"Palmarum Qui Meruit Ferat"

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As it might appear presumptuous in a foreigner to offer this advice to English organists, I would rather not subscribe this letter with my name, but merely with my birthplace, which is only known to my nearest friends.

THIEDENWIESE.

"PALMAM QUI MERUIT FERAT."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—It will be interesting to the subscribers of this Institution to know that Arthur C. Stericker, who has gained the silver medal for pianoforte-playing and the second prize for organ at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, after only twelve months' tuition in the College, had previously received musical instruction during five years in the Wilberforce School for the Blind, York. And I think it is due to the reputation of Mr. William Barnby, who has for many years presided over the music-teaching in this School, to say that, when Stericker left us in April, 1879, he could play a large number of classical compositions both on the organ and pianoforte.

While praising the strenuous efforts made at the Royal Blind College, Norwood, to give a good musical education to the blind, there is some danger of ignoring the work which has been steadily going on for many years in our older institutions.—I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. BUCKLE,

Superintendent of the Wilberforce School
for the Blind, York.

Manor House, York, August 10, 1880.

ABSOLUTE PITCH OF INSTRUMENTS IN A SCORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—That the Andante of Mendelssohn's "Reformation Symphony" is the first instance of a full score being printed where the orchestral instruments are placed so that to the eye their absolute pitch is given, is an erroneous statement of your correspondent "R. S."

In a copy of the full score of Dr. Arne's opera "Artaxerxes," published in the latter half of the last century, the transposing instruments are placed at their proper pitch, a curious feature being that the horn-parts are made to appear in treble, mezzo-soprano, alto, and baritone clefs.—Yours truly,

BURNHAM W. HORNER, F.R.S.L.

Mortlake, S.W.

THE STAFF *v.* TONIC SOL-FA NOTATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to call attention to a sentence in a letter written by Mr. Stephen S. Stratton on orchestral notation, which appeared in your last number, in which he says: "The Tonic Sol-fa notation is simple at the commencement; but, as the intricacies of remote modulations are considered, it becomes, in my opinion, more difficult than the staff notation."

Now, I would respectfully ask Mr. Stratton to explain how he finds that, "in remote modulations," the Tonic Sol-fa notation becomes more difficult than the staff notation.—Yours truly,

THOMAS MANSON.

Lerwick, August 9, 1880.

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 greatly 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 pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current sale.

THOMAS K. TAYLOR.—Apply to the Professor of Music at the University.

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.

BANBRIDGE, IRELAND.—The third Festival of the Banbridge Church Choral Union was held on the 7th ult. in the Parish Church, when seven choirs, numbering 150 voices, were assembled. Mr. C. Wilson, L. Mus. T.C.L., A.C.O., Organist of St. Paul's Church, Gifford, presided at the organ in a very efficient manner. The music included four hymns from the "Church Hymnal," the Psalms for the day being chanted to Anglican chants. The singing of the united choirs was excellent, the chanting being antiphonal. Great credit is due to the Rev. T. M. Benson, Rector of Scarva, for the manner in which he has trained the choirs, the singing being a great improvement on former years. The sermon was preached by Bishop Keily.

BISHOP STORTFORD.—The Annual Festival Service of the Bishop Stortford School was held on July 29, at the Parish Church. The school choir was aided by members of cathedral and other choirs, and accompanied by orchestra (including Messrs. Lazarus, Harper, Ould, &c.) and organ. The Magnificat and Nunc dimittis were sung to Barnby's Service in E, the Anthem being Spohr's "How lovely are Thy dwellings fair." Master V. A. Brooks, a pupil of the school, acquitted himself well in the solo of the first number and also in the quartet (No. 3.), in which he was joined by Messrs. Frost, Hanson, and Kempton (St. Paul's Cathedral). Before and after the sermon, which was preached by the Rev. Edwin Hatch, M.A., Vice-Principal of St. Mary Hall, Oxford, were sung respectively the Hundredth Psalm and the "Hallelujah" Chorus. Mr. C. Warwick Jordan, Mus. B., Oxon., ably presided at the organ, and Mr. Lewis Marcus, the Precentor of the School, conducted with his usual judgment.

BLACKBURN.—An Organ Recital was given on Friday, the 20th ult., by Mr. J. G. Wrigley, Mus. Bac., Oxon. (Organist of the Parish Church, High Wycombe), in connection with the reopening of St. John's Church, after complete renovation. The programme included compositions by Smart, Merkel, Silas, Widor, Haydn, Salome, Thomas, and Schubert, all of which were most efficiently rendered. The improvements made in the organ by Messrs. Whiteley, of Chester, are highly satisfactory.

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA.—The Concert of Madame Cazaux, given at the Philharmonic Hall on June 29, was a great success. The local papers speak in high terms of the singing of the *beneficiaire*, especially in the "Jewel Song," from *Faust*, and also of the fine voice (almost too powerful for the hall) of M. Cazaux. The accompaniments were skilfully played by Mrs. Anderson.

GREAT MALVERN.—A Recital was given on the recently completed Organ in the Priory Church by Mr. C. J. Frost (of London), Mus. Bac., on the 6th ult., when his effective rendering of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B minor, Dr. Hiles's Andante in E flat major, Behrens's Fantasia in C minor, Beethoven's Septuor Variations, B. Smith's Grand March in D, Mendelssohn's Sonata in A, Dr. Stainer's Jubilant March, and his own Overture in C, was listened to by a most appreciative audience.

MORECAMBE.—On Wednesday, the 11th ult., the ceremony of opening a New Organ took place at the new Church of St. Laurence. The instrument, which is the gift of Gifford Lewthwaite, Esq., of Stoll Park, Windermere, has been built by Messrs. Foster and Andrews, of Hull, and is in every respect a success. The vocal portion of the service was excellently rendered by the Choir of the Parish Church, assisted by several friends from the surrounding district. Ebdon's Service in C, and Sir G. Elvey's Anthem "Praise the Lord," were the chief features in the Service. Dr. Bridge (Organist of Westminster Abbey) presided with his accustomed skill at the organ, and Mr. W. W. Wilde (Organist of Morecambe Parish Church) conducted with much precision and judgment. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Manchester. In the evening Dr. Bridge gave an Organ Recital, which was attentively listened to by a crowded and appreciative audience. His interpretation of Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B Minor, and Mozart's Andante in A, were especially deserving of commendation. On Thursday evening, the 19th ult., Mr. H. A. Branscombe (Organist of St. Margaret's, Princes Road, Liverpool) gave an Organ Recital, which attracted a large audience.

NEWBURY.—A musical Society, under the title of "The Newbury Amateur Orchestral Union," which was inaugurated last season for the practice of instrumental music, has now recommenced, with twenty members. The Conductor of the Union is Mr. W. Dines Eatwell, and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. B. Mathews. It is proposed to give four concerts in the ensuing season, which, judging from the success achieved at those which took place in April last, are expected to be highly encouraging.

READING.—An interesting presentation to Miss Binfield, the late Organist of St. Lawrence Church for forty years, took place at her residence, in Friar Street, on Wednesday evening, the 4th ult. After an eloquent speech from the Vicar, the Rev. M. Guilding (at the end of which he handed Miss Binfield a photographic group of the members of the choir), Dr. Wells, on behalf of the subscribers to the testimonial, presented her with a case containing fifty-four sovereigns, and spoke of the debt of gratitude which the parish owed to her for her services during forty years, for the good she had done outside her own immediate position as organist, as well as the admirable manner in which she had managed the choir, and wished her a happy retirement and long life and happiness. Mr. F. W. Blandy read a letter from Miss Binfield, thanking the subscribers for their handsome present; and the proceedings were concluded by the choir and those present singing the 107th Psalm, to a chant of Miss Binfield's composition, and also a hymn.

SHEPLEY.—A new Organ, costing £400, and built by Messrs. Peter Conacher and Co., of Huddersfield, was recently opened in St. Paul's Church, by Mr. T. Berry, at one time Organist of High Street Chapel, Huddersfield, and now Organist of Trinity Church, Glasgow, who had