

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PARTY DISTURBANCES.

SIR,—It is some satisfaction to find that at last our civic authorities are beginning to see the necessity of something being done to stop the acts of violence and bloodshed which have too long disgraced this city.

The Council, in approving generally of Mr. Blake's Bill, and in urging the incorporation into the Criminal Law of the Dominion of stringent measures against the carrying of deadly weapons in the streets and public places, adopted a very proper course; but I am afraid that the suggested punishment of offenders by imprisonment will be altogether too wild and too inadequate as a means of stamping out the evil under which we are labouring.

It will be remembered that some few years ago all England, and especially Lancashire, was thrown into a state of alarm by the many violent robberies committed by the "garotters," who, seizing their victim from behind with a sudden grip of the left arm thrown around his neck and locked tightly across it by being grasped at the wrist with the assailant's right hand, rendered him quickly unconscious, and thus an easy prey to their thievish purpose. The "garotte," in cases attended with death, became a terrible "scare"; and long terms of imprisonment to which offenders were consigned, instead of checking the evil only seemed to have the opposite effect, until the Judges introduced the lash as an accompaniment to the ordinary punishment by imprisonment. This at once struck terror into the hearts of the villains; and in a very short time the "garotter" had entirely disappeared.

I have a Manchester (Eng.) newspaper, giving the experience of a garotter who had undergone the "lashing operation," as the narrator, in his technical "slang patter," prefers to style a flogging; and without troubling you with the whole of the narrative, which is rather lengthy, the following passages from it will serve to give some idea of the deterring effect of the lash upon criminals of the violent class, and will also show with what contempt they look upon the milder punishment by imprisonment.

"When the Judge said I was to get a seven stretch (seven years penal servitude) and two dozen lashes I 'fucked' it, I can tell you. * * * * * If any one had come and told me I could get off by having another five stretch put on the seven, I should have jumped at it. * * * * * At last one morning I was told I was to be 'scrat.' I was led from the cells into the yard * * * * * and then I got my lashing. * * * * * Is there anything like a lashing? Nothing that I know of. I've had most kinds of knocking about, but it licks all. There's no punishment comes anywhere near it * * * * * What do the 'guns' (thieves) think of a lashing? Well, any one who puts up a man for anything under two or three hundred (pounds) in it is a regular flat. No good cross-man would do it. It's only these green 'uns that's starving. None of us fly snobs do the 'grip' now."

Have the people of Montreal less to fear from these revolver carriers and loiterers than the people of England had from the garotters? Is shooting less dangerous to life and limb than garotting? I think not; and if the lash was not considered too severe or too degrading a punishment and proved so effectual a remedy in the English garotting cases, why shouldn't it be applied with equal success in the revolver cases here?

Just let these reckless youths, whose lawlessness—on both sides—is threatening to throw the city into endless confusion, get a taste of the 'cat'; and, depend upon it that then, and not till then, we may hope to secure the peace of our city, and arrest the dire consequences which otherwise will most surely overtake us.

Yours very respectfully,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

Montreal, May 8th, 1878.

THE EUCALYPTUS AS AN INSECTICIDE.

In a letter to the *Illustration Horticole* M. Baltet says: "Lately my brother-in-law, Captain Mignard, being very much disturbed in his sleep by mosquitoes, took it into his head to place a young plant of eucalyptus in his bed-room over night. From that moment the insects disappeared, and he slept in comfort. I have been following his example with the same result."

The Essential Oil of Eucalyptus will answer quite as well as the plant. A small piece of cotton wool saturated with it and placed near the bed and in the window, will drive away mosquitoes. The Eucalyptus is not an "insecticide," but is disagreeable to insects of all kinds, especially the *cimex*, which so often disturbs our sleep or suggest dreams. The odor of the Eucalyptus is not unwholesome, on the contrary, its well known anti-malarial qualities have induced its cultivation all over the world. It would form a very good plant for the dry atmosphere of Canadian houses, though its rapid growth in a few years would take the roof off. It attains in Australia a height of 480 feet and although recently introduced in California, there are already trees there over one hundred feet in height.

A DARING THERAPEUTIST.—At a late meeting of the Massachusetts Dental Society, Dr. Waters, of Salem, stated that bicarbonate of soda, such as used for cooking purposes, or any other alkali in neutral form, would afford instantaneous cessation of pain from the severest burns or scalds, and would cure such injuries in a few hours. Dipping a sponge into boiling water, the Doctor squeezed it over his right wrist, producing a severe scald around his arm and some two inches in width. Then, despite the suffering occasioned, he applied the scalding water to his wrist for half a minute. Bicarbonate of soda was at once dusted over the surface, a wet cloth applied, and the pain, the experimenter said, was almost instantly deadened. Although the wound was of a nature to be open and painful for a considerable time, on the day following the single application of the soda the less injured portion was practically healed, only a slight discolouration of the flesh being perceptible. The severer wound in a few days, with no other treatment than a wet cloth kept over it, showed every sign of rapid healing.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

MUSICAL.

SINGING AND VOICE CULTURE.

In order to sing well, it is necessary to have a good, pleasant-toned voice of average strength and compass; and although the voice is capable of an extraordinary amount of development, yet no amount of training or culture will produce a voice where nature has not bestowed it. As well might we set a blind man to school, or a lame man to run, as expect to make a singer of any one without this grand requisite.

Singing is a natural exercise, and an extremely healthy and beneficial one. It requires an erect posture; the chest is expanded to its fullest extent, and the lungs and muscles of the chest are exercised more fully than in any other employment. The qualifications of a good singer are—voice, sound lungs, good teeth, ear for music, linguistic knowledge, taste, expression, and general education; and in proportion as each student possesses these qualifications may he expect to take rank as a vocalist.

Voice is breath made vocal or phonetic. The sounds of the human voice are formed in the larynx, which is situated immediately above the windpipe; and the different notes of the musical scale are produced by the combined action of the muscles upon certain membranes in the interior of the larynx, which form an aperture called the *rima glottidis*. In the higher intonation the membranes are relaxed, and the aperture enlarged. The glottis exercises an office similar to that of a reed in a wind instrument, and the muscles are made to act upon it with such precision and agility that it surpasses the most expressive of these instruments in rapidity and neatness of execution.

A tone, firmly delivered, and a succession of tones well connected with each other, form, as far as technique is concerned, the whole elements of the art. It is essential, therefore, that great attention be paid to these first principles, and that they be carefully studied before the more difficult exercises are attempted, otherwise the pupil's last efforts will be marked with want of evenness and firmness of execution. The first thing for the vocalist to study is how to take breath. Stand erect, with the head thrown well back, the feet firmly planted on the ground. Take a deep inspiration, lifting the framework of the chest to its fullest capacity, and then exhale slowly. Repeat several times, taking care always to breathe noiselessly. When the lungs have been exercised in this manner for a few minutes, take a deep inspiration, and sound the note G (2nd line, treble clef); (if a bass voice, an octave lower); practise daily, till it can be sustained for 25 or 30 seconds with ease.

Now we come to the development of the vocal organs. Open the mouth well, take a deep inspiration, and sound the note F, (1st space, treble clef), pronouncing A as in far; sustain while counting eight slowly. See that a good full tone is produced, and note the way in which you produce the best quality. Practise in this manner every note of the first tetrachord, viz., F, G, A, B flat, beginning mezzo-forte, and gradually increasing the time. Let the contralto and bass voices use C, first ledger line below the treble clef. Be careful to open the mouth before striking the note, and to strike the note firmly and suddenly.

When a fair tone is obtained on these notes, practise the same exercise, beginning on G sharp, G, A sharp, A, B sharp, and B, successively. In this manner the student will not proceed to one tetrachord till the preceding one has been well practised and a good and even tone obtained on every note.

The next step is to practise slowly the diatonic scale. Most books on singing recommend the student to increase the tone on each note to fortissimo, gradually diminishing it towards the close; but when we consider the matter practically for a moment it will be seen that the crescendo and diminuendo are comparatively easy of attainment, and that more attention is one of the greatest difficulties in singing.

(To be continued.)

The entertainment at Zion Church on Tuesday, 21st instant, should be interesting. It will consist of a lecture on Mendelssohn by the Rev. Alfred J. Bray, who will speak of the great composer's life and works. The lecture will be illustrated by the rendering of secular and sacred pieces by the choir, under the leadership of Dr. MacLagan, who will preside at the organ. There is ample scope for both lecturer and choir, for Mendelssohn's life, though short, was beautiful, and his music has greatly enriched the world.

Montreal will have a Musical Jubilee soon.

A benefit is shortly to be given in England to Mario, who is very poor. The following great artists have consented to appear on his behalf:—Messdames Nilsson, Trebelli, Bettini, Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley and Signor Foli.

Flotow, the composer of "Martha," is a man of sixty-six, with long, white hair, beard, and moustache. His cheeks are round and full, and he makes constant use of perfumes. He arrived in Paris lately with several new operas on hand.

Nilsson has been nominated Imperial Russian singer.

Albani and Capoul are making a sensation at the Paris Grand Opera House.

Mme. Pappenheim goes to Europe in June. She has an engagement at Her Majesty's Opera House for three seasons.

They say Adelina Patti has received \$2,500,000 in salaries up to the present time.

On Tuesday evening the reopening of the Ottawa Hotel took place. The Hotel has been thoroughly renovated, and can now be rated as a first-class hotel. It is to be carried on under what is termed the "European system." Mr. Brown, the landlord, provided for his guests a supper of ample dimensions, which was a happy omen of the ability of his *chef-de-cuisine*. After all had enjoyed the repast, Alderman Nelson was voted to the chair. Of the many gentlemen present, we noticed Mr. Harrison Stephens, Aldermen Clendinning and Thibault, and the Rev. Mr. Green, several of whom spoke in happy terms of both the landlord and the proprietor. We sincerely wish success to the Ottawa.

HIGH-HEEL BOOTS.—The absurd and ungainly practice of mounting the hinder part of the feet on stilts while the toes press the ground and bear the weight, as in the use of high-heels, is one, says the *Lancet*, against which it is not easy to write with temper. The device of strangling the waist with tightly-laced corsets was contemptible for its ignorance; that to which we now allude is outrageous in its defiance of the laws of gravity. It does not need a knowledge of anatomy to convince the shallowest thinkers of the sex which worship the idol of Fashion, that the foot is forced into a wholly unnatural position, and distorted, by the heel being raised and the body made to rest on the ball of the toes. It should be unnecessary to explain that this disturbance of the foundation throws the whole superstructure out of gear, and deranges every mechanical function. A moment's reflection should lead to the instant abandonment of a practice so manifestly irrational and ridiculous; but, forsooth, the foot looks somewhat smaller as seen from the front or side when placed obliquely; so, regardless of common sense and common prudence, the practice prevails. Such is the folly and wantonness of vanity!