

THE MUSIC WORLD.

How the May Festival of 1891 Will Be Looked Upon When It Is a Part of Local History.

FINANCES OF THE UNDERTAKING.

An Explanation of the Fact That Gilmore and His Band Never Fail to Please the People.

THE AMERICAN ARTISTS IN LONDON.

Success of a Pittsburgher in Munich, and Musical Gen-eral Interest.

Not much need be added in the way of review of the May Festival to what has already appeared in the columns of THE DISPATCH. This occasion will go down into local history as a companion piece to the Festival of 1889. Both were brave attempts by Mr. Retter to do the best he could under existing circumstances, attempts for which he deserves the heartiest thanks of the musical community, especially in view of the unfortunate financial results in each case.

This time the soloists—to begin with the least important department—were not quite up to the standard set before. There was no such artist this year as Lilli Lehmann, and others of the solo personnel fell below those heard before. This, however, was nobody's fault; the best artists in the country were here, and they were altogether adequate to the work in hand, at any rate. This deficiency, such as it was, was made up by the greater efficiency of the orchestra, a much more important element in the festival. Instead of being a mixed body of players from various sources, it was practically the same orchestra that Mr. Seidl has constantly had in hand at the Metropolitan Opera House and the Brighton Beach and other concerts for the past two years. This made a considerable improvement in the finish and ensemble of the orchestral work, although a larger number of strings would have been a further advantage. Mr. Seidl himself is a better conductor for general concert work than before, and although the orchestral end of the festival was highly satisfactory.

The chorus, of course, was not. And this through no fault of Mr. Retter and his assistants. Except in the "Gypsy Life," they did just about all that could be asked under the circumstances, and in many points much surpassed all justifiable expectations. But the fidelity and zeal of an attempt may be cordially commended, and yet the attempt be recorded unsuccessful, as in this case. Not only was it absolutely impossible to prepare the great work that was the object of the scheme, but the necessarily hasty formation of the chorus admitted much "dead wood" and the exceedingly short rehearsal period gave no time for needed practice in singing as such, every minute being needed to learn the pieces in hand. Really artistic results are simply out of the question under these conditions. The choral work should be a choral element in a true festival, and we will never have an event worthy of that name in its highest sense until we have a permanent, carefully chosen body of singers and an abundance of time for rehearsal.

However, leaving aside the ideal festival standards, we did have a series of impressive and interesting performances. The delighted and benefited thousands of people, who seldom have such an opportunity. That fact is clear, in spite of all criticisms of this or that detail; and that is much to be thankful for, a genuine help to the cause of music in our community. Aside from the unavailing absence of greater soloists, the programmes were very skillfully and wisely compiled, much better than those of 1889. There was more legitimate concert music than in any previous year, and the inclusion of the golden mean between "popularity" and pedantry was very happily maintained. The concert and choral programmes of Mr. Retter and Mr. Jenks richly deserved a financial return, where, unfortunately, they are confronted with a loss of nearly, if not quite, \$5,000. The figures are not final, but, as nearly as could be ascertained, the principal items of expense were as follows: Hall (including \$500 rent), \$4,155 15; soloists and conductor, \$5,800; orchestra, \$4,337; railroad fares, \$1,078 30; chorus expenses (exclusive of printing), \$1,362 94; advertising, \$1,822 15. With the other items, the total expense was within a hundred dollars of \$20,000. The total receipts, as far as known, were \$16,346 35, with between \$300 and \$400 still to come. This leaves the \$5,000 deficit, and not a penny for all the work done by Mr. Retter and Mr. Jenks. Indeed, Mr. Retter is still the festival's creditor for \$200 advanced out of his pocket for early expenses, besides \$200 more that he turned in during the past week from his share of the profit from the Gilmore concerts.

It is deemed possible that the Exposition Society may voluntarily return some of the \$500 rent paid. But the bulk of the loss will have to be met in some way. The lady patrons are now considering ways and means and will probably formulate a plan during the week. Success to them.

Two Names That Draw Well.

The only Gilmore, with his honny band, drew a tremendous audience to Mechanical Hall Wednesday evening, besides a goodly number—including many school children at a dime apiece—on the same afternoon. An extended review of the performance is hardly necessary, after all that has gone before. Mr. Gilmore himself and the work he gets out of his excellent military band are too familiar for further comment—though it is worth a mention to have heard and to describe how the "Kreutzer" sonata sounded from a brass band! The Festival Chorus has lately had quite as much critical attention as it wants, and most of the soloists—Mr. Italo Campanini, Mrs. Ida Euler-Klein, Mrs. Louisa Natani, Miss Anna C. Mantell, Miss Maud Powell, Mr. Spignoli, Mr. Sartori and Mr. W. S. Weeden—are already well known in Pittsburgh.

One significant point in this connection is the large attendance called out, without much advertising, by the familiar names of Gilmore and Campanini. Nothing, it is clear, can equal the popular drawing power of familiar, familiar names. The people can be relied on to turn out to hear performers whose fame has long been a household word.

It will greater significance is it, that when the people turn out in this expectant spirit, they do really enjoy the performance, if it be all calculated to give enjoyment. A receptive attitude on the part of the audience means much more than half the battle to composer and performer. It is a safe wager that the half dozen compositions on Gilmore's programmes which had been heard in the Festival of the previous year, gave more enjoyment to more people on the latter than on the former occasion. And this although the latter performance of the Festival of the previous year was a disaster to the Festival of the present year.

BUYING UP PIG IRON.

Chicago Manufacturers Evidently Expect a Big Advance.

A BROKER'S OPINION ABOUT IT.

Some Recent Purchases That Seem to Have Great Significance.

DEMAND FOR THE SOUTHERN PRODUCT.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

CHICAGO, May 23.—During the past two or three weeks the big iron manufacturers of Chicago have been heavy buyers of pig iron. The McCormick Harvester Works bought 8,000 tons in a single lot a few days ago and as much more in smaller quantities. The Deering Harvester Machine Works has within the same time bought about 15,000 tons.

The syndicate which controls and operates malleable iron works in Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland and other points East has purchased not less than 40,000 tons of Lake Superior charcoal iron, at prices, it is said, ranging from \$15 50 to \$17 50 per ton; the same grade of goods are from \$17 50 to \$18. Large numbers of smaller establishments from the attention bestowed upon Miss Sybil Sanderson, the American artist, who was the *Manon* in the opera first referred to. Miss Sanderson had previously played *Manon* with much success in Boston and probably here, but this time she was expected of the young American. On the morning following the first performance of "Manon," at Covent Garden, the critics were found to have come to the conclusion that Miss Sanderson had hardly realized expectations, though she was warmly received on account of her clever and vivacious acting. In spite of the cordial reception given to Miss Sanderson, it can't be denied that the thinness of her voice has been so noticed that it has caused a discussion as to the methods of her teacher, Marchesi, whose other pupils are thought to have been weighed down with a similar vocal excess, and doubts are expressed as to the utility of sacrificing the power and beauty of the voice to obtain a certain note. The fact is, however, that Massenet's work is too light for such a large house as Covent Garden.

Edwin Isham, the American baritone, made his debut in a concert here on Thursday with considerable success. Another American artist, David Bishpan, who has already been heard in Tenyson's songs, will probably play the part of the *Duke in "La Basoche"* at the Royal English Opera House.

Mrs. Pemberton-Hincks, of New Orleans, La., yesterday afternoon gave great enjoyment to a party of distinguished guests at a concert given at the residence of Lady Dudley. Mrs. Pemberton-Hincks sang several croon songs, and a duet with Maurel, the baritone. Among those who were present on this occasion were the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Manchester.

Mme. Marguerite de Pachmann, the pianist, has accepted an engagement for an extensive tour of the United States next season. She is the wife of Vladimir de Pachmann, the famous Chopin player, who has been concentrating through the States lately.

The Success of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Frank E. Sandler, of Pittsburgh, is meeting with a distinguished success in Munich as an orchestral composer and conductor. His "Phantastische Stueck," in which the muted string quartet is sharply contrasted with the full orchestra, has several times been conducted by the young composer with great success, since the first performance. One result has been a commission given Mr. Sandler to write a six-voiced composition for 12 horns—the old style instrument used in the Munich orchestra. Mr. Sandler's conducting the orchestra, which was that of the King's First Infantry Regiment, returned the music to Munich on Monday of the Royal Theater. The young Pittsburgher's orchestration of this homely material now repeated recalls, compelling a respectful allusion to the great conductor of Southern iron was taken, to be used in combination with Northern iron.

Of the inducements offered you below. Don't glance over them and cast them aside, but keep them in mind. Keep it in your pocketbook until you are down town, and then call at Thompson's New York Grocery:

- 2 cans pea peaches..... 25
- 24 lbs Carolina rice (broken)..... 1 00
- 3 dozen parrot matches..... 25
- 16 lbs dried lima beans..... 1 00
- 25 pounds white sugar..... 1 00
- 10 cans condensed milk..... 1 00
- 12 lbs large prunes..... 1 00
- 10 lbs California apple prunes..... 1 00
- 8 lbs evaporated apples..... 1 00
- 7 lbs evaporated apricots (dried)..... 1 00
- 8 lbs evaporated peaches..... 1 00
- 50 bars good scrubbing soap..... 1 00
- 20 bars white flaking soap..... 1 00
- 30 bars white flaking soap..... 1 00
- 28 lbs German mottled soap..... 1 00
- 8 lbs prepared coconut..... 1 00
- 12 cans white string beans..... 1 00
- 10 cans Columbia river salmon..... 1 00
- 6 cans California apricots..... 1 00
- 12 cans good peas..... 75
- 12 cans good sugar corn..... 75
- 8 lbs 25-cent tea..... 1 00
- 5 lbs 25-cent tea..... 1 00
- 4 lbs 30-cent tea..... 1 00
- 3 lbs 40-cent tea..... 1 00
- 10 cans breakfast tea in fancy basket..... 50

Goods delivered free to all parts of both cities. To those living out of the city we will prepare freight on all orders of \$10 and upward to any station or landing within 100 miles of Pittsburgh. Send for price list.

NEWPORT SUITS.

Ready June 1.

These, in addition to Wakefield & Heywood's new Summer Furniture, will make the most complete assortment ever offered in this market. You can buy cottage and seashore outfits at home without any additional cost of freight or packing charges.

A new lot of our extremely low-priced Porch Rockers at 75c. Same with double glazed cane seats at \$1.25.

Arm Chairs and Rockers to suit at proportionate prices.

Do You Eat? You should be proud of it, or at least proud of the fact that in this city there is a wholesale and retail house where you want in that respect to be satisfied to the utmost. Not only in the line of substantial, but you may trim up with the finest of delicacies the land can afford at prices that defy competition.

Send for price list.

24 lbs granulated sugar..... \$1 00- 12 lbs evaporated peaches..... 1 00
- 10 lbs evaporated raspberries..... 1 00
- 16 lbs evaporated blackberries..... 1 00
- 5 cans California cherries, highest grade..... 1 00
- 5 cans California apricots, highest grade..... 1 00
- 3 lbs 30c tea (all varieties)..... 1 00
- 25 lbs broken rice..... 1 00
- 8 lbs best California prunes..... 1 00
- 15 lbs good raisins..... 1 00
- 10 lbs dried cranberries..... 1 00
- 7 lbs roasted coffee (fresh ground)..... 1 00
- 4 lbs Weyman's tobacco..... 1 00
- 4 lbs chewing tobacco..... 1 00
- 6 lbs white clover honey..... 1 00
- 50 bars family soap..... 1 00
- Large family scales..... 1 50
- 30 lbs soap (5 cents)..... 1 50
- 7 lbs desiccated coconut..... 1 00
- 6-foot step ladder, complete..... 98
- 1 clothes horse (4 wings, 6 feet)..... 85
- 1 gallon New Orleans molasses..... 25
- 4 lbs dried corn..... 8
- 1 can best Lima beans..... 8
- 1 can genuine sugar corn..... 8
- 1 can pumpkin..... 8
- 1 can peas..... 7
- 1 can string beans..... 6
- 2-lb can best baking powder in United States for all purposes..... 20

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J. S. WELDON, No. 201 Market street, cor. Second avenue, Pittsburg.

Ohio Pyle. Spend your Decoration Day at this popular resort. Train leaves at 8:15 A. M. Rate, \$1 50 round trip.

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- 1 gallon New Orleans molasses..... 25
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