

the "Conte d'Hoffmann," and an operetta written in conjunction with Paul Ferrier and M. M. Halévy, for the Bouffe Theatre.

M. Gevaert, the Principal of the Brussels Conservatoire, has returned to Belgium from his mission to Italy, to report on the ancient instruments of that country. He discovered at Herculaneum, two curious instruments, an account of which he will publish.

A somewhat famous inventor of musical instruments has recently died at Paris, M. Alexandre François Debain. He worked in the factories of Sax, Pape, Mercier, and others until he began business as a piano-forte maker on his own account. He is best known as the inventor of the Harmonium, patented in 1840, of the piano-écran, the stenographone, an instrument for producing on paper the improvisation of the pianist, and the piano mécanique—perhaps the most popular.

A Choral Society for the City of London, (Eng.), is to be organized, to consist mainly of those employed in the great city houses. Five hundred members are already enrolled and in due time a series of concerts will be given in aid of city charities.

A concert consisting of "humouristique music" was lately given in Glasgow, showing how much genuine comedy there is in music without resorting to vulgarity. Haydn's Farewell Symphony, Mozart's droll Village Symphony, the Dervish Chorus, from the "Ruins of Athens," Cherubini's "Forty Thieves" overture, and several funny things of Strauss, comprised the programme. M. Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette," one of the wittiest echerzos ever written, was included in this novel selection of the conductor, Von Bülow. Another night he gave them Brahms's C minor symphony, "The Demon," and the "Danse Macabre," of St. Saëur. For three neighbouring pieces, one cannot conceive of a gloomier procession.

The London Athenæum says that the musical features of the Paris Exhibition ought to be of extraordinary interest to the musical world, the Minister of Public Instruction and of the Fine Arts having issued a decree for performances that shall exemplify art in its highest forms as respects both composition and execution, and a committee with M. Thomas, as president, having been appointed to carry the decree into effect. Gounod, Cohen, Dubois, Guilmant, Saint Saëur and Weckerlir are members of the committee, and about \$50,000 have been appropriated to meet the pecuniary exigencies of such an undertaking. Foreign composers are invited to confer with the committee as to competition, and to send compositions.

Mr. C. J. Bishenden has received complimentary letters from the Queen and the Earl of Beaconsfield for presentation copies of his book, *How to sing*.

A young English baritone singing under the name of Riccardo Della Rosa, has just made a brilliant début at Lucca, as the King in "La Favorita." His "beautiful voice, handsome person, finished and artistic style of singing," and also his exceptionally great dramatic talents foretell for him a splendid career. He is a pupil of Alary, of Paris, and Rouconi, of Milan.

M. Faure lately appeared as Hamlet in Marseilles. Anna di Belocca is again in London. Pauline Lucca lately made a successful re-appearance in Madrid. With pitiful ignorance the *Musical World* has it that in Detroit (*Canada*), was recently held a Beethoven Festival.

Madl. Materna has appeared as *Ortrud* in "Lohengrin," in Prague, and also in scenes from the *Götter dämmerung* and *Walküre*. Adeline Patti is at Naples.

At a recent Gewandhaur concert in Leipsic, Johannes Brahms played a piano concerto written by himself. The interest evinced in his playing was very great, but beyond a thorough musicianly style, he seems to have nothing.

Hans Von Bulow's Notes of Travel, in the *Leipsic Signale*, edited by Herr Seaff, and translated in the *Musical World*, are to be found in the pages of *Dwight*, and are interesting, though sometimes obscure from the weakness of the translation. About a performance of Mendelssohn's "Song of Praise," at the Crystal Palace, he says:—"The elevating performance of Mendelssohn's