

Edward Heesom's Violins

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Trinity College, Cambridge (speaking of the new regulations for Degrees in Music, then under discussion), is reported to have said, "It is not the business of the University to issue licenses to professional practitioners in music, but to attest the possession of a sound independent knowledge of the subject." In conclusion, let me express a hope that the now very high position in public estimation of Degrees in Music, obtained by examination at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, and London, may not be lowered; that persons possessing technical acquirements only will obtain only technical certificates, and that degrees will remain to be in the future as they are now, the higher reward for higher knowledge.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
OXON., CANTAB., and T.C.D.

### EDWARD HEESOM'S VIOLINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE MUSICAL TIMES."

SIR,—I should be very glad if you spare me a line or two of your valuable space to ask those of your readers who are interested in violins and violin makers whether they can furnish any particulars respecting an old violin maker—viz., Edward Heesom, who flourished about 1750. I possess a violin by this maker, signed "Edward Heesom, London, Fecit 1749," and I believe the finish of the workmanship and quality of tone would satisfy the most fastidious connoisseur, or at least *one who believes that an Englishman can make a good fiddle*.

I have not been able to view the collection of violins at South Kensington, as it is not yet (May 18) open to the public; but I am anxious to find out whether this old English maker is represented there.

I am, yours faithfully,  
A. M. COLCHESTER.

### 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 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, 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.

C. DE C.—You can doubtless obtain all information respecting the Frankfort Conservatoire by writing to the Institution.

## 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.

ABERGAVENNY.—The members of the Choral Society gave their second Concert of the season in the Town Hall, on Thursday, April 23. Cowen's Cantata *The Rose Maiden* formed the first part of the programme. The soloists were Madame Bellamy, Miss Émilie Harris, Mr. Edward Kemp and Mr. D. Harrison; Conductor, Mr. Throne Biggs, Organist of St. Mary's, Abergavenny.

BALTIMORE.—The last of the Peabody Concerts for the present season was given at the Peabody Conservatory on April 18, when Asger Hamerick's *Symphonie Tragique* formed the most important item in the programme. The American papers speak in the very highest terms of this work, which was most warmly received, and the composer called forward to receive the enthusiastic congratulations of the audience. Dr. Louis Maas played with much effect, a group of pianoforte compositions by Liszt; Miss Ella Earle sang three songs by the same composer, and the Concert concluded with Berlioz's Overture to *King Lear*.

BELFAST.—The Queen's College Musical Society gave its third Concert of the season in the Constitutional Hall, on the 6th ult. Amongst the choral pieces were Eaton Faning's very clever composition called "The Miller's Wooing," and a chorus for female voices by Cherubini, "Blanche of Provence," both of which were admirably sung and much applauded. Herr Lauer played with excellent effect a solo by Viëuxtemps on the violin, and other pieces, which elicited enthusiastic marks of approbation; and vocal solos were contributed, several of which were unanimously encored. The Concert was conducted by Herr Beyschlag with his usual ability.

BEXLEY HEATH.—Mr. J. Flint gave an excellent Concert at the Albert Road Schools, on the 12th ult., assisted by the Choral Society, Mr. J. Turpin, Mus. Bac., and Mr. H. E. Hast. Mr. Turpin's pianoforte solos were exceedingly well rendered, and his duet with Mr. Flint elicited much applause. Praise must also be accorded to Mr. Hast, whose songs were admirably sung, and created a marked effect.

BURY.—An Organ Recital was given on April 28, at Christian Church, by Mr. David Clegg, Organist, Congregational Church, Bamford. The organ is an excellent two-manual instrument, recently erected by P. Conacher & Sons, Huddersfield. An excellent programme was well rendered.

CARDIFF.—The performance for the first time in Wales of Mackenzie's dramatic Oratorio *The Rose of Sharon* drew together a large and fashionable audience on the evening of April 29, the body of the hall not having a seat vacant. Miss Mary Davies, who represented the Sulamite, sang with that exquisite finish which, added to the charms of her flexible soprano voice, has made her such a general favourite. Very notable was her rendering of the parts comprised in the Temptation, and a species of invocation at its close. Miss Hilda Wilson, in the part of a Woman, made a remarkable commencement in the prologue, "We will open our mouths in a parable," and her singing throughout the work, especially in the solo "Lo, the King," was extremely fine. The tenor music had a very able exponent in Mr. Edward Lloyd as the Beloved. One of his choicest renderings was "Oh! my Dove," in the part representing Separation. So, too, in the portion signalling Victory, he sang with much effect "Open to me" and "My head is filled with dew," the last being most warmly appreciated. The part of Solomon was taken by Mr. Watkin Mills. In "Ere the day cool" he attained to a very high degree of excellence. The choir was admirably conducted by Mr. D. C. Davis, the singing showing generally the result of most careful training. The executive ability of the organist, Mr. A. L. Peace, will be well understood from his previous performances, and the praise bestowed on the chorus may be extended to the band, led by Mr. J. T. Carrodus. When the close was reached, at a quarter after eleven, scarcely a dozen persons had left the hall, which is, perhaps, the best proof that could be offered of the sustained high character of the rendering of a pre-eminently high-class oratorio. The work was announced to be repeated on the 30th ult.

CARMARTHEN.—The Organist of St. Peter's, Mr. Videon Harding, gave his sixteenth annual Concert in the Assembly Rooms, on the 9th ult., before a large audience. Misses Vinnie Beaumont and Marian Ellis, Mr. R. Andrews and Mr. Harding were the vocalists, and Miss L. T. Jones, R.A.M., accompanied. The efforts of the performers were well received, Miss Beaumont's solos being encored. The part-singing was particularly good.

CHELMSFORD.—The Chelmsford Musical Society gave an admirable performance of Costa's Oratorio *Eli*, on April 29, at the Corn Exchange. The chorus-singing was very good. Miss Jessie Royd, Madame Poole, Mr. Kenningham, Mr. Kempton, and Mr. de Lacy were the soloists. The choir numbered over 100, and there was an orchestra of about thirty performers, mostly professional. The conductor was Mr. F. R. Frye, F.C.O., who has brought the Society to a high standard of excellence.

CLAY CROSS.—On Tuesday evening, April 28, the Musical Association performed Haydn's *Creation* before a large audience in the New Lecture Hall. The principal vocalists were Madame Clara Gardiner, Mr. E. Dunkerton, and Mr. Bingley Shaw, all of whom were highly successful. Mr. Walter F. Clare conducted with much ability. The Society purposes giving Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* for its first Concert next season.

CLEVEDON.—On Tuesday, the 12th ult., the Choral Society gave a very successful performance of Barnett's *Ancient Mariner* and Van Bree's *St. Cecilia's Day*, at the Public Hall. The solos were sung by members of the Society. An efficient band, led by Mr. F. Gardner, of Bristol, accompanied, and Mr. W. Haydn Cox, of Clifton, conducted.

CLIFTON.—On Thursday, the 7th ult., the St. Andrew's Choral Society gave a performance of Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* at the Memorial Hall. The choruses were rendered with great firmness by a choir of about fifty voices. Mr. E. T. Morgan, of Bristol Cathedral, sang the two tenor airs, and the remaining solo parts were taken by members of the Society. At the close of the Concert Mr. W. Haydn Cox was presented with a handsome edition of Shakespeare's plays and a pair of vases, in recognition of his efficient services.

DOVER.—The final Concert of the season was given by the members of the Harmonic Society, in the New Town Hall, on Tuesday, the 5th ult., Sir W. Sterndale Bennett's *May Queen* and a miscellaneous selection forming the programme. The vocalists were Madame Worrell, Miss Eliza Thomas, Mr. Alfred Kenningham, and Mr. R. Rhodes, all of whom gave the greatest satisfaction. The choruses were well rendered, under the conductorship of Mr. J. W. Howells. The orchestra, which was augmented by a contingent of the Royal Engineers, from Chatham, was led by Mr. W. Barclay. The performance proved more successful, both financially and in attendance, than any previously given.

EALING.—A miscellaneous Concert was given at the Lyric Hall, on the 13th ult., in which the following artists took part—Miss Ellis Walton, Miss Pattie Michie, Mr. Ralph Dawes, and Mr. T. D. Christie, vocalists; Miss Pittie, violin; Mr. Sewell-Southgate, accompanist, and Mr. W. H. Treffry, Conductor. The well-known duet "Maying," by Miss Alice Mary Smith, was extremely well sung by Miss Ellis Walton and Mr. Ralph Dawes, and a new song, "The child and the autumn leaf" (Ralph Dawes), was very favourably received.

EPSOM.—The Choral Society, under the able conductorship of Mr. G. E. Good, gave an excellent Concert in the Public Hall, on the 1st ult. The first part of the programme was devoted to Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion*, and the second to Sterndale Bennett's *May Queen*. The solo vocalists were Miss Hilda Coward, Miss Lily Turpin, Mr. Kenningham, and Mr. J. Hailes, all of whom were highly efficient. The pianoforte and organ accompaniments were played by the Rev. S. J. Rowton and Mrs. J. Hailes respectively.