

THE TORONTO CHORAL SOCIETY.

THE next work of this society, of which Mr. Edward Fisher is the musical director, will be a Cantata, the music of which has just been expressly written by Sig. d'Auria, and which will be produced toward the end of the current season. As an original composition it will be one of the most important ever attempted by a musician resident in Canada. Sig. d'Auria's well-established reputation is a guarantee all-sufficient that the work will be of a refined, dignified and musicianly character. The Libretto is the work of another member of the Conservatory Faculty, Mrs. Edward Jarvis, and the title will be "The Sea King's Bride." Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday next in the hall usually occupied by the Choral Society for that purpose in the Y. M. C. A. building.

THE second Henschel recital was given on Saturday night at the College of Music and was even more enjoyable than the first one. A brilliant programme was delivered with the refinement and artistic grace which have made Mr. and Mrs. Henschel famous.

THE Oddfellows' concert on Thursday, May 2, will have for its soloists Mrs. Caldwell, Miss Maud Burdette, of Belleville, Mr. Warrington, and others. Miss Burdette will be found a charming addition to our concert forces; her singing of Handel's "Lascia ch'io pianga" at the recent Service of Song at the Church of the Redeemer well displayed her fine voice and good training, as well as her sympathetic delivery.

WHAT would have been a general calamity to the stage has happily passed away without apparent permanent results. At Rochester, two weeks ago, Mr. Edwin Booth was stricken with paralysis, and his partner in work, Mr. Lawrence Barrett, was so influenced by the blow, that under the excitement of the moment he spoke of Mr. Booth's death as being impending. For this he has been severely criticized by the press, who have ascribed to him most unworthy motives. In the meantime, Mr. Booth is recovering, his illness having been caused by excessive smoking, and by this date he will probably have rejoined Barrett.

THE Conservatory String Quartette will give its first concert on Monday, 29th inst., when it will play Mendelssohn's Quartette, No. 1, Op. 12; Haydn's Quartette, in D Minor, Op. 76, both complete, beside Moszkowski's "Serenade," Op. 15, and a Minuetto by Pessard. Violin and cello solos, besides songs by Mrs. Clara E. Shilton and Mr. E. W. Schuch, will also be on the programme.

NEXT week, Thomas W. Keene plays an engagement at the Grand Opera House so varied, that it reminds one of the old days of stock companies and visiting stars. "Richelieu," "Richard III.," "Julius Caesar," "The Merchant of Venice," "Hamlet," and "Othello," make a bill of fare sufficiently varied to suit all tastes. Mr. O. B. Sheppard has his annual benefit on Monday evening, and for the splendid roll of attractions he has given us this year should be rewarded with a bumper house.

B NATURAL.

THE NEW MUSIC HALL AND ITS ADJUNCTS.

THE new Music Hall now in course of erection on King Street, west of York Street, was commenced with the intention of making it to seat an audience of 2,800. After visiting New York and consulting well known musical authorities there, the proprietor has thought it advisable to reduce the capacity of the auditorium and make other alterations from the original plans. Some musical enthusiasts advocate the erection of a hall to seat 4,000; but it is doubtful if an artist like Patti ever could fill such a building more than two or three times a year, while the interest and expense account would far exceed the receipts. In reducing the capacity of the new hall to 1,700 or 1,800 provision has been made to increase it another 1,000 by the addition of a horseshoe gallery whenever it appears that more seats are required.

The suite of reception rooms in connection with the building form a special feature and are the outcome of the existing social craze for large receptions, "At Homes," etc. These rooms are quite distinct from the large hall and consist of dressing rooms, supper room, drawing room and ball room. The latter will be a handsome room about the size of the dancing floor of the Pavilion, within the gallery posts. The whole suite will be handsomely decorated and furnished; and will easily accommodate a public ball of 200 couples. Without the ball room the suite will accommodate nearly half that number; and will be rented for private parties, dinners, suppers, etc. The café underneath will communicate directly with the supper room and will be in charge of a first-class caterer. Those of our readers who have attended "At Homes" of a hundred or more in houses which fifty would crowd will appreciate the comfort and convenience of these rooms where everything is ready without turning one's house upside down.

What is intended is to make the new Academy of Music *par excellence* the centre of high class music and art and to gather around it the influence and support of the cultured and educated classes. With this object an Art Gallery will be established and annual exhibitions of paintings held. The first of these exhibitions will probably be held in October next as soon as the building is completed when gold and silver medals will be offered for competition.

LIBRARY TABLE.

NATIONAL INHERITANCE. By Francis Galton, F.R.S. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1889.

This is Mr. Galton's latest treatise on a subject and in a field of investigation which he has made almost exclusively his own. Whatever one may think of his conclusions, no one who has any adequate conception of "Science" can find fault with either the spirit of the author or the manner in which his investigations are carried on. It would be impossible here to do anything like justice to the details of his method, which is in general observation, experiment and generalization; but it is simple justice to say that no effort to reach general laws by an induction from phenomena was ever made with more scrupulous care, or with a more intelligent use of the inductive method. The problem he has undertaken to solve is one of extreme difficulty, and he does not profess to have done more than furnish a contribution toward its solution; but by publishing what this work contains he has made it possible to secure the intelligent co-operation of hosts of co-workers wherever his book is read, and in this way he has done a far greater service to Science than perhaps he thought of when he wrote it. Whether Science will ever be able to find out to what extent the nature of the child is determined by conditions antecedent to birth is still very doubtful; but if the doubt on the subject is hereafter set at rest, much of the credit of getting rid of it must always be accorded to Mr. Galton for the labour, the patience and the ingenuity which he has brought to bear on the question of heredity.

LE CANADA-FRANCAISE. Revue, publiée sous la direction d'un Comité de Professeurs de l'Université Laval. Quebec: L. J. Demers & Frère.

As a specimen of present day French-Canadian literature the *Canada-Français* makes an excellent showing. Considerable space is devoted to the treatment of historical subjects. In the April number there are two continued papers of great historical value: one by A. Gerin-Lajoie, on "Ten Years in Canada—from 1840 to 1850," and "The Country of the Great Lakes in the Seventeenth Century," by Benjamin Sulte. Papers on widely varying subjects appear, such as "On the Adoption of the Meridian of Jerusalem as the Standard of Cosmopolitan Time," and "State Socialism." Poetry and fiction have also a place in this able quarterly. Other features are a Scientific Chronicle and European Review.

THE chief articles in the current number of *Temple Bar*, besides the continued serials, are "Crown Prince Rudolph"—an interesting account of the tragic death of Emperor Francis Joseph's only son; "Round About Dotheboy's Hall"—an entertaining holiday ramble to the scene of Squeer's School in "Nicholas Nickleby;" and a gossip article on "Disraeli the Younger."

OUTING, for April, has a varied and entertaining bill of fare, rendered the more attractive by its many beautiful woodcuts. The chief contributions for the month are papers on "Racing in England as it is," "The Larchmont Yacht Club," "Cricket in Australia," "Canoeing on the Tippecanoe," "Big Game Hunting in the Wild West," "Coursing in Ireland," "A Wheelman's Fatalities," "Clumber Spaniels," and "Evolution of Form in College Rowing"—part II. There is also some very good verse in the issue, and an article on Sport in Canada, under the title of "Trouting Fishing in the Gros Bois," a lumbering region close by the stream known as Des Anges, some sixty miles east of Quebec. This, and the article on Yachting, will doubtless attract numberless readers.

THE more notable articles in the April issue of the *Magazine of American History* are the Editor's paper on "Washington and Some of his Contemporaries," called forth by the approaching centennial anniversary of Washington's election as President of the United States; the Hon. Mr. McKernan's "Reminiscences of Washington City," and a contribution from the Hon. J. W. Longley, of Halifax, N.S., entitled "The Romance of Adèle Hugo," a pathetic story of love and desertion with which Halifax is identified in connection with the career of a daughter of Victor Hugo. We shall endeavour to find room for this sad story in either the present or in an early number of THE WEEK, therefore it is unnecessary to comment upon it, save to express our indebtedness to Mr. Longley for collecting the incidents and throwing them into form for publication.

THE present number of the *Andover Review*, besides its thoughtful editorials and book reviews, has three or four interesting contributed articles. To the literary student two at least of these articles will be found attractive, viz., Prof. Dewey's paper on "The Philosophy of Thomas Hill Green," the "Professor Grey" of Mrs. Humphrey Ward's novel "Robert Elsmere"; and Mr. Hamilton W. Mabie's paper on "The Poetry of Dante Gabriel Rossetti." The paper on Prof. "Green's Philosophy" thoughtfully sets before us the underlying motive, and something of the general character of that writer's philosophical work. For the preparation of this article the late Oxford professor's "Introduction to Hume" and his "Prolegomena to Ethics" have furnished material. From Prof. Dewey's criticism on Green's religious views we have space for one brief quotation: "Christ," he remarks, "was to Green, in actuality, what every man is in capacity; he was in reality what we are in idea. Undoubtedly he held that Christ was subject to the same

physical powers as all men; he would allow neither a miraculous birth, nor miraculous, that is, supernatural power; but morally and spiritually, he held Christ to have embodied in His personality perfect union with the Spirit of God. Furthermore, the self-abasement and the self-exaltation, which are the highest attainments of the moral life, find their adequate expression in language when termed sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ. For it is the death and resurrection of Jesus as eternal facts, as the fundamental expressions of the true life of the Spirit, that are of avail to us. We share in the death of Christ when we share in His spirit of absolute sacrifice of all self-seeking and selfish interest and will; we share in His resurrection when we share in the unity of His Spirit and Will with God's." "This," observes Prof. Dewey, is the highest expression of the ethics of Professor Green." Mr. Mabie has written a sympathetic and finely critical review of Rossetti, which we commend to the admirers of this gifted poet-artist. He shows us what Rossetti owes to Dante, which is the key to enable us to understand much of the work of the modern poet. "Over the Household of the Exiled Italian Soldier," remarks Mr. Mabie, "the memory of Dante continually hovered like the presence of the genius of a race. The great Florentine was not a tradition, the shadow of a mighty past, to the childhood of the poet; he was a continual and pervasive influence, penetrating his inmost life in its formative period, and leaving in the mind an image as clear and familiar as it was inspiring." What Rossetti's ideal was is clearly disclosed in the two arts which served him as interpreters with almost equal fidelity and power.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

ROBERT CLARKE AND COMPANY'S seasonable "List of Books on Angling, Hunting, Shooting, and Kindred Subjects" contains nearly five hundred titles.

MR. GAVIN HAMILTON has nearly completed a grammatical work on "The Moods in the English Bible." It will be published in Edinburgh.

THE "Life of John Bright," by Barnett Smith, is being entirely rewritten, and will no doubt be a standard on its subject. Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have the work in charge.

THE first edition of 5,000 copies of Mrs. Burnett's new story, "The Pretty Sister of Jose," was exhausted several days before the book was published, and a second edition has been printed.

AN authorized translation of "Garibaldi's Autobiography," as recently published in its final form, will be issued in London this month with *fac-similes* of some of the General's letters.

FOR European tourists the Scribners are about to issue a new and revised edition of their "Index Guide to Travel and Art Study in Europe." This is the only European guide which is illustrated, and especially devotes itself to art subjects.

THE appearance of Matthew Arnold's letters seems to be awaited impatiently in London. It is said that in the hands of another Froude Arnold's letters might be found to vie even with Carlyle's in frank criticism of his contemporaries.

ATTENTION is directed to the "History of Professor Paul," the first instalment of which appears in this issue. It is the first effort at book-making by Mr. Stuart Livingstone, a brilliant young lawyer of Hamilton, and will well repay perusal.

THE beautiful little edition of "Elia"—the first of the Temple Library—recently published by Macmillan and Company, is shortly to be followed by "The Poems and Plays of Oliver Goldsmith," edited by Austin Dobson, who has written an introduction, and added notes on some points not elucidated in previous editions of the poet. The book will contain six etchings by John Jellicoe and Herbert Railton.

THE Rev. John George Wood, the well known naturalist, died recently in England. The deceased did perhaps more to popularize the study of natural history than any writer of the present age. He was the son of a surgeon who was at one time chemical lecturer at the Middlesex Hospital, London. He was born in London in 1827, and was educated at Oxford. His most important book was his "Natural History," in three volumes. Mr. Wood edited for some time *The Boys' Own Magazine*, the pages of which periodical constantly contained work from his hands. He left no fortune, and a popular subscription in aid of his family has been started.

THE London *Academy* has the following about a Canadian romance: "The Young Seigneur" is an ambitious book, for the author's aim is nothing less than "to map out a future for the Canadian nation, which has hitherto been drifting without any plan." At the same time it is not a political work—for which the muse of fiction be thanked. As for Mr. Wilfrid Chateaucclair's qualification for his task there can be little doubt. He is obviously an ardent patriot and a careful and discriminating observer. His romance is, not less obviously, the production of a man of wide culture, refined taste and exceptional literary faculty; and as a picture of the most vital and characteristic aspects of French-Canadian life it is without rival. While everyone interested in Canada should read "The Young Seigneur," it deserves attention on its own merits as a romance. The *Atlantic Monthly* and other journals out of Canada have also spoken highly of the book.