

Review

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THE fourth Concert of the St. Giles's Choral Society was given in the Mission Hall, Little Wild Street, Drury Lane, on the 17th ult. The singing of the choir was very good. The soloists were the Misses Barry and Wilkinson, and Messrs. Haywood and Leonard. A feature at the concert was the introduction of a young pianist, Miss Emily Ray, who played the pianoforte accompaniments throughout, and was also very successful in a pianoforte solo. Valuable assistance was rendered by Mr. Arthur Haywood at the harmonium.

MR. JAMES SAUVAGE gave an evening Concert at the Athenæum, Shepherd's Bush, on Friday, the 13th ult., before a large and appreciative audience. The artists were Miss Mary Davies, Miss Clara Samuell, Miss Annette Albu, Miss Damian, Madame Patey, Messrs. Ben. Davies, Gabriel Thorpe, James Sauvage, and Signor Foli; the accompanist being Mr. Sidney Naylor. Mr. Sauvage's baritone voice was heard to great advantage in Handel's "O ruddier than the cherry" and the "Gold Song" from "Dinorah."

A FINE-TONED Organ, by Messrs. Walker and Sons, of Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road, was opened at St. James's Church, Camberwell, on Wednesday evening last, the 25th ult., in the presence of a very numerous congregation. The Service, which was fully choral, was commendably rendered, and included the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis from Calkin in B flat; Anthem, "In that day" (Sir G. Elvey), and Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus. The instrument, which cost £800, was ably played by Mr. W. S. Hoyte, who also gave a Recital after the Service.

A PERFORMANCE of Sacred Music, principally selections from Mendelssohn's "Elijah," was given at Brixton Independent Church, on Tuesday evening, the 11th ult. The South London Choral Association, under the *bâton* of Mr. Leonard C. Venables, sang with much precision. The soloists were Madame Worrell, Miss Pauline Featherby, Mr. A. J. Thompson, and Mr. Alfred Moore. Messrs. A. Rhodes and W. H. Harper accompanied.

ON Tuesday, the 17th ult., at Trinity College, Mr. Henry C. Nixon's Sonata for pianoforte and violoncello, which had gained the prize of fifteen guineas offered by the College, was performed for the first time by Miss Florence Browning and Mr. E. Woolhouse. Tickets for the occasion were forwarded too late for use, and our opinion as to the merits of the work must therefore be reserved.

MR. CHARLES GARDNER'S sixteenth annual *Matinée Musicale* will take place on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at the Marlborough Rooms, 307, Regent Street. The artists announced are Madame Leonora Braham, Miss Marian McKenzie, Signor Gustave Garcia (vocalists); Herr Ludwig (violin), M. Albert (violoncello), Mr. Charles Gardner (pianoforte), and Mr. Fountain Meen (accompanist).

ON Tuesday evening, the 17th ult., Mr. Fountain Meen, Organist of Union Chapel, Islington, gave an organ recital at the Presbyterian Church, Holly Park, Crouch Hill. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather there was a tolerably good audience. The Recital was varied by solos from the "Creation," sung by Madame Margaret Buntine.

AN Organ Recital was given at St. Mary's, Brookfield, Highgate, on Sunday evening, the 15th ult., after the usual service, by Mr. Albert E. Bishop, of St. Mary, Abchurch, City. The programme included works by Mendelssohn, Merkel, and others. The organ, a new one by Messrs. Brindley and Foster, is only partially completed.

IN consequence of Bank Holiday falling on the first Monday in June, the final meeting of the present season of the Musical Association has been postponed until Monday, the 20th instant, when a Paper will be read by F. Meadows White, Esq., Q.C., the subject being "A concise view of the Law of Copyright as affecting Musical Composers."

IT is announced that during the meeting of the Church Congress in the present year there will be a Special Service in St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, when Dr. Armes's new Church Oratorio, "St. John the Evangelist," will be sung by a choir organised expressly for the occasion by Mr. T. Albion Alderson.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the presentation of a testimonial to Professor Ella, in recognition of his long services to the cause of musical art. The list of subscribers is already considerable, and includes many eminent names in music and the sister arts. The Secretary is Alan Cole, Esq., 20, Redcliffe Road, S.W.

IN recognition of services rendered during a lengthy period, a complimentary Concert was given to Mrs. Stevenson, at the Institute, Priory Grove, South Lambeth, on the 2nd ult. The attendance was very large.

THE members of the South London Musical Club gave their tenth private Concert, before a numerous audience, at Angell Town Institution, Brixton, on Tuesday evening, the 3rd ult.

REVIEWS.

The Village Fair. An Alpine Idyl. Cantata for Female Voices. Words by Jetty Vogel. Music by W. H. Longhurst, Mus. Doc. Cantuar.

[Novello, Ewer and Co.]

THE subject of this Cantata is thus briefly told: "*Suzanne* and *Aline*, compelled by poverty, come from their mountain home to the Village Fair, in order to sell *Charmante*, their favourite and last-remaining cow. Out of harmony with the mirthful scene, they are received somewhat derisively by the village girls, led by *Lisette*. At the last moment unexpected help arrives, and all ends joyously." This "unexpected help," it may be said, comes from *Conrad*, the son of *Suzanne*, who, at the right moment, returns from India to share his "silver and his gold" with his family. There is always danger in selecting a story for musical illustration where the scene is laid in Switzerland; not because it is difficult to preserve the traditional characteristics of the country, but because this "local colour," as it is termed, will too often obtrude itself, to the detriment of that artistic design which is imperative when no such convenient aid is at hand. In this case, however, the composer has wisely resisted such temptation; for, although his Introduction is "*à la Suisse*" and a choral "*Aio! Aio!*" is once heard, as a rule the music is sufficiently abstract to be judged on its own merits. The Introduction is rather weak; but the chorus, "The bells they are ringing," is flowing, vocal, and melodious. The Trio which follows, for first and second soprano, and contralto, has many good points; and the unaccompanied Part-song, "Dear is the shed," is extremely effective. The Duet between *Aline* and her mother, "Ah! do not weep," is simple in construction, but contains some good writing, a point of interest being the *agitato* phrase in B flat minor, on the words "The sunshine all is shaded," the return to the key being managed with much skill. The choruses for the girls are extremely pleasing; and the airs for the principal characters—especially the "Song of the Mountain Flowers," for *Suzanne*, with an *ad lib.* harmonium accompaniment—may be made highly attractive with even moderately good singing. We may also mention a song for *Aline*, in which the chorus is interwoven, and a solo for *Suzanne*, leading to a Duet and Trio, the accompaniment to which has much character. The final chorus, "Joy to the Wanderer," is extremely unpretending; but melodious enough to bring to an effective conclusion another meritorious addition to the many drawing-room pieces for female voices which the present musical age has drawn forth.

Novello, Ewer and Co's. Pianoforte Albums. Edited by Berthold Tours.

Nos. 4, 5 and 6. *Compositions by George Frederick Handel.* [Novello, Ewer and Co.]

ASSUREDLY the many pianoforte students who are desirous of devoting themselves to the practice of the works of the classical composers cannot now complain either of the compositions not being ready to their hands, or of the outlay required to procure them. We have already noticed the numbers of the "Pianoforte Album" containing the works of Bach, and have now before us, precisely in the same form, those of Handel. Since the study of high-class