

## MUSICAL GOSSIP.

The Toronto Choral Society designs to bring out the Oratorio of The Creation next season.

The Philharmonic Society are putting the finishing touches on chorus and orchestral parts of the Oratorio Judas Maccabeus, to be produced at the pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens, on the evening of Tuesday, 7th June.

The Concert by the Normal Class and amateur pupils of The Toronto College of Music, will take place on the evening of Wednesday 22. The chief feature of which will be a new Symphony Overture, comprising four movements—Allegro, Maestoso, Andante, Scherzo and Finale, entitled "Canada." The last movement is founded upon National airs of England, Ireland and Scotland, introducing for the first time, a new Canadian Anthem and concluding with the National Anthem. The Symphony Overture was written for, and dedicated to the members of the Normal Class, year 1881, by whom it will be played, upon four pianos and organ. On the same evening The Medal of Honor and Prizes will be distributed.

## THE ART EXHIBITION.

## A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW.

At length the annual festival has come and gone! The feast has been ungrudgingly spread before the public, and if that irresponsible body has not availed itself of the opportunity it is certainly not the fault of the artists of Ontario.

In years gone by, the people have flocked in thousands to gaze with eagerness on the annual result of the efforts of Canada's young but energetic school, sympathetically anxious for the prosperity of native art, and proud of its success, wherever success could be claimed or even hinted at.

This year there can be no question as to the decided progress accomplished, nor two opinions as to the increase of various and interesting subjects brought together upon the Society's walls.

All circumstances favoured it, the date being prior to that of the Royal Canadian Academy meeting, naturally conducing towards the most strenuous efforts on the part of the artists, and the local exhibition coming first would have all the advantage, while the reflection that, failing to dispose of a work here there was still the Academy behind to resort to, while in most cases the purchasers of Ontario would be sure to consent to allow the artist to exhibit his "sold" picture at Halifax.

Seeing then the position, it is somewhat surprising, very discouraging and depressing to the artists, and says but little for the spirit, sincerity or liberality of their so-called patrons, that so deserving an exhibition has been so comparatively neglected by the people of Ontario.

Of course there were a few, alas! how few! "faithful among the faithless found," who were unremitting in their visits, and so far as their means allowed, liberal, even generous in their support; but it cannot be denied that, whatever the cause, the "Ninth Annual Exhibition" has

been, though an artistic success, a deplorable failure financially. It may be that the recovery from bad times has not yet reached the point to make itself felt by artists and other workers in the more luxurious branches of labour.

Portraits, though not numerous in this year's exhibition, were very good, and give good ground to hope that the photographic machine has not quite proven an invincible "foe to graphic art."

It is true that at large exhibitions in a metropolis like London, the general public feel but very little delight in gazing at the "portrait of a gentleman" so often met in old times, absorbing valuable wall space to the exclusion of works possessing greater interest. Here in Toronto, however, it is rather different. In most cases, portraits exhibited will be at once recognized by the majority of visitors, and certainly, in this exhibition, those shown were a decided gain to the collection, both as regards art, merit and variety, besides greatly adding to the "tout ensemble."

Of Mr. Patterson's two, we decidedly preferred that of Professor Croft; it is from life and is lifelike; the artist has represented the man of science busy at his professional work; this, it always seems to us, is the truly practical way of posing the subject. Mr. Patterson has succeeded in rendering the intense absorption of the professor in his occupation. The chemical apparatus, without being laboured, is very cleverly painted, and, unlike the unmeaning paraphernalia of the Photographer's shop, they bear directly upon the subject which it is the desire of the painter to portray and the object of the spectator to comprehend. There was evidently, in this case, no desire on the part of either painter or subject to affect the fine gentleman, or put on a grand air; nothing but a plain statement of a simple story to be made in the most direct and truth-telling manner; "a plain unvarnished tale," such as should go straight to the heart of all friends and acquaintances of the very able gentleman whose semblance it gives us, as did that of the Moor of Venice when told in hearing of the Patrician's daughter.

The public ought to learn, (and by being shewn is the only way in which it can be taught), that a portrait at its best means something beyond a mere map or even topographical chart of the form and features. It should penetrate the surface and suggest the mind and soul within. Mr. Patterson is yet a young man, his powers have yet to be developed, at least such would be the natural inference, and we say this without the least detriment to the excellence of his work so lately shown; but only to premise that if he be so able now, what may we not hope to see from his hand when steadied and strengthened by the practise and experience of more mature years; when repeated experiments, assiduous efforts, aye, and as comes to all, *repeated failures*, have each done their part towards perfecting the brilliant natural abilities with which his youth has been endowed, and which already shadow forth such promise of honors yet to be won.

Mr. Harris, another Canadian, born upon the breezy coast of our Island of Prince Edward, is an artist still young, but more mature than Mr. Patterson; he is one, too, who evinces a greater amount of that power which can only come from severe study and patient training in the best