

tide in this province; for he stands very well with the English also and is likely to hold a certain number of the English Conservatives who, in their anger at the Government's treatment of them, voted against it in the late elections.

One of the things which the dying city council is being asked to authorize is the building of a branch of the Montreal Street Railway to the top of Mount Royal. Only those who know by experience the charm of our Mountain Park can realize the vandalism of the proposal. The Street Railway has been laying its pipes for years to secure this privilege; and it regards the present as an opportune time to bring matters to a head. They are meeting with vigorous opposition; and the cause of those who are fighting to maintain the Park from the desecration of the shrieking trolleys have received unexpected reinforcements from the women of Montreal who, by the thousands, are signing petitions pleading that the Park be left undisturbed. Mrs. Geo. A. Drummond, the President of the Montreal branch of the National Woman's Council, has taken the lead in this good work. The Railway, of course, claims that the building of the electric road will in no way injure the Park; but their opinion does not seem to carry much weight with those who know the Park best and love it most.

Mr. Robert S. White has at last been appointed Collector of Customs here, and although a petition in favour of the promotion of Mr. O'Hara was largely signed by Montreal merchants, Mr. White's selection has been well received. Mr. White, after he gets to know the ropes, ought to make an excellent collector. His fellow-journalists intend to tender him a complimentary banquet about the middle of the month.

The Government's choice of new Senators for this district has also met with approval. Mr. James O'Brien is a wealthy merchant and a good representative of his race; Mayor Villeneuve is also a prominent merchant who has long been a leading figure in our legislative and municipal life; Mr. Owens is a substantial and capable citizen; and Sir William Hingston should make an ideal Senator.

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Music and the Drama.

THE good people of St. James' Cathedral have engaged Mr. J. Lewis Browne for their organist during the coming year. This should be a good move, for, possessing an excellent organ, they should have a skilled organist to play it. Mr. Browne is certainly skilful, and plays with much taste. I am told that the choir of St. James' is one of the very best in the city, and that the singing is very impressive. This is doubtless true, for I know there are many excellent singers as members, and that most of them have been trained by the choir-master, Mr. Schuch himself, who has in the last few years made a splendid reputation as a teacher of voice culture and vocal music generally. Now, with a superior organist, better results than ever will more than likely be attained.

Mr. George Fox, the splendid young violinist, who is always popular in Toronto, has decided to make this city his home, for a time at least. I believe it is his intention to accept pupils for the study of the violin, and that his present address is Room Y, Confederation Life Building.

I spent a few minutes talking with Miss Lillian Littlehales, the talented young Canadian violoncellist, one evening quite recently, and among other things she told me that Mr. Clarence Lucas, formerly of Toronto, but now of London, was making excellent headway and was becoming very favorably known as a talented composer in the great metropolis. I was glad to hear this, for many of us know Mr. Lucas' ambition to become a composer of distinction, and as he has the musical education, and moreover the talent as well, he is certain to succeed. Miss Littlehales is a charming young artist and plays with refined sentiment. Her tone is appealing, rich and intense, and her technique fluent and accurately sure. Her future ought to be bright, and it will be if a winning personality, ambition and talent counts for anything. I do not know who her masters were in London, but doubtless she studied with *Piatti*, the distinguished 'cellist and teacher, who is one of the greatest. Prior to leaving Canada for further study she was instructed

by Mr. Dinelli, of the Conservatory of Music, who is naturally pleased with the success of his clever pupil.

Mr. Henry Jacobsen and wife, of Buffalo, spent a few days in the city last week, and returned home on Monday. Mr. Jacobsen reports considerable activity in the profession in our neighboring city across the lake, and he still retains a kindly feeling for Toronto and his many friends here. He is looking well, but has grown stout, and his fair hair is as frizzy as ever. His wife is quite a charming pianist and plays with much musicianly sentiment. I heard her play a prelude from one of the MacDowell Suites and the same composer's Shadow Dance, and these were executed in a style quite delightful.

Mrs. Clara Thoms, of New York, a pianiste of reputation in the United States, visited Toronto a few days before Christmas, and was introduced to several of our musicians. From what she told me, it is probable she may give a recital here in February or March, although it was not certain then. She is a bright, intelligent lady, and full of artistic animation; and judging from this, her playing should be brilliant and sparkling.

I dropped in to hear the Mendelssohn choir at rehearsal last Monday evening, and although the chorus was being drilled in spots most of the time I was present, I heard enough to convince me that we will hear some most finished and expressive singing at the concert on February 11th. Mr. Vogt seems to be in his element when training a chorus, he looks in a work so analytically, and he apparently feels every pulsation of the rhythm. Besides this, his ear is keen and sensitive, and he knows a good musical effect when he hears it. The material of which the Mendelssohn Choir is composed is of the best, and consequently the tone is singularly pure and elastic. Taking all these features into consideration, I do not think it hazardous to prophesy what I have stated above, that some exceptionally beautiful chorus singing will be heard at their forthcoming concert next month.

I have received from the publishers, The Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association, an anthem entitled, "Come Unto Me," by W. H. Hewlett. It is well written, not difficult, and should be found very useful, as it is sure to be effective when well sung. In this little anthem Mr. Hewlett shows himself to possess talent for composition, as the different voices are quite skilfully managed, and the music on the whole suits the character of the words admirably.

W. O. FORSYTH.

Mr. W. E. Fairclough's fourth organ recital of this (the fourth) series was given last Saturday afternoon in All Saints' Church. It is gratifying to notice a gradual increase in the size of the audiences attending these really admirable recitals. Miss Minnie F. Hessin, the vocalist of the occasion, possesses a contralto voice of rather pleasing, though unnecessarily sombre, quality. She gave a refined rendering of "He Shall Feed His Flock," from the "Messiah," and Marston's song, "My God, My Father, While I Stray."

Handel's "Rejoice Greatly" is so difficult a solo, both on account of the agility of voice necessary and because of the great demands it makes on the volume and control of the breath, that it is frequently sung in a spasmodic and laboured fashion, making the listeners thoroughly ill at ease and putting all thought of rejoicing quite out of the question. Indeed, one is sometimes inclined to doubt the suitability of the composition for use in church services. However, in connection with Christmas music, it is frequently given. At the Central Methodist Church Miss Ida McLean sang this solo a short time ago in a manner which calls for a word of commendation. Her sincerity, as well as the clearness and absolute ease with which she executed the most difficult passages, made one feel both the sacredness and joyousness of the composition. Her intonation, too, which has not always been accurate, was, on this occasion, quite above criticism. Any kind of musical drivel is so often considered good enough for the use of the soloists in our churches that it is a genuine pleasure to be able to record an adequate rendition of a solo really worthy of the House of God.