



MR. PAIGE'S FIRST SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT.

OUR anticipations in relation to this Concert were fully realized, and seldom has a more flattering reception greeted a corps operatique. The performances were a little late in commencing, but the audience could easily perceive that Mr. Paige was unremitting in his exertions not to keep them longer than possible—so they bore the short delay with good humored philosophy. In so long a programme it is impossible to touch upon every thing, and we really find it very difficult to particularize. However, we will begin by remarking that the opening overture was very good, and seemed to give general satisfaction. With the opening part of the opera from "Bella Venezia" to "Vieni! la danza invitaci," we were not satisfied; we did not think that Mr. Strathey seemed at home in his duties, and although he is most undoubtedly a thorough musician, we are afraid that he rather threw the first chorus into confusion from his want of experience as an accompanist and director. The Brindisi, however, made amends, and we can with justice assure the singers that we have heard it at the Broadway opera house, with Bishop as a prima donna, and Bochea as conductor, when it was neither as correctly nor as spiritedly executed. Any little defects were, however, speedily forgotten when the first notes of Lucrezia's opening cavatina, "Com' è bello, quale incanto," were heard. We have seldom known such wonderful improvement as we noticed in Miss Paige's voice, both in power and clearness of vocalisation. Her singing of this song was truly artistic; it was given with grace, tenderness, and that truthfulness of expression which characterizes this young lady's singing. We must not omit the finale, "Maffeo, Orsini, signora, son io," which told with wonderful effect. Mr. Paige, as Gennaro, was very effective in the duet with Lucrezia, and in the beautiful "Di pescatore ignobile." Mr. Hecht was evidently suffering from a cold, which of course prevented his doing himself justice; his part was nevertheless well sung. We do not remember ever to have heard Mr. Humphrey's voice to such advantage as on this occasion; he was evidently on his mettle, and right well did he acquit himself. His singing was expressive, and really very fine.

The second part of the programme was, with one exception, English. The exception, however, was one of the gems of the evening—a terzetto sung by Mr. Paige, Miss Paige, and Mr. Humphreys—and was given with such effect as to cause an enthusiastic burst of applause, and a vociferous demand for an encore. While we think of it, we would remind the Toronto audiences that lungs

are not made of leather, and cannot last for ever; a demand for an encore is, therefore, sometimes unmerciful—as, for instance, in the difficult and trying "Polka song," so well sung by Miss Paige. Had not the performers been possessed of the most invincible good humor, they could not have stood the repeated calls on their patience. "Avis an lecteur." We trust we have said enough—space forbids our enlarging; but we cannot pass over "The last rose of summer." When Miss Paige sings this, she almost reconciles us to English music. We can give her no greater praise than this admission. The second concert will take place on the 3d March, and is to consist exclusively of classical sacred music, and from what we can learn it will surpass in interest even the first. We shall have, for the first time in Toronto, some of the grand chorusses from the Oratorio of St. Paul, with their grand orchestral accompaniments. Miss Paige will sing "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and that alone will be something, we should say, worth hearing. We intended to have said a few words about the difficulty of concert-giving, but are without space, we will only then observe, *en passant*, that the getting up an affair in the successful and correct style of the last concert, is not so easy as some may imagine; when, therefore, it is done, and well done for us, we ought to show our appreciation of the trouble taken. We were glad, then, to see the brilliant, fashionable, and overflowing house that had assembled to stamp Mr. Paige's merits with approval.

TORONTO VOCAL SOCIETY.

Since our last notice this Society has changed conductors, and Mr. Paige has been appointed conductor in place of Mr. Clarke. We are quite in the dark as to the why and wherefore the change has been made. There is a rumor that the first open meeting will be on the 9th of March, but we are not certain (in fact, we do not see how it can be done), that the necessary amount of practice can be got through by that time, as pupils and teacher must still be comparative strangers to each other. We must make one suggestion to the Society. We have been repeatedly asked where tickets for the open meetings could be purchased, and dissatisfaction is expressed at the difficulty in getting one. We propose to the Society to issue for sale at least two hundred tickets at a quarter dollar, this plan would give general satisfaction, and would add something to the funds, so as to enable the Society to make their bi-ennial concerts more attractive.