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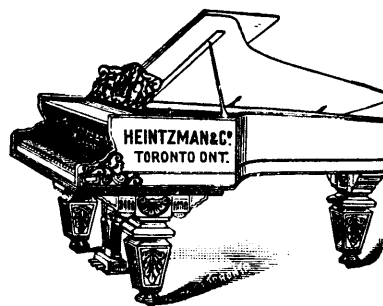
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The Canadian Musician

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

BY WHALEY, ROYCE & CO., 158 YONGE ST.
TORONTO, CANADA.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 PER ANNUM.

CORRESPONDENCE pertaining to musical matters solicited, and must reach the editorial department by the 10th of the month. Write on one side only.

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THE CANADIAN MUSICIAN
158 YONGE STREET, TORONTO, CAN.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1893.

SOME weeks ago currency was given to a rumor that the New York Symphony Orchestra, Walter Damrosch, conductor, was being completely reorganized upon a basis of 50 per cent reduction of salary expenses, which so involved a change of membership that only 15 of the original players were retained. Now Morris Reno, the manager, is out with a disclaimer stating "that these reports are absolutely incorrect and untrue. Nearly all of the former members have been re-engaged, and no material reduction has been made in salaries. Some changes have been made (principally among the wood-wind players,) not for economy, but to strengthen the organization."

* * *

It is claimed that there are now in England 500,000 people who have learned to sing by the tonic sol fa method. A concert was recently given at the Crystal Palace, London, at which 5,000 juveniles and 3,000 adults took part. As a test of skill copies of a specially composed anthem were placed in the hands of the chorus after they had taken their seats, and this sight singing test was quite successful.

* * *

RECENT additions made by Mr. Torrington to the staff of the Toronto College of Music are Mr. Klingefeld, solo violinist, and Mr. Adolph Ruth, solo 'cellist. Both gentlemen are new comers to Toronto but their advance reputation is high in character.

THE hard times prevailing in the United States cannot fail to seriously affect the coming musical season. This will be felt more in the domain of grand opera than anything else, but a probable result will be that a large number of concert companies will travel, and it will not be surprising if, on the whole, we in Canada fare rather better than usual, because times are not so bad with us as with our American cousins. Already negotiations are pending for the appearance in Toronto of De Pachmann, Marteau, Friedheim and Aus der Ohe.

* * *

THE New York *Musical Courier* for some time has been re-iterating statements and publishing American official statistics to show that pianos of Canadian manufacture were being ousted in this country by American instruments. Everyone in Canada of course knows that any such "official" information must be crazily astray, and in the *Musical Courier's* issue of September 13th, its Toronto correspondent gives statistics from Mr. N. Clarke Wallace, Dominion Comptroller of Customs, which clearly show how contrary is the actual condition of things. Among the tables is the following:

"COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of musical instruments imported into Canada from the United States during the years ending June 30th 1892 and 1893, respectively. Imported from the United States—Organs, Cabinet, 1892, number 165, value \$13,998; 1893, number 134, value \$14,305. Organs, Pipe, 1892, number 4, value \$2,292; 1893, number 3, value \$4,200. Pianos, all kinds, 1892, number 529, value \$144,672; 1893, number 419, value 111,350. All other musical instruments and parts of, 1892, value \$134,311; 1893, value \$147,708. Total, 1892, \$295,298; 1893, \$277,563. These figures prove that the importation of American pianos fell off in the later year to the tune of 110 which represent \$33,222 in valuation.

* * *

FROM Mr. M. Walkinshaw, of St. Catharines, we have received a copy of a recently published waltz entitled "Garden City Waltzes," for piano, by S. Max. Walkinshaw. It is dedicated to the ladies of St. Catharines and will no doubt be exceedingly popular. The music is melodious, the construction in good form and the time is well marked for dancing.

THE French are bewailing the decadence of the trumpet, states the *Musical Courier*. It takes three years to make a good trumpeter, and the limitation of service to three years does not allow time for proper training. The trumpet and the drum are necessary to rouse the ardor of the soldier; the trumpet must not be menaced. Did not Solomon have 200,000 trumpeters? Thence his fame and glory. As he had 700 wives and 800 concubines this is 200 trumpeters for each lady. Was not Jericho captured with trumpets? Nay, did not Bonaparte win the battle of Arcola by the powers of twenty-five trumpeters, who scared the Austrians out of their boots? In fact every great general has been devoted to his trumpet. "The trumpet shrills clear in the blue sky in which the Gallic rooster flaps his wings."

The Germans meanwhile have invented a new model of a drum. The diameter of this instrument is greater than that of the present one, but is lighter and cheaper and has more metallic tone.

* * *

THE largest amount of the best quality in the quickest time should be the desire of every excellent teacher. It is not enough to get the designed results *sometime*, but in the *shortest* time. Many teachers of music pride themselves upon their motto: "slow, but sure." That is not a good motto. A better one is, "Quick and sure." The train that makes the fastest time in safety is the that one gets the business. The machine that can make the most pins or watches in the shortest time is best. This is but a common-sense proposition, yet many teachers only think of good results and are wholly unconcerned in regard to the time required to gain it. They ignore the fact that the time of the pupil is as money. This proposition needs no argument. Let teachers think seriously how the pupil can avoid needless practise, how this, that and the other thing can be concentrated, and how the goal can be reached by this or that short cut. In this direction methods must be improved. It does *not* require years in which to become a fairly good reader of music. It does *not* require a long time to gain good breath management. It does *not* require a long time to become a good singer. The fault is in a slow coach method.—*Song Friend*.