

Of Christmas music—that is music distinctly suited to Christmas purposes—there is not very much, though what there is of the most inspired description. The incomparable grandeur of the Christmas portions of Handel's "Messiah" cannot be over rated. There has never been anything to compare with the tremulous symphony of the recitative, "And Suddenly," and the manner in which the full chord of "Glory to God in the Highest" burst upon the ear of the listener as the angelic vision itself may have burst upon the eyes of the awe-struck shepherds. Year after year our choirmasters, looking in vain for any novelty that shall commend itself worthily to the tastes and emotions of Christmas congregations, "turn on" the familiar excerpts from the "Messiah"—that most religiously conceived of all the Oratorios. Nor can the most advanced choirmaster find, after the most untiring and thorough research, any Christmas Hymn Tunes as gloriously appropriate as "Hark, the Herald Angels sing," composed, as few people know, by Mendelssohn, and the fine broad harmonies of "Adeste Fideles," a direct bequest from the Roman Catholic Church. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio," a portion of Mendelssohn's "Christus," and "Nöel" by Camille Saint Saëns, almost close the list of representative works belonging more particularly to this season.

THE new Savoy Opera is, according to latest particulars gleaned about it, somewhat in the melo-dramatic vein, with a revival of supernatural business. No one seems to know yet for a certainty whether the scene of the piece is laid in Egypt or no; but from the fact that the first act passes in a seaport village, we imagine the American reporter to be out for once. The costumes of the chorus alone will cost £1,800, and the date of the piece is 1810. The public may at least depend upon another charming work, the result of that unique collaboration which it is a privilege to witness and enjoy. Sir Arthur's "Golden Legend" scored the greatest success of all the new native works at the recent Leeds Festival, and contains some of the composer's best work. We understand this beautiful work is to be performed in due season before a Toronto audience, through the untiring energy of Mr. Torrington.

On the 10th January in the Pavilion Music Hall will be given a Grand Miscellaneous Concert, at which the ever-admirable and fascinating Mdme. Carreno and Miss Agnes Huntington, the charming contralto, who created so favourable an impression at last year's Musical Festival, will appear. Other features of this attractive programme will appear shortly.

SPECIAL Christmas services will be held this week in the Cathedral, the Metropolitan, and other important churches.

THE event of the week has been the first concert of the Toronto Vocal Society, under the able conductorship of Mr. W. Elliott Haslam, which was given, Monday, the 20th inst., before the brilliant audience that usually attends these charming concerts. Mr. Haslam's excellent training has borne excellent fruit; the part-singing of his well-balanced choir being really admirable, light and shade being distinctly marked, and a purity of enunciation testifying to his abilities as a voice trainer. This, as we understand, is Mr. Haslam's specialty, and he deserves the very greatest credit for having persevered in this end so far as to present to a highly critical audience such refined effects as those observable in the concert of Monday night. The "Chimes of Oberwesel" proved a light and popular number; "Scots wha hae," the "Phantom Chorus," and Henry Smart's "Stars of the Summer Night" were also deservedly favourite items. Of Miss Beebe's singing much was expected, and it is a pleasure to be able to record that no one was disappointed. Her selections were mainly Old English, and were given in a winning and simple style that may possibly have recalled to the minds of many concert-goers the charms of Parepa, that popular English singer. Mons. François Boucher, of Ottawa, who filled the post of solo virtuoso on the occasion, surprised even the most critical by the clearness of his tone and perfect technique. In the "Romance" and "Andante Religioso" he displayed those sympathetic qualities which, beyond all other instrumentalists, should belong to the violin virtuoso, while in two lighter, though more difficult, selections his rapid execution of bravura passages elicited much applause. Mons. Boucher, it will be remembered, is a Canadian, having pursued almost entirely in this country the study of that art which he so adequately interprets. The President of the Society, Mr. Jas. Kerr, made in the course of the evening a few felicitous remarks referring to the performance of what must be considered the gem of the evening—Mendelssohn's setting of the 48th Psalm, which will be repeated at an early date. This number made a great impression upon the audience, and gave the Society opportunity of displaying their best work. The programmes were well designed, and the appearance of the Society most attractive, the ladies being costumed in white, with sashes of orthodox blue and crimson.

SERANUS.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

We have received the following publications:—

- ANDOVER REVIEW. December. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.  
 OVERLAND MONTHLY. December. San Francisco: 415 Montgomery Street.  
 COSMOPOLITAN. December. Rochester: Schlicht and Field Company.  
 WIDE AWAKE. December. Boston: D. Lothrop and Company.  
 QUERIES. December. Buffalo: C. L. Sherrill and Company.  
 FRANK LESLIE'S SUNDAY MAGAZINE. January. New York: 53-7 Park Place.  
 POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY. December. Boston: Ginn and Company.  
 LAND SYSTEM OF THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES. By Melville Egleston. Johns Hopkins University Studies. Baltimore: N. Murray.  
 MACMILLAN'S MAGAZINE. December. London and New York: Macmillan and Company.  
 FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW. December. Philadelphia: Leonard-Scott Publishing Company.  
 ATLANTIC MONTHLY. January. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.  
 LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE. January. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

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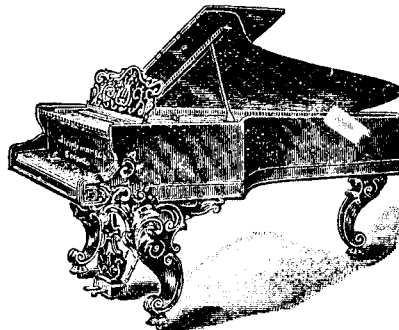
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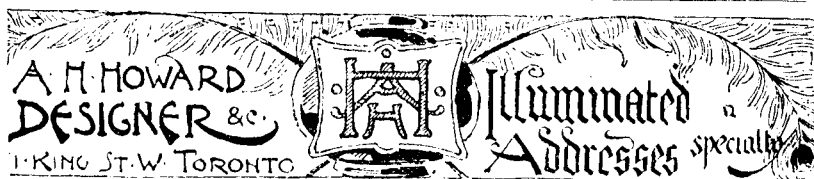
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