

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The Torbett Concert Company, comprising the following artists: Miss Ollie Torbett, violinist; Herr Rudolf Von Scarpa, pianist; and the Lutteman Sextette, F. Erickson, C. Froholm, C. Smith, tenors, E. Schill, N. Lowenmark, G. Kindlundh, basses, from Stockholm, Sweden, gave two concerts in the Massey Music Hall, on the evenings of October 18th and 20th. The audiences were not so large as the excellence of the concerts justified, a fact which is much to be regretted, for those who were there, judging from the encores, and applause, were highly delighted. Miss Torbett is a vivacious and pretty young lady, who evidently has genuine musical talent. She plays with a warmth and fervor which are admirable, and her technic and intonation are highly efficient and praiseworthy. At the first concert she performed brilliantly Mendelssohn's lovely concerto, and a Polka de Concert of Ardities, although, through indisposition, she suffered from extreme nervousness, which debarr'd her from the success she otherwise would have achieved. At the second concert, however, she was in excellent form, and played with much abandon and artistic ease. Herr Von Scarpa created a most favorable impression. An artist who is continually travelling, and playing night after night in various towns and cities, is at a great disadvantage, for there is so little time for practice, often days elapsing before any study can be done. However, Herr Von Scarpa gave eloquent and brilliant renderings of Liszt's 12th and 14th Rhapsodies, Chopin's Valse op. 42, and Raff's "Cavatina" from the Suite op 91, the latter number receiving a most delightful and poetic performance. He, moreover, plays with refined sentiment and feeling, and his interpretations, if not absolutely above reproach, carry with them the honest convictions of an artist, inspired by love for his art, and who will not sacrifice it for effect or display. His encore pieces were Chopin's beautiful Etude, op. 25, No. 2, and the same composer's Nocturne in F. Minor. These were played charmingly and with refined expression. The Lutteman Sextette sing with beautiful ensemble. Their voices are fresh and musical, are well balanced, and thoroughly under control; and their shading and clearness in enunciation are features which are none the less admirable and artistic. It would be, perhaps, difficult to say which of their members were the most successful, for all were encored, and were good naturedly responded to. We think it is a mistake to sing such rubbish as "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," even if it does "soften the gums and promote sleep." It should be beneath the dignity of such an organization to extol the virtues of any patent medicine set to music of an ordinary kind. What good composer would set such words to music? The Sextette are worth hearing and cannot but give pleasure. The Company appear here again in the Massey Hall on the 17th November.

We are obliged to withhold several paragraphs until next issue.

Quebec House, Westerham, Kent, the house in which General Wolfe was born, is to be let. It is called after the battle in which the hero gained such renown. His first commission as lieutenant of marines, signed by George II., was handed to him in the garden of Squerryes Court, close by.

LIBRARY TABLE.

THE PAMUNKEY INDIANS of VIRGINIA.
By John Garland Pollard. Washington:
Government Printing Office. 1894.

Mr. Pollard, who knows the remnant of the Pamunkeys, devotes 19 pages to their early history, present home, individual characteristics, languages, mode of subsistence, government and arts. About 110 survive of the leading tribe in the confederacy over which Powhatan ruled, and to whose race belonged the Princess Pocahontas, celebrated in the adventures of Captain John Smith. They are all half-breeds, and by no means advanced in civilization; yet it is well to know something of these old lords of the Virginian soil, and what there is to know Mr. Pollard tells simply and briefly. It will interest some readers to know that the present Pamunkeys are all Baptists, and go to church regularly.

BIBLIOGRAPHY of the WAKASHAN LANGUAGES. By James Constantine Pilling. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1894

When Captain Cook landed in Nootka Sound, the natives hailed him with the word "Waukash," which means "good." He thought it was the name of the tribe, and called them Waukashes. The allied tribes live on Vancouver Island and in other parts of British Columbia, and the adjoining regions in the United States. Among them are the maritime Ahts, the Hailtsuks, Klawkwats, Nootkas and Makahs. Mr. Pilling's bibliography of 70 large octavo pages is, like all his work, exact and exhaustive. To the uninitiated it may be very dry bones, but to the student of American ethnology and philology it is a boon of no mean order. Some day the Wakashans will want a historian; then will the man of the time bless the memory of Pilling.

JAMAICA at the COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, 1893. Compiled under the superintendence of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Honorary Commissioner.

This handsome, thin octavo contains fifty beautiful engravings of Jamaica scenery, and its letterpress is full of interest. The table of contents embraces: A Descriptive Account of the Parishes of Jamaica; Columbus and Jamaica; Later History; Sport in Jamaica; The Blue Mountains of Jamaica; The Climate of Jamaica; and Statistical Information. It is thus a very complete handbook to the largest of the British possessions in the West Indies. As the British Colonies are making more extensive trade connections, and are being drawn closer together in Imperial sympathies, it is well that we in Canada should be well informed regarding our sister dependencies, in the New World especially. For such a purpose it would be hard to find a more pleasing and complete guide than the volume before us.

THE MAYA YEAR. By Cyrus Thomas. Washington: Government Printing Office 1894.

The Mayas live in Yucatan, and are the leading tribe of the Maya-Quiche-Huastec family, inhabiting Yucatan, Guatemala, and parts of Mexico. They have a calendar of their own, distinct from the Aztec or Mexican. This calendar is illustrated in old Maya codices preserved in Paris, Dresden and elsewhere. Professor Thomas has long studied these codices, and notably the Codex Troano. He now comes to the conclusion, which some of our Canadian scholars reached long ago, that the Maya-Quiche-Huastecs are of Polynesian origin, and that their calendar is derived from the same source going back by degrees to Java and other islands of the Malay Archipelago. Professor Thomas is thus in accord with Professor Campbell, of Montreal, whose recent paper before the Royal Society, deciphering the Palenque and other Central American tablets, indubitably proves the Malay-Polynesian origin of the Mayas and their congeners.

Sweet native land!
While evils of the south do stand,
Their fingers in their eyes,
And shout to heaven their cries,
And mourn for thee.

Oh native land!
Heed not that soulless, moaning band;
For self is all their cry,
And dry is every eye.
Their counsel flee.

Oh native land!
I've known that numb, that frozen hand,
That matchless greed of gold
Hath clutched within its hold.
'Tis not for thee.

Kind native land!
Thy loving heart must e'er command
The homeless wand'rer's smile;
Misfortune look to thee awhile
From out her grief.

Oh native land!
The peace and love, that round thee stand,
Are thy great heritage.
Guard them for thine old age,
For youth is wond'rous brief.

Proud native land!
May, with the years, thy strength command
The lion of thy brood
To wake unto thy mood
And smile upon the sea.

My native land!
His brow with fresh'ning breezes fanned,
And bid mad, aimless strife
To cease its waste of life
That peace may be.

JOHN H. CORNYN.

New York.

ART NOTES.

The Province of Quebec Association of Architects held their annual meeting early this month in Montreal, and it seems to have been an unusually successful and well attended affair. The conversazione, which was given in the evening in the galleries of the Art Association, was said to have been quite brilliant and attended by a large and fashionable assemblage. Several papers were read in the course of the afternoon session. From that by Mr. A. T. Taylor, of Montreal, we make a selection likely to prove promotive of art culture, if its advice is carried out, as we hope it may be: The selection and arrangements for these memorials and adornments (this is with reference to monuments, statues and the embellishment of streets, etc.) are generally in the hands of men—very worthy, no doubt, but not educated in art, and therefore not capable of deciding such matters. It is extraordinary how intelligent men will wisely consult lawyers on all legal questions, doctors on matters of health, engineers on matters of drainage, hydraulics and machinery, but on matters of art and taste they think they are quite capable of judging for themselves. I have long cherished the dream that, in the city of the future, all such questions will be relegated to a special artistic authority or tribunal, who will decide such matters. Is it too much to hope that this may be realized in the near future in our own city? This is by no means a Utopian idea, for such a scheme has already been put into operation in Boston, where they have succeeded in getting an Art Committee appointed to supervise all such matters as I have spoken of.

An ill man in office is a public calamity.