

generation of composers seldom make way, even at Festal-tides, for the more vigorous works of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven.

Original Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MUSICAL TIMES.

Sir,—Referring to a letter, signed S. Galindo, in the April Number of the *Musical Times*, I beg to repudiate the assertion that "You rarely hear the words of a singer, in whatever language he may sing," it being quite the reverse of undeniable, as any one who has heard Signori Mario or Mongini, Mr. Sims Reeves, or Mr. Santley, or Monsieur Faure (not to mention many others) in Italian, French, or English, must surely admit.

There is no doubt that the pronunciation of words is a difficulty, and a great one; but I question much whether any critic would consider the education of a singer complete, if his pronunciation were so imperfect as to render his words unintelligible.

It is quite a common thing, at the "Scala," here, to hear persons around one repeating aloud the words sung by the singers, *especially in new operas*.

I am unaware of the bearing these remarks may have on Mr. Macfarren's article, for I had not the pleasure of seeing the number of your excellent paper containing it.

I beg to remain, Sir, yours very truly,
Milano, 26th April, 1869. G. De L.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. DE L. (MILAN).—*We much regret that the extreme length of our Correspondent's second letter prevents the possibility of our inserting it.*

W. G. McN.—*Samuel Wesley: died 1837. Dr. Pole's Essay on the Musical Scale is appended to Sir Frederick Ouseley's Treatise on Harmony. It was re-printed for private circulation, and a copy will be found in the British Museum. The article on the Overture to Die Zauberflöte is one of a number of critical essays contributed to the programmes of concerts. It was copied into several musical journals; but we are unable to say where it can now be procured.*

The Rev. C. D. COBHAM.—261, Euston Road, N.W.

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.—*We should be obliged to publish a supplement, devoted to answers to correspondents, were we to reply to such questions.*

Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

ABINGDON.—An amateur Concert, organised by the Rev. C. D. Cobham, B.C.L., was given on the 10th ult., in the County Hall, in aid of the New National Schools, now in course of erection. There was a large and fashionable audience. Amongst the pieces worthy of notice may be mentioned the overture to *Figaro*, arranged for eight hands, and admirably played by Miss Payne, Mrs. G. Davis, Miss Stone, and Mr. F. W. Pacey, Mrs. Baker's prayer from *Mosé in Egitto* (P. F. solo), and the duet, "Flower Queen," charmingly sung by Miss Hole and Miss Payne, and encored. Mr. Pacey conducted with his usual ability.

ACCRINGTON.—The members of the St. James's Sunday School Singing Class gave a miscellaneous Concert, in the Upper School Room, on the 28th April, in aid of the funds of the Class and the News Room. The principal vocalists were Miss Harrison (who was highly successful in all her solos), Messrs. R. Yates, G. Holgate, and W. Heys. The choir was efficiently assisted by the Accrington Glee Union. Several part-songs and glees were given with much effect, and the concert was in every respect thoroughly successful. Mr. Parkinson conducted with ability, and Mr. G. Oldham accompanied at the pianoforte.

ALLOA.—The Alloa Musical Association, numbering nearly 100 performers, gave its annual Concert, on Thursday, 22nd April, in the Corn Exchange, to a large audience. The first part comprised a selection of solos and choruses from Haydn's *Creation*, all of which were exceedingly well rendered. The second part consisted of part-songs, &c., and included a duet for piano and violin (De Beriot and Benedict) and piano and harmonium (Schubert), both of which were well played. The success of the concert was mainly due to the exertions of Mr. A. Alexander (organist of St. John's Church), who conducted, and also played a violin solo with much feeling, which was encored.

BALLYMENA.—The Choral Union gave its last Concert of the season, on Friday evening, the 14th ult. The programme was well selected, and included in the first part "Bless'd are the

departed," "Hallelujah" (from *Engedi*), "Achieved is the glorious work," &c. The second part was secular. The choir throughout the evening gave ample proof of the progress it had made under the able conductorship of Mr. Cooney.

BEDFORD.—A Service of praise and prayer was held at the Wesleyan Chapel, St. Paul's, on the evening of the 28th April, for the purpose of opening the new organ, which was generously given by Mr. Frederick Howard, who has always taken the deepest interest in the public worship of the chapel. The instrument is of large dimensions and excellent quality, and in every respect reflects the utmost credit upon the builder, Mr. Wadsworth, of Manchester. During the service a selection of music was performed by the following professional gentlemen: Mr. P. H. Diemer (of Trinity Church), Mr. Ford (of Bunyan Meeting), Mr. A. Howard (of Kempston Church), Mr. Kipps (of St. Paul's Church, Greenwich), Mr. Rose (of St. Paul's and St. Peter's, Bedford), and Mr. Wadsworth, the builder of the instrument.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday evening, the 4th ult., an Entertainment was given in connection with the Warwick Street Sunday Schools. The programme consisted of songs, duets, &c., the principal vocalists being Miss Austin, Miss Pratt, Mrs. Pratt, Messrs. Salt, Stack, Pick, Jolly, Bosward, and Austin. Mr. Smith played a solo on the concertina, Mr. W. Masfield, Jun., acted as accompanist, and Mr. H. Parkes conducted. The concert afforded the utmost satisfaction to a large audience.

BRIGHTON.—The annual Choral Festival, in connection with the Brighton and Sussex Choral Association, took place at the Dome Assembly Room, on the 5th ult. The vocalists numbered nearly 300, and consisted of the combined choirs from Brighton, Horsham, Lewes, Hurstpierpoint, &c., each of which towns Mr. Walter Newport, the conductor, has been constant in visiting for the purpose of training. The principal vocalists were Fraulein Mehlhorn, Miss Edith Wynne, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The harpists engaged included Mr. J. Balsir Chatterton and Mr. John Cheshire; the new organ was presided over by Mr. Hiles, and the grand pianoforte by Signor Lardelli. The most attractive features in the vocal portion of the programme were Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" (the solo part excellently given by Fraulein Mehlhorn), "Softly sighs" (sung with much effect by Miss Edith Wynne), a ballad by Lardelli (rendered by Mr. Vernon Rigby in his best style), and several choral pieces, which were received with well merited applause. An attractive feature in the concert was a grand dramatic piece for harp, organ and pianoforte, composed by Mr. Cheshire, which was eminently successful. Mr. Hiles's organ solos were also thoroughly appreciated; and the concert afforded the utmost satisfaction to a large audience.

CAMBRIDGE.—The opening of the St. John's College New Chapel, on Wednesday, the 12th ult., was marked by a most imposing ceremony. The sentence of consecration having been read by the Rev. E. B. Sparke, it was signed by the Bishop, after which the 100th Psalm was sung by the whole congregation. At the conclusion of the sermon, an Anthem, composed expressly for the occasion by Professor Bennett, was given with much effect, Dr. Garrett most ably presiding at the organ. As might be expected from the reputation of its composer, this work is written in the purest ecclesiastical style, the sacred character of the words being reflected with the utmost fidelity in the music. The service was concluded by a very excellent rendering of the "Hallelujah" Chorus. At the evening service, Professor Bennett's Anthem was repeated.

CANTERBURY.—Mr. Longhurst's annual concert, on the 26th April, in the Music Hall, was fully and fashionably attended. The principal vocalists were Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Fanny Holland, and Mr. Vernon Rigby, all of whom were highly effective in their vocal solos. A feature in the instrumental selection was Beethoven's Sonata in G (Op. 30), for pianoforte and violin, which was excellently given by Mr. H. Weist Hill and Mr. Longhurst; and Mr. T. Harper's trumpet was heard to the utmost advantage in the *obbligato* to "Let the bright Seraphim," which was sung by Miss Edith Wynne. Mr. Longhurst (who conducted with much ability) may be congratulated on the success of this, his twentieth annual concert in Canterbury.

CLIFTON.—The Royal Tyrolese Singers gave three Concerts, under the auspices of Mr. James C. Daniel, at the Victoria Rooms, on Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon and evening, the 10th and 12th ult. The performances were all well and fashionably attended.

COXHOE.—On Whit Monday, the opening of a new organ in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, was inaugurated by Mr. John Lambert, of Durham, who showed the capabilities of the instrument in a well-chosen selection from the works of Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn. In the evening there was a grand concert of sacred music. Mr. John Lambert presided at the organ, and also joined the other members of the Cathedral choir in several vocal pieces. There was a very full attendance.

CRAYFORD.—On the 30th April an amateur Concert was given, at the new School Room, under the conductorship of the Rev. J. B. Ward, who also accompanied most of the pieces on the pianoforte. The programme contained a selection from the *Macbeth* music (usually, but erroneously, ascribed to Locke), the solos in which were excellently rendered by Miss Ida Thorne, Messrs. Lloyd and Hudson. In the miscellaneous part pianoforte solos were well played by Mr. E. Lewis and Miss Louisa Horner; and songs were given with much effect by Miss Heieler and Miss Ida Thorne, the last-named lady creating a marked impression in

"Janet's choice," which was enthusiastically encored. Several choral pieces were sung with the utmost success during the evening, and the concert afforded thorough satisfaction to a large audience.

DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.—On Wednesday, the 28th April, a gratifying compliment was paid to Miss M. L. Wood, who has for the last few months conducted a singing class with the utmost success. The friends of the members were specially invited; and after the class had sung several choral pieces with much success, an address was read by Mr. Callister, acknowledging the excellent services of Miss Wood. A testimonial was to have been presented at the same time, but unfortunately it had not arrived, although ordered three weeks before. The Rev. Mr. Hawley and Dr. Spear also spoke warmly in praise of Miss Wood's zeal and talent, and a vote of thanks for her exertions was unanimously passed.

DUBLIN.—The Sandymount Choral Union gave a successful Concert of sacred and secular music, on Thursday, the 20th ult. The programme contained several favourite old choruses and glees. Most of the solos were exceedingly well sung, and the choruses and glees were given with much precision, reflecting the utmost credit on the members of the Society and their conductor.

DUNDEE.—On the 21st ult., the Dundee Amateur Choral Union performed Mozart's *Requiem*, and Schubert's *Song of Miriam*, in the Kinnaird Hall, as their concluding concert of the season, to a very large and fashionable audience. All the executants in the orchestra appeared in mourning, out of regard to the memory of the late Mr. Thomas Nicholson, who took such an active interest in the Union, and who was particularly interested in the getting up of the *Requiem* for this concert. Considering the vocal difficulties with which the choral portions of Mozart's *Requiem Mass* abound, its performance was in the highest degree creditable to the skill and taste of the accomplished amateurs who constitute the Union. The very brilliant production of Schubert's *Song of Miriam* on a recent occasion by the same chorus voices was quite equalled on its second performance. Miss F. Ferry sang the music of *Miriam* with skill and taste, and the contralto solo was well given by her sister, Miss Ferry. Mr. Henry Nagel, to whom, no less than to the members of the Society, thanks are due for the efficient performances given of several great works, conducted with tact and skill. Mr. Rea presided at the organ most efficiently.

EDINBURGH.—On the 1st ult., Mr. W. Harrison, organist of St. James's, Leith, gave a recital at the organ manufactory in Grove place, on an organ, built by Mr. Holt, for Bridekirk, Cumberland. An excellent programme of classical music was provided; and Mr. Harrison's performance received, as it deserved, the warmest applause from a highly appreciative audience. The tone of the instrument was much admired.

EPSOM.—The second performance of a newly formed Choral Society lately took place, under the direction of Mr. Septimus Parker, the organist of the church. The programme contained a varied selection of songs, duets, part-songs, glees, &c. The vicar, the Rev. Bradney B. Bockett was present, and took much interest in the music.

EXETER.—The members of the Oratorio Society gave their first performance this year, at the Royal Public Rooms, on the 21st ult. The principal vocalists were Miss Arabella Smyth, Madame Patey-Whytock, Mr. C. H. Bastow, and Mr. Geo. Patey. The choruses were given generally with energy and precision, those particularly noticeable being "Ye! doth the Lord," and "Thanks be to God." Miss A. Smyth and Madame Patey-Whytock were frequently applauded, and several times encored; and Mr. Patey and Mr. Bastow were also thoroughly successful. Mr. W. Pinney conducted with ability. This is the first Oratorio in connection with the Society over which he has presided; and on appearing on the platform he was warmly greeted by the audience.

EXMOUTH.—A performance of the *Messiah*, by the Harmonic Society, took place, on Thursday, the 22nd ult., at the Beacon Assembly Rooms. The attendance, though not so numerous as on former occasions, was very select; and the performance throughout was marked with considerable success. The solos were creditably performed by Miss Vinnicombe (soprano), Miss Julia Taylor (contralto), Mr. Bastow (tenor), and Mr. Wylie (bass). Mr. W. Vinnicombe conducted with his usual ability.

GLASGOW.—The Choral Union gave the concluding Concert of the season, in the nave of the Cathedral, on the 19th ult. Mendelssohn's *Festgesang*, and Handel's Chandos Anthem, No. 12, were the principal compositions performed, both works being given for the first time by the Choral Union. The *Festgesang* severely tested the powers of the vocalists; but it was excellently sung throughout, and the effect of the brass instruments in combination with the voices, was exceedingly fine. Handel's Anthem was also, on the whole, most creditably given, and although written in the severe style of this master, the audience received it with the deference due to its great merits. Miss Margaretta Smyth and Mrs. J. M. Hutchinson were highly efficient in the solo parts. Several choral pieces were sung with much success by the members of the Union, under the able conductorship of Mr. Lambeth. Mr. Charles Ferguson officiated with skill, as accompanist, at the harmonium.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—The Yarmouth Musical Society gave its second and concluding Concert at the Regent Hall, on the 20th April, before a large audience. The first part was devoted to Handel's *Serenata*, *Acis and Galatea*, which was performed throughout in a highly satisfactory manner, the principal vocal solos being admirably rendered by Miss Anna Jewell, Mr. Gedge, Mr. Minns,

and Mr. Poole. The band and chorus, consisting of about 150 performers, were highly efficient. The second part was miscellaneous. Mr. Stonex was a most able conductor.

GREENOCK.—The second annual private Concert of the "Greenock Orpheus Club" (composed of about twenty male voices) was given, on the 26th April. The first part of the programme consisted of sacred, and the second of secular, music. A solo and chorus from Molique's Oratorio, *Abraham*; a Motett and tenor solo composed by the conductor, Mr. D. Middleton; the High Priest's song from *Zauberflöte*, and several part-songs were amongst the most effective pieces of the evening. The hall was crowded.

HADFIELD.—The Harmonic Society gave its annual Concert on Monday evening, the 3rd ult. The principal vocalists were Mrs. Marsden, Miss Emily Roberts, Mr. Dumville, and Mr. Roscoe. Leader, Mr. Pownall; pianist, Mr. Lucas; conductor, Mr. Robinson. The first part of the programme consisted of Dr. Stern-dale Bennett's *May Queen* (performed for the first time in this neighbourhood), which was most satisfactorily executed. The second part contained several solos, glees, duets, &c., all of which were rendered with much effect, Mr. Roscoe receiving a well merited encore for Dr. Boyce's song, "Hearts of oak." Great praise is due to Mr. Robinson for the excellent manner in which he conducted.

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN.—An amateur Concert was given, in the Assembly Room of the Swan Hotel, on Friday, the 23rd April. The principal vocalists were Miss Hemming, and Miss Thornhill, who were highly successful in all their songs, several being encored. A pianoforte duet by Misses Thornhill and Endall, and a solo by Miss Endall, were also much admired. The concert was exceedingly well attended.

HEREFORD.—On the evening of the 29th April, a very successful amateur concert, in aid of the schools of St. John, was given in the Shire Hall, under distinguished patronage. The programme chiefly consisted of madrigals and part-songs, for male voices alone, conducted by Mr. Blyth, of Oxford. Songs were also contributed by Miss Huntingford, Mrs. F. Bodenham, Rev. G. Custance, and Rev. A. Robinson. A solo on the violoncello was admirably played by Herr Heinemann. Mr. Townshend Smith ably presided at the pianoforte.

HONLEY.—The Annual Festival in connection with St. Mary's Church, took place, on the 16th ult. The Psalms were chanted to a single chant by Barnby, in E; service, Goss, in A; Anthem, "Stand up and bless the Lord your God" (Goss). The choir, which numbered nearly 100 voices, rendered the music most effectively, under the able management of the choir-master, Mr. E. Beaumont. The duties of organist were excellently discharged by Mr. J. C. Beaumont. The collection was on behalf of the Sunday School.

HUDDERSFIELD.—St. Patrick's Catholic Church was re-opened on Trinity Sunday (after having undergone a thorough renovation), when a very excellent musical selection, with orchestral accompaniment, was given, both at the morning and evening service. Mr. Patterson presided at the organ, and Mr. Allé conducted.

HUYTON.—On Tuesday, the 27th April, the Huyton and Roby Working Men's Association held their first entertainment in the new schools. The concert commenced with the first two parts of Haydn's *Creation*, the choruses in which were exceedingly well sustained, especially "The marvellous work" and "The heavens are telling." The principal vocalists were Miss Monkhouse, Miss Fanny Armstrong, Mr. G. F. Wilson, and Mr. W. Kelly. In the miscellaneous portion of the programme vocal solos were given by Miss Monkhouse and Miss Armstrong with the utmost success. There was a very good orchestra, and Mr. Armstrong displayed his usual marked ability as a conductor.

KANDY, CEYLON.—The annual meeting in connection with the "Musical Volunteer Club" was held, in the United Service Library, on the evening of Monday, the 22nd March. James Van Langenberg, Esq., the Acting District Judge, occupied the chair. The secretary's report showed the operations of the Club during the two past years. The band, which at present numbers twelve performers, is highly efficient; and the character of the music played is gradually raised in proportion to the progress shown by the players. The finances, from various causes, are not in a satisfactory state; but it is hoped that if the members will continue to evince their interest in it and the public to encourage it, the "Musical Volunteer Club" will begin its third year with an increased prospect of success. In the absence of Capt. H. Byrde, the adoption of the report was proposed by Mr. W. S. Le Feure, Secretary of the Municipality, and seconded by Mr. N. Brohier. Able addresses were also delivered by the President and several others, and the officers for the current year being appointed, a vote of thanks was passed to the chair, and the proceedings terminated.

LEEDS.—Three special Organ and popular Concerts were given in the Town Hall, at Whitsuntide, under the direction of Dr. Spark, which attracted large audiences. The first, on Saturday, the 15th ult., consisted of vocal music and organ solos, the vocalists being Misses Myers and Kennedy (soprano), Misses Anyon, and Hamilton Smith (contralto), Mr. Longbottom (tenor), and Mr. Dodds (bass).—At Dr. Spark's Organ Recitals, on Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday, the programmes included works by Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and two very interesting pieces by Smart and Batiste, from the *Organist's Quarterly Journal*, both of which were exceedingly well received.

LEEK.—The ninth Concert of the Amateur Musical Society took place, on Tuesday, the 27th April, in the Temperance Hall. All the vocal solos given during the evening were excellent, and the pieces sung by the choir were highly effective. Mr. J. F. Cadman played two solos on the violin, accompanied on the pianoforte by Miss A. Milner, on "Themes from Donizetti" and Bellini's opera, *Sonnambula*. Leslie's arrangement of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close. Miss Andrew accompanied the choir on the pianoforte, and Mr. J. W. Powell conducted.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—A Concert was given, in the Corn Exchange, by the Leighton Choral Society, on the 20th ult., which was completely successful. The members of the choir gave several part-songs and choruses with commendable precision and refinement; and vocal solos were also sung by Miss Potter, Mrs. Mackechnie, Miss Flint, the Rev. T. W. Richards, Messrs. Mortimer and Price. The performance was conducted by Mr. Mortimer in his well known able and effective manner. There was an extremely good attendance; and all the pieces were received with the utmost favour.

LIMEHOUSE.—On Monday, the 26th April, Mr. F. A. Bridge gave a Concert, at Burdett Hall, Limehouse. The principal vocalists were Miss Mabel Brent, Miss Blanche Burr, Miss M. P. Harding, Miss Fanny Roberts, Mr. Arthur Thomas, Mr. W. Bush, Mr. G. Vigay, and Mr. F. A. Bridge. The part-songs and choruses were sung by the members of the St. Mark's (Victoria Docks) Choral Society. Miss E. Stirling presided at the pianoforte.

LINDLEY.—The opening of the new organ, at the beautiful and commodious chapel here took place, on Sunday, the 8th ult. Mr. T. Berry, organist of High Street Chapel, presided at the instrument with much ability; and, in addition to the service, played several pieces with good feeling and judgment. On the following Tuesday evening, there was a special performance of sacred music by the High Street Chapel Choir, conducted by Mr. G. Haigh, when Mr. Berry again displayed the excellent qualities of the organ to the utmost advantage. We regret that we have not space for a description of the instrument, but we may say that it is highly satisfactory, and reflects the utmost credit upon the eminent builders, Messrs. Conacher and Co., of Huddersfield.

LIVERPOOL.—On Monday evening, April 26th, a musical and literary Entertainment was given, in the Erskine Street School Room, by members of the Brunswick Choral Union. The programme consisted of duets, solos, and part-songs. The principal vocalists were Miss Smith, Miss Clare, and Messrs. Edwards, Evans, and Carmichael. Mr. F. Fraser was the accompanist, and Mr. Evans the conductor.—The Liverpool Apollo Glee Club celebrated its seventy-second anniversary at a dinner, on the 29th April, Mr. Charles Haswell, President, in the chair. The selection of glees from the compositions of Calcott, Webbe, Bishop, and Hatton, were efficiently rendered by the performing members, Messrs. Haswell, Crowther, Clarke, Evans, Deakin, Brough, T. J. Hughes, and Armstrong. Mr. Joseph Skeaf presided at the piano.—The sixth Concert of the Philharmonic Society for the year took place, on the 4th ult., the solo artists being Mdlle. Ilma de Murska and Signor Graziani. The great novelty of the evening was the performance, for the first time, of Wagner's characteristic Overture to *Tannhäuser*. The audience also highly enjoyed hearing again Mendelssohn's *Reformation Symphony*, given in this room some time ago, and then received with marked pleasure. The other instrumental works were the overtures to *La Gazza Ladra* and *Il Seraglio*, both of which were played with much spirit. Mdlle. Ilma de Murska gave, in addition to two songs by Meyerbeer, one of her clever "Chansons Hongroises," which, as a matter of course, was encored. Signor Graziani's voice and style were heard to great advantage in a Romance from Donizetti's "Maria di Rudenz," and "E sei tu," from *Un Ballo in Maschera*, which he has long made his own in his rendering of it in the opera in which it occurs. The choral members sang several part-songs with much effect, and were encored in a Swabian Volkslied.

MAIDENHEAD.—The Dorney church choir gave its first Concert, on Tuesday, the 18th ult., assisted by Miss Hudson (organist of Dorney), Miss Ratcliff (organist of St. Thomas, Coinbrook), Captain Vaughan (late of Magdalen College, Oxford), Mr. Walsh (organist, Uxbridge), and Mr. Lester (of Windsor). Mr. R. Ratcliff, organist of Stanwell, acted as conductor. The performance comprised some of the best songs by Bishop, and several glees, by the most eminent composers, all of which were given with much effect. The concert was under most distinguished patronage.

MANCHESTER GREEK CHURCH.—The Easter Festivals of this church terminated on the 2nd ult., being the Greek Easter Sunday. Good Friday, April 30th, was held in solemn splendour, on which occasion a grand musical performance was given by an augmented choir of men singers, numbering upwards of thirty excellent voices. On Easter Sunday, a grand *Te Deum* was also sung, followed by the Greek National Anthem, which was given with great effect. The whole of the music for this church has been expressly arranged and harmonized for men's voices by Mr. Yarwood, the energetic conductor of the choir, at the suggestion of N. Argenti, Esq.

MIRFIELD.—On Monday, April 26th, an interesting Concert was given in the Town Hall, by the members of the Robert Town Choral Society. The part-songs were exceedingly well sung. The Society was assisted in the solos by Mr. Clegg (a bass, of Southwell Minster), Miss Bowes, Miss M. J. Corkill, Miss Knowles (only fourteen years of age), and Mr. Kerahaw. Mr. Roberts officiated with his usual ability as pianist, relieved occasionally by Mr. Meek.

MONTREAL.—On the 1st ult., the members of the choir of St. James Street Wesleyan Church, presented their efficient and talented organist, Mr. Torrington, with a valuable diamond ring, as a mark of their appreciation of his abilities, and of the earnestness he has shown in training the choir. The presentation was made in the basement of St. James Street Church by the minister, the Rev. George Douglas, who warmly eulogised Mr. Torrington's efforts on behalf of the choir.

MORLEY.—A handsome clock, in marble case, together with an elegantly bound edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, have been presented to Mr. Arthur Glasspole by the churchwardens and parishioners of Morley, on his resigning the office of organist of that church for that of Wymondham Abbey Church.

NAILSEA, SOMERSET.—A Concert, under the patronage of the leading county families, was given, on the 14th ult., in aid of the funds of the 1st Somerset Volunteer Engineer Corps, and was largely attended. Miss Home (from the Royal Academy of Music) sang the Cavatina from *Der Freischütz*, "Orpheus with his lute," "Pack clouds away" (finely accompanied on the clarinet by Mr. Brooke), and the duet, "Ebben per mia Memoria," with Miss Farler, in all of which she displayed an excellent voice and style, and was warmly applauded. Miss Farler was also well received, and her voice was heard to advantage in "Che faro senza Euridice," and in Bishop's "Blow, gentle gales." The other performers were amateurs. Mr. H. D. Vickery conducted.

NEW YORK.—The fifth Concert of the Philharmonic Society, which was given at the Academy of Music, on the 10th April, contained a selection of music of remarkable excellence. Liszt's *Poeme Symphonique*, "Ideale," and Wagner's Overture to *Faust*, were amongst the most important orchestral novelties. An attractive feature of the concert was the performance by Mr. Richard Hoffman, of Mendelssohn's Pianoforte Concerto in D minor, which is spoken of in the most enthusiastic manner by the local critics.

NORWOOD.—The members of the Congregational Church Choir gave their annual Concert, at the Institute, Lower Norwood, on Thursday, the 6th ult. Various part-songs and some attractive instrumental music (including a new trio for violin, violoncello, and pianoforte, composed by Mr. Hainworth) were very creditably performed. Amongst the vocal music was a part-song (first time), "The Spilt Pearls," by Mr. George Tolhurst, which was very well received. The solo singers were Misses Hayes, Pelham, Lavington, Stanley and Gabriel, Messrs. Bransom and Bennett. Instrumentalists, Madame Surquet, Messrs. Bath, Brown, Heffer and Hainworth. Conductor, Mr. John Bath.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Performance of Professor Bennett's Cantata, *The May Queen*, by the choir of the Midland Institution for the Blind, in the Mechanics' Hall, on the 11th ult., was exceedingly successful, was highly creditable to the performers and their instructor, and afforded great pleasure and satisfaction to a very appreciative audience. Mr. F. M. Ward, professor of music at the Institution, presided at the piano, and Mr. H. S. Irons, organist of Southwell Minster, at the harmonium. The second part of the concert consisted of a miscellaneous selection of songs, glees, and part-songs, the principal solo vocalists being Miss Armitage and Mr. Gibson.

PAISLEY.—A Service of sacred music was given, by the members of the Tonic Sol-fa Institute, on the 18th ult., in the Baptist Church, Storie Street. Under the able direction of Mr. J. A. Brown, an excellent selection of pieces was rendered with much effect. The most attractive works performed were Mendelssohn's 42nd Psalm, and the same composer's *Festgesang*, both of which received ample justice from the choir. The soprano solos were ably sung by Miss Agnes Blair. Mr. Montague Smith presided at the organ with taste and judgment.

PERTH.—The Perth Choral Union, assisted by Miss Margaretta Smyth and Mr. Walker, from the Glasgow Choral Union, gave a miscellaneous Concert in the City Hall, on Friday evening, the 30th April. The sacred part of the programme consisted of the Anthem, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come" (Dr. Elvey), and several sacred choruses. The secular part contained an excellent selection of solos and part-songs. A pianoforte solo, "Le Carillon," was performed by Herr Arnold, of Dundee, who also conducted the concert in a highly effective manner.

PLYMOUTH.—On the 21st April, the members of the Plymouth Amateur Vocal Association gave an interesting Concert, at St. James's Hall. There was an efficient band and chorus, numbering about 200 performers, the Torquay Amateur Harmonic Society lending its valuable aid on the occasion. The principal vocalists were Madame Florence Lancia, Madame Patey, Mr. George Perren, and Mr. J. G. Patey. Weber's Mass, in G, and Mr. J. F. Barnett's Cantata, *The Ancient Mariner*, were the principal works performed; and in every respect the execution of these two compositions reflected the utmost credit upon all concerned, the choruses, especially, being rendered with much effect. Amongst the miscellaneous vocal music, Mr. F. N. Lohr's song, "Illusions," created a marked effect. Mr. Hannaford presided at the harmonium, Mr. G. Rice led the band, and Mr. F. N. Lohr conducted with his usual care and judgment.

PONTYPOOL.—On Tuesday, April 27th, the Glee and Madrigal Society gave its first Concert, at the Town Hall, which was well filled. Mr. Holdsworth was conductor, and Mr. Haskins accompanied with much ability. A very good selection of madrigals,

glees, and part-songs was given, and most favourably received; but the feature of the evening was the first performance of a Cantata, by Mr. Charles Lawrence, a member of the Society. The cantata is set to words by Sir Walter Scott, and is entitled the "Fair Maid of Toro." The local papers speak in the highest terms both of the work and its execution, the composer (who sang a tenor solo in the Cantata) being called for, and a portion of the Cantata being re-demanded.

PORT ELIZABETH.—An Amateur Concert, in aid of the sufferers by the late bush fires, was given at the Town Hall, on the 1st April. There were about sixty performers, and the general execution of all the pieces was highly successful. Mr. E. Newbatt acted as conductor, and was assisted by Mr. Selwyn in the general management.—A repetition of the performance was given on the following Friday evening. The sum realized was more than £50.

PORTSMOUTH.—The members of the Borough Choral Society gave their last Concert for the season, on Friday, the 7th ult. The whole of the performance evidenced very careful training, and reflected the greatest credit on the founder and conductor of the Society. The first part of the programme consisted of Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, and the second part of secular music, amongst which must be specially mentioned a new part-song, "Come, fairy elves," composed and dedicated to the Society by the conductor. Mr. Godwin Fowles officiated as conductor with his usual zeal and ability. The Society now numbers 140 vocalists, and by the next season, as it is more than probable that the chorus will have reached 200, it is evident that a larger and more commodious hall than at present exists in the town should be built, not only for these concerts, but for the general good of those residing in the borough.

RYDE.—The performance of Haydn's *Creation*, by the Ryde Choral Society, at the Town Hall, proved an unqualified success. The members, under the efficient direction of Mr. and Mrs. Conduit, have devoted the whole of the session to rehearsals of the choral portions of the Oratorio, and the highly effective manner in which the choruses were given was most creditable, both to the vocalists and to their conductor, Mr. Conduit. Mrs. Conduit, Mr. Kerr Gedde, Mr. Boulcott, and Mr. Baker, sustained the solo parts with much success, and the trio in "The heavens are telling" was given with care and judgment by Mrs. Stainer, Messrs. Watts and Long, members of the choir. The room was exceedingly well filled.

SCARBOROUGH.—The members of the Scarborough Choral Union gave a very successful performance of Haydn's *Creation*, on the 11th ult., at the Music Hall, Spa. The band and chorus were almost entirely composed of resident amateurs, the exceptions being the leader of the band (Mr. Shaw) and three or four other professional instrumentalists, with Miss Helena Walker, Mr. T. Hunt (of Windsor), and Mr. Charlesworth (of York), amongst the vocalists. The solos were exceedingly well rendered; and the utmost praise must be given to the choir, the whole of the choruses being sung with remarkable precision and power, "The heavens are telling" and "Achieved is the glorious work," being especially worthy of commendation. The able and energetic conductor of the Society, Mr. Naylor, directed the performance with much care and judgment; and considering that this is the first time that a great musical work has been given in Scarborough by local talent, the result reflected the utmost credit upon all concerned.

SHREWSBURY.—The first Concert of a new musical Society, which took place on the 14th April, in the Music Hall, was well attended, and deservedly successful. The vocal members numbered about fifty, and the band consisted of about twenty instrumentalists of far more than average talent. Mrs. A. J. Sutton and Miss Ada Harris were the only vocalists engaged, and the services of Mr. French Davies were also secured as harpist. The first part consisted of Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion*, which was excellently given, and the second part of a well-chosen miscellaneous selection. Mr. J. T. Rawlings was the organist and accompanist, and Mr. J. B. Boucher conducted.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Mr. Philip Klitz gave his annual Concert at the Philharmonic Rooms, on the 3rd ult. The first part of the programme was devoted to a new Operetta, entitled "The Bride of Venice," composed by Mr. Klitz, the libretto by Mr. W. Andrews. The principal vocalists in this work were Miss Marie Gondi, Miss Elise Cooper (from the Royal Academy of Music), Mr. Newby (of Winchester Cathedral), Mr. Yonge, and Mr. Farquharson. Most of these names are already familiar to the public; but Miss Elise Cooper, who has just completed her musical education at the Royal Academy of Music, deserves special mention as a *débütante* of the highest promise. She possesses an excellent mezzo-soprano voice, which has evidently been well cultivated, and she sings with an intelligence and refinement of style which completely won the good opinion of her audience, her success being acknowledged by the most hearty and genuine applause. The music of Mr. Klitz is written with a good feeling for melody, and shows in many parts much dramatic power; the opening chorus, "Bright are the skies," the duet, "Beautiful Venice" (exquisitely rendered by Miss Cooper and Mr. Farquharson), the air, "Break, break, distracted heart" (sung with much purity of expression by Miss Gondi), the serenade, "Come to me, lady love" (in which Mr. Newby displayed his excellent tenor voice to much advantage), and a characteristic drinking song (admirably given by Mr. Farquharson) being amongst the pieces which created the most effect. At the end of the Operetta Mr. Klitz was deservedly rewarded with the most enthusiastic applause. The second part was miscellaneous, and included the clever pianoforte playing of two of Mr. Klitz's pupils and the highly effective performance of Mr. Belsey Marsh on the harp.

STAMFORD.—Two amateur Concerts were given, on the 29th April, in the Assembly Rooms, with marked success. The morning performance included Mendelssohn's "Judge me, O God," and a selection from *Athalie*. There was also an excellent miscellaneous part. In the evening Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion* was performed with much effect. The principal vocalists were Miss Price, Miss Christian (who was encored in a highly dramatic song, by Mudie) and the Rev. F. Blaydes.

STANWELL, WINDSOR.—An Entertainment was given in the Boys' School Room, on the 4th ult., by a party of gentlemen from London (assisted by Messrs. Woodhouse, Walsh, and Ratcliff), for the benefit of the girls' school. The readings were given from Dickens's works, and several solos and part-songs were most effectively rendered during the evening. The performance concluded with the National Anthem.

STRATFIELD TURGISS.—On Friday evening, April 30th, Mr. H. J. Hendy gave his annual Concert in the Assembly Room at the Wellington Hotel. The principal vocalist was Miss Lillie Jarrett, from London, whose refined singing created a most favourable impression. Miss Crivola surprised the audience with her clever and graceful violin playing, and Mr. Hendy and his pupil, Master Robinson, aged nine years, were well received as pianists.

STRATFORD, ESSEX.—The West Ham Philharmonic Society gave its first Concert in the Artillery Hall, on the 6th ult. The programme was miscellaneous, the first part being composed of sacred, and the second of secular, music. The members have evidently worked well under their conductor, Mr. J. S. Bates (organist of the parish church), during the four months the Society has been in existence. The singing of Sullivan's "O hush thee, my babe" (unaccompanied), Reay's "Dawn of day," and Mendelssohn's "Farewell to the Forest," deserves special mention. The principal vocalists were Miss Clara Compton, Miss M. Squires, the Misses Jones, Mr. Lankester, and Messrs. W. and A. Latta. Several solos were most effectively given; Mr. W. Latta being encored in Sullivan's ballad, "If doughty deeds." Mr. J. S. Bates conducted the concert, and accompanied the solos, his pupil, Mr. F. Kitson, playing the pianoforte part of the choruses and part-songs.

STROUD.—The Choral Society gave a most successful performance of Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*, on the 13th ult., the band and chorus being in every respect highly satisfactory, and the solo singers—Miss Edith Wynne, Mrs. St. Brody, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Brandon,—fully sustaining their reputation as exponents of the highest class of sacred music. The conductor was Mr. E. Brind.

UPPINGHAM.—A Miscellaneous Amateur Concert was given, on the 23rd April, in the Lecture Hall. Amongst the sacred selection we may particularly mention Mendelssohn's "Judge me, O God," the same composer's "Hear my prayer," and Gounod's "O sing to God," the solo parts in these works being excellently rendered by Miss Blaydes, Miss Price, Miss Brown, and the Rev. F. Blaydes. In the secular part Miss Christian joined the above-mentioned vocalists in several well known pieces, and the concert was in every respect highly successful.—On the 29th, a very good performance of Mendelssohn's Oratorio, *St. Paul*, took place, the solo vocalists being Miss Price, Miss Christian, and the Rev. F. Blaydes, all of whom rendered ample justice to the music entrusted to them; "Jerusalem," by Miss Price, "But the Lord is mindful," by Miss Christian, and "O Lord, have mercy upon me," by the Rev. F. Blaydes, being especially entitled to the warmest praise. The Oratorio was followed by Romberg's Cantata, *The Lay of the Bell*, which was also thoroughly successful. The choruses were most efficiently rendered throughout.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—The Philharmonic Society concluded the past season with an open night at the Assembly Rooms, on the 5th ult. The programme consisted of sacred and secular music (under the conductorship of Mr. Arthur E. Dyer), which was exceedingly well rendered. This is the second concert of the season; at the first, which took place in February, Barnett's Cantata, *The Ancient Mariner*, and a miscellaneous selection, were given, and much appreciated by a crowded audience. A word of praise must be given for the admirable manner in which the accompaniments to the choruses were played on the pianoforte by Miss Coles, and on the harmonium by Mr. W. C. Dyer.

WOLVERTON.—A very successful Concert was given, by the Newport Pagnell Tonic Sol-fa Singing Class, at the Science and Art Institute, on the 6th ult. Several part-songs were excellently given by the choir, under the able direction of Mr. C. H. Smith, and vocal solos were sung with much effect by Miss Holbrook (of the Paris Prize Choir), Miss H. Freeman, and Mr. C. H. Smith. The chorus numbered nearly sixty voices.

WORCESTER.—The Amateur Choir of the Powick Asylum gave a Concert of sacred and secular music, on Thursday, the 13th ult. At its conclusion the Rev. J. Pearson, on behalf of the audience, congratulated the executants on the result of their performance, especially as they were unassisted by any professional or other talent. Mr. Langdon (late choirmaster of the Church Choral Association) conducted, and Mrs. Langdon accompanied the solos.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. G. Blunden, to St. John Baptist's, Kidderminster.—Mr. James Halle, Organist and Choirmaster to St. Paul's, Westminster Bridge Road, S.—Mr. Henry Regaldi, Organist and Choirmaster to Christchurch, May Fair,

London.—Mr. M. Concanen, to St. Matthew's, New Kent Road.
—Mr. William Roe, Organist and Choirmaster to Holy Trinity Church, Cliftonville.—Mr. Edward John Sturges, to Christchurch, New road, Brighton.—Mr. N. Heins, Organist and Director of the Choir to the parish church of St. Thomas's, Portman Square.
—Mr. J. Lynton Richardson (late of Winestead, near Hull), Organist and Choirmaster to St. John's, Selkirk.

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