

MUSIC OF THE MONTH.

During the past month, Alfred Jaell, assisted by Camilla Urso, has given two concerts. Jaell's mastery over his instrument is so well known throughout the country, that we should have thought that the announcement of a concert by him, would have filled the St. Lawrence Hall, and we were sorry to observe that, whether from the hot weather, or the season, the room was not more than three parts full.

Of Camilla Urso, we are at a loss to speak; words fail to describe the attractions of this interesting child, she must be heard and seen to be understood. Her performance we can designate by no other epithet than wonderful. Her execution, precision and delicacy, evince a master mind, and elicited as much applause as has ever been awarded to a violinist of maturer age in this country.

The pleasure derived from her playing was heightened by a modest bearing, tempered with self-possession, far beyond her years. Those who did not hear and see her, have lost a treat which the chances of musical life may never again afford them.

ROYAL LYCEUM: NORMA.

Thanks to Mr. Nickinson, Torontonians have been gratified with a sketch of an Italian Opera. A very good sketch it was, and one from which they could realise all the beauties of the composer.

The Theatre is so small that Devries voice was a little too loud, and the prompter was perhaps too audible, but these are minor imperfections. Coletti as Oroveso, both sang and acted remarkably well, and the chorusses were much better than those six years ago at the Astor Place Opera House. The Orchestra was, very fair, but rather too loud, and it would be as well for them, if they return, to keep in mind the size of the house. We shall not attempt to criticise, that an Entire Opera has been performed in Toronto is a great fact, and one worthy of a corner in a note-book. We saw it mentioned a short time ago in a daily journal that twenty years since, the opera was for the first time introduced into Scotland. We remember the circumstance well, and we remember

that the company was not as good as that which has just visited Toronto. Donzelli was a better tenor than Forté, but De Merie the prima donna, was not as finished a singer as Devries, and the Orchestra and Chorusses were certainly inferior.

The Italian Opera but a few years since, was unknown in New York. We again assert, then, that a prodigious stride has been made, and we would earnestly advise the Torontonians to fill up the subscription lists as speedily as possible, so as to induce the company to return. There are eighteen Operas on their list, which will afford a rich treat. A word now to the audience: Frequent applauding may evince much good nature, but at the same time it has the sure effect of making artists careless, as it must convince them that the applauders do not really know what or why they are applauding. Frequent interruptions are particularly inadmissible in an Opera, and we were as much amused at the first chorus girl being applauded, instead of Norma, as we were disgusted with the interruption in the midst of the "*Deh! con te.*" Nothing is admissible in Opera either as applause or encore except, at rare intervals, when some celebrated covatina or duet has been really well given, and when it will be a gratification to both artist and audience, to have an enthusiastic encore.

EXETER HALL.

Miss Greenfield (the Black Swan) gave a concert in the large room of the Hall on Wednesday evening, aided by several eminent *artistes*. From the great reputation heralded before her, much might have been anticipated; but after hearing the lady, all preconceived charm must have been woefully broken. Her first attempt, *The Cradle Song*, by Wallace, was marked throughout by an utter want of intonation, partly arising probably from nervousness; but the impression left on the audience was that her singing flat was for the most part a natural failure. In all her songs Miss Greenfield was equally unsuccessful, and *Home, Sweet Home* (which was not marked down in the programme) was never to our knowledge worse vocalized.