

artist explained. "To catch the action I used to sit in the back of a sleigh and sketch the dogs following, for the wolf more closely resembles the dog than any other animal," and wonderfully well he has caught the springing action in each figure, especially the nearest one in which the head reaches eagerly forward. On comparing Mr. Thompson's brushwork in his water pictures with that done several years ago, a very great difference will at once be noticed; in the first mentioned, it is so much rarer, looser, and more assured, with a keener sense of values. Just here it may be said that in many of the snow studies, the result of many hours' study in the cold, in order to get the true relation of the fur to the colors of the snow, a skin is often taken by this artist and thrown on the snow, a gain in the direction of truth. Mr. Thompson's "den," as he calls it, evidently belongs to the hunter as well as the naturalist and the artist. In addition to collections of birds and animals are shelves of books, portfolios of sketches, skins of wolves and foxes and other "beasties" on floor and wall (the trophies of many a hunt), weapons of different nationalities, Indian curiosities of belt, headdress, and other adornment; horns of elk, buffalo and deer; a blanket of unique design, the work of the Navajo Indians, which had been its owner's close companion for months during his recent trip to Mexico; also several excellent casts of animals. Then there is the artist's usual litter, which here means paper and pencil as well as brush and canvas, sketches and pictures framed and unframed. One little one, a cabin on a wide prairie, was the artist's wild home for more than a year in Manitoba. Since Mr. Thompson's return from Mexico last fall, where, by the way, he killed in one way and another as many as one hundred and twenty wolves, he has been working steadily in his studio here, but expects to leave soon for Paris, there to study under his former master, Bougereau, and also with the sculptor, Fremiet. He will of course resign his position as naturalist for the Province of Manitoba. With him will go the unfinished pictures which will probably find place in the Salon before we again see them. Success to both them and their author, say we. Mr. Thompson is of English birth and parentage, though for many years a resident in Canada, being a son of Mr. Joseph L. Thompson, and a brother of Mr. John Enoch Thompson, Spanish Consul, and Alderman of the city of Toronto.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The pupils of Mr. H. W. Webster, the well-known baritone and teacher of singing, will give a recital in St. George's Hall on Friday evening, June 5th.

Several vocal scholarships are to be competed for during the week of the Musical Festival, given by Mrs. Cameron and the College of Music. The voices are required to be either tenor or soprano.

On Tuesday evening last, 29th inst., Miss Bella Geddes, a pupil of Mr. Edward Fisher, gave an interesting recital of piano music in the Conservatory Hall, when she proved herself quite a skilful pianiste.

The piano pupils of Miss Maud Gordon gave a recital in the Conservatory Music Hall on the evening of the 22nd inst., varied by local selections, when those taking

part exhibited fluent technic and a thoroughly musical tone. The programme, which is entirely modern, was most interesting and enjoyable, and the manner in which each number was performed, reflected much credit on Miss Gordon. The hall was filled with an appreciative audience.

The piano pupils of Mr. H. M. Field gave a recital in the Hall of the College of Music, one evening of last week, to an audience so large that many could not gain admission. Unfortunately we were unable to be present, and as we have not a programme, cannot give the various items and by whom performed, nor can we say definitely as to the manner of performance, but judging from the brilliant way in which Mr. Field's pupils usually play we have no doubt that those who were there heard some good piano playing.

On Tuesday evening last, the choir of Beverley St. Baptist church gave a sacred concert, when John Farmer's simple yet effective oratorio "Christ and His Soldiers" was performed. The following were the soloists: Miss Maggie Huston, soprano; Miss Flint, contralto; Messrs. W. A. Putland and Robert Gorrie, tenors; and Mr. F. T. Verral, bass. Mr. W. J. McNally, the organist and choirmaster of the church, was the conductor, and can be complimented on his efficient choir and on the excellent performance of the above work.

Arthur Friedheim, the famous pianist, who makes his second appearance in this city at the Musical Festival Concerts, has been on a tour with the Boston Festival Orchestra and has had overwhelming success in every city where he has appeared. The *Montreal Star* says regarding his recent performance in that city, that his playing of Liszt's E flat Concerto and the 6th Rhapsody, which he gave as an encore, could not be excelled, if equalled by any living pianist. To hear Friedheim is to have an exciting musical experience. He thrills and delights with his pure, noble quality of tone; his refined expressive phrasing, delicate and finished effects in pianissimo passages, and in the rush of sound which he develops in his climaxes, is like a huge tidal wave breaking on a rocky shore. The *Boston Advertiser* says:—"He is better than marvellous, though all of that, for he is a true artist. His fingers sing in truth about the prophets of the beautiful, and yet he often plays as if bent upon accomplishing the impossible, and this without the slightest show of victory. He is a king of pianists, having a wider domain almost than any other."

We are glad to learn that the subscription lists for the opening of the Massey Music Hall on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of June are rapidly filling up, and everything points to full houses at each performance. This is as it should be, for apart from the excellence of the programmes which will be offered, our citizens should show their appreciation of the gift presented to them by Mr. Massey, by filling the excellent and commodious hall to overflowing. The programmes are of infinite variety and attractiveness, and the soloists the very best obtainable on the continent. Think for a moment who these are! Miss Emma Juch, the distinguished and beautiful soprano; Miss Lillian Blauvelt, also a soprano of remarkable cultivation, Mrs. Carl Alves, the favorite and popular contralto. Mr. W. H. Reiger, tenor; Dr. Carl Duft, bass; Mr. Herbert L. Clarke, cornetist; and the eminent and great Friedheim, solo pianist. These will

all appear in solos at the miscellaneous concerts, and all but the latter in the "Messiah" and "Wreck of the Hesperus" as well. The chorus, it is said, is the best which has ever yet been got together in Toronto, and is singing superbly, with capital swing and well balanced tone. The festival orchestra, also under Mr. Torrington's direction, of some 70 pieces, are likewise doing good work and are expected to play with unusual brilliancy. These concerts are certainly of great artistic importance, and will attract many from other cities and towns throughout Canada. We must not forget mentioning what will be to many a great delight—the singing of 1,000 school children, under Mr. Cringan's able direction. Surely variety has been kept in view in planning these magnificent programmes, all of which could be heard with the greatest pleasure and profit.

LIBRARY TABLE.

DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY. Vol. XXXVIII. Milman—More. Price, \$3.75. New York: Macmillan. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1894.

There are an unusual number of names of eminence in this volume. Indeed the name of Milton is a host in itself. But the first names are not to be passed by, those of Sir Francis Milman, and his greater son, Henry Hart Milman, Dean of St. Paul's, and author of the "History of Latin Christianity." Some of the great qualities of this work are acknowledged by Dr. Garnett, the author of the article; but we should have liked it better if the praise had been given somewhat less grudgingly. Milman is a very considerable historian indeed, and freer from bias than most of those who would be placed before him by the ordinary reader. There are two good papers on the two Milnes; and full justice is done to their contributions to Church History. There is a genial and appreciative memoir of R. Monckton Milnes, afterwards Lord Houghton, a man very worthy of such a memorial.

But the great article in this volume is that on John Milton; and it consoles us for Mr. Leslie Stephen having had to give up the editorship of the dictionary, when we find that the time and strength he saves from the work of editing are given to the production of that admirable series of papers which each succeeding volume of the work is found to contain. The memoir of Milton is of suitable length and thoroughly satisfactory in every particular. The different periods of Milton's life are so well known that we need not even refer to them. But the following sketch may interest our readers: "Milton's appearance and manners are described with little difference by Aubrey, Phillips and Richardson. He was rather below the middle height, but well made, with light brown or auburn hair, and delicate complexion. He was stately and courteous, though he could be satirical. He would sit at his house door in a grey coarse cloth coat in fine weather to receive visitors; indoors, he is described as neatly dressed in black, pale but not cadaverous. . . . Aubrey and Toland tell us that he rose as early as four in summer and five in winter. Before breakfast the Bible was read to him in Hebrew. He afterwards read or dictated till mid-day, when he dined very temperately. He took some exercise, walking when possible, and in bad weather swinging. He always had music in the afternoon. He then retired for a time, but again saw his friends after six o'clock, had a supper of olives or some light thing at eight, and after a pipe and a glass of water went to bed." The bibliography of Milton is very full and complete.

A name known now to but few is deservedly placed on these pages, that of the excellent Robert Mimpriss, the Sunday School worker. Another, better known for the present, at least, is William Minto, late Professor at Aberdeen. The Mitchels and Mitchells are