

Mr. C. Marvin in his newly-published book, 'The Russians at the Gates of Herat': 'It is better that we should fight her now, when she has only got 10,000 troops in the Transcaspian region, and has not thoroughly established herself in the Herat district, than give in now, and have to fight her next year or the year after, when she has seized the whole of the camping-ground, and concentrated 100,000 troops upon it to drive us out of India.' There are members of the Conservative Party who openly admit that this is their view. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* seems to share it. I am not sure that it is not the opinion of the editor of the *Times* himself. But fortunately it is not the view of Mr. Gladstone. No wonder, however, that the Russian military party should try to convince the Emperor that England is determined to bring about a war, with the intention of destroying the power of Russia in Central Asia, of promoting if possible internal revolution, and of breaking up the Empire."

THE best government is that which gives to the subject the largest amount of freedom. The freedom required is not only of person, but also of property. Freedom of property embraces as one of its most essential elements the right to exchange that property for what the holder needs—the right to deal with whom, for what, and where the holder of that property pleases.—*Bobcaygeon Independent*.

ALL politicians should know that the love of country is above the love of party; that sympathy with rebels will never be a profitable investment in Canada; that the men who hope to promote their political interests by taking the hand of Louis Riel—the man who has set the Indians on to massacre our white brethren and sisters in the North-West—will lose by the transaction ten votes for every one they strive to gain.—*Gossip*.

TAKING the most charitable view of the situation it seems reasonably certain that after wantonly bringing about the rebellion, the Government has arranged for the expenditure of very much more than was necessary in its suppression. In considering the cost of the rebellion we have taken no account of the injury which it has done to the prospects of the North-West and of the whole Dominion. But that is by far the heaviest item of all.—*Manitoba Free Press*.

THE English element residing in Canada in the past has been largely Tory in its instincts, but it is no secret to those who live and move among the English that their emigration directed to our shores at the present moment is strongly Radical and Liberal in its political sympathies, and that sooner or later that class will give to Canadian politics a new tone. Perhaps in a few years from now Sir John Macdonald will be very glad of the opportunity to cultivate the English Vote.—*Ottawa Free Press*.

WE are glad to see the Ontario Education Department following the excellent example of our American cousins in an "Arbour Day" for the Public Schools. We hope the experiment may prove a great success. To transform the plain, too often unsightly school grounds into beautiful groves and avenues is a work well worth doing. The child who plants his tree or shrub, and watches over its growth at school, will not be likely to forget to make the surroundings of his home, when he has one of his own, neat and attractive.—*Canada School Journal*.

NONE but the fanatical or the inexperienced expect that people will be made sober and virtuous by Act of Assembly. But a high license law will do much to suppress the evils and the scandals of the liquor traffic. A repeal of all license laws would be infinitely better than the existing system, under which the free traffic in bad rum is thinly disguised, and the saloons made the centres of profligate political intrigue for managing the affairs of a great city like Philadelphia. The overshadowing saloon influence in municipal government should be broken down, either by reducing the number of saloons through high license or by abolishing all licenses.—*Philadelphia Record*.

MUSIC.

TORONTO QUARTETTE CLUB.

ONE of the most pleasant musical reunions which have taken place this season was that held last Friday evening in the Theatre of the Toronto Normal School on the occasion of a complimentary subscription concert given by the Toronto Quartette Club. The unusual and gratifying spectacle was presented of an audience of seven hundred ladies and gentlemen listening with evident and appreciative enjoyment for two hours and a-half to the performance of classical chamber music interpreted by artists who, save with one exception, are resident musicians of this city. The programme was a model one of its kind, representative works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Cherubini and Raehenecker, with songs by Bach and Mozart, making up a most attractive list of pieces. The Mendelssohn quintette, Op. 87, B Flat Major, with which the concert opened, is one of the most striking and beautiful compositions of the master's maturity and is remarkable for its strong dramatic colouring. The Club gave three movements from this work, commencing with the second movement and closing with the first. The executants were Messrs. Jacobsen, Bayley, Haslam, Martens and Reitz. The Andante Scherzando, the first movement played, was not given with the confidence necessary to secure that delicacy and precision of execution required for the faithful presentation of the piece, and it was easy to understand that at the outset the Club had not instinctively felt that they were playing to an audience composed mainly of lovers of classical music and appreciative critics of the works presented. The rapt attention, however, with which this number was received, and the burst of applause which followed the last faint notes of the *pizzicato* at the close, convinced the Club that they had the sympathies of their listeners both

with them and their music, and they played the succeeding movements without a suspicion of doubt or hesitancy, and with an *ensemble* which they had never previously approached. The impressive *adagio* was admirably given, and among its features were the beautiful solo for the violoncello on the re-entry of the second theme in the key of D Major, delivered with much beauty of tone and phrasing by Mr. Rietz, and the final enunciation of the leading subject on the higher register of the first violin with the well-worked up *crescendo* of the *tremolo* accompaniment of the four other instruments. The *allegre vivace* was interpreted with well-sustained vigour and effect to the end. The *andante cantabile* of the Raehenecker quartette in C Minor was a number much admired, the charm of the leading melody as alternately sung by the first violin (Mr. Jacobsen) and the viola (Mr. Haslam) calling forth enthusiastic comment. The Club improved upon the success it had then achieved by its playing of the well-known *andante* with variations from Schubert's grand quartette in D Minor, and the quaint *scherzo* by Cherubini. Beethoven's great trio, Op. 97, for piano, violin and violoncello, perhaps his best chamber trio, played by Messrs. Jacobsen, Martens and Reitz, was most artistically interpreted by all three executants. Mrs. Caldwell was the solo vocalist. Her principal number was the *aria* from the "Magic Flute," a piece which could not have been better chosen with the view of displaying to advantage her extraordinary range of voice and the flute-like quality of the extreme high notes. Mr. Rietz played, as a solo, a pretty little Gavotte by Popper, which served as an admirable contrast to the heavier numbers, and was neatly and artistically played. The audience left highly pleased with the concert, and expressing surprise that such a programme could be given by our own artists.—*Clef*.

MRS. ADAMSON, the talented lady violinist, gave a successful matinee on Saturday afternoon at the rooms of Messrs. Mason and Risch, Toronto. She was assisted by Mrs. Dick (pianist), Mr. Schuch, and Madame De Chadenedes, vocalists, and three of her violin pupils. A very pleasant programme was presented. Mrs. Adamson played as her solo, Vieuxtemps' "Fantaisie Caprice," a showy composition which served to exhibit to advantage her left-hand technique and her management of the bow. The programme as a whole was acceptably rendered, and well sustained the interest of the audience.—*Clef*.

If one judged by the attendance at the concerts recently given in Hamilton by Mr. MacDuff and Mr. Baumann, two leading teachers of the violin, Hamilton people are beginning to appreciate good music. Mr. MacDuff spent a good deal of money and yet managed to have a surplus, while Mr. Baumann, who gave his concert in St. Paul's Church School-room on Wednesday last, expended less and his receipts were fully as large. The great attraction at Mr. Baumann's concert was the violin playing of George Fox, aged fifteen. This young lad is certainly possessed of musical genius. He first appeared some years since as a pianist. His progress as a violinist has been remarkable. His selections were a "Legende," by Wieniawski, the "Hungarian Dance," by Hauser, and he also played first violin with his teacher, Mr. Baumann, and Prof. O'Brien in Schumann's "Traumeri," arranged for two violins and piano. He was thrice recalled, the audience, at first inclined to be critical, manifesting much enthusiasm. He responded with Hauser's "Bird in the Tree," a "trick" performance of no musical value, and a second time with "Auld Robin Gray." He also played a Mazourka, by Wieniawski. At this day the lad shows strong individuality in his playing, which is valuable as an indication that he may become a really great performer. He already has a firm, vigorous style of bowing, and the tone he produces is quite broad, and of even and pure quality, so that little slips in execution are to be overlooked because of the evident excellence of his style. Yet withal he is a boy among boys, and has not a particle of the air of premature manliness often possessed by young players of more than ordinary ability. The vocalists were Mrs. McCulloch (who appeared for the first time since the death of her husband, and was warmly welcomed by a sympathetic audience), Miss Juliette D'Erviex, Mr. J. H. Stuart, a local basso, the Camœne (lady vocal quartette) and the Arion Club (male voices). Miss D'Erviex sang with intelligence, and the delicious quality of her voice pleased much; but objections were made, and properly so, to her constant use of the tremolo. Prof. O'Brien is the most artistic accompanist Hamilton has, and his delicate work is grateful to both singer and audience. The Camœne made their first appearance in Hamilton. The voices are well-balanced and of good quality; but until they can all sing true to pitch it would be wisdom to confine their performances to the practice-room.—*C. Major*.

HAMILTON MEMS.—Mr. Baumann purposes to give a summer concert in the Drill Shed, at which George Fox is to appear. The Hamilton Musical Union will not produce "Iolanthe" this season as at first proposed. The Union will, instead, give a concert in aid of the volunteers wounded in the North-West. The "Elijah" is to be performed here by the Philharmonic Society under F. H. Torrington. Mrs. McCulloch and Mrs. Frank MacKelcan, of this city, and Messrs. W. Mockridge and A. E. Stoddard, of New York, will be the soloists.

AN action was recently brought against Mr. Sims Reeves, the great English tenor, for damages on the ground that he had failed to perform an engagement to sing at Stratford. Mr. Irving, the plaintiff, a music dealer at Stratford, had engaged Mr. Reeves on sharing terms to give a concert at which the latter failed to appear, pleading hoarseness. The jury did not consider the evidence sufficient to prove Mr. Reeves incapable of singing, so gave the plaintiff \$250 and damages. This is an action which has often