AMUSEMENTS. CARL WOLFSOHN'S FAREWELL CONCERT,-

One of the largest and most brilliant audiences ever congregated within the walls of the Academy of Music, was present there on Thursday evening last, at the farewell concert of Carle Wolfsohn. The sight must have been a cheering one to that gentleman, for even the third circle of the spacious building, which is generally "tabooed" by the fashionable public, was Biled on that occasion with the etite of Philadelphia, who had been unable to gain admission ance was very are, and every way worths of the occe- Madame Gazzaniga was very

warmly received, and sung charmingly.

warmly received, and sung charmingly.

Mr. Habelman was in the best of voice, and sang with all they ace, fervor, and finish of the true artist that he is. His aria from La Dame Blanche was exquisitely given, and received a rapturous encore. Wolfschu's songs, the "Water Lily" and "Love Star" were also splendidly sang, by Mr. Habelman, and were much relished by the audience. Wenzell Kopta's violin playing was one of the brilliant features of the concert. His "Krentzer Sonata" would have done no discredit to the great Paganini himself, and was among the best efforts in violin playing the public have been treated to in years. Some portions of it were wonderfully fine, and all of it bore the stamp of the thoroughly finished and conscientions artist.

Another spiendid feature of the evening was the performance of the Mendelssohn Society. This young and vigorous society, under the able lead of its director, Mr. Jean Louis, has made rapid strides since its organization, and to day it is one of the best musical associations in Philadelphia. The choruses sung by the society at the Wolfschn Concert were all superbly executed. This was particularly the case with the grand "Inflammatus" of Rossini, and Mendelssenn's "O'er the Sea," both of which were enthusiastically encored. Great credit is due the society for the effectiveness and completeness of all they undertake, and Mr. Louis, its leader, and Mr. Henry G. Thunder, its very talented planist, have great cause for self-congratulation on the progress made by it since its formation to the present time.

Mr. Wolfschu's plane playing was all that could have been desired. His arrangement from Faust and bis solos in the Beethoven "Fantasia" were executed with wonderful precision and effect, and were highly enjoyed by the audience. Mr. Wolfschu's great abilities as a pisnist were never displayed to better advantage, and the success that marked his performance throughout was that which could only have been achieved by one as eminent on the instrument as himself.

The orchestra

the instrument as himself.

The orchestra was one of the best, if not the best, we have heard at a concert for years. The overture to The Night in Grenada, and the accompaniments to the "Inflammatus," and the "Orange Girl," sung by Madame Gazzaniga (the three capitally led by Mr. Simon Hassier), were superbly executed. Indeed, such an orchestra—including, as it did, no less than five orchestral leaders among its members—is rarely found in Philadelphia, and we would much rejoise if the same body of splendid performers could be oftener got together.

Altogether, the farewell of Carl Wolfsohn was a splendid success, and the remembrance of it cannot but be an acceptable accompaniment to the voyage our talented townsman is about taking to the Old World.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. BY JAMES PARTON.

Henry VIII, King of England, had six wives. By the first of these, Catherine of Aragon, he had three sons and two daughters, all of whom died at an early age except one of the daughters, atterwards known as Bloody Mary. By his second wife, Ann Boleyn, he had one daughter, Elizabeth, the illustrious Queen, who daughter, Elizabeth, the illustrious Queen, who was but three years of age when her capricious father deprived her of a mother by cutting off her head. Henry's third wife was Jane Seymour, who became the mother of Edward, known in history as Edward VI.

All turns upon religion in the life of Elizabeth. Left an orphan by her father's death at the age of fourteen, she lived, during the brief reign of her brother Edward, in studious re-

reign of her brother Edward, in studious re-tirement, under the learned Roger Ascham, with whom, it is said, she read Latin and Greek, became proficient in music, and acquired a familiarity with the works of Luther, Melancthon, and other Protestant writers. It is even said that she conversed well in the Greek language, and could talk with the principal ambassadors from foreign courts the principal nmba sadors from foreign cou

the principal ambassadors from foreign courts in their native language. In her youth, although not beautiful, she was an agreeable and fresh-looking girl, large-boned, fully formed, with beautiful eyes, and a remarkably pretry hand, which sue liked to show.

After the death of her brother Edward and the accession to the throne of her Catholic sister, Mary, Elizabeth had a dangerous and difficult part to play. Not only was she Protestant in heart, but she was the favorite and hope of the great Protestant party of England, which embraced all that was noblest and most progressive in the kingdom. A formidable revoit in the kingdom gave the Queen a pretext for confining Elizabeth in the Tower of London, where she daily expected the tragic end which so many Protestants met during that bloody reign. Mary, however, relented so far as to per-

where she daily expected the tragic end which so many Protestants met during that bloody reign. Mary, however, relented so far as to permit her to reside at a country seat, under the strict and constant surveillance of a Catholic gentleman, who, however, treated her with the courtesy due to her sex and rank.

Te save her life she became a consummate hypocrite, professing the most unbounded devotion to the Catholic religion. She caused to be constructed to her house a chapel, in which the mass was daily said. A large cructifix, lighted by candies, hung from the wails of her room, and with her own hands she made priestly vestments and the decorations of sacred images. When she visited the court, sne made it a point to follow the Queen in the religious processions, and thus succeeded in quieting the apprehensions of her suspicious and bigoted sister.

In her twenty-fifth year, this life of constraint and hypocrisy was suddenly terminated by the Queen's death and her own accession to the throne. Seldom has a sovereign been received by a pecople with such profound and heartfelt in the arrival in London.

Queen's death and her own accession to the throne. Seldom has a sovereign been received by a people with such profound and heartfell joy as she was on her arrival in London. On her way to the Tower she passed by fitty gibbets to which human bodies were suspended, all of whom had been executed that day under the crue! laws of her sister. But the reign of terror was at an end. To the thirteen Catholic Councillors of Queen Mary she added seven others all Protestants—and she chose for her ministers able men inclined to the Reformed religion. She still, however, proceeded with her usual caution. She was crowned by a Catholic Bishop, and with Catholic rites, and avoided everything which looked like an intention to change the religion of the country.

If the Pope had been as prudent as she was, it is highly probable that she would have distanced in the common communion; but the Pope, Paul IV, immediately recalled to her memory that, during her father's lifetime, she han been solemnly pronounced an illegitimate child, and saled upon her to submit her received. during her father's lifetime, she had been solemnly pronounced an illegitimate child, and called upon her to submit her rights to the throne to the examination and decision of the Pontifical Government. From that moment her part was taken. Her Parliament, directed by herself and her Ministers, declared ber the head of the English Church, revived the Prayer-Book of Edward VI, forbade the use of any other in the churches, declared that no foreign prelate could have any authority over the Church of England, and ordained that every priest should swear allegiance to the Queen, both as head of the State and head of the Church, and renounce the jurisdiction of every localing ecclesiastic. The great majority the Church, and renounce the jurisdiction of every loreign ecclesiastic. The great majority of the clergy and people halled this revolution with joy. There was at that time in England nine thousand four hundred beneficed c ergymen. All of these took the requisite oath except one hundred and thirty. Fourteen bishops, twelve deans, twelve arch-deacons, and fifteen heads of colleges refused the oath, and lost their places.

This revolution in religion was the direct cause of the great war between England and Spain, which ended by the destruction of the Espanish Armada, by which the greatness of England was assured. The victory made 1 rotestanism a power in Europe, and reduced Spain to the rank of a second-rate power.

po wer,
In some particulars Elizabeth was one of
the weakest of women. There is on record a
currous conversation between her and one of
the umbassadors of the Queen of Scotland, relate d'by himself:—
"She asked me," writes the ambassador, "what
"She asked me," writes the ambassador, banutiful in

"She asked me," writes the amoassador, "what color was supposed to be the most beautiful in human hair, and which had the prettiest hair—my Quesn or herself. I replied that her hair and that of my sovereign were equally beautiful. As this reply did not satisfy her, I added that she was the most beautiful woman in England, and that my Queen was the most beautiful woman in Scotland. She insisted, however, popon something ruore positive. I then said that

the need the most satural said, but that my sovereign was a very protty wo......

The questioning continued for some time—
the Queen insisting upon comparing the stature, the musical taient, and the manner of dancing of herself and the Queen of Scotland. So anxious was she to convince this ambassador of her superiority in dancing, that she begged him to protong his stay in London that he might witness her skill in that exercise.

As she advanced in life she became more rigorous and tyrannical in matters of religion. During the last twenty-three years of her reign.

During the last twenty-three years of religion.

Buring the last twenty-three years of her reign, fifty priests were executed and fifty-five were banished, and one hundred and len private persons suffered death for the sake of their religion. To the last of her life she continued to delude her people with the expectation of her speedy marriage, which all Ebgland most fervently desired, for the sake of procuring a Protestant heir to the throne.

Her last days are thus described by the French

ambassador resident at her court;—
"The Queen," he says, "scarcely sleeps, and
eats much less than usual. Some are of opinion eats much less than usual. Some are of opinion that her sickness is Gaused by her grief for the death of Lord Essex. Certain it is, that we see traces of profound melancholy in her cuntenance and in her actions. These two last days she has remained scaled upon some carpets, unable either to sit up or lie gown. She kept one of her fingers in her mouth, and her eyes were fixed upon the ground. Compelled at length to take to her bed, and being questioned upon the choice of her successor, she answered:—

"I have told you that my throne was a king's throne—I do not wish to have a clod-hopper for my successor."

"She was asked to explain the meaning of this language.

language.
"'It is my wish,' she replied, 'to be succeeded by a king, and what king could it be if not my cousin of Scotland?'" Some hours after this conversation, she breathed her last, in the seventieth year of her age, and she was peaceably succeeded on the throne by James, King of Scotland, the son of the unfortunate Mary.

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