteristics of its predecessors. All the subjects have been treated with sufficient fulness for all practical purposes, and we cannot see that any title of importance has been omitted. Among the articles treated at some length we notice that Debt with its subheads has over seven pages; while kindred topics such as Debtor and Creditor occupy over six pages more. Democracy has about seven pages; Denmark nearly ten pages; Dentistry about six pages; Descent of Man six pages; Development, eleven pages. Diet, eight pages; Digestion, twenty-three pages; Diphtheria, five pages, and nearly eight pages are devoted to the Devil, demonology, witchcraft, etc. Detroit occupies four pages, while two were deemed sufficient for a statesman like Disraeli.

PORTFOLIO PAPERS. By Philip Gilbert Hamerton. Boston: Roberts Bros; Toronto: Williamson & Co., 1889.

In this volume Mr. Hamerton has collected a number of biographies and essays originally published in the *Portfolio* of which he is the editor. He has made his "selection on the principle of keeping only what was of permanent value, at least as to subject." Mr. Hamerton is one of the most accomplished and authoritative of living writers on matters pertaining to art; and the attractiveness of his style is no less conspicuous than the soundness of his judgments. In the first part of the present volume he gives biographical and critical sketches of Constable, Etty, Chintreuil, Adrien, Guignet and Goya. The "Notes on Aesthetics," "Essays" and "Conversations" are full of instruction and suggestion. The essays are on "Style," "Soul and Matter in the Fine Arts," "The Value of the Fine Arts" and "Can Science help Art?" The "Conversations" are on the subject of "Book Illustration," and the discussions, which are carried on by the Poet, the Artist, the Critic and the Scientist, and present the art of illustration from many points of view, have a distinctly practical value altogether apart from their literary charm. The volume, which is printed in clear, bold type and tastefully bound, has for frontispiece a portrait of the author sketched from the life by Henri Manesse.

THE STORY OF MEDIEVAL FRANCE. By Gustave Masson, B.A. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: T. Fisher Unwin; Toronto: Williamson and Co. \$1.50.

This volume of the "Story of the Nations" series covers the period of French history from 987 to 1515, from the accession of the first Capetian king to the death of Louis XII. and the dawn of the Reformation. The period is