

ago, of which Mr. J. Boyce was the conductor; the Hamilton Musical Union, of recent years, which, under Mr. R. Thos. Steele, gave excellent performances of comic opera; and the Hamilton Orchestral Club, under Mr. J. E. P. Aldous. Hamilton has for many years furnished the best vocal, and very good instrumental talent for musical performances in all parts of Canada, and some of her vocalists have attained a continental reputation. The present Philharmonic Society has had a comparatively long lease of life, and is still vigorous, and the prospect for Hamilton's musical future is bright.

### THE FESTIVAL CONCERTS

When the season of 1886-7 was entered upon, the prospectus of the Hamilton Philharmonic Society included a performance of C. Villiers Stanford's oratorio, "The Three Holy Children," at the first concert, and the rendition of two short works—Sterndale Bennett's cantata, "The Woman of Samaria," and Gounod's "St. Cecilia Mass,"—at the second and concluding concert. "The Three Holy Children" was given in due course on March 11, 1887. Soon afterwards three gentlemen who took an active interest in the affairs of the Society met to discuss the work of the season. The Queen's Jubilee and how best to celebrate it was a question then occupying the public mind, and during the discussion between the gentlemen referred to, it was suggested that the Philharmonic Society might well change or extend its plans so as to merge its second concert for the season into a grand Musical Festival, which should form a part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebration. The suggestion was approved, and the officers of the Philharmonic Society gave it their support. At the next meeting of the Society the scheme was brought before the members, when it was formally decided to undertake a Jubilee Musical Festival, at which Haydn's "The Creation," and Handel's "Samson," should be given with the best soloists and orchestra obtainable. A call for a Jubilee Chorus was immediately issued, and the response was of such a character as to show that the Jubilee Festival idea had met with the approval of the public generally; and within four weeks the chorus membership roll was closed with a total of 425 active members. Mr. F. H. Torrington, who had been selected as the Society's conductor for the season, with Mr. J. E. P. Aldous, of Hamilton, as his assistant, was unanimously chosen as conductor for the Festival, accepted the appointment, and entered immediately upon the work of rehearsal, in which he has been admirably supported by an enthusiastic chorus and orchestra. In view of the extra expense involved in the extension of its