

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The piano pupils of Mr. W. O. Forsyth give a recital in St. George's Hall on the evening of Thursday, May the 18th, invitations can be procured at the piano warerooms of Messrs. Gourlay, Winter and Leeming, 188 Yonge street.

The piano pupils of Mr. J. W. F. Harrison gave a recital in the beautiful Conservatory of Music Hall with vocal assistance on Monday evening, May 8th, when a programme of an interesting character in, Saint-Saens, Hayden, Moskowski, Jensen, and others, all of which were given in good style.

Next week, beginning May 15, and for the two following nights, Reginald De Koven's Opera "Robin Hood" will be performed at the Academy of Music by a company of good artists. This opera is considered to be the best work yet composed by an American, being melodious, richly set in orchestral garb, and contains some pretty songs and choruses. The performance should attract large audiences, which they doubtless will.

A splendid concert was given in the Normal School Theater on Tuesday evening last, May 2nd, by the pupils of the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby. The young ladies sang, played and recited in a manner highly creditable to themselves and to their instructors, and the evening passed off most pleasantly. Mr. J. W. F. Harrison, the musical director, has brought the musical department up to a high standard of excellence, and he has some most promising pupils.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Company, playing at the Academy of Music this week, is one of the largest and best travelling, comprising 30 first-class artists. The scenery is splendid, and they have a grand double band of white and coloured musicians. African mandolin students, the only coloured people appearing in public and performing on the Spanish mandolin, form a new feature in the caste of this popular play. The Lone Star Quartette, and the Topsyies, two young lady adepts in the terpsichorean art, are among the other attractions and serve to diversify the character of the performance.

Leland T. Powers again proved his cleverness and versatility as an imperator in his performance of Robertson's comedy of David Garrick at the Pavilion on Thursday evening of last week, together with a scene from the Shaugraun. It is no ordinary task to attempt the representation of all the characters in a play, and the number of actors who can successfully attempt it is necessarily limited. There can be no doubt that Mr. Powers is one of that number. His interpretation of the play was most cordially received by the audience. The pleasure of the performance was heightened by the fine band of the Queen's Own Rifles, under the leadership of Mr. Bayley. Mr. Grenville P. Kleiser will have to look to his laurels if he purposes surpassing next season, the excellent series of entertainments with which he has favoured Toronto audiences during the course, which has just been completed by Mr. Powers.

The concerts given by the African Native Choir in Association Hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of last week, were fairly well attended, and were also, both amusing and interesting. The choir consisted of some ten or twelve native Kaffirs, male and female, some of whom have voices of real musical quality, and who sing remarkably well when one considers their life and surroundings, and what their training must be in their far-off home. Their selections were made up from English songs—sung in English—and the wild, half civilized songs of their own people. Among the most amusing of the latter were, The Hottentot Song,—supposed to be a passage at arms between a native woman, who is very fond of talking, and some of her people who are taunting her for her propensity to chatter so incessantly. "Typical Wedding Song" and "Molo-kada" (Good-bye), the latter being a representation of the effect produced by

the gradual approach and disappearance of a travelling party, who have a peculiar habit of singing and keeping time to the weird melody with their feet. This last was a remarkable specimen of shading—as it began in a low, almost indistinct tone, gradually swelling louder and louder, until an immense volume of sound was developed, and just as gradually diminishing, until the sound was once more inaudible. The English songs were quite effectively rendered, and comprised Mohr's "Children Asleep," "Dawn of Day" and "Send the Light," a piece composed for the African Choir by a gentleman living in South Africa.

LIBRARY TABLE.

PICTURESQUE VIEWS AND MAPS OF THE MUSKOKA LAKES CANADA. Toronto: The Williamson Book Co. (lim.).

This handsome compilation conveys a pleasing and instructive array of information about one of the most beautiful and popular summer resorts on the Continent. The Muskoka Lakes from the salubrity of their climate, the exceeding beauty of their surroundings, and the varied round of recreation they afford are attracting yearly an increasing number of visitors not only from Canada, but the States. They are one of nature's wild and lovely play grounds, where to the tourist the summer days are all too short, and where the crisp autumnal air so often resounds with the crack of the sportsman's rifle—in pursuit of bear, or swift footed deer. This pamphlet includes bird's eye views of the three lakes: Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph, and the lesser lakes as well: hotels and island cottages; points and places of interest, and sporting scenes in profusion. Among the most notable cottages is that of Professor Campbell, on Yoho Island, Lake Joseph: "The first cottage on Muskoka Lakes." A variety of useful information is presented in the pamphlet: just the sort of information intending visitors require, as to railway, steam boat and stage connections, fares, hotels shops, &c.

THE STORY OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH. By Henry M. Field. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.

During the winter of 1849-50 Mr. Frederick Gisborne, a Nova Scotian Engineer, formed the resolution to attempt to connect St. Johns, Newfoundland, by telegraphic wires, steamship and carrier pigeons, with the mainland of the continent. After indefatigable efforts and great sacrifices, the great pioneer was thwarted by insuperable financial difficulties. Defeated, but undaunted, though financially ruined he continued the struggle. In the year 1854 he went to New York, and at his instance Cyrus W Field became interested in his project, which was soon widened to the design of joining the American and European Continents by a telegraphic cable, if such a tremendous undertaking were feasible. Mr. Field obtained very favourable opinions from Lieut. Maury of the National Observatory at Washington, and Professor Morse the distinguished electrician (who as early as 1843 had prophesied the ultimate fulfilment of such a project. He then secured the co-operation of five prominent New York financiers, among them Peter Cooper. A company was formed with Mr. Cooper as President, a charter and grant were obtained from the Newfoundland government, a capital of \$1,500,000 was subscribed and the great scheme was started. The recent death of his brother, who figured so largely in this stupendous enterprise, induced Mr. Henry M. Field to tell its chequered story, he has told it vividly and graphically. To many it will prove more interesting than romance. Is it not indeed, the romance of reality? It will refresh the memory of some—to others it will be a revelation of what pluck and enterprise have accomplished for the world when pitted against difficulties and discouragements, which

would have disheartened all but the most resolute in purpose and the most persevering in achievement.

PLATO AND PLATONISM: A Series of Lectures. By Walter Pater. Price \$1.75. New York: MacMillan & Co.; Toronto: Williamson Book Co. 1893.

We are not thick and thin admirers of Mr. Pater; whilst we should always wish to recognize his eminent literary abilities. The somewhat foolish modern cultus of the Renaissance has been helped forward a good deal by some of Mr. Pater's writings. But he has done better things than that; and one of the best things he has done is now before us. The contents of the book were originally delivered as lectures to the author's pupils, students in the University of Oxford. The subject, as the author somewhat needlessly tells us, is not Neoplatonism of any kind, but the leading principles of Plato's doctrine. We think Mr. Pater has done his work excellently well. He has not only given us a very well written book, as we should expect of him; but he has given us as nearly as possible Plato's own doctrine and not Mr. Pater's opinions read into Plato, and he has left the teachings of Plato in the haze in which the great Teacher left them, neither darker nor lighter. Every lecture is good; but the one on Plato and Socrates is super-excellent. It ends thus: "All that is best and largest in his own matured genius he identifies with his master; and when we speak of Plato generally what we are really thinking of is the Platonic Socrates. The first lectures point out the relation of Socrates to his Heraclitic, Eleatic, and Pythagorean predecessors. The author also treats of the Sophists, of the Genius and Doctrine of Plato and finally of the Republic and of the Esthetics of Plato.

DIVISION AND REUNION, 1829-1889. By Woodrow Wilson, Ph.D. L.L. D. (Epochs of American History). New York and London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1893.

We have already commended the preceding volumes of this series. The first dealing with the period embraced between the years 1492-1750 entitled "The Colonies by Mr. Thwaites and the second the period from 1750-1829 entitled "Formation of the Union" by Professor Hart. It is now our pleasure to commend the third and last of this excellent series, which brings the record from 1829 down to 1889, and to which Professor Wilson has given the appropriate title "Division and Reunion." The early part of the volume has for its moving figure the narrow minded, resolute and overbearing demagogue Andrew Jackson—personally honest, courageous, despotic, of lowly origin, a true son of the people, a determined and bitter partizan and a democrat to the core—he was the idol of the mob, and the regal dispenser of offices to his loyal place-hunters. He was indeed representative of his time and race and in him were concentrated and popularized some of the aggressive and sinister forces which so strongly stamp the present political life of the American republic. The spoils system will ever be associated with the memory of Andrew Jackson. We find the slavery question quite fully and adequately treated, as is that of Secession and Civil War. To the consideration of these and other important issues Professor Wilson brings a store of information, a clearness and fairness of statement and a sense of proportion which add greatly to the interest and value of the work. His treatment of these and other one time, burning issues, well illustrates how time gradually mellows controversy and matures and moulds opinion. The present day portion of the volume receives short, but, considering the aim of the series, adequate treatment—the future will best record the history of to-day. Professor Wilson's scholarly and competent presentation of the period allotted to him, is not only clear and concise, but is also in accord with