

A GREAT CONCERT.

One of the greatest concerts ever given in Montreal, and certainly the greatest given during the past year, took place at Mechanics' Hall, on Tuesday, the 5th inst. Whether we consider the character of the artists, the quality of the programme, or the size and standing of the audience, it was a success to be long held in remembrance. Messrs. Prume and Lavallée have conquered the highest reputation in this city and throughout the Dominion, and when we add M. Jacquard to their number, we have a trio of which Montreal should not only be proud, but of which it should not, under any stress of circumstance, allow itself to be despoiled. With three such artists, as a nucleus, Montreal need not envy any city of its size on this continent, and there is no reason why they should not be employed to create a fine school of performers among us.

The main attraction of the concert was Mendelssohn's trio in C minor which, however, by what appears to us a mistake, was placed first on the list of performances, instead of being reserved for a later stage. It was executed to perfection, except that the Steinway Grand was too loud, and, by consequence, the soft thunders of the violoncello were veiled. But, through all and above all, sounded the warm, rich sounds of Mr. Prume's wonderful instrument, conveying fully the pathos and beautifully modulated meanings of the author. M. Prume, during the evening, delivered two solos, the first and allegro of Vieuxtemps which he interpreted to perfection, the second, a triplet of short compositions from Spohr, Gounod, and an old French writer of the last century, Leclair. These pieces gave him an occasion of displaying that variety of treatment and that skill of manifold adaptation without which no artist need aspire to the title of master. Might we be allowed to say, however, that at times there was a needless gush, an exercise of undue force in M. Prume's play? But we can hardly blame him for this when we consider the gratification he could not help feeling at the sight of the immense audience sitting spell-bound under his bow, and responsive with genuine appreciation to the varied and various merits of his performance. As to M. Lavallée, we have never seen or heard him in better form. His rendering of Mendelssohn's concerto in G minor was clear, subtle and sustained, while the selection from Weber proved once more his unquestioned mastery of the techniques of his instrument. But his masterpiece was the interpretation of a quiet meditative recital to which he imparted all its proper dreaminess, tenderness and recondite significance. M. Lavallée was less nervous and demonstrative than on former occasions, and impressed us with the idea of settling into a mood of thorough artistic earnestness. He is certainly a pianist of the best capabilities from whom we may expect the highest results. M. Jacquard seemed to wish to remain somewhat in the background, as if he were only an auxiliary in the programme. In the concerted parts, his violoncello was not quite sufficiently heard, and in his solo from Servais, although it was played with firmness and fidelity that would have delighted the old Belgian virtuoso, there was lack of mechanical intensity and a slackness in bowing which, quite evidently, are not inherent defects of the artist's playing. To us the violoncello is the king of instruments, and we recognize in M. Jacquard one of its best handlers. We trust to hear him again more prominently, and doing more justice to himself. We trust further that he will be induced to remain permanently among us. We have nothing to say in favor of the stringed quintet introduced to accompany some of the soloists. We object on principle to have amateurs mingled with professional artists, and in the present instance, this amateur quintet marred the effect intended by their want of homogeneity and precision. In the Mendelssohn concerto, they more than once distracted M. Lavallée's attention, and came near putting him out. Madame Prume is an instance of what can be accomplished by patient culture and a judicious method. Her voice is neither naturally strong nor rich, although sweet and sympathetic, but she has succeeded in so moulding it as to enable her to attempt a wide range of subjects. In the grand aria of the Queen of Night, from the Zamberflote, her voice was rather husky and lacked expression, but in the Valse de Concert, composed by M. Lavallée, and Kücken's Celestial Tear, she managed the scales with much skill. Altogether, Madame Prume may be set down as perhaps the most cultivated of our public vocalists, and what adds to her success is the charm of simplicity and unpretentiousness. We were informed that Mr. Maltby was hoarse, which will excuse his unsatisfactory singing, but does not account for his choice of songs. One innovation in this concert is noteworthy. Recalls were firmly declined, spite of the loudest efforts, and we trust this example will be hereafter universally followed. The audience was so large that the stairway and lobbies were filled, and a great number had to stand. Considering the unqualified success of this concert, we venture to express the hope that it may be the first of four or five during the present winter.

TREATIES WITH INDIANS.

In August and September last, under instructions from the Dominion Government, Lieut.-Governor Morris, of Manitoba, Hon. James Mackay and Hon. Mr. Christie met the Indians of the far North-West for the purposes of nego-

tiation. Two treaties were made with the Crees and other Indians—one at Carleton, on the Saskatchewan, and the other at Fort Pitt—under which the Indians ceded their rights over a district in the Fertile Belt estimated at 200,000 square miles. The treaties now made include all the Cree nation—and the Dominion may be said to have acquired nearly the whole of the territory within the Fertile Belt, and for some distance north of it—all the land east of the Rocky Mountains, in fact, except a district of not more than 1000 square miles, principally inhabited by Blackfeet. The portion yet untreated for may be roughly described as lying to the south of Red Deer River—along the Rocky Mountains—and from the Boundary Line to Bow River. The first treaty, a sketch of which we present to our readers in the present issue, was made on the 16th August, at Fort Carleton, on the Saskatchewan. Much difficulty was experienced in dealing with the Crees assembled here, who made demands of the most extravagant character. The Opposition was mainly composed of 70 lodges, who wanted a separate treaty on their own behalf. Each chief demanded \$100 a year—that a large steam mill should be erected on the reserve—and that farms should be broken out for the Indians; and even when these enormous demands came to be reduced, it was found that no treaty could be made without a horse and buggy being given to each chief. At this treaty there were 370 lodges of Crees, or between 2000 and 3000 in all. There were the River Crees, the Wood Indians from Sturgeon Lake, and the Low Bush and Plain Crees. The territory covered by the treaty extends from Sturgeon Lake to the Cumberland District, northwards to Beaver Lake and up to English River; thence to Green Lake, and across the country north of Red Deer Lake, and up the Athabasca River to Jasper House; from thence south, along the Rocky Mountain range to the headwaters of the Red Deer River, or South Saskatchewan. The line would follow the course of that river south to Buffalo Lake, and downwards to Bow River, where it joins No. Four Treaty-line (made in 1874 at Qu'Appelle).—From Bow River the land would run down the South Branch of the Saskatchewan till it intersects Treaty line No. Five. The terms ultimately agreed upon were as follows: Each man, woman, and child gets \$12 a head for this the first year, and \$5 a head per annum afterwards. The chiefs get \$25 each, and are allowed four councillors or headmen at \$15 apiece. Every family of five is to be allotted 160 acres as a homestead, and for the cultivation of the same is to be furnished with certain requisites, such as oxen, cows, ploughs, harrows, hoes, axes, &c. The above-mentioned articles will be divided in the following manner. To every family two oxen and axes, and to every three families, actual cultivators of the soil, a plough and harrow between them.—Every 20 lodges (and no chief is to be recognized with less than that number) will get between them for agricultural purposes two yoke of oxen and six cows, and each chief is to be furnished with a chest of tools for his hand. Besides his \$25 annuity, each chief is to be supplied with a horse and wagon, or, in lieu of the latter, two carts should be prefer them; and, further, every chief and councillor is to be provided with a new suit of clothes. Another proviso of the treaty was made to guard against actual starvation; and to this end the Indians insisted on a stipulation under which the Government agreed to expend yearly \$1000 for the next three years, in provisions to be distributed among such as are actually engaged in cultivating the soil.

The Indians also urged strongly that in times of starvation or sickness, they should be provided for. But the Commissioners were necessarily very guarded here, lest cases of starvation or sickness should multiply to an alarming extent. They told the Indians that in the event of a general famine throughout the country, or in case of plague or wide-spread sickness, the Government would do what it could to help the sufferers. Provision for ordinary sickness is to be made by sending a small chest of medicines to the agent on the reserve. The Commissioners next proceeded to Fort Pitt, at the north Branch of the Saskatchewan, where they arrived on the 5th September. Negotiations were opened on a Thursday, and by the following Saturday the treaty was duly signed, sealed and delivered. About one thousand Indians were present—Crees, Chipewyans from Green Lake and two or three families of Stonies. The terms made, in this instance, were identical with those agreed to by the Carleton chiefs, and the land covered by the Treaty is included in the 200,000 square miles, of which the bounds have been already given. Some of the Wood Assiniboines living in the Rocky Mountain House district, have not yet, we learn, formally come into this Treaty, though they were partly represented by the few families of Assiniboines taking part in the Fort Pitt proceedings.

OUR PICTURES.

DON GIOVANNI TAMBURINI.—As the varied excellencies and merits of Mozart's masterpiece, *Don Juan*, are perhaps less likely to be united again in a single opera than is the case of any other work of the same kind, so Antonio Tamburini possessed the characteristics requisite for performing the part of the hero in that celebrated production in a degree never yet equalled in the case of any other artist. This celebrated singer appeared on the boards in 1816, at the early age of 18, and during a career of nearly 40

years was without a rival in the greatest baritone parts. His death is reported to have occurred last month at Nice in his 77th year. He was the son of a handmaster at Faenza, and at the age of nine years was engaged in an orchestra as a bugle player; but a serious illness having obliged him to discontinue playing, he turned his attention to singing. He made rapid progress, and at 18 made a successful debut at Bologna. He appeared in succession at all the principal theatres at Turin, Rome, Naples, Milan, and in 1832, after having visited England, where he was warmly received, he appeared in Paris at the Italiens in *Cincentola*. For more than 20 years he continued a favourite with the French public, and as late as 1854 he sang in *Don Juan*. He had acquired a comfortable independence, and retired many years ago to Sevrès, where he usually resided.

THE EASTERN CONFERENCE.—We give to-day the portraits of Midhat Pasha, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Gen. Ignatieff, Russian Plenipotentiary to Constantinople. In a former issue appeared more extended notices of these two statesmen. Midhat is the greatest man in Turkey to-day, while Ignatieff is a disciple of the Gortschakoff school, who enjoys the additional advantage of a thorough knowledge of Turkish affairs. Both of them will take part in the approaching Conference.

THE DUCHESS OF AOSTA.—Delicate as she was, and simple as were her habits, 'The Queen'—whom the eighteen thousand washerwomen of the Manzanares call still by that title—loved to take walking exercises. Day by day she saw that the babies of the washerwomen of the river that ran so close at the foot of her husband's palace had no place wherein they might be put while their mothers were at work. The Queen, in her plain black silk walking-dress, went back to her husband and her palace, and said that night—it was winter, and she knew how often a flood came down and swept off in one afternoon three or four of those poor mother washerwomen—'I will build a chapel for the Madrid washerwomen, an orphanage for their children if they die, a nursery refuge or home, when they go down to Manzanares to wash.' King Amadeo and his Queen founded that chapel school and nursery, endowed it with their private money, and there it is, and there it works. Very few there are among the Spanish aristocracy of to-day who look after their Spanish poor. Amadeo, the Italian King, and the lost Maria Victoria did. The Spaniards say, 'We never value a thing until it is lost to us forever.' Now, turn your feet where you will, the warm praises of Amadeo and his consort are on all sides heard.

PICTORIAL EUROPE.—Grouped together will be found a series of sketches illustrative of recent events in different parts of Europe, such as the launching of the new French war steamer "Tourville"; the breaking of ground on the Trocadero for the Paris Exhibition of 1878; a combat of white bears in the Geological Gardens of Cologne; the burning of an American ship in the port of Marseilles, and the avation, at Athens, to King George, an idea of whose popularity will be gathered from an article in another column.

THE ST. ANDREW'S BALL.—We need not recur to a description of this entertainment, beyond calling attention to our sketch. By universal consent, it was admired as one of the grandest and most successful balls ever given in this city, reflecting the highest credit on the Society and Board of management.

THE FREE LANCE.

Prince Edward Island is not afraid of a Pope.

Between Tory and Grit. The returns for Queens, P. E. I., are read.

"Oh, the tight little island!" exclaimed the former exultingly.

"Yes, it must have been a little tight to go that way," replied the latter in disgust.

The *Star* says that a great deal of the Quebec City loan in England will prove a Barren Grant. I grant that this is about the best joke of the season, always barren my own.

How is it—Keewatin or Keewatin? We want to see this momentous question settled to a t.

Did you ever see a man who, on taking off his hat, at the entrance of any public room, did not touch his hair and settle himself nicely in his coat shoulders? I never did.

Lost in London. That's Wat's Phillips been doing.

Into what depths some people will go in quest of a pun. A friend of mine, just returned from New York, informs me that on entering a certain fashionable cellar where oysters, clams, and other dainties are furnished, he read this on a scroll above the door:—*De profundis clam-avi!* On reading this, my friend didn't know whether to laugh or to get mad.

There is a strange perversity sometimes in titles. Why did Alexandre Dumas call his famous novel "The Three Musketeers"? Because there were four of them. Why did Phillips, the playwright, entitle his drama "Lost in London"? Because the heroine was lost before ever she came to London.

LACLEDE.

QUEBEC CIVIL SERVICE.

I notice in your paper of last week a letter asking for the name of the paper and of the writer to whom I referred in my first letter as being in the Civil Service. According to the Civil Service Act of Mr. Chapleau, the body to which the writer is said to belong is not of the Civil Service, though till the passage of that Act it was generally supposed to be. As to the name of the paper, your correspondent can hardly feign ignorance, as it has been a topic of conversation all over Quebec and of correspondence to most of the papers in the Province.

The session promises to last till Christmas, and in case of the death of the Lieutenant-Governor, who is said to be sinking fast, during the session, I expect the House will have to be adjourned over Christmas. The work is progressing steadily and will no doubt make considerable progress before the end of next week.

C. W. M.

FASHION NOTES.

A NEW umbrella holder is a double chain, made to suspend from the wrist, and attach to the ring on the handle of the umbrella. The loop in the chain which goes round the wrist can only slip up and down a certain length, being kept in its place by a ball.

THERE is a great variety in fichus. The newest (of the Marie Antoinette form) is a double handkerchief, edged with wide fine Torchon lace, gathered in the centre of the back, and tied together in front with long ends, larger than those hitherto worn.

To give the appearance of slimmness to those who are not the possessors of slight figures is now the aim of the modistes. Their attention is turned to lengthy seams in the back, to the banishment of all superfluous draping, and of all gathers and plaits, particularly round the waist and hips. Fashion dictates that dresses must be flat and straight.

EVENING dress petticoats are still out with the queue de paon train; they are quite plain in front, and have three gathered flounces at the back and two wide lace edged platings all round. The chief novelty is, that they have a slit at the sides so that the strings for tying the dress can be passed through them, and that pieces for the back only, and coming half way up the skirt, are made to tuck into dresses. Some of the full-dress petticoats have a frilling of coloured silk between the muslin kiltings.

THE caps, which would be peculiarly becoming to young matrons, are just large enough to rest on the top of the head, and have pointed crowns. The newest are made entirely of silk; for example, a square cardinal handkerchief is converted into a most stylish cap; the ends form a bow at the side, and the whole is bordered with Torchon lace; like most of the caps of the day, it is not made on a spring or wire of any kind, but the silk is lined with tulle.

FOR day wear polonaises made of fancy velvet (either striped or spotted) are to be seen at all the leading modistes. Thus prune velvet with large dots of dead prune silk; moss-coloured velvet with black dots, black velvet with small straw spots; grey velvet striped with brown, &c. I forgot whether I have alluded in former letters to the new bête material, studded all over with small snowflakes of white silk, each of these flakes, not being larger than a pin's head. This novelty is most popular in navy blue with red flakes, in brown with straw-coloured flakes, in prune de Monsieur with pale blue flakes.

A style, particularly adapted for heavy materials, is the Dagnar polonaise. It is very deep in the front, reaching nearly to the bottom of the bottom of the dress; the back is plain to about twelve inches below the waist, where it is caught up at the side-seam with a bow or three buttons; a deep pointed collar on the neck gives a pretty finish. As many do not admire the entirely plain bodice, this style is very fashionable in serge, drab, grey, or dark blue, piped with cardinal red; three rows of small buttons down the back and front, also down the back of the sleeve, are much worn.

THE Adelaide costume for young ladies from four to sixteen is a new and becoming style for winter materials. The front is "Princess," with a small kilting at the bottom, in front, and a deep one carried up into the waist at the back; a trimming is brought from the shoulder across to the back, and there finished as a sash; there is a small collar at the neck, with bow. Several rows of narrow military braid are much used for trimming winter dresses; the gold is also pretty and very stylish, particularly on dark blue or brown serge; the front pocket and the cuffs are ornamented with buttons.

WHAT CAN ALL THAT CHIEF!—How many thousands of parents ask themselves this question, as they see their children becoming more emaciated and miserable every day. A correct reply to the question would be *Worms*; but they are seldom thought of, and the little sufferer is allowed to go on without relief until it is too late.

Parents, you can save your children. *Dr. Williams' Vegetable Worm Pastilles* are a safe and certain cure; they not only destroy the worms, but they neutralise the vitiated mucus in which he vermin breed. Do not delay! Try them! Take no other kind offered you.