Hans Richter

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Source: *The Musical Times and Singing Class Circular*, Vol. 40, No. 678 (Aug. 1, 1899), p. 556

Published by: [Musical Times Publications Ltd.](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3365562>

Accessed: 18-02-2016 19:38 UTC

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source of trouble and inconvenience to us." Messrs. S. and P. Erard write: "No one will be better pleased to see the vexed question of the pitch for pianofortes settled than we ourselves, and we shall have very much pleasure in supporting you in your efforts towards that end in every possible way." Mr. John Hopkinson, on behalf of Messrs. J. and J. Hopkinson, writes: We do not wish to stand out . . . if the low pitch is generally approved by pianoforte manufacturers." Messrs. George Rogers and Sons write: "We are quite ready to take part in this movement directly the unanimous co-operation of the leading makers is secured." Perhaps, however, the most interesting letter is that from Mr. Eschelby, of Messrs. Steinway and Sons, who expresses his firm's perfect willingness to co-operate in the matter, but suggests that a society might be instituted to further the adoption of a uniform pitch, and raise money to assist bands to replace their present instruments and also to aid in lowering the pitch of large organs.

The opinions of two of the largest pianoforte distributing firms should here be added. Messrs. Forsyth Bros., of Manchester, write: "We quite agree that the time has arrived for the standard pitch for pianofortes to be settled once and for all. . . . We are convinced that it will be for everybody's benefit if this change be made." Messrs. Paterson, Sons and Co., of Glasgow, cordially agree, and add: "May we suggest that you carry with you the principal American organ manufacturers."

We are, Sir, your obedient Servants,

JOHN BROADWOOD AND SONS.

33, Great Pulteney Street,
July 3, 1899.

HANS RICHTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—In your July number I read an amusing passage in the article on Hans Richter, mentioning his small knowledge of English, which reminds me of a case in point.

At a rehearsal, which I had the privilege of attending, the great conductor suddenly pointed his finger at one of the orchestral performers, calling loudly: "The — is wrong! A—s!" (it sounded "Ass!")

A hearty titter ran through the audience at this apparently vituperative epithet hurled at a worthy musician; but the orchestra joined in the laugh, well-knowing the German nominations of the scale—As being merely *A flat*, and not an offensive invective. But an ignoramus might have felt scandalised at such an appellation being addressed to a professor.—Your constant reader,

SABILLA NOVELLO.

Villa Novello, Via San Giacomo, Genoa,
July 5, 1899.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF COUNTRY AND COLONIAL 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 correspondents.

BRIXWORTH.—Mr. W. Preston, the recently appointed organist and choirmaster of All Saints' Church, has been presented with a silver-mounted Malacca walking-stick by the gentlemen of St. Margaret's Choir, Leicester, as a memento of his twelve years' work amongst them.

DURBAN.—The first Festival of the Durban and Coast Church Choir Association was held in St. Cyprian's Church on Thursday, June 22. The service included Magnificat and Nunc dimittis (Calkin in F) and anthem, "O praise the Lord" (Barnby), the Hallelujah Chorus (Handel) being rendered after the Benediction. It is hoped by the committee to have a similar festival next year, but with music of a more advanced character, the present one being solely an experimental measure. Mr. J. F. Brown conducted and Mr. J. Frank Proudman presided at the organ.

EXETER.—The annual Festival of the Exeter Diocesan Choral Association was held in the Cathedral on the 6th ult. The united choirs numbered between 700 and 800 voices.

Mr. T. Royland-Smith conducted, and Dr. G. J. Wood presided at the organ. Smart's *Te Deum* and *Jubilate in F* was sung; the anthem was Stainer's "Sing a song of praise," the verse part being taken by the Cathedral choir. A brief but very useful address on the subject of Praise was delivered by Canon Furze, Archdeacon of Westminster, and the whole service was eminently satisfactory.

HAWKHURST.—On the 5th ult. two open-air concerts were given by the Choral Society, in the grounds of New Lodge, for the purpose of raising funds for the Society. Both vocal and instrumental music was given and highly appreciated by the large number of visitors to the lovely grounds. The soloists were Mrs. Coles, the Misses May Gregory, Oliver, and Howlett, and Mr. Whitburn, who also conducted.

KIRKLEY (SUFFOLK).—Gaul's "Holy City" was rendered in the Parish Church, on the eve of St. Peter's Day, June 28, by the Kirkley Madrigal Society and Church Choir combined. The soloists were Mrs. Linwood Watson, Miss M. Parker, Miss A. Mills, Messrs. E. W. Moore and J. J. Manning. Mr. H. D. Flowers presided at the organ, and Mr. Philip Chignell conducted.

MINCHINHAMPTON.—On the 20th ult. a performance of Sterndale Bennett's cantata "The Woman of Samaria" was given in the Parish Church by a choir of eighty voices. The soloists were Miss Etta Smith, Miss Aikin Sneath, Rev. H. Hult, and Rev. C. Hartley. Mr. John Nankwell accompanied on the organ.

PETERSHAM (AUSTRALIA).—On May 31, after choral Evensong, a fine rendering of Gaul's "Ruth" was given at All Saints' Church. The augmented choir, numbering seventy voices, gave evidence of the care and pains taken by the choirmaster, Mr. W. T. Wood. The solos were ably sustained by Miss Green, Miss La Roche, Miss Holmes, and Mr. T. Kirkby. Mr. W. Angus rendered efficient service at the organ.

PORT ELIZABETH.—On June 15 Mr. Roger Ascham gave a pianoforte recital, when he played selections from the works of Handel, Scarlatti, Chopin, Grieg, &c., in addition to three pieces of his own composition.

REEDYFORD.—Some interesting and very successful musical services were held on June 18, in connection with the Sunday School anniversary services of Trinity Wesleyan Chapel. At the morning service Martin's *Te Deum* was sung, and Barnby's anthem, "Sweet is Thy mercy, Lord," when Miss C. G. Ashworth tastefully sang the solo. In the afternoon, five anthems, five solos, and an organ solo, admirably played by Mr. Widdop, were given; and in the evening, Martin's "Benedictus," Naylor's "Through the day" (Miss R. Roebuck successfully singing the solo), and Stainer's "I saw the Lord."

TRENT COLLEGE (DERBYSHIRE).—On Speech Day, June 27, a select choir, under the direction of Mr. E. L. Grice, the organist and music-master, effectively rendered several popular part-songs, to the delight of the audience.

WALSALL.—On the 1st ult. Mr. J. Flint, organist and choirmaster of St. George's Church, was presented with an illuminated address by a representative deputation on behalf of the clergy, churchwardens, choir and congregation of the church, in recognition of his valuable services during a period of eight years. Mr. Flint has recently resigned the post, and is now organist and choirmaster at the Pleck Parish Church.

WARWICK.—On the evening of the 11th ult. Mr. John Hills, on behalf of the Warwick Musical Society, presented Mr. W. H. H. Bellamy with a gratifying testimonial upon his resignation of the conductorship of the Society, after holding it for thirteen years. The present took the form of a handsome solid silver inkstand and pen-holder, bearing a suitable inscription.

WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND).—The Orchestral Society, under the able conductorship of Mr. Maughan Barnett, gave a concert in the Opera House on June 6. The programme included Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, Wagner's "Flying Dutchman" Overture, and works by Handel,