

ing taken place on the 6th of October. The programme of selections looks enticing and is sure to prove so ; amongst works that have not been performed before at these concerts we notice the *symphonie caractéristique* of Berlioz ; *Harold en Italie*, Raff's "Waldsingfonie," of Liszt ; a new Rhapsodie for full orchestra of Reinicke ; an orchestral "In Memoriam," of Saint-Saëns ; *La Ronet d'Omphale* and *La Jeunesse d'Hercule*, and new works by Arthur Sullivan, Prout, Hatton, Benedict and Macfarren.

Mr. Mapleson's huge venture in the shape of a National Opera House seems to have collapsed, as from the pages of the "Architect" we learn the probability of its being turned into a hotel. Pity that it cannot be shipped as it is to America and be directed to Strakosch, who not very long ago had a similar idea for New York, but from some pecuniary reason failed to carry it out. The two impressarios can at least shake hands in their undertaking.

Mdme. Anna Bishop has actually come once more before an English public, and the pity is that she has done so foolish a thing. By the younger London generation her name is almost forgotten, and by the older generation her age is too well known to admit of countenancing her singing again. She recently gave "Let the bright Seraphim," and some operatic scene at Madame Tiebhart's concert, but disapprobation was extreme, and certainly time can not have stayed still with her to the exception of every other artist, for ten years ago her voice was but a wreck of what it had been, and it can scarcely have improved since then.

Madame Ethelka Gerster has been staying at Kissingen after the fatigue of the season ; after paying a visit to her mother she will proceed to Baden where she will sing before the Emperor of Germany ; after that she goes where sooner or later every *prima donna* must try her fate, to St. Petersburg.

The German pianoforte trade, especially at Berlin, has suffered a heavy blow from the recent imposition of a duty of 100 roubles on every piano imported into Russia. The trade was previously very large, as in all the Czar's dominions there are only three pianoforte manufactories of any note.

Mr. F. S. Gilmore has completed an arrangement with Sheridan Shook to give thirty monster concerts at the Hippodrome, New York. The net proceeds are to be devoted to paying the expenses of Mr. Gilmore's band during their projected European tour.

The German Operatic Company, under the management of Mr. T. C. Fryer, opened at the Boston Theatre on the 15th of October, afterwards visiting Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco.

Madame Annette Essipoff has been engaged for forty concerts, to be given in different towns of the German Empire, and for which she will receive 18,000 marks.

Dr. Julius Rietz, the intimate friend of Mendelssohn and one of the most distinguished of the present generation of German musicians, died at Dresden on the 12th ult., in the 65th year of his age.

Both the Leeds and Gloucester Festivals have passed off most brilliantly. Albani has been chief soprano at both, while in the contralto music of "Solomon," and in other selections as well, Madame Paten has proved herself again the perfect artiste we all know her to be. Santley, Lloyd and Cumming shared the honour, while to Sir Michael Costa, at the latter Festival, was awarded, perhaps, more than his share of applause.