


## AW DEMME!

ETHEL—"I see by *Saturday Night* that Edith Foxglove wore a demi-train at the reception last Wednesday."


GEORGE—"Did she? I didn't notice. Oh, come to think of it, it must have been that kind, judging from a remark little Slimdood made when he stepped on it."

## HASLAM'S VOCALISTS.



THE second concert of the present season was given by the Haslam Vocal Society on Tuesday evening, 10th inst., at the Pavilion. It was, as usual, a great event. Shortly after eight, the choristers performed the thrilling act of mounting to their places on the elevated seats, and Mr. W. Elliott Haslam came to the front platform in a business-like manner and delivered himself of his copyrighted bow, presenting to the upper classes of Toronto a complete

view of the topography of his cranium (see illustration). The upper classes aforesaid stretched away from the seats immediately beneath him to the uttermost confines of the Pavilion in a varied expanse of snowy shoulders, waving fans, dress coats, glistening shirt-fronts and all the other incidentals of an audience in good form. Having finished his initial genuflection, Mr. Haslam turned round and faced his singers, who were standing tier on tier above him, the ladies in white, with blue and red sashes for soprano and alto respectively, and the gentlemen in the same clothes that proved such a success on the occasion of the first concert. The programme opened with a couple of sharp taps on the shank of the conductor's music rest. This meant "Ready!" Another tap meant "Go!" and the singers plunged

into a very tuneful part-song by Sir Arthur Sullivan. The number was capitally rendered—a remark which applies to all the other selections given by the Society during the evening. In order that we may display our critical acumen, however, and show that we know as much as the *Mail's* accomplished representative, we hasten to qualify this praise by saying that the *attack* was as a general thing too prompt and exact; the *breadth* was rather wide in some cases, while the *light* and *shade* were a trifle varied; the *tone* was full, but otherwise no fault could be found with it. Another notable feature of the chorus work was that the *fortissimo* pass-

ages were given with greater volume and force than the *pianissimos*. As we have no wish to discourage Mr. Haslam in his useful labors, we do not dwell upon any of these points, merely mentioning them to let the



reader understand that if so disposed we could display an amount of musical culture which would make any other critic in town feel mean. The instrumental attraction of the evening was the Schmidt-Herbert Quartette. The gentlemen composing this little combine proved themselves most capable musicians, and their efforts delighted the audience. Here again, notwithstanding the apparent conclusiveness of this praise, we could, if we cared to do so, point out

just where the strings were weak, and where the *tempo* was taken at a more rapid rate than a scholarly reading would justify, and where the double stopping of the *fugue* passages was not in accordance with the *staccato* of the *andante* movement.

But we refrain. It is no part of our mission to dash the innocent (if ignorant) joy of the common people. The vocal soloist was Scalchi, the Glorious, the possessor of a contralto voice which is now, as it has long been, one of the wonders of the musical world. Some people object to the "methods" of this noted artiste, and others fail to recognize the beauty of the effects she produces. Scalchi is perhaps an acquired taste; if so, she is easily acquired, as was testified after her last number, when the audience recalled her five times. There is only one word to describe her singing, and we repeat it—*glorious*. On the whole the concert proved to be, as GRIP predicted it would be, the best the Society has ever given.



## THE PATRIOTIC IDEA.

MR. BILLY MACLEAN, of the *World*, will take the seat for East York, by virtue of good management of the voters' lists in St. Matthew's Ward. There is no use talking about the facts, however. William says it was another triumph for "the N.P. and the Patriotic Idea." Let it be so understood, for the sake of peace in the family. On personal grounds, GRIP is pleased at the result of the election, though he cannot accept it as conclusive proof of the popularity of the N.P. Well, Billy is going to Ottawa to support the "patriotic idea." Just what is meant by this pretty phrase will become clear in due time, but for the guidance of the new member, we would like to point out a few unpatriotic ideas he ought to (and no doubt will) avoid.

1. The idea that a minority of the people ought to be enabled to elect a majority of members. In order to mark his disapproval of this doctrine, Mr. Maclean will have to vote against the Gerrymander Act.

2. The idea that a judge may take an active part in an election contest, and then award the seat to the defeated candidate. To fittingly rebuke such a heresy as this, Mr. Maclean will have to cast a vote against the Government on the Elliott matter.