

## MUSIC.

## THE TORONTO VOCAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

THE programme of the concert to be given by this Society, on Tuesday next, promises to be a very attractive one. The work of the Society includes some numbers of the highest order, amongst which are "Who is the Angel that Cometh," specially composed by Henry Leslie for his own choir; "Hushed in Death," by Dr. Hills, and the beautiful motett by Gounod, "Come unto Him." Mlle Arturi is to sing from her own repertoire of Italian opera; it will be her last appearance, as she leaves shortly for Europe. The very effective scena from "Semiramide" will be given by Mlle Arturi with the co-operation of the Vocal Society. Extra seats are being arranged for, as all the regular seats have been taken.

THE influential names of those gentlemen appointed to look after and organise a first-class band in the City of Toronto are no doubt to be respected. The want is a genuine one, and the committee selected in every way fit for its work, comprising the names of our most eminent professors, as well as of the more or less distinguished patrons and amateurs that yearly increase among us. Yet the want, though genuine, is not so pressing as several others. The complaint recently overheard by a guest at the Board of Trade Banquet is true enough. There is no local organisation capable of preferring suitable musical entertainment at such gatherings. The local bands are well enough in their way, and might be heard a little oftener, we think, in fine weather, to our own enjoyment and their own good. The theatre orchestra is fair, and occasionally much more than fair; it can play exceedingly well, but it remains a theatre orchestra, and loses when transported, even in thought, from the surroundings of foot-lights.

The formation, therefore, and maintenance of a first-class band would be a matter to be grateful for, and we quite understand the light in which the promoters of the scheme see it—a very strong light, indeed, as we are aware. Yet, casting away the more business like aspect of the matter, the state of the case as regards art is this: we require a band, it is true, but we require other things infinitely more. It is not possible, even in Toronto, where a decidedly utilitarian spirit prevails to the exclusion of purely artistic goals, to entirely govern the community according to business ends. When the latter principle prevails, art is sure to suffer.

Now what, as a musical city, and one ambitious of being so considered, Toronto does really require, more than anything else, is a resident orchestra. Musical work moves, in these days, very rapidly, and in ever broadening ways towards the one goal—oratorio and cantata, and even opera performances. Our best concerts are found upon some of these models, and this is not alone true of Toronto, but of all the surrounding towns in Ontario. How ridiculous it seems that for upwards of twenty years we have had performances of the "Messiah," the "Creation," etc., the chorus steadily enlarging and improving, more expensive and distinguished soloists being engaged each succeeding year, and yet comparatively little being done towards the permanent and systematic amelioration of the orchestra! Most certainly, if the suggestions as to formation of the band be carried out well—and in Mr. Bayley's hands the matter is entirely safe—the local orchestra will be enriched by superior wind and brass instruments, and it will then be a comparatively easy undertaking to complete the strings of which we have already a very fair number, and in this hope we can wish all success to the endeavours of those gentlemen who have the musical interests of Toronto near to heart.

SERANUS.

## LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERTS, ST. JAMES'S HALL, LONDON.

THE sixteenth and last of this series of concerts, of which this has been the first season, took place on Wednesday evening, March 16. Mr. Henschel, a musician of great artistic merit, has arranged and conducted them. They have been patronised by the rank and fashion of London, and the public are indebted to him for providing good music, music of the highest class, for very small fees. The orchestra is composed of eighty picked men, whose instruments sing as if unanimously inspired by the conductor's spirit, answering to his slightest movement. Mr. Henschel also always has a vocalist, to break what, to some people, would be monotony of merely instrumental music. Certainly the change enhances the charm of the return to it. This last concert was opened with C. Von Weber's "Jubilee Overture." It was written in 1818 to celebrate the Jubilee of Augustus III. of Saxony. Our National Anthem is introduced as a coda, which is very grandly worked up, and is fortissima throughout. The reason of the introduction of this tune is that it is the national air of several sections of the German Empire, Saxony amongst the number. The performance of this striking overture was, of course, appropriate at this concert, which comes nearest to the great national celebration next June.

Schubert's beautiful symphony in C (No. 7) was next performed. Though very long, it was listened to throughout with great attention, and received tremendous applause at its conclusion. It is one of Schubert's most interesting works, but it is thanks to Robert Schumann that it has been placed in its proper light before the musical world. Ten years after Schubert's death Schumann discovered it in MS., and at once arranged with Ferdinand Schubert (the composer's brother) to send it to the Director of the Gewandhaus Concerts, Mendelssohn being then the directing artist. His first glance sufficed to convince him of the beauty of this masterly production, and it was received with universal admiration. It is now considered a priceless treasure.

Lohengrin's "Legend" and "Farewell to Elsa" was magnificently sung

by Mr. Edward Lloyd. With none of the stage surroundings, he threw himself into the spirit of the situation, and gave it with dramatic force. The ethereal chords on the violins, which introduce this exquisite solo, and the accompaniment throughout, with the melody and motif of the Holy Grail now and again appearing, is indeed very lovely.

The "Kaisermarsch" (Wagner) was the concluding number. The German National Hymn is majestically introduced and worked into this grand march. The fact that it was inspired on the election of the German Emperor to Imperial office, at the end of the Franco-German War in 1871, made it a particularly happy selection at this moment—on the eve of the great fête in honour of his ninetieth birthday. Thus the two remarkable monarchical events of the day were appropriately remembered by the opening and concluding numbers on the programme.

Mr. Henschel is a thorough musician, and the four recitals that he and Mrs. Henschel (who sings very charmingly) have given in the Prince's Hall have been much thought of by music-loving people. The Princess of Wales was present at the last one.

FREDA.

London, March 18, 1887.

## MUSIC.

Anglo-Canadian Music Company:

"MY SWEETHEART," (SCOTTISCHE). Charles Coote.

"BLACKBERRIES," (POLKA). Auguste Van Biene.

"KATRINA," (WALTZ). May Astlere.

Some pretty additions to the dance music repertoire—the last mentioned by far the most melodious—but not so easy as the others.

MRS. ARTHUR SPRAGGE has collected in a volume the series of articles published in THE WEEK as "Jottings along the C. P. R.," describing the journey from Ontario to the Pacific Coast, with an excursion up the Kootenay. The articles have been revised throughout, and some additional chapters added, the whole now giving much valuable information about the far West and British Columbia, with its mining industries, not to be obtained elsewhere. The volume is on the eve of publication by Mr. C. Blackett Robinson.

WE are pleased to see that steps have been taken by the Canadian Institute in the direction of our recent editorial note on the "Mineral Industries of Canada." In a very interesting paper on the "Iron Ores of Ontario," read on Saturday, Mr. James T. B. Ives, F.G.S., pointed out the great necessity for systematically recording the information obtained during mining operations with a view to establish laws in connection with metalliferous occurrence. This matter was previously strongly recommended by Sir Wm. Logan, Dr. Sterry Hunt, and other eminent scientists, and also by the Geological Section of the British Association, at the Montreal meeting, in 1884. The Institute have named a committee to take steps to call the attention of the Dominion and Local Governments to the advisability of some legislation with a view to obtain systematic statistics and information about our mineral production, which has been greatly neglected in the past, and which every day is growing more important to the wealth and prosperity of Canada.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

AN important work on Russia is about to be brought out by the Harpers. The general title of the book will be "The Russian Church," its author being Mr. Albert F. Heard, formerly Consul-General of Russia at Shanghai. The work will deal with the introduction of Christianity in Russia, its development and its influence with the people. Chapters will also be devoted to descriptions of Russian monasteries and sketches of the priests of the Russian Church.

REV. EDWARD EVERETT HALE is devoting all his time to the gathering of material for the second volume of his life of Benjamin Franklin. For this volume Dr. Hale has succeeded in securing considerable information and documents of a most interesting and rare character. Additional material for the work is now being secured by specialists and correspondents in Europe, "and this," states Dr. Hale, "will make my progress with the book necessarily slow. I doubt very much, because of this, if the volume will be issued before next October."

THE first number of the new *American Magazine* will be ready this week, when a first edition of 75,000 copies is to be put on the market. From a glance at the advance sheets the following is a partial list of the contents: "The Raquette in '55," a description of the Adirondack Mountains in 1655, will be the opening article, and is written by Professor Van Buren Denslow; Edgar Fawcett contributes the first chapters of his new serial of New York society life, "Olivia Delaplaine"; J. T. Trowbridge recounts his "Experiences of an Author"; Z. L. White, the Washington newspaper correspondent, gives a series of offhand sketches of prominent United States Senators, accompanied with portraits; Rev. John P. Newman tells of "General Grant's Habits"; Rose Eytinge writes of "The Smallness of the World," and W. H. Rideing will describe "Literary Life in Boston."

THE May issue of *Harper's Magazine* will contain an important article entitled "Recent Movement in Southern Literature," by Charles W. Coleman, Jr., with portraits of such rising southern authors as George W. Cable, Joel Chandler Harris, Charles Egbert Craddock (Miss Mary N. Murfree), Robert Burns Wilson, the Kentucky poet; Thomas Nelson Page, Richard Malcom Johnston, Julia Magruder, Frances Courtenay Baylor, Grace King, Amelie Rives, and others. Mons. Coquelin has a copiously illustrated article on "French Actors and Acting," and Mr. Charles C. Marshall will write on "The American Mastiff." Richard Henry Stoddard has contributed a poem called "Frowns and Tears." Mr. George William Curtis pays a glowing tribute to Henry Ward Beecher, and dwells on the patriotic preacher's love for humanity, home, flowers, and children. Mr. Howells reviews the early letters of Thomas Carlyle and those addressed to Miss Welsh, Mr. Lowell's "Democracy," and the works of the Russian novelist Tolstoi.