

muddy rivulets, was found at a great distance from the original spring. They answered, "All water must be most pure at its source." The king answered, "Mount ye up then to the pure fountain of St. Gregory, whose chant ye have corrupted." He then applied to the Pope for singing masters, and the Pope appointed Theodore and Benedict, two chanters of great learning and ability, who had been taught by Gregory himself. He also granted to him choral books of that saint which he had written himself in Roman notes. One of the masters was sent to Metz, the other to Soissons. He commanded all the singing masters of his kingdom to correct their choral books, and to conform in all respects to the Roman manner of performing the church service. Thus were the French Antiphonaria corrected, which had before vitiated, interpolated, and abridged, at the pleasure of every choirman; and all the chanters of France learnt from the Romans the chant they now call the French chant. But as for the beats, trills, shakes and accents of the Italians, the French were never able to execute or express them, nor for want of sufficient flexibility in the organ of voice, were they capable of imitating in those graces anything but the guttural and tremulous noise of goats. The principal school was established at Metz, whose singers surpassed all the rest of the schools. The Roman chanters also taught those of France the art of organizing.

BREVES AND SEMIBREVES.

SHERIDAN, scholar, wit and spendthrift, being dunned by a tailor to pay at least the interest on his bill, answered that it was not his *interest* to pay the *principle*, nor his *principle* to pay the *interest*.

MOZART'S MUSICAL TOIL.—"It is a very great error," says Mozart, "to suppose that my art has been so very easily acquired. I assure you that there is scarcely anyone who has so worked at the study of composition as I have. You could hardly mention any famous composer whose writings I have not diligently and repeatedly studied throughout."

A MUSICAL ABSURDITY.—Henry Lawes, who composed the music of Milton's "Mask of Comus," is said to have been the first who introduced the Italian style of music into England, but he strongly censured the prevailing fondness for Italian words. "To make the public sensible of this ridiculous humor," says he, "I took a table or index of old Italian songs, and this index (which read together made a strange medley of nonsense), I set to a varied air, and gave out that it came from Italy, whereby it hath passed for a rare Italian Song."

MR. FREDERICK BOSCOVITZ, the pianist who was recently located in Chicago, gave the first of a series of two pianoforte recitals in the First M. E. Church of that city, on last Thursday evening, before an audience largely composed of musicians. The programme was one calculated to please the most exacting *connoisseur*, and Mr. Boscovitz, it is said, fully sustained his reputation. The *concerto* in A minor, Cp. 16, by Grieg, came first on the programme, and served to display the wealth of technique of which Mr. Boscovitz is master.

THE Paris *claque* is admirably organized. It is not by any means the random collection of admiring friends of an actor or author which goes by that name elsewhere. It is a carefully trained body of professionals. The *commissaire* learns the plan by heart and calls the attention of his neighbors to its beauties, repeating the most strik-

ing passages in his enthusiasm. The *rieur* is a fellow with a contagious laugh who catches every joke and makes the echoes of the theatre ring with his appreciation of it. The *pleureuse* weeps copiously at the pathetic passages. The *chatouillieur* exerts himself to keep the audience in good humor by various little arts. With fifty or sixty of these people scattered through the house the representation of a play cannot fail to appear successful, especially as the *claque* must all be familiar with its best points and trained to emphasize them with applause.

MUSICAL GOSSIP.

THE Toronto Choral Society are diligently rehearsing for their first concert, the date of which has not yet been decided upon.

THE Silver Medal, annually offered for competition by the Toronto College of Music, may be seen in the window of Messrs. Kent Bros., Yonge Street.

AT the request of the King of Saxony, an opera is being rehearsed at Stuttgart, which was composed by the father of Eugen, the late Duke of Wurtemberg.

EDMUND KRETSCHMER's opera *Heinrich der Lome*, has been enthusiastically received in Dresden. The composer is a strong adherent of the Wagner school, and the success of his opera is another triumph of progress.

REFERRING to the new opera *Lancelot*, composed by Hentschel, and lately given at Leipsig, *Le Menestrel* says, "there is a good deal of talent in the work, but it is too servile an imitation of the style and peculiarities of Wagner."

THE Notation and choral class of the Toronto College of Music meets for practice every Monday evening at half-past seven o'clock. Application for membership may be made to the Secretary of the College, 237 Simcoe-street.

THE Philharmonic Society, Chorus and Orchestra, are diligently practising and preparing for their chief annual concert, which promises to be one of the best yet given to the citizens of Toronto. The date for the concert is not yet announced.

A SUCCESSFUL concert was given at the St. James' School Rooms on the evening of the 9th Nov. The programme was carried out by Miss Robinson, Captain Geddes, Miss McCutcheon, Mr. Shuch, and others. Mr. Rose acting as conductor in his usual efficient manner.

MRS. GRIMES wants to know who the "Lover of Music" is whose gushing letter about "Satter's" playing, was copied from a Montreal paper by the *Globe* of the 26th Nov., and whether under the guise of that *non de plume*, a certain piano firm, much more interested in Dollars than Art, may not be hidden.

MISS FLORENCE COPLESTON is spoken of by the *Musical Review*, New York, as a very talented pianist, and prints the programme of the last of a series of three pianoforte recitals. The twelve numbers which it contains are divided into five groups, and embrace compositions by Beethoven, Bach, Haydn, Rubenstein, Chopin, Reinecke and op. 46 for two pianos (Schuman), in which she is assisted by Mr. Joseffy.

AT the Toronto College of Music, forty-two pupils have this season registered their names on the books. Four of these are taking the Art course, and will go up for examination next June, when they will be awarded the first, second and third prize and Silver Medal which the College offers annually for competition, together with a certificate of proficiency according to merit.

AT the Associate Reformed Church, Fayette Street, Baltimore, on Wednesday morning, 24th November, the matrimonial knot was tied which bound together in the bond of wedlock Mr. Fred Stieff (member of the firm of Chas. M. Stieff & Co., piano-forte manufacturers) and Miss Sarah U. Waters (daughter of R. T. Waters, Esq.) both of Baltimore. THE ARION, sending his congratulations from afar respectfully begs the acceptance of the Xmas number as his humble contribution to the bride's presents.