

Review

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latter, one of the most melodious in the whole work. A word of praise must be awarded to Mr. Harley Vinning, whose voice told well in the air "Trust in the Lord," and also in the recitative and air, "Bring forth the best robe." The duet and quartett had scarcely been sufficiently rehearsed, as the performance, especially of the duet, was far from satisfactory. The choruses were sung by about 60 voices, and would have gone better had the conductor's beat been more carefully attended to. "The sacrifices of God" went with more precision than any. "Let us eat and drink" was also fairly done, considering the pace at which it was taken. Mr. Lemare conducted with his usual ability, and deserves much credit for his exertions in the production of the work.

AN able article on the present anomalous state of the law of copyright, written by Mr. Robertson Blaine, appeared in the February number of *Fraser's Magazine*, and we should be glad indeed if it prove the means of drawing public attention to this important subject. The refusal of the Government of the United States to enter into an International Copyright Convention with England is so obviously based upon simply selfish motives that we can scarcely, at present at least, hope to obtain from them that act of justice which has been freely accorded by other nations; but we sincerely trust that the existing law which permits the sale of foreign reprints of English works in British Colonies, may be speedily repealed; for, although the late application of the Canadian Government to the Board of Trade, for the power of reprinting English copyright works, has been refused, it is extremely likely that some act may get smuggled through the House of Commons which will legalise this piracy, unless stringent measures be at once taken in the matter. We have every reason to believe that the framers of the present laws upon this subject have really had the protection of the works of authors at heart; but as they have been proved utterly futile in effecting this object, no time should be lost in repairing the error, so as to firmly secure that absolute power over copyright which, as Mr. Blaine truly remarks, "the laws of England justly afford to all other descriptions of personal property."

MISS LILY SIMESTER gave an Evening Concert at the Horns Assembly Rooms, Kennington, on Monday the 7th ult., assisted by Miss Poole, Miss Palmer, Miss Kate Gordon, Mr. Albert James, Mr. José Howe, Mr. J. B. Chatterton (Harpist to Her Majesty), and Herr Lehmeier. Miss Poole gave two songs, which were much applauded, and Miss Palmer created a marked effect in a descriptive sea song by Hatton, composed expressly for her. Miss Lily Simester sang with much success "Bel Raggio" (Rossini), "Little Willie" (Benedict), "The Ash Grove" (Welsh melody), and "Tell me my heart" (Bishop); in the last two songs being accompanied on the harp by Mr. J. B. Chatterton. Several other vocal pieces were given; and Mr. J. B. Chatterton's harp fantasias were much and deservedly applauded. The pianoforte solos were by Miss Kate Gordon, and Herr Lehmeier. The concert was well attended.

ON Monday the 21st ult., a Concert was given at the Working Men's Institute, Holloway Road, under the direction of Mr. G. L. Wood, assisted by members of the New Polyhymnian Choir and Barnsbury Glee Union, before a large audience. The first part commenced with Locke's music to *Macbeth*, which was sung with much spirit and taste. Several vocal pieces were afterwards given, and warmly applauded, and Madame Paulsen played an excellent pianoforte solo, displaying a very finished style. Madame Paulsen and Mr. G. L. Wood were the accompanists, and Mr. W. Robinson conductor.

Reviews.

JOHN HEYWOOD, MANCHESTER; AND SIMPKIN, MARSHALL AND CO., LONDON.

Let Children sing. By John Towers.

IT is impossible that the subject discussed in this little pamphlet can be too often pressed upon public attention. Singing in this country is so frequently thought of as a mere means of individual display, that its true mission as an important agent in the physical and moral training of the young is almost lost sight of. We perfectly agree with Mr. Towers that "it may, as a general rule, be taken for granted that every properly constituted human being endowed with a voice for speaking, possesses, in a greater or less degree, a voice for singing;" and with the knowledge that this fact has been so long admitted and acted upon in Germany, it seems incredible that a branch of education which would bestow as much pleasure as profit upon children should, in England, with but rare exceptions, be excluded from our schools and colleges. Few persons will deny that the power of taking a part in concerted music is one seldom gained, even by those who are supposed to have studied singing; but this arises not so much from incapacity on the part of the pupil, as from the absence of any system of tuition by which the mind of the student shall be diverted from the "getting up" of a solo to the higher and more noble object of aiding in the interpretation of a choral work. With respect to the physical effect of studying singing, we will conclude with the testimony of Dr. Rush, quoted in Mr. Towers's pamphlet. "I here introduce a fact," he says, "which has been suggested to me by my profession—that is, the exercise of the organs of the breath by singing contributes very much to defend young people from those diseases to which the climate and other causes expose them. The Germans are seldom afflicted with consumption, nor have I ever known more than one case of spitting of blood among them. This, I believe, is in part occasioned by the strength which their lungs acquire by exercising them frequently in vocal music, which constitutes an essential branch of their education."

RUDALL, ROSE, CARTE AND CO.

The Musical Directory, Annual and Almanack for 1870.

THIS work comes to us rather late in the year, considering that it is an Almanack, as well as a Directory; but the publishers tell us that the delay has been caused by the difficulty of collecting the additional matter contained in the present issue, the truth of which announcement the bulk of the volume certainly appears to confirm. In every respect there is a considerable improvement in the editorial department of the work; and we may reasonably hope that in future even more attention will be given to those minute details, upon the accuracy of which depends its value as a book of reference. Let us at once say that all the absurd mistakes which for two years we have pointed out are now corrected; but the dates and events have not yet been subjected to that revision which we are entitled to expect. For instance, Furstenau is said to have been born twice—on the 26th February, 1772, and again on the 20th October, 1792. Haydn, who died in 1809, is stated to have died in 1810; and the name of George Collins, the violoncello player, is inserted amongst the living London professors, although his name occurs in the obituary contained in the opening remarks on the events of the past year. Let us hope for still better things in 1871.

NOVELLO, EWER AND CO.

Grand Duet, for two Pianofortes. Composed by Ferdinand Hiller.

WHEREVER two good pianofortes can be brought together, and two good players can be found to sit at them, this Duet may be made highly effective; for although the passages are full of difficulties, they are difficulties which