

Madrigals

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"I am glad that you give me an opportunity to state my assured belief that throughout your official duties as Precantor you have endeavoured to act in conformity with the directions which I had studiously framed on what I understood to be the meaning of the statutes, and to discharge those duties faithfully under circumstances of unusual difficulty. You are at liberty to deal with this my answer to your note as you think best.

"Yours very faithfully,

"GILBERT ELLIOT.

"P.S.—It may be well for me to add that I have shown this letter to all the Canons, and that they concur in the sentiments I have expressed in it.

"The Rev. Precantor Mann."

### MADRIGALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—I venture to suggest, through your columns, that a subscription issue (in octavo size) of English, Flemish, and Italian Madrigals, under competent editorship, would not be a commercial failure, and, besides being a boon to students, would tend to the advancement of art through the medium of choral classes, for to these madrigals are at present almost a sealed book. Could not the enterprising house of Novello, Ewer and Co. do something for us in this way?—Yours, &c.,

Birmingham, February 4, 1886.

J. HEYWOOD.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* Notices of concerts, and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance.

Our correspondents will oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes that may occur.

Correspondents are informed that their names and addresses must accompany all communications.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers that, although the music is always kept in stock, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

## 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 correspondents.

BAGSHOT.—A special service was held in St. Anne's Church on Saturday, the 6th ult., the occasion being the dedication of the new east window to the memory of the late Duke of Albany. The memorial is the gift of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Princess Louise, and Princess Beatrice, and consists of a five-light window in the Italian style of the sixteenth century, the subject being the Crucifixion. The Rev. Canon Duckworth read the dedicatory prayers, and the very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, delivered a brief address from the chancel steps. The anthem, "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness," specially composed for the occasion by Mr. J. More Smetton, was carefully rendered by the choir. Mr. G. Paxton Morse presided at the organ, and played as voluntaries Gounod's "Marche Religieuse" and Guilman's "Cantilène Pastorale," these pieces having being selected by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

BARNET.—On the 9th ult., the fourth annual Concert of the Vocal Union was given under the direction of Mr. W. F. Schrier, F.C.O., L.R.A.M. Handel's *Serenata Acis and Galatea* formed the chief item of the programme, with Miss Julia Jones as Galatea, Mr. Lawrence Freyer as Acis, and Mr. R. de Lacy as Polyphemus. The choir was thoroughly satisfactory, both in the *Serenata* and Mendelssohn's 43rd Psalm. The solo pianists were Mr. Schrier and Mr. William H. Stocks, A.C.O., who played the Symphonic Poem "Danse Macabre" Saint-Saëns, arranged for two pianofortes by the author. The accompanists were Miss Richards and Mr. Stocks (pianoforte), and Mr. W. Richards (organ).

BECKENHAM.—The first Concert of the Vocal Union was given on the 16th ult., and was marked by general excellence. The programme consisted of high class music, including Gounod's "O Sing to God," Stainer's "O clap your hands," and unaccompanied pieces by Barnby, Küken, and Sullivan, all of which were well rendered. Mr. Waldo Morell is promoter and Conductor of the Society, which is worked strictly upon the Tonic Sol-fa system.

BEDFORD.—The last of the Monday Popular Concerts, for the present series, took place on the 1st ult., the programme being devoted to the works of Mozart. The vocalist was Miss Alice M. Burnett, a young *débutante*, who won golden opinions by her unaffected manner of singing. The string quartets were excellently played by Messrs. Burnett, Halfpenny, Richardson, and Woolhouse. Mozart's Concerto, for two pianofortes, was well rendered by Mr. Diemer and

his pupil, Miss Annie Hartley. Mr. Cecil Goodall was the accompanist.

BELFAST.—The members of the Queen's College Musical Society gave a Concert in the Examination Hall of the College, on January 29, before a large audience. The principal item in the programme was Hofmann's Cantata *Melusina*, which, under the excellent conductorship of Herr Beyschlag, was admirably rendered. The solo vocalists were Miss Rutherford, Miss Harbinson, Mr. T. Blair Boyd, Mr. T. King, and Mr. C. E. Whitcher, all of whom were highly efficient. Praise must also be awarded to Mr. Carl Leckie for his able pianoforte accompaniment to the work. The second part was miscellaneous. Herr Beyschlag has indeed a right to be proud of the result of his efforts in the cause of this Society, of which we may say Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has recently become the Patroness. The third Concert of the Philharmonic Society took place at the Ulster Hall, on the 5th ult., under the conductorship of Herr Beyschlag, the room being crowded in every part. Max Bruch's *Fair Ellen* was exceedingly well performed, as was also a long miscellaneous selection. The principal artists were Miss Carlotta Elliott, Madame Trebelli, Mr. Henry Guy, and Mr. Frederic King, vocalists; Signor Bisaccia (pianoforte), and M. Hollman (violinello).

BRIGG.—At a miscellaneous Concert, given on the 18th ult, Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer* was excellently performed, Miss Vinnie Beaumont taking the solos most effectively; Mr. C. Moxon also sang with great taste, and both artists were loudly applauded by an appreciative audience.

BRIGHTON.—The third Annual *Réunion* and Dinner of the Musical Fraternity of Brighton took place at the Criterion, West Street, on the 13th ult. The chair was taken by Mr. Alfred King, Mus. Bac., and the vice-chair by Mr. W. Kuhe. After dinner a Grace was sung, composed by the chairman, and numerous toasts were given, Mr. Kuhe in proposing prosperity to the Society, paying a deserved tribute to the memory of the eminent musicians lately deceased, and alluding to the loss sustained by the death of Mr. George Watts. During the evening reference was made to the services rendered to music in Brighton by Mr. R. Taylor, who, in responding, proposed that there should be a small annual subscription to the Society, to cover the expense of a dinner, and to afford assistance to those members who were in need. Several songs and pianoforte pieces were given, and a provisional committee, with Mr. G. Crook as Hon. Secretary, was formed to carry out Mr. Taylor's excellent scheme.

BRISBANE.—A performance of Handel's *Messiah* was given at the Theatre Royal, on December 9, 1885, by the members of the Musical Union, as a complimentary benefit to their Conductor, Mr. R. T. Jefferies. The principal vocalists were Miss Atkinson, Mrs. Snow, Miss Johnstone, Mrs. Kelk, Mr. Jones, and Mr. McRobbie. The choruses were exceedingly well rendered, and the performance generally was most successful.

BROCKLEY.—The second Concert of the St. Peter's Choral Society was given at St. Peter's Hall, on the 16th ult. Gade's Cantata *The Erl-King's Daughter* formed the first part of the programme, and received an excellent rendering by the Society, under Dr. C. J. Frost's able conductorship, the leading parts being well sustained by Miss Catherine Devrien, Miss Bertha Ball, and Mr. Robert Grice, the vicar choral of St. Paul's Cathedral. Miss Edith Goldsbro, A.R.A.M., presided at the pianoforte. The second part was miscellaneous, and included a new five-part song, "Love is still in leading strings," the composition of the Conductor, which was well received. The singing of the choir was excellent. Dr. Stainer's *St. Mary Magdalen* is to be given at the next Concert.

CAMBORNE.—A Popular Concert was given by the members of the Choral Society, in the Assembly Rooms, on Thursday evening, the 11th ult. The programme consisted of Hutchinson's Cantata *The Story of Elaine* and a miscellaneous selection. The solo vocalists were Miss Clara Dowle, Miss Lina Tyack, Mr. C. Bartle, and Mr. T. H. Blight. Miss Boyn presided at the pianoforte, Mr. G. J. Smith at the harmonium, and Mr. Richard White, Jun., conducted.

CARDIFF.—The first Concert of the twelfth season of the Choral Society took place on the 17th ult., the principal item in the programme being Dvorák's *Spectre's Bride*. The interest attaching to the work attracted a larger audience than usual to the Park Hall, and the performance was received with much enthusiasm throughout. The soloists were Miss Annie Marriott, Mr. Harper Kearton, and Mr. Thurlay Beale, all of whom acquitted themselves well. The chorus performed their difficult part admirably. The Cantata was followed by Mr. A. C. Mackenzie's Birmingham Violin Concerto, the solo part being brilliantly rendered by Herr Josef Ludwig, and enthusiastically received. Mr. Deacon performed a solo on the organ. Mr. Davies was an efficient Conductor.

CHELMSFORD.—The members of the Musical Society gave a Concert in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday, the 3rd ult. The programme consisted of Bennett's *May Queen* and a miscellaneous selection. The solo vocalists were Miss Kate Norman, Miss M. Holgate, Mr. Gawthrop, and Mr. Tufnell. The band was ably led by Mr. C. Byford, and Mr. F. R. Frye, F.C.O., conducted. The work was well rendered throughout.

CONGLETON.—A successful Concert was given by Messrs. H. Latham and R. Head, in the Town Hall, on the 10th ult., at which the following artists appeared: vocalists, Miss Falkner, Miss Elliott, and Signor Foli. Miss Nettie Carpenter, violinist, and Mr. Jeffrey, in the place of Mr. Sidney Naylor, acted as accompanist. Mr. H. Latham sang the tenor music in the concerted pieces, in the absence of Mr. Bywater, who was indisposed. The programme was excellently rendered, the artists receiving the warmest applause. Every available space in the hall was filled, many being unable to obtain admittance.

CULLOMPTON.—Mr. J. Gosden gave his fifth annual Concert at the Assembly Rooms, on the 9th ult., before a large audience. The solo vocalists were Madame Probert-Goodwin, Miss Bessie Frost, Mr. John Hayden, and Mr. W. H. Thomas, all of whom were thoroughly successful. The programme included some part-songs, which were well sung, and warmly received. Mr. Gosden accompanied, and also played a pianoforte solo.