

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The Philharmonic Society have prepared "Sullivan's Golden Legend" to be given in the Mutual Street Rink on the 6th of June. A large chorus has been rehearsing the work for some time, and with an efficient orchestra and good soloists, it should have a good production.

Edward Lloyd, the great English tenor, appears in the Pavilion this Friday evening, when he will be assisted by the charming and popular contralto, Mrs. F. McKelcan, (of Hamilton) Mr. F. Warrington basso, and Mr. John Cheshire harp. An interesting programme has been arranged, which, no doubt, will be both artistic and enjoyable.

A large audience gathered in St. George's Hall on the evening of the 25th of May to hear Mr. J. D. A. Tripp's third piano recital. On this occasion he was assisted by the Toronto Ladies' Quartette, composed of the following popular and well-known artists: Mme. d'Auria, first soprano; Mrs. Scrlinger-Massie, second soprano; Miss Edith Miller 1st alto; and Mrs. D. E. Cameron, 2nd alto. They sang with splendid ensemble, and beautiful shading, "The Poacher," "Maiden, O Come, Come, to Me!" both by Carl Pitag, and the "Blue Bells of Scotland," in each case winning an enthusiastic encore. Mr. Tripp played "Prelude and Fugue," in G sharp minor, Bach; "Warum?" Schumann; "Perpetuum Mobile," Weber; "The Blue Violet," Mendelssohn; "Air de Ballet," Moskowski; "Staccato Caprice," Vogrich; "Valse in E minor," Chopin; "March," Holst; "Nocturne," Field; and "Valse Caprice," Rubinstein. These numbers were all played skilfully, with excellent finish and sureness, especially good being the "Prelude and Fugue," "Vogrich's—Staccato Caprice," and Schumann's "Warum," although no fault could be found with the other numbers, unless it was that the "March" and the Rubinstein "Valse" were taken a trifle too fast, which in a measure destroyed their clearness and that the Chopin Valse was deficient in imagination and sentiment. Mr. Tripp was obliged to play two encore numbers, choosing Nevin's charming and falling "Narcissus" and Liszt's popular "Love Dream" No. 3, which were played in a style both poetic and pleasing.

The Orpheus Society which was organized last fall for the purpose of presenting operas as oratorios are performed—without action, costumes or scenery—gave its first public performance on Tuesday evening, May 23rd, to an audience which nearly filled the immense Mutual Street Rink. The work chosen was Rossini's "William Tell," and a chorus of some 250 voices was well drilled, although there was a preponderance of female voices over males, in consequence of which there was not a proper balance of tone. The soloists were Sig. Del Puente, Tell; Mr. Wm. Stephens, Arnold; Mme. Kronold-Koert, Matilda; Sig. Delasco, Melchthal and Walter; Mme. d'Auria, Jenny; Miss Edith Miller, Hedwiga; Mr. Warrington, Gessler; Mr. J. Hartley Dennison, Luodi and Rudolph; Mr. Chas. Baguley, Hunter. Signor Del Puente was in capital voice and gave a splendid interpretation of the title role. Mr. Stephens was also in good voice, but failed to make a good impression, partly because the music is written very high, and almost beyond the compass of his voice; consequently the tone did not carry, and partly because of the bad acoustical properties of the building. Mme. Kronold-Koert has a voice of most excellent quality, powerful and sweet, and her singing of the beautiful Romance, "Wild Craggy Hill" was really superb. Sig. Delasco, in the dual capacity of Melchthal and Walter, was very satisfactory, his deep and powerful voice creating a good impression. Mme. d'Auria, and Miss Miller gave eminent satisfaction in their parts, and sang with discrimination care and judgment. Mr. Dennison was entirely unfit for the excessively high and difficult music allotted to Luodi, and it was a mistake for him to attempt

to sing the part. His voice in the lower and medium registers is of pleasing quality, and where the music did not exceed this compass, he sang most acceptably. The chorus sang with splendid effect, considering the difficulty of singing in so vast a place, and the disproportionate balance of the parts before spoken of; and they deserve great credit for their painstaking and conscientious work. We do not remember ever hearing a local orchestra play so well as on this occasion. Sig. d'Auria is a really admirable conductor, who being an educated and really excellent artist, and moreover truly sensitive as to what constitutes refined beauty of tone colour, gets effects not hitherto attained from any local orchestra. The playing of the overture and the accompaniments was highly praiseworthy, although the accompaniments to some of the solos were too loud, so as to make voice almost inaudible; still the building may have had something to do with this, as it is totally unfit for any musical performance of the kind. Should the Society again produce an opera next year, we hope they will perform it in the Grand Opera House, as it should be produced with action, costume and scenery.

LIBRARY TABLE.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM: A Popular Exposition of the Gospel according to Matthew. By C. H. Spurgeon. Price \$1.50. New York: Baker and Taylor; Toronto: W. Briggs. 1893.

Dr. Pierson, who writes an Introduction to this volume, tells us that this is the latest and the ripest of Mr. Spurgeon's life's labours. We are not sure that we should rank it as high as his work on the Psalms, but it is remarkably good. For the devotional study of S. Matthew, it will be very helpful; and, if sometimes we desiderate rather deeper views of the spiritual connection of some parts of our Lord's teaching, the comments are never other than sensible, devout and practical. Even those who are not ill-provided with commentaries may do well to add this volume to their stock.

COSMOPOLIS. A Novel. By Paul Bourget. Price \$1.50. New York: Tait, Sons, and Co. 1893.

Powerful, but unwholesome, this is our judgment of the book before us. There can be no question of its power. The author of "The Disciple" may be counted upon in this respect, and we are not prepared to deny that the characters are drawn in a natural manner and act with consistency. Cosmopolis is Rome, and nearly all the characters in the book are, more or less, immoral, in the real and in the conventional sense of the word. We know that a great many persons are of opinion that this is the kind of novel which ought to be written, that it is true to nature, and, if we are disposed to be warned, it is full of warning. All this may be true, but we prefer the school of Walter Scott. Having said so much, we will say no more. Those who care for the kind of thing which we have indicated, will doubtless possess themselves of Cosmopolis.

JOHN PAGET. A Novel. By Sarah Barnwell Elliott. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1893.

This is at once a powerful and interesting story told in clear, crisp English. The author has the art of rendering vivid scenes which would be merely sensational but for the absorbing halo of realism, or to speak more accurately, of reality, which she has thrown over them. All this is, however, secondary. The real value of "John Paget" lies in the fact that it is a psychological study of quite an unusual nature. That John Paget, upon whom the interest of the story is to a certain extent centred, is in no respect

an admirable character, is not of any importance. The author shows us this nature, at once phlegmatic and stormy, religious and passionate, not by introducing him as one man in one chapter and as a totally different one in the next, but with the freedom which is born of a completely mastered analysis. "Elizabeth Marsden" and "Beatrice," two utterly opposite types of character, are admirably portrayed, while amongst the minor characters, "Mrs. Van Kuyster" is in herself an interesting study.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON ADDRESSES in Convocation Hall, Queen's University, Kingston. Published by the Students.

In two former years we have drawn attention to the admirable series of Sunday afternoon lectures delivered at Queen's College, Kingston. We are happy to say that this third series is, in no way, inferior to its predecessors. The first lecture by Principal Caven is worthy of his reputation as a profound, acute, and devout thinker. He answers the important question: "How shall study be so prosecuted as not to hurt the life of the soul, but, on the contrary, to minister to its growth and completeness?" Every earnest student will be helped by Dr. Caven's judicious guidance. Dr. Campbell's discourse is not quite on the old lines. For example, he says, "The prevailing Old Testament notion concerning God was that of an oriental monarch, subject to no law, ruling absolutely, sitting upon the circle of the earth and looking down upon its grasshoppers beneath"—which is a little too strong, since it is the conversion of poetical rhetoric into prose. The whole sermon is a little bold, but it sets forth, perhaps with some exaggeration, important truth. The Rev. A. Gandler speaks well and impressively on "Motives to Missionary Work," and is followed by Professor Watson, who gives us the "Lesson of Ecclesiastes" in such a manner as we have a right to expect from the profound and accomplished Professor of Philosophy in Queen's. Dr. Watson shows the truth and the imperfection of the pessimism of the remarkable book. In passing from a shallow optimism we must encounter some form of pessimism; but if we are true to ourselves, to reason and to history, we shall not acquiesce in this, but go forward to more hopeful views of the destiny of man and the triumph of good. Next comes Professor Symonds, who discourses admirably on the important subject of Continuity and Progress, so does Dr. Ross on the question: "Are Christ and His Teaching superseded?" Professor Shortt has a most useful discourse on "The Influence of daily occupations and surroundings on the life of the people," with special reference to our circumstances in Canada. The two discourses which follow are on the great subject of the Reunion of Churches. Rev. G. J. Low discusses the question with great ability, candour and moderation, and very wisely postpones questions which cannot at the present moment be dealt with. The second, on "Christ is Divided" is by the brilliant and eloquent Principal, Dr. Grant. The discussion is a very powerful one, demonstrating that denominationalism is not only inconsistent with the fundamental principle of Protestantism, but with the apostolic conception of the Church. No less striking are his calm and judicious remarks with respect to our immediate duty. Dr. Grant has a right to speak on this subject. He has already been the chief instrument in bringing about the union of Canadian Presbyterianism. The pamphlet concludes with an admirable Baccalaureate Sermon by Dr. Williamson, who has, we are told, been a Professor in Queens for fifty-one years.

Ravenstein's estimate of the earth's fertile region, in square miles, is 28,269,200; steppe, 18,901,000; desert, 4,180,000; polar region, 4,888,800.