

was played by Herr Jacobsen with his usual vigor. The Duo Concerto, in D minor, with quartette accompaniment (Bach), was played by Messrs. Jacobsen and Bayley, accompanied by Messrs. Torrington, Napolitano, Fisher and Corell. This number was satisfactorily performed. Messrs. Martens, Bayley and Corell contributed a rather uninteresting "Trio" by Hummel. The vocalist of the evening was Madame Caroline Zeiss, a very dramatic contralto of rather massive proportions, and possessing a decided foreign accent. She sang the scena and aria, "Preires de Baal," from Meyerbeer's opera, *La Prophete*; Sullivan's "Lost Chord" and "Let me Dream Again" (encore); and the "Brindisi" from Donizetti's *Luzia Borgia*. In her first and last numbers Mme. Zeiss displayed considerable dramatic power. She possesses a powerful contralto voice, of remarkable range and great flexibility, although rather lacking in those peculiar sympathetic qualities one looks for in a contralto. Ballad singing is evidently not Mme. Zeiss's forte. Her singing of "The Lost Chord" and "Let me Dream Again" was somewhat marred by a rather exaggerated style, no doubt the unconscious result of the assiduous study and performance of highly dramatic solos. Mme. Zeiss was, however, warmly applauded, and recalled after each song. The concert was closed by the Quartette Club playing Raff's two charming sketches, "The Declaration" and "The Mill," which were admirably rendered. The next concert takes place on the 8th of February.

Dr. Daniel Wilson, as President of the Royal Society of Canada, is urging that Society to the work of collecting the materials for a thorough representation of all the native languages of our Dominion. We are sure that this learned body could not be better employed than in carrying on such an enterprise. The work should be entered upon at once, and should be conducted in no perfunctory manner. The best opportunities for aboriginal research in this direction are rapidly passing away. There is nothing surer than the decadence of the Indian races of America. We hope the work will not be entrusted to amateurs. The absurdities which such persons are likely to rush into are well illustrated in the hoax which was recently perpetrated on a Toronto "archaeologist." If a scientific classification of Indian dialects is to have any value it must be the work of those who have devoted years to the practical study and investigation of the subject. Consider what is implied. It is absolutely necessary that those who undertake such a work should have a thorough acquaintance at first hand with the languages themselves. A mere smattering picked up during a pleasant summer vacation among frontier tribes will not suffice. What would we think of a Frenchman undertaking to write a grammar and dictionary of the English language after spending a season on Brighton Beach! Nor would it suffice if in addition the Frenchman knew all the rules already laid down in English grammars and all the words in the dictionaries. The subtlest spirit of a language can not be caught by such clumsy devices. The number of members of the Royal Society of Canada, who are qualified to deal with this matter directly, is very small indeed. We venture the opinion that the work would be accomplished much more satisfactorily if the Royal Society would enlist the services of men who have grown old in the various Indian mission fields or trading-posts, and who have become thoroughly in sympathy with the genius and spirit of the languages. The work would then be stamped with an authenticity such as the mere imprimatur of any Royal Society, however learned, could not convey.

We congratulate Cornell University on the recent appointment of Professor Schurman to the chair of Metaphysics in that institution. From the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the *Dalhousie Gazette*, we learn the following particulars of the life and career of this distinguished scholar. Dr. J. G. Schurman was born in 1854, and consequently at the end of the present year will be thirty-two years of age. Receiving his early education in Prince

Edward Island, he entered upon his collegiate course at Acadia College. In 1875, over a large number of competitors from all parts of Canada, he was awarded the Gilchrist scholarship of \$500 a year for three years, a scholarship annually given to the Canadian standing highest at the London University examinations held in Canada. Mr. Schurman went at once to England for the further prosecution of his studies, where two years later he won the university scholarship in Logic and Philosophy at the London University, and the Hume scholarship in Political Economy at University College. In 1878, at the University of Edinburgh, he took the degree of Doctor of Science in Mental and Moral Philosophy, being the only successful candidate for that degree during the year. Thereupon, having taken the highest honours in Philosophy and Ethics both in London and Edinburgh, he was elected, in a competition open to England, Scotland, and Wales, to the Hibbert travelling scholarship of \$1,000 a year for two years. Availing himself of this scholarship, he went to Germany, where his special studies of the philosophical science were prosecuted with great vigour and success at the universities of Heidelberg, Gottingen and Berlin. His Hibbert prize essay on "Kantian Ethics and the Ethics of Evolution," a volume published by Williams & Norgate, attracted wide-spread attention among students of philosophy, and was pronounced by one of the leading English reviews the most dispassionate and acute examination that had ever appeared in English, of the moral doctrines of Kant and Spencer's "Data of Ethics." While in Great Britain Dr. Schurman was a pupil of Robertson, Jevons, Fraser, Calderwood and Martineau, and while in Germany was under the special guidance of Kuno Fischer at Heidelberg and of Zellar at Berlin. On the return of Dr. Schurman in 1881 to America he accepted a professorship of Philosophy in Acadia College, where his success as a teacher was so marked that in the following year he was advanced to the more influential position he now holds in Dalhousie College at Halifax. He carries with him to Cornell the well-wishes of many friends not only in the Maritime Provinces, but also in Ontario, where he gained many favorable opinions while acting as examiner in our own university in 1882-83.

Leading Article.

THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

At the end of the current year this institution will have completed the eighth year of its existence in its present form. With a steady growth that must have been exceedingly gratifying to its projectors, it has emerged from a doubtful infancy and stands at the present time in a position which demands for it the best attention of all who are interested in the practical phase of higher education in this Province.

In the session of 1877, the Legislative Assembly by resolution sanctioned the proposals for the permanent establishment of the School. These proposals were in effect that the Government, instead of appointing a distinctive professional staff for giving the special instruction which the School (the former College of Technology) was founded to afford, should utilize the teaching powers of University College, which already existed for the like objects in four departments, and could be made applicable to the wants of the School of Science, and in addition thereto, should appoint a Professor of Engineering and such assistants in the several departments as might be required in supplementing the work of the College Professors.

The erection of the necessary buildings completed the plan by which it was considered that in an economical way an institution could be established which, although not competing with the larger and more expensive ones in Europe and the United States