

the size and worth of our publication, but also to present it to our readers, *monthly*, during the college year.

MUSIC AND RELIGION.

A spirited article appeared in the *Witness* of Dec. 17th, under the above heading, referring to the action of a Presbyterian clergyman of Ottawa, who had the moral courage to "put his foot down" upon that most reprehensible custom, viz. : inducing popular vocalists to sing in our churches, advertising the performance in the daily papers, and thus turning our churches into mere music halls, where the worldling may go on Sunday to be entertained, degrading the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, to a mere incident in a musical performance. This practice, so pernicious in its influence, is all too common in some of our city churches, and it cannot be too severely condemned. We have read notices of Divine Services (!) to be held in some of our city churches, which, for a seductive setting forth of the charms of a published musical programme, would do credit to the advertising agent of some of the grand orchestral or vocal organizations, by which we are occasionally charmed in the Windsor Hall. The article in question upholds the action of this clergyman most vigorously, and we must acknowledge, without necessarily agreeing with all he says, that the general purport of his remarks has our most hearty approval. We, of the Church of England, have a particular interest in this question, music entering, as it does, so largely into our public services. The wide claims often made for music, that it is, *per se*, a great agent in the moral development of man, must be accepted with great caution and reservation, and the writer in question draws the logical conclusion, that if these claims are just, then speaking generally, we should expect to find in practice the results of its benign influence upon those who follow this divine art as the serious and constant occupation of their lives ; and expanding the application from the individual to the race, that those peoples who are characteristically musical, such as the Italians and Germans, must show the highest development of moral rectitude, or spiritual prosperity. But experience is notoriously against such conclusions, and we are forced to draw the inference that music, *per se*, is, at the best, a very feeble, if not neutral, moral agent ; as a matter-of-fact, music may be used to stir up all that is blood-thirsty and savage in man, as well as that which is noble and god-like. We would not wish our position, in regard to music, to be misunderstood, so would say that we regard music as one of the most beautiful and perfect gifts which God has given to his creature man, and, as an adjunct to the work of the Holy Spirit on man's moral nature, is of incalculable benefit ; and we can only say with what exquisite pleasure—with what a thrill of de-