

*positur Anglais.* To conclude with an interesting bit for the ladies. At St. Luke's Church, Birmingham, ladies have made their appearance as members of a surpliced choir! They wear violet caps, and their surplices are described as being very tastefully designed, and made of "Scotch lawn with pleated backs!" *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

### DOMINION.

TORONTO PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

We are very much pleased to learn that the Philharmonic Society is meeting with success in obtaining subscribers. The increased subscription to \$10.00 per season, as may be expected, had been the cause of much complaint, but when the other side of the question is considered we feel sure that the public will support the Society in its action. Every year the expenses of the Society are steadily increasing, while only a limited number of subscribers can be taken, because that miserable pavilion cannot accommodate more. *Why can't we have a decent music hall?* When we have one which will hold a large audience we have no doubt that the society will return to the old price. It should be remembered that the Society in doubling the subscription price, propose to give subscribers better concerts than formerly (it is impossible to give twice as good) by having better artists, a better orchestra and better chorus, and as the number of subscribers is limited to three hundred, all can be assured of good seats. This seat question has been the cause of dissatisfaction, as the unlucky man who had to sit under the gallery always raised a row, but there was no help for him as there are only 900 good seats to be had. It has been stated that the usefulness of the Society as a public instructor has been abrogated, and that they are now waiting for the pleasure of the select and wealthy citizens. This we disagree with, for although the best seats are reserved for subscribers, the gallery and the upper gallery will be for sale at a proportionately smaller price.

The executive committee carefully considered the advisability of making the change before doing so, but having done so, we may feel assured that with their usual energy and perseverance they will carry through anything they undertake, and that the movement will be successful.

The work which is under preparation for the first concert is Sir Arthur Sullivan's *Golden Legend*, first produced at the Leeds Festival, 1886, and of which an extended notice will appear hereafter, and Mackenzie's *Jubilee Ode*, which was noticed recently.

### F. H. TORRINGTON'S ORCHESTRA.

The society of young instrumentalists, who, under Mr. Torrington's able baton, won such a deserved success last season, commenced its practice for the coming season last Thursday evening (the 22nd). At its last concert the Orchestra numbered *fifty-one* performers and when it is stated that at Thursday's practice the attendance numbered *fifty*, it will be seen that the Society has established itself, and gained a firm footing amongst our recognized musical organizations. Not a little of the success of the Society has been owing to the untiring devotion of Mr. A. L. Ebbels, the general secretary, who is always at his post, performs the part of an orchestral "whip" to the satisfaction of everyone (witness the large attendance on the "first night"), and is in every respect the right man in the right place.

When in Boston, recently, Mr. Torrington secured a quantity of fine orchestral music, which will at once be put in rehearsal, and the musical public may be assured that in supporting "F. H. Torrington's Orchestra" they are not only helping on the cause of good music generally, but putting themselves in the way of a great musical treat as well.

Two or more concerts will be given this winter, and it is intended to include in the programmes popular music—national airs, operatic selections, overtures, marches, gavottes, and from time to time, classical numbers, as well as "novelties" in music, vocal and instrumental, solo and concerted, with orchestral accompaniments.

Instrumentalists—professional or amateur, desirous of joining the Orchestra, should apply to the Secretary at 28 Adelaide Street East.

## VARIETIES.

The chorister who was tossed over the fence by a bull was willing to concede that for once he got the wrong pitch.

LANDLADY (to lodger)—"Beg pardon, sir. Did I understand as you was a doctor of music?" Lodger—"I am ma'am. Why?" Landlady—"Well, sir, my Billy 'ave just been an' broke his concertina, an' I thwart as 'ow I should be glad to put a hold job in yer way."

MME Offenbach, widow of the great opera bouffe composer, is dead. She was an Irish-Spanish woman, a sister of Mr. Robert Mitchell, editor of the Bonapartist journal *Le Pays*. During her husband's lifetime she was a popular leader in Parisian society, but after his death she lived in strict retirement.

HENRY Brandon, a fourteen-year-old boy of Washington, D. C., has a soprano voice as pure as a bird's and can sing three octaves easily. He is the lion of the day in the Whitney circle of fashion and is paid enormously for his songs. If his voice holds out a little while longer the boy will make a fortune for his family.

A FEMALE string quartet party has been formed in Berlin for the purpose of giving a series of concerts of chamber music, both at the capital and other musical centres of Germany. The lady executants, all of them former pupils of the Berlin Hochschule, represent four different nationalities, the leader (Fraülein Soldat) being German, and the other members natives of Finland, France and England respectively.

AMONG the foreign artists that will visit this country next season is Mile Bianca Bianchi, the famous prima donna of the Imperial Opera House, Vienna. Mile Bianchi was born in the beautiful city of Heidelberg, in Germany, and her real name is Schwarz, which is the German for "black." According to the principle *lucis a non luendo*, Fraülein Schwarz took the Italian name Bianca Bianchi, which means "white."

CLARA Louise Kellogg says that an American girl need not study abroad to become a professional singer, but can learn in this country, if she will work hard, give up most of the pleasure young people prize, study dramatic action as well as singing, and give her whole time to preparation. Her general health must be watched over as carefully as her voice. She must eat nourishing food, take plenty of exercise and get nine hours sleep.

"BILL," said one Jack Tar to another, the other day, "what is a hanthem?" "What," replies Bill, "do you mean to say as you do not know what a hanthem is?" "Not me." "Well then I'll tell yer. If I was to say to you, 'Ere Jack, give me that handspike,' that wouldn't be a hanthem. But if I was to say to you, 'Bill, Bill, Bill, give, give, give me, give me that, that, that handspike, spike, spike, spike,'—why that would be a hanthem."—*Lyra Ecclesiastica.*

THE Mehan Male Quartet, of Detroit, says the *Song Journal*, are preparing for what promises to be a busy season for them, arrangements have already been made with the Y. M. C. A. of this city (Detroit) whereby the quartet will appear at a number of concerts under their auspices in connection with the regular Star course of entertainments given annually by this association. The quartet will visit London, Toronto, Richmond Hill, and other points in that locality, where they left so good an impression upon each of their visits last season. The *personnel* of the quartet will remain the same as last season with one exception, *i. e.*, Mr. T. Littlehales will fill the position of second tenor (formerly occupied by Mr. Lavin), and in justice to the former gentleman it will be proper to add that the change is considered a felicitous one. In conjunction with their already extensive repertoire, the Mehan Quartet will produce several entirely new numbers, two of which have been written especially for, and dedicated to them, by the well-known eastern composer, Mr. N. H. Allen, organist of Christ Church, Hartford, Conn. Upon the whole it is very evident that they intend to be heard from, and as a semi-professional organization, their excellent work in the past and promise for the future reflects great credit not only upon each member individually, but also upon their teacher and director, whose name they bear.