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The Hymn Tune 'Helmsley'

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ROME.—A numerous audience, representing various nationalities, assisted at the opening concert of the season of the Bach Society, under the direction of Signor Alessandro Costa. The performances included the Chaconne and other pieces by Bach, as well as the Mass, 'Æterna Christi munera,' by Palestrina. A perfect ovation was accorded to Signora Teresina Tua, who, though practically retired from professional life, was the violinist on the occasion.—In accordance with a unanimous vote passed by the Senate, the house in which Verdi was born is to be preserved as a national memorial.

TEPLITZ.—A new Symphony in F minor, by Camillo Horn, was received with much favour on its first performance, last month, at one of the Subscription concerts, under Capellmeister Zeischke's direction. The composer, a native of Bohemia, is a pupil of the late Anton Bruckner.

VENICE.—In commemoration of the centenary of the death of Cimarosa, an excellent performance of works by that composer was given at the Palazzo Pisani, under the direction of Signor Enrico Bossi. The programme included the Overtures to 'Orazi e Curiazi' and 'Il Matrimonio segreto,' and a humorous orchestral piece, 'Il maestro di Capella.' An interesting discourse on Cimarosa and his contemporaries was delivered by Signor Villanis, the distinguished musical critic of Turin.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. H. R. HAWEIS.

THE death of the REV. HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS took place at his residence, 31, Devonshire Street, Portland Place, on January 29, after a few hours' illness. Born on April 3, 1838, he was for thirty-five years perpetual curate of St. James's Church, Westmoreland Street, Marylebone, where he preached remarkable sermons and where he had a robed choir of ladies and gentlemen. His claim to recognition in a musical journal consists in his having written three books relating to the art, entitled 'Music and Morals,' 1871 (which has passed through many editions); 'My Musical Life,' 1884; and 'Old Violins,' 1898, besides magazine articles. Unconventional and unparsonic to a degree, Mr. Haweis had a remarkable if not somewhat eccentric personality. His versatility found full scope in his immensely popular lectures on various subjects—e.g., great musicians, old violins, church bells, &c.—delivered to crowded audiences, both here and in America. In regard to his musical life he furnished an interesting piece of autobiography in a letter written in July, 1899, having reference to our review of his book entitled 'Old Violins.' He said: 'The Musical Press and the professional world have shown scant courtesy to my musical writings, because (I suppose) I had the temerity, being an amateur, to be musical critic of *Truth*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the *Echo* in early days. I have ceased to criticise, tho' not to write—I now admire and learn!' Many a professional musician might do worse than follow his example.

MISS BIRCH.

At her residence, Shaftesbury Road, Hammersmith, on January 26, in her eighty-fifth year, died Miss CHARLOTTE ANN BIRCH. She was a student of the Royal Academy of Music from 1831 to 1834, formerly held a prominent place as an excellent soprano singer in London and provincial concert rooms and at the Festivals. Miss Birch was the first to sing the solo soprano music of Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' in its revised and present form, at the performance given in Exeter Hall, on April 16, 1847, under the composer's direction.

The death of Mr. KINGSTON RUDD, of Norwich, took place on January 28, at the age of fifty-one. As a solo pianist he for many years occupied the foremost position in his native city, and as a teacher of that instrument his services were in great demand. During a period of twenty-nine years he conducted the Norwich 'Gate House' Choir, and for thirty-one years he held the post of organist of St. Andrew's Church, Norwich. As an executant Mr. Rudd possessed undoubted claims to distinction. He played the solo part of Benedict's E flat Pianoforte Concerto at the Norwich Festival of 1872.

The death took place, at Port Elizabeth, on January 23, of Mr. PERCIVAL QUARTERMAN, a much esteemed violinist and musician. A native of Worcester, and a chorister in its Cathedral, the lamented musician settled in Port Elizabeth in 1888, where he has since rendered yeoman service in the cause of music.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HYMN TUNE 'HELMSLEY.'

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE MUSICAL TIMES.'

SIR,—In the January number of THE MUSICAL TIMES there are some remarks on the hymn tune 'Helmsley' and a reference is given to the late Major Crawford's article, 'Lo, He comes,' in Grove's Dictionary. Perhaps some of your readers may be interested to know that the tune can be traced to an earlier source than has hitherto been found for it—namely, Arne's opera 'Thomas and Sally,' which was produced in Dublin in 1743. The tune, as it appears in the opera, is called 'Country Dance,' and is as follows (I give the violin part only):—

It will be seen that the first part of this tune is evidently the origin of the first part of 'Guardian Angels,' to which Major Crawford traced the hymn tune. Of 'Guardian Angels,' he says that the music 'probably originated in Dublin, where it was sung by a Mr. Mahone, and no doubt also by Miss Catley, who resided in the Irish capital from 1763 to 1770.' It cannot be doubted, I think, that Arne's 'Country Dance' became popular in Dublin, and eventually was provided with words; the second part of the tune, which is not suited for singing, being deliberately altered, or else gradually corrupted, into the version given by Major Crawford. Here is the first part of the tune 'Guardian Angels':—

The versions—'Olivers,' printed 1765, and 'Helmsley,' printed 1769—were more probably derived from 'Guardian Angels' than directly from Arne's 'Country Dance.' In these versions another second part is provided for the tune.

The 'Country Dance,' it should be noticed, is to be found in the printed score of 'Thomas and Sally,' but not in the harpsichord arrangement published by Walsh, which omits all the dances.—Yours faithfully,

G. E. P. ARKWRIGHT.

THE annual general meeting of the Choir Benevolent Fund was held in the Chapter Room, St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 12th ult., Mr. Calkin Lewis in the chair. The balance sheet was passed for printing, and in the report which was presented it is satisfactory to note that three special offertories—from Westminster, Worcester, and St. Asaph—had been contributed to the Fund, indicating an awakening interest in the Society on the part of the ecclesiastical authorities. On the other hand, it is a matter of regret that there is a serious falling off in the honorary annual subscriptions, and it is to be hoped that the local officials of the Society will urge the claims of this admirable Institution on those who attend their respective cathedrals. Everyone who is interested in the efficient rendering of the music in these noble edifices should recognise the claims of those who daily serve therein, and whose emoluments can certainly not be considered excessive.

A SUM of twenty pounds is offered for the best trio composed for oboe, horn, and pianoforte. The work must be an original one, never having been performed in public, or altered from what has been performed by a different combination of instruments. The adjudicators will be—Mr. Edward German and Mr. Hamish MacCunn, with Sir Alexander Mackenzie as referee. The manuscripts are to be sent to Dr. Yorke Trotter, 22, Princes Street, Cavendish Square. Mr. Percy Godfrey, of Canterbury, was the winner of the prize offered under similar conditions last year.

MR. WHITNEY MOCKRIDGE, the Canadian tenor, has been singing with great success in various cities and towns of the United States.

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.

ANDOVER.—Bennett's 'Woman of Samaria' was the chief feature of the concert given under the able direction of Mr. G. H. Westbury, in the Assembly Rooms, on the 13th ult. The choir sang with precision and spirit and was well supported by an efficient orchestra (led by Mr. C. Gamblin). The solo vocalists were Miss Stanley Lucas, Miss Lucie Johnstone, Mr. Edward Wilkinson, and Mr. H. Scott. The second part included the *Andante* from Mendelssohn's 'Italian' Symphony, Schubert's 'Ave Maria,' and Bishop's Overture to 'The Miller and his Men,' by the orchestra; and the choir was heard with effect in the part-songs 'Once I loved a maiden fair' (by the conductor), 'A Love Symphony' (Percy Pitt), 'The trysting tree' (G. J. Bennett), and 'Who is Sylvia?' (Edward German).

BROMLEY (KENT).—At the Parish Church, on January 25, the choirs of the Parish and St. Mark's Churches performed part of Mendelssohn's 'St. Paul.' The chorus and the band, led by Mr. Norman Bath, numbered together about eighty performers. The soloists were Master Glasspool, Mr. Samuel Masters, and Mr. Bertram H. Latter. Mr. P. D. Hodsoll was at the organ. The Dead March was played before the service and Mendelssohn's Overture to 'Athalia' was played as the concluding voluntary. Mr. Frederic Fertel conducted.

CARLISLE.—The Stanwix Choral Society gave a concert in the Stanwix Board School, on the 12th ult., the chief feature being Sterndale Bennett's 'May Queen.' The choir, numbering over seventy voices, sang effectively, and were also heard in Fanning's part-song 'The Miller's wooing' and Dudley Buck's chorus 'Hymn to music.' There was a small orchestra, led by Mr. H. Henderson. The solo vocalists were Miss A. T. Summerhill, Miss Laura Adamson, Mr. Austin Mahony, and Mr. G. Crickett. Mr. C. R. Doeg conducted.

CHELTHENHAM.—Owing to the kindness of the Council and Lady Principal, a crowded audience filled the Princess Hall of the Ladies' College, on the 12th ult., at a Memorial concert given by the New Philharmonic Society. Apart from the fact that Mozart's immortal 'Requiem' had never before been completely performed in Cheltenham, the selection of the work was most appropriate. The opening chorus at once showed how well Mr. Phillips had his forces under control, and the entire work received an admirable rendering, both chorus and orchestra doing excellently. The soloists were Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Lilian Hovey, Mr. Edward Branscombe, and Mr. Atherton Smith, Mr. Lewis Hann being leader of the band. Other outstanding features of a memorable concert were praiseworthy performances of Sullivan's *In Memoriam* Overture, the Dead Marches of Beethoven ('Eroica' Symphony), Chopin, and Handel, and the National Anthem by way of conclusion. Mr. C. J. Phillips conducted with his customary skill.

DOVER.—The Choral Union gave a selection from 'The Messiah,' in St. Bartholomew's Church, on the 13th ult. The soloists were Miss Daisy Boyton, Mr. J. Pearson, and Mr. J. R. Eaton. The Rev. A. H. Stevens presided at the organ and Mr. H. J. Taylor conducted.—The committee of the Choral Union have decided to institute a Triennial Musical Festival in Dover, the first of which it is proposed to hold on May 1 next. In the afternoon Sullivan's cantata 'The Golden Legend' will form the chief part of the programme. A new orchestral work has been promised by Mr. B. Luard Selby (the new organist of Rochester Cathedral), who will conduct his work. In the evening the programme will include Sir Frederick Bridge's 'Ballad of the Clampherdown' (conducted by the composer), Coleridge-Taylor's popular 'Hiawatha's Wedding-Feast,' and a miscellaneous selection. Mr. H. C. Perrin (Canterbury Cathedral) and Dr. E. J. Bellerby (Margate) have each promised to write a short choral work expressly for the occasion. A new orchestral suite by Mr. H. J. Taylor will also have a first public performance.

DUDLEY.—The Vocal Union performed Spohr's 'Last Judgment' and Mendelssohn's 'Loreley' in the Public Hall, on the 13th ult. The choir displayed throughout good tone and sang with artistic feeling, and there was a fully efficient orchestra, led by Mr. T. M. Abbott. The solo vocalists were Miss Emily Davies, Mr. F. Northall, Mr. Tom Child, and Mr. Henry Sunman, the soprano especially winning hearty commendation. Mr. W. H. Aston was an able conductor.

ENFIELD.—An exceptionally attractive programme was provided by Miss Cicely Hide at the Bycullah Athenæum, on the 6th ult. Miss Hide, a clever pupil of Mr. Bernhard Carrodus, played Mendelssohn's G minor Concerto, and, as an encore, a Romance in G, by her teacher. The young violinist, who displayed good tone, a firm, crisp touch, and excellent technique, was also heard with Mr. Carrodus in Godard's Duet (Op. 18), and with Mr. Stanley Hawley and A. Carrodus in Arensky's Trio (Op. 32). The concert-giver was also admirably assisted by Madame Medora Henson, who sang some charming songs by Mr. Hawley, and by Mr. Charles Fry, whose recitations, with the same composer's music, gave interesting variety to the programme.

HOBART (TASMANIA).—Mr. Bradshaw Major's Musical Society gave a performance of 'The Messiah,' on December 18. The choir sang with precision and good attack, and was supported by a well balanced orchestra, led by Mr. C. Ashley. The solo vocalists were Mrs. Tranthim-Fryer, Miss Sylvia Mills, Mr. Mervyn Henry, and Mr. Spencer Bronwell, the soprano especially being highly appreciated. Mr. Major, who conducted, should be heartily commended for the excellence of the whole performance.

LEEDS.—A performance of Barnby's 'Rebekah' was given on the 11th ult., at Armley Christ Church. Miss Walker, Mr. W. H. Hackford, and Mr. Gaunt were the principal vocalists and acquitted themselves admirably. The church choir was augmented for the occasion and proved quite equal to the demands made in the chorus-work. Mr. F. C. Kitson presided at the organ and Mr. Henry Matthias Turton (organist and choirmaster of the church) was the conductor.