

Dr. Henry Coward,
Conductor of Sheffield Choir.

Musical Reciprocity

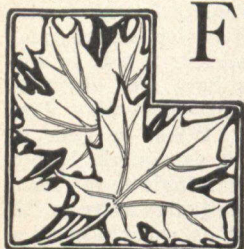
... Between ...

England and Canada

A CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROACHING VISIT OF THE
SHEFFIELD CHOIR AND THE WORK OF DR. C. A. E.
HARRISS, DIRECTOR OF THE TOUR.



Dr. C. A. E. Harriss,
Director of Sheffield Tour.

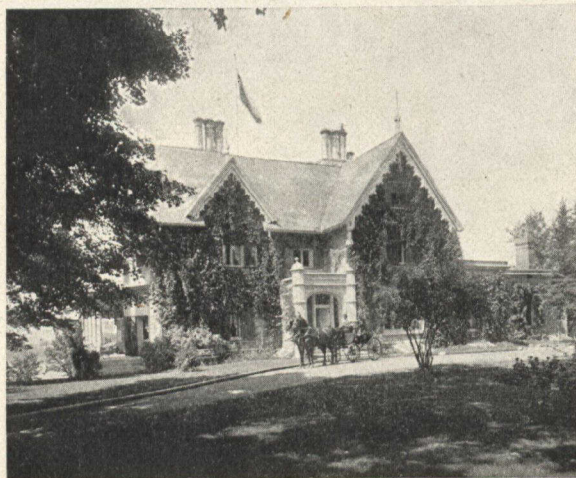


FOR many a month, Canadians have been reading of the proposed visit of the great Yorkshire choir to the Dominion and now the consummation of many plans is close at hand. Next month will see the Sheffield Choir in Canada and every lover of harmony and international good-will hopes that the

tour may be in every sense triumphal.

From the moment they reach Canadian soil until their departure from our country, the members of the Sheffield Choir will be the objects of Canadian observation and hospitality. It is the purpose of this article to consider rather the circumstances of their coming and the Anglo-Canadian musician, upon whose initiative they come—Dr. C. A. E. Harriss of Ottawa. This gentleman is a native of London, England, and was educated at St. Michael's College, Tenbury, where he took the Ouseley Musical Scholarship in 1873. In 1880 he succeeded Dr. Sloman as organist to the Earl of Powis and also became organist to the Parish Church of Welshpool. After two years his services were sought for in Canada by the authorities of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, as the successor of Dr. Davies as organist and choirmaster and subsequently by the Church of St. James the Apostle. At his first public recital in Canada he was honoured by the attendance of H. R. H., the Princess Louise. While still occupying these positions, he composed his first work, "Daniel Before the King," a dramatic sacred cantata which was the earliest musical composition ever published and performed in Canada by a British Canadian. This was followed by numerous songs, anthems, pianoforte and organ compositions: "Torquil," a lyric opera, given in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, May, 1900, in aid of the Patriotic Fund founded by His Excellency Lord Minto for the benefit of Canadian soldiers fighting in South Africa, "A Festival Mass," "The

Admiral," "Coronation Mass Edward VII." Dr. Harriss' funeral anthem, "I Heard a Voice from Heaven," was the setting written specially for use at the service held in Christ Church Cathedral at the Canadian capital, on the day of Queen Victoria's burial (January 22nd, 1901). In 1902, on the occasion of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, the present Prince and Princess of Wales, to Canada, Dr. Harriss was commanded by Their Excellencies to perform selections from "Torquil" at Rideau Hall, Ottawa.



"Earnscliffe," the Ottawa Residence of Dr. Harriss.

Thus it will be seen that Dr. Harriss has led an exceedingly busy life since coming to Canada and that he has also known the honour which does not always come to master or musician. Among the enterprises for which Canada is indebted to Dr. Harriss there have been the tours of such distinguished artists as Charles Santley, Edward Lloyd, Signor Foli, Watkin Mills, Trebelli, Muriel Foster, Grossmith, Beatrice Langley, Braxton Smith, Plunket Greene and Albani, to mention hardly half

of those who have appeared, in accordance with his arrangements.

In 1899 he induced Lieutenant Dan Godfrey and his band to visit Canada, making a tour which will long be remembered. In 1903 the First Cycle of Musical Festivals of the Dominion was conducted, meaning the organisation of festival choruses in the principal cities and towns of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia. This series of festivals commenced at Halifax on March 31st and terminated at Victoria, British Columbia, on May 9th, under the conductorship of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Principal of the London Royal Academy of Music. At the request of Sir Hubert Parry, Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Dr. Peterson, Dr. Harriss became in 1903 Honorary-Director throughout Canada for the associated board examinations of the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music, London, in connection with McGill University Conservatorium of Music, becoming its first musical director. The composition of the Choric Idyl, "Pan," for the farewell state concert given to Their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess of Minto, on their departure from Ottawa in 1904 was one of the happiest efforts in Dr. Harriss' musical career and this work was subsequently produced at the British Canadian festival, given in Queen's Hall, London, June 27th, 1906, before His Majesty, King Edward, and Princess Louise. In 1907 at the conference of premiers from all corners of the British Empire Dr. Harriss conducted his "Coronation Mass Edward VII." at the concert given in honour of the colonial visitors in association with the conductors, Herr Arthur Nikisch, Dr. Henry Coward and the Sheffield Choir.

Dr. Harriss has especially interested himself in the musical life of Montreal, having founded the Philharmonic in 1906 and composing for this society in the following year the choral ballad, "The Sands of Dee." During the present year he organised a series of church festivals throughout Canada, conducted last April and May by Sir Frederick Bridge



Ready to Sing "God Save the King," Empire Day Concert, Royal Albert Hall, London, England, in 1908, with Dr. C. A. E. Harriss as Conductor.