

STUDIO NOTES.

Mr. T. M. Martin, whose visit to Muskoka we noted in our second issue, has been very fortunate in disposing of the greater number of the subjects he brought back with him.

Mr. Perre has produced some of the most charming little hits, the result of his visit to Hamilton and Dundas last fall. No Canadian artist has made a greater improvement in style this season than has Mr. Perre.

By an unavoidable accident we were compelled to omit our matter under this head in our issue for December. The artists are all busy at their winter work now. Landscape men making use of their summer studies gathered in every nook and corner of the Dominion, and figure painters are studying from the life in very varied manners.

Mr. Verner is still in England whence he writes of pleasant times enjoyed about that favored spot, Burnham Ruches: on the whole this artist seems to have had a very agreeable season. Let us hope he will be able to show us a fine lot of work when he returns to his old headquarters.

The Christmas card season just ended has been a very lively one. For instance, they have stimulated some of our artists to efforts at simple composition, and in their numerous reproductions have found employment for many students and lady artists by which they have been enabled to render their ability somewhat lucrative.

It is with great pleasure, too, that we are enabled to notice the publication, by Messrs. Hart & Rawlinson, of a beautifully illustrated edition of the hymn "Now the Day is Over." The pictures, one of which appears for each verse, have been cleverly drawn on wood by Mrs. Schribner and carefully and creditably engraved by Mr. Brigdon, of Toronto, thus clearly demonstrating that it is practicable to produce artistic books of a high class here.

Mr. Harris has painted some heads lately, which show more decidedly than ever, the mastery he has in depicting character and expression; one in particular strikes us as remarkably good in this respect, the mood is one of quiet melancholy as seen in a manly face. Mr. Harris has also in his studio a portrait of the late Miss Neilson, which is the finest likeness of this talented and beautiful woman we have seen. He is also contributing some sketches to the new serial work "Picturesque Canada," illustrating the life and manufactures of the fisherfolk of Prince Edward Island. While on this topic it is to be hoped that the unpleasant disputes relative to the sketching for this serial have now finally subsided, for it is a pity that men who have such an uphill fight to battle through as have artists in Canada should strive to increase their difficulties and troubles by quarreling and seeking to damage each other's reputation. And another point from which to view these matters is that which takes into consideration the fact that the general public are but little interested in their bickerings. As we go to press the news comes of the death in Hamilton of Mr. Herbert Hancock, Architect and Painter. The deceased gentleman was one of the original members of the Ontario Society of Artists, and for two years its Secretary. He was very highly esteemed by his fellow workers, and his friendly face and truly gentle disposition will be sadly missed from among them in the future. His principle pictures were taken from the scenery of the Eastern townships in Indian Summer time, and possessed much feeling for the softer moods of nature.

MUSICAL TRADE REVIEW.

Messrs. William Norris & Son, importers, occupy extensive premises at No. 8 Adelaide Street East, where they are showing a very fine assortment of pianos manufactured by Mathushek Piano Co., New Haven, Conn., and J. & C. Fischer, New York, both of which firms they represent for Canada. Also a number of large organs by Geo. A. Prince & Co., Buffalo, N. Y., and an almost endless variety of stools and covers, of which latter lines they are making a specialty.

Though they are now selling quite a number of pianos and organs retail, their business is principally, and for some years, until recently, exclusively wholesale. They are well known throughout the Dominion, and bear an enviable record for honest and upright dealing, their praises being sung by some three thousand instruments which they have imported and sold in Canada during the last nine years.

Their Mathushek piano has several peculiarities of construction which recommend it, such as Equalizing scale, Linear Bridge, Bushed Tuning Pins, &c.

The J. & C. Fischer is a somewhat less expensive piano, but that it has given satisfaction is evident by the fact that, though the manufacturers are turning out seventy (70) a week they are constantly behind their orders.

REVIEWS.

"Isobel Waltzes," by W. Braybrook Bayley, published by I. Suckling & Sons. These waltzes, three in number, *en suite*, with a *finale*, are sprightly, melodic and well adapted for dancing. They are fairly constructed, and tolerably free from the errors generally found in music of this class. Between fifteenth and sixteenth bars, waltz 3, consecutive octaves in the extreme parts occur, which should have been avoided. Some similar and a few lesser errors appear at other places. The title page, lithographed by Rolph, Smith & Co., is artistically executed, and shows a decided advancement in Canadian work of this kind.

BREVES AND SEMIBREVES.

Wagner, in 1834, presented the score of an unfinished opera to a local musical society. The society ceasing to exist, its effects have been sold, and the score brought but a trifle; the composer, not caring to have his work change hands for such an insignificant price, has begun a lawsuit to endeavor to recover the manuscript.

Verdis' *Ballo* was recently given, for the first time, in Leipzig, and made a favorable impression.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We solicit correspondence on all subjects of interest to the trade and profession of Music and Art, and shall always be happy to answer any enquiries our subscribers or readers may put to us in reference to such matters. In all cases, the full Name and Address of the sender must be given, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. We must not be held in any way answerable for the opinions of correspondents, nor the return of rejected MSS. Correspondence for insertion should be sent in not later than the 25th of each month.