

Wesley's "Blessed Be the God"

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and Deus. But we solve the difficulty at Worcester by using these Psalms as *Anthems*.

With a view to promoting this use, I should like to add that the issue of an octavo edition of such settings of the Cantate and Deus as those by Dr. Hopkins in A and Attwood in D would be a great boon to choirs.

Yours faithfully,

H. H. WOODWARD,
Precentor of Worcester Cathedral.

June 7, 1895.

[We have received several other letters to a similar effect on this subject which we regret we are unable to print owing to pressure on our space.—ED., *M.T.*]

WESLEY'S "BLESSED BE THE GOD."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—It is, perhaps, not surprising that Dr. Wesley should not have reckoned this Anthem among his greatest compositions, as it "was written for an occasion when only trebles and a single bass voice were available." Yet it is marked by some characteristic touches of his genius.

Why, may I ask, will organists so continually ignore the composer's obvious intentions by striking the rest at the beginning of the concluding chorus? In the separate vocal parts, this rest has the word "silent" printed over it. After the fine chord at the close of the previous movement, an electrical effect is produced by the voices starting the chorus, after that one bar's silence, without organ. It may be answered that this is difficult to accomplish with precision; but such is not the case with properly trained choirs, and it would be a relief if other choirs would not attempt the Anthem at all.—Yours truly,

A. L. LEWINGTON.

Ardingley College, Sussex.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * Notices of concerts, of which programmes must invariably be sent, 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 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.

BANGOR (N. WALES).—At St. Mary's Church, on Trinity Sunday, the 9th ult., Mr. A. R. Gaul's cantata "Israel in the Wilderness" was sung by the church choir, numbering fifty voices. The soloists were Miss M. E. Williams; Masters C. H. Goodwin and A. Willcox; Messrs. W. Pryce Smith, Walter M. Williams, and William Roberts. Mr. T. Westlake Morgan, the Cathedral Organist, presided at the organ, and Mr. William Price assisted at the pianoforte. The performance was conducted by Mr. Owen Price, the Organist and Choirmaster of the Church.

BEDFORD.—A good performance was given, on the 21st ult., in the Corn Exchange, of Henry Smart's cantata "The Bride of Dunkerron," by the Musical Society. The principal soloists were Madame E. Morgan, Mr. C. Ellison, and Mr. W. H. Burgon. Mr. E. Halfpenny led an efficient orchestra and Mr. P. H. Diemer conducted.

BRIGHTON.—A performance of Gade's cantata "The Crusaders" was the main feature of a Concert given on the 14th ult., at the Brighton School of Music. The cantata was given with orchestral accompaniment, the wind

parts being played upon a harmonium. The "Crusaders' Song" and the spirited *Finale* were given with a fullness and vigour that were very creditable. The Conductor, Mr. Robert Taylor (whose pupils also sang the solo parts), secured a careful and well executed performance. In the first part of the Concert Mr. H. W. Gates, a pupil of Mr. W. Kuhe, gave a clever rendering of Chopin's Polonaise in A flat, Master W. G. Macdonald delighted the audience with Leclair's "Saraband and Tambourine," whilst other interesting excerpts, including Lortzing's Overture "Der Waffenschmied," by Dr. King's pianoforte class and the orchestra, made up a pleasant musical evening, in which about one hundred of the students of the school took part with much credit to themselves and their professors.

CHELTHENHAM.—A successful performance of Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri" was given, under the conductorship of Mr. C. J. Phillips, at the Ladies' College, on May 30. The band (led by Mr. Lewis Hann) and chorus worked well together, and the beauties of this charming work received an excellent interpretation. The part of the *Peri* was admirably sung by Miss Alice Crawley, the minor parts being adequately filled by well-known local singers.

ELY.—The Triennial Diocesan Festival of Parish Choirs was held in the Cathedral, on May 29, at 3 p.m. Thirty-five parish choirs, with the choirs of the Cathedral and Trinity College, Cambridge, took part, making a chorus of nearly 1,000 voices. A full orchestra of ninety performers, mainly drawn from the diocese, accompanied. The Rev. L. Borissow, Precentor of Trinity College, conducted, and Mr. T. T. Noble presided at the organ. In Psalm xxiv., one of those selected, an instrumental interlude was played at the points where the word "Selah" occurs. The employment of the notated edition of the "Cathedral Paragraph Psalter" secured excellent results. Stainer's orchestral setting in A of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis was used, and the following selections were sung after the third Collect: Anthems, "O Lord, my God," Wesley (unaccompanied); "The Wilderness," Goss (with orchestra); "Come unto Him," Gounod (unaccompanied); the last two movements of the Symphony and the first chorus from the "Lobgesang" (Mendelssohn). The rendering of the music and the arrangements within the Cathedral—the latter under the superintendence of the Rev. J. H. Crosby, assisted by a large number of stewards—left little to be desired.

TRURO.—The seventh annual Festival of the Truro Diocesan Choral Union was held, on the 18th ult., in the Cathedral, and was largely attended. The special hymns and Psalms were impressively sung, and Sir John Stainer's anthem, "O clap your hands," excellently rendered. Thirty-nine Parish choirs were represented, the total number of voices being 725. Dr. M. J. Monk conducted, and received able assistance in the North and South transepts from the Rev. C. R. Sowell and Mr. Griffen. Mr. H. Thomas presided at the organ.

UDDINGSTON, N.B.—The two-manual organ, built by Messrs. Blackett and Howden, of Newcastle, in St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, was opened on Whit-Sunday by Mr. W. H. Hood, late Organist of St. Mary's, Hamilton. On Tuesday in Whit-week Mr. J. M. Preston, of St. George's, Jesmond, gave a Recital on the new instrument. His programme included Mendelssohn's First Organ Sonata, and compositions by Liszt, Guilman, W. S. Bennett, Henry Smart, and Batiste.

WHITCHURCH, SALOP.—The 12th ult. being the anniversary of the dedication of the organ in the Parish Church, Gaul's "Holy City" was effectively rendered by about eighty members of the Musical Society and Orchestral Society, conducted by Mr. W. E. Rogers. The principals were Miss M. Holford, Miss C. Holford, the Rev. E. J. Evans, and Mr. Albert E. Ellis. Mr. Vernon Blount presided at the organ, and Mr. Harold Jarvis was engaged as harpist. The choruses were attacked with excellent precision, and the performance attracted a very large congregation.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. J. E. Leah, to Providence Congregational Church, Rochdale.—Mr. F. G. Russell, Organist and Choirmaster to St. Edmund the King and