

Selections.

MUSICAL PROGRESS.

Slow as is our advance from Quartetto Choirs and Psalmody, to congregational chanting of the *Psalms of David*, there are now and then incidents which, like straws upon the stream, show us how swiftly the current is flowing. They are comforting to those of us who are pausely waiting; while perseveringly working for a better state of things.

Opposition to singing the Psalter has come mainly from those who sympathized more with Dissenters in a general way, than with those of more marked "Church" feeling. But if they do not make haste, the very Dissenters themselves will get ahead of them in the progress towards a proper Church way of celebrating the praises of God. The *Christian Spectator*, an English Dissenting periodical, in a late article on Hymnology, says:—

Every consideration points to the chanting of the unrhymed and unaltered effusions of the Hebrew prophets and apostles, as the best means of expressing the true spirit of worship in the Infinite Being. When the soul finds itself most thoroughly in the spirit on the Lord's Day, it shrinks from the modern artifice of rhyme in the glorification of God, and rises best to the gate of the Eternal on the golden flights of David's and Isaiah's "acceptable words." There are, no doubt, many varying states of the mind in which beautiful poetry may kindle a fresh the flickering flame of affection, and when the devout spirit may find support in the artistic labors of modern lyrical poets, but these are not of the highest. Long, common, short, and particular metres, set us to sail us before the burning throne of Deity, and rise into a region of poetry which disdains such restraints, even as in nature the winds blow and ocean-waters roll not by the time scales of our musical notation. We are glad, therefore, that the Leeds hymn-book contains a selection of passages of Scripture, adapted for public adoration in the form of chants. Many difficulties attend the introduction of those methods into smaller congregations, destitute of instrumental assistance, but the movement is altogether in the right direction, and we venture to express the hope that in other compilations so good an example may speedily be followed.

And as to the kind of chant best for congregational purposes, we have the following emphatic testimony from Mr. John Hullab, Professor of Vocal Music in King's College, London. Mr. Hullab is well known as the most experienced and successful trainer of the *choruses and immenso masses of voices*, and has published many musical works himself, among which is a collection of those very eighteenth century chants now so vigorously and so justly denounced. In a late lecture on Church Music, delivered at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. Hullab says—

The *trumpery eighteenth-century chant*—single, double and quadruple—with its two, four, or eight "perfect cadences," in as many different keys, must give place, if not to the Gregorian tones, at least to chants composed in imitation of them, or worked out of them by the best masters of English Church music.

A ROMISH BREAK-UP.—What is the matter? Prior Park has long been the head-quarters of the Romish perverts in England. They had there accumulated all that wealth could buy, or a Papal taste admire. There must have been severe internal experience before so much valuable stock in "properties" was sent to the hammer. They usually manage those little matters more decorously among Romanists, especially when the watch-dogs of Protestantism are so close at hand, and so eager to bark. It tells a significant tale, therefore, of these secret feuds, which—unlike conflagrations physical—only burn the more fiercely from the fact that they are closed in from all contact with the outer air. But on reading the sort of articles now offered for sale, one cannot but agree that the kind of *asceticism* here indicated, was, on the whole tolerably endurable—as the world goes!—

A remarkable sale is coming on at Prior Park College, the Roman Catholic establishment near Bath, recently broken up. Among the articles to be disposed of are valuable paintings, including *The Crucifixion*, by Vandyck, statuary marble busts; ancient Church plate, some of exquisite workmanship; a magnificent *Ornamentum*, designed by Bernini, and executed by Solerti and Golpi, embellished by 1,500 diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, chrysolites, topazes, garnets, &c., vestments, copes and albs; the fittings of seven chapels, and numerous other things with which the auctioneer's hammer is very rarely made familiar. It is supposed that the sale will occupy three weeks.

Whilst visiting Moscow about the 10th ult., the Emperor repaired to the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, where he was received at the entrance by the Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna. In the course of the address with which the Philaret received the Emperor the following passage occurred:—

"Thou inheredst war, but thou hast restored us peace. Thy righteous basis and thy valour called on thee imperatively to pursue the war, but thy love for mankind has not repelled the offered peace. The enemy has not triumphed over Russia, but thou hast triumphed over their hostility. Our common country is grateful to thee, and foreign nations already do thee justice, and they will become still more just when the passions are stilled," &c. Mayest thou succeed under the blessing of Providence, in healing the wounds that the war has inflicted on Russia."

From the Cathedral the Emperor repaired, preceded by the Metropolitan and all the clergy, to the Teboudif Monastery, where he performed his devotions before the relics of St. Alexius.

Other advices from St. Petersburg state that in seventeen governments, and in the kingdom of Poland, martial law no longer exists.

A collection of Nineveh marbles, the most important fruits of the excavations conducted by Mr. Rassam and others, under Sir Henry Rawlinson's directions, has just reached this country, and will shortly be deposited in the British Museum. Among the bas-reliefs are those hunting scenes which have been regarded as the most spirited of the Assyrian sculptures, and other subjects of great interest. We believe that we are correct in stating that they will be buried in the vaults of the Museum, the Assyrian galleries being now completely filled, and no steps having been taken to construct new ones. Whether the Government is unwilling to grant the necessary funds, or the directors of the Museum are afraid to ask, the learned and unlearned public will not unreasonably complain of some of the most interesting monuments in the country being warehoused where they cannot be studied or even seen. The Government and the House of Commons generally show so much willingness to make grants of this kind, that we can scarcely suppose they would refuse one for so necessary a purpose, if properly put before them. We have seen the great readiness with which they have granted much larger sums than would be needed for the requisite galleries, to the various projects to which the Exhibition of 1851 gave birth, and which there is no doubt will soon be consummated by sanction being given to the erection of a new National Gallery in connection with the Privy Council Office.—*Monthly Review for April.*

According to the following anecdote, the Russian ladies are not as ready in allaying their resentment to recent enemies as their lords:—

"One of our Generals was up at Mackenzie, and was asked to stay for tea by a Russian of rank, whose but he was visiting; but it so happened that Madame, who presided at the tea-table, was present, and she gave such a look at her peccant spouse when he gave the invitation, and glared so fiercely at the heretical English, that our General and staff turned tail and bolted, leaving the Burki to the enjoyment of the lecture which Madame Caudelski would no doubt inflict upon him. Perhaps the poor lady was short of spoons, or trembled for her stock of sugar. The Muscovite runs quite tame through our camps, and is to be found everywhere."

A peculiar group of mendicants, consisting of a mother and three children, one of whom displayed the painful peculiarities of a deformed trunk, from which both its legs had been lopped off, attracted attention in the streets of Leeds. The child was crying bitterly. A party of females got around the woman, seized the poor child, and unloosed several wrappers in which it was enveloped. Its emaciated legs and its puny arms had been tightly bound over the chest: the arms fitted into depressions in the stomach. The poor child has since died, and the mother is in custody.

The validity of a Greina Green marriage was in question in the suit *Bell v. Graham*, decided in the Consistory Court, at Carlisle, on Thursday. Mr. Bell, barrister, and clerk of the peace for the county of Westmoreland, had married Elizabeth Graham, at Greina, and now sought to repudiate the validity of the contract. Chancellor Burton, after a speech which occupied about an hour and a half, pronounced judgment in favour of the defendant. Mr. Bell had intended the marriage to be a sham one, but the defendant herself believing that it was real, the Chancellor held it to be so.

News Department.

From Papers by Steamer Canada, May 10.

PARIS CONFERENCE.

We have selected the following important discussion relative to the Affairs of Italy from the published report of the sitting of the Paris Conference of April 8:

The First Plenipotentiary of France observed that the Pontifical States are equally in an abnormal state; that the necessity for not leaving the country to anarchy had decided France as well as Austria to comply with the demand of the Holy See, by causing Rome to be occupied by her troops while the Austrian troops occupied the Legations. He stated that France had a twofold motive for complying without hesitation with the demand of the Holy See—as a Catholic Power and as an European Power. The title of the sovereignty of the Church, which is the boast of the sovereign of France, makes it a duty for the Emperor to afford aid and support to the Sovereign Pontiff; the tranquillity of the Roman States and that of the whole of Italy affects too closely the maintenance of social order in Europe for France to have an overbearing interest in securing it by all the means in her power. But, on the other hand, it is impossible to overlook the abnormal condition of a Power which, in order to maintain itself, requires to be supported by foreign troops. Count Walowski does not hesitate to declare, and he trusts that Count Buol will join in the declaration, that not only is France ready to withdraw her troops, but that she earnestly desires to recall them so soon as that can be done without inconvenience as regards the internal tranquillity of the country and the authority of the Pontifical Government, in the prosperity of which the Emperor, his august Sovereign, takes the most lively interest. The First Plenipotentiary of France represents how desirable it is for the balance of power in Europe that the Roman Government should be consolidated to sufficient strength for the French and Austrian troops to be able, without inconvenience, to evacuate the Pontifical States, and he considers that a wish expressed in this sense might not be without advantage. In any case he does not doubt that the assurance which might be given by France and Austria as to their real intentions in this respect would have a salutary influence. Following up the same order of ideas, Count Walowski asks himself if it is not desired that certain Governments of the Italian Peninsula, by well-devised acts of clemency, and by rallying to themselves minds gone astray and not perverted, should put an end to a system which is directly opposed to its object, and which, instead of reaching the enemies of public order, has the effect of weakening the Governments, and of furnishing partisans to popular faction. In his opinion it would render a signal service to the Government of the Two Sicilies, as well as to the cause of order in the Italian Peninsula, to enlighten that Government as to the false course in which it is engaged. He is of opinion that warnings conceived in this sense, and proceeding from the Powers represented in the Congress, would be the better received by the Neapolitan Government, as that Government could not doubt the motives which dictated them.

The First Plenipotentiary of Great Britain remarks that the Treaty of March 30 opens a new era; that, as the Emperor had said to the Congress on receiving it after the signature of the treaty, this era is that of peace; but, in order to be consistent, nothing should be omitted to render that peace solid and lasting; that, representing the principal Powers of Europe, the Congress would fail in its duty if, on separating, it sanctioned by its silence a state of things which is injurious to the political equilibrium, and which is far from securing peace from all danger in one of the most interesting countries of Europe. We have just provided, continues the Earl of Clarendon, for the evacuation of the different territories occupied by foreign armies during the war; we have just taken the solemn engagement to effect the evacuation within the shortest period; how would it be possible for us not seriously to advert to occupations which took place before the war, and to abstain from devising means for putting an end to them? The First Plenipotentiary of Great Britain does not consider it of any use to inquire as to the causes which have brought in foreign armies upon various points of Italy, but he considers that even admitting that those causes were legitimate, it is not the less true, he says, that the result is an abnormal and irregular state of things, which can be justified only by extreme necessity, and which should come to an end as soon as that necessity is no longer imperiously felt; that nevertheless if endeavors are not made to put an end to that necessity, it will con-