

and conducted. There each individual member of the congregation, male and female, Treble, Alto—contraltos singing Alto—Tenor, Tenor Baritone, Bass Baritone, and Bass, select the part which nature has fitted them to sing, and with which they can not only "make harmony of sound," but "worship God with heart and voice," in "hymns and spiritual songs," and "all the congregation praise the Lord."

Thus the choir becomes the four-part precentor of the people, and not only the precentor of the air, for one class of voices, but it contains the leaders, the precentors of all the parts for the whole congregation! Where congregations are blessed with a "singing minister," and a musician at the same time, they are generally taught by his suggestions which is the proper part to which by nature they are adapted, and the result is soul-stirring, fervent praise and worship. Some of our Wesleyan and Baptist Churches are examples in this respect; while the soul-voice which thrillingly pervades the assemblies convened in Revival seasons beautifully confirms the argument here advanced. In reference to the moral and religious character of the choir, little need be said. Good Christians ever advocate both of these for the members of that portion of God's service which is so dear to the thirsting soul; and certainly, unsanctified hearts cannot be supposed, either to communicate spiritual feeling, any more than to worship God acceptably, and "in the spirit of holiness," which is the only worship approved. Cain's sacrifice was rejected, and that of Abel his brother respected, because of the evil within his heart, and is not the "sacrifice of the wicked an abomination to the Lord?" More on this point is needless, whatever may be the natural qualifications and talent, or the cultivated genius and availability, good voices do not qualify for the position, neither are the best musicians always possessed of the requisite recommendations. "Let every thing be done decently and in order" is the Apostle's wise and appropriate injunction; and the sacrifice of the wicked and unrepentant heart is not godly "decency," but too often the offspring of pride and vanity.

The members of a choir should be social, cheerful, and affable; courteous and refined in their address toward each other, never forgetting their position as Christians, and ever respectful and deferential to the chorister. In the meeting for practice, as on the Sabbath, all levity and frivolousness should be carefully avoided; and trifling subjects of conversation and discussion should never fritter away the valuable hour for self-preparation in God's praise. The chorister should not only be a musician—as none but a musician can be supposed to properly understand the intention of the composer—but he should possess all the prudence, judgment and sagacity of a genius, in order to make proper use of all the material at his disposal, and at the same time, by his gentlemanly dignity and deportment, command the confidence and co-operation of the minister and congregation, as the members of the choir more immediately entrusted to his supervision.

He should study the design of the musical composer, and never subvert the order and intention of the musical composition by singing a tune out of its legitimate style and original character, in order to adapt it to new words; thus doing injustice to both composers. He should never adapt solemn tunes and harmonies to light, didactic, or joyful words; neither should he set solemn words to tunes originally composed and harmonized to words of another and different character.

Congregational music should be such that the words and music agree in sentiment and character. Many modern publications fail to answer the chorister's purpose, because of this. Many of our oldest and best tunes have gone into disuse and disrepute in consequence of the same want of adaptation. The sentiment of poetry is its soul-voice, and the character and effect of musical melody and harmony are the same. When these are properly united, the effect is pleasing and refining, and a harmony of spiritual effects induces love for the tune. Many of our modern tunes die out early, because, though they are well adapted to express the sentiments of the words set to them, yet are ill-adapted for any other, while much of our old music is fast going into disuse because of the blundering manner in which it has been sung. Musicians of taste must lament the death of much that is worthy, grand and inspiring in the solemn, devotional character of "Old Hundred." This fine old tune is surrounded with many soul-stirring reminiscences of religion's darker days. Good old Luther, his white hair streaming in the free air of heaven, clustered round by stern, but devout old disciples, first sang it to persecuted ones, centuries ago. It has now none of its

"solemn swell, now deep and low, then slowly rising in pathetic majesty, like bowed religion martyred for her God." Little of its former self is detected in the rapid organ tones of some of our churches to-day. Those who are old enough to remember the beautiful heart-swelling effect produced by its crescendoed rise and fall of even twenty-five years ago, have doubtless often mourned over the sad perversions of to-day. And the same may be said of almost all of those old tunes. Many of the younger singers have seldom or never heard them rendered in proper character, and consequently dislike beauties for which they have never cultivated an appreciation. Besides, many ill-governed voices find it more difficult to crescendo and diminish tones, consequently disliking the labor, and having little or no good taste, their clamor for the easier style overcomes the facile chorister, and the music is martyred to the indolence of pampered singers.

But we defer further animadversion upon this point, as we shall have occasion again to refer to it more particularly.

Having thus far referred to the necessity of a choir in places of public worship, its character and that of its membership, I shall now proceed to show the methods by which the choir is sustained, and its labors vitalized, as also notice the separate influences which it induces, or which control it for good or ill. In districts, communities, or churches, where no choir exists, the common practice has been to organize a singing school or class, and as domestic, sectarian and other influences—of a social nature also,—forbid the guarantee of sufficient numbers to render its conduct remunerative to the Teacher, others, unconnected with the church, are admitted. The class is organized, and progresses with profit or otherwise, according to the amount of interest manifested by the minister and members of the church. Eventually the class closes, and the members divide off to their various churches; their numbers, in any one denomination, being too small for usefulness, the improvement already effected is suffered to remain unsupported by continued practice, and the knowledge already secured quietly dies out, a natural but shameful death by neglect. Sometimes Parents entertain prejudices against classes for vocal improvement, and reluctantly patronise, or regard all future meetings of the same kind as places for "innocent amusement." The young people, with their buoyant tendencies and love of amusement, make capital of the apathy and indifference of the parents, and the "singing school" becomes synonymous with "play-house," and "evening party," etc., etc. Such are the results.

Another church, adopting a different method, and with somewhat better guaranties of successful issue, supplies from its congregation alone the members of the class, paying remunerative fees, but neglecting the all-important provision of a good Teacher. The choir thus established satisfies the congregation but for a short time, when the teacher leaves and the organization soon perishes for lack of sustenance and encouragement.

Another church organizes a choir and employs an efficient Teacher for three terms of twenty or more lessons at least. A chorister obtains separate training for future service, the Teacher is stimulated to his utmost by being well remunerated, and the work is properly conducted and finished. The latter is the only true and proper system of organization, which will command the sympathy and co-operation of minister and people.

(To be continued.)

For the Christian Messenger.

A Scene at Sea.

It is the fifth of August, 1866, the glorious sun is shedding a flood of light on the bosom of the broad Atlantic, and the white sails of the noble ship Phenix as she gallantly cleaves her way through the dark waters and dashes on towards her destined port, it is such a scene as would make a sailor's heart exult as he gazed upon the sight, but now it is far different, a once joyous crew pace the deck with down cast looks, the officers give and the men receive their orders with saddened hearts. Why is this? There is death and sickness on board the ship. One loved form lies cold in death and four others seem likely to follow soon; the day wears on and at the setting of the first dog-watch the courses are hauled up, the main topsail laid aback while the colours are set union down, the corpse neatly shrouded and ballasted is brought to the gangway followed by the officers and crew, the burial service of the church of England is read, and the body of the late Daniel Fraser, of Perea, N. S., is committed to its resting place, there to remain until the sea shall give up the dead that are in it.

On the 5th of Aug., 1866, on board the ship Phenix, Capt. William Davis, on the Passage from Baltimore to Quebec, Daniel Fraser, aged 20 years, son of the late John Fraser, of Wolfville, N. S.,

Colonial and Foreign News.

Prince Edward Island.

To-morrow, Thursday, 6th of December, is appointed by the Government of P. E. I. as a DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

THE ELECTIONS.—On the 19th of the present month six members of the Legislative Council of P. E. I. will be elected, that number of seats having become vacant by law.

ACCIDENTS.—A man named Walter Gaul fell from the roof of a house in Charlottetown, P. E. I., a few days since, and was killed.

An old man named Bernard McTague, was being carried by a friend in his gig for a short distance, when, coming to an uneven place in the road, he was thrown out, and so much injured that he died the next morning.

New Brunswick.

The Shipcarpenters of St. John are all on a strike. The masters and workmen have each formed themselves into separate Associations, for the purpose of protecting their own interests. Of course both will suffer.

Snow in great abundance, has fallen, at Miramachi, affording excellent sleighing.

A paper collar factory is to be established in St. John, N. B. The capital is to be \$100,000. The Company expect to have France and Great Britain for a market.

Canada.

MONTREAL.—It appears by a telegram received on Thursday last, that the correspondent of the New York paper who reported meetings in Montreal in favor of Annexation, sought to mislead the public. The statement is pronounced "quite devoid of foundation."

The following is the telegram referred to:—"Rev. J. A. Allyn preached last evening in the Episcopal Cathedral at Kingston to a large audience in favor of Annexation to the United States. Also, that a meeting has been called to meet in Montreal to discuss the benefits to be derived from Annexation, which the people of the Lower Provinces greatly desire."

The object of such villainous falsehoods is pretty transparent. They doubtless aim to mislead the ignorant as to the proclivities of the Canadian people and encourage attempts on that country.

QUEBEC.—A telegram on Thursday, states that His Worship the Mayor of Quebec was authorized to draw \$1000 for relief of sufferers by late fire—subscriptions collected in Dublin.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Gen. Michel is to be sworn in shortly and will act as Administrator of the Government during the absence of Lord Monck who is going to England by the next Cunard steamer to assist in the confederation project.

THE FENIANS.—From Toronto we learn that a Quebec correspondent says, fears are entertained of a raid from Vermont during the trials of the Fenians at Sweetstrong. The object being to rescue the prisoners. It is reported that the Fenians are gathering at St. Alban's and other points on the frontier. No decision has yet been rendered in the matter of the appeal of Counsel for Fenian prisoners for new trial.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN UPPER CANADA.—The total expenditure for Common School purposes by Upper Canada, last year, was nearly 1,500,000 dollars—being not much short of a dollar for each individual of the whole population. The number of male Teachers employed is 2980; female Teachers, 1791.

We learn through the Toronto Globe that efforts have been made to introduce some provision for Separate Schools in the Confederation Scheme. Should this be true it will be an element of strife and discord well calculated to destroy the Union and bring down general condemnation on the introducers.

The Beauharnois canal was repaired and a steamer passed through on the 15th inst.

It is said that Mr. McGee announced at a concert in Montreal lately, that the Fenians condemned at Toronto would not be executed.

It is further rumored that in consequence of some remarks he made on the same occasion, he (Mr. McGee) will not be sent to the Paris Exhibition, and quite a change will be made in the ministerial programme.

LATEST FROM UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3, p. m.—Secretary Seward has received the following despatch:—

"I have arrested John H. Surratt, one of President Lincoln's assassins; no doubt about identity."
(Signed) HALE, U. S. Consul Gen., Alexandria, Egypt."

MEXICO.—The following despatch was received from Washington on the 27th ult:—

Highly important news was received to-night by the Government from Rio Grande to the effect that General Sedgewick, commanding the United States forces, moved into Mexico, between Gaudaloupe and Matamoras, and took possession of the latter city, announcing that his intention was to protect American residents doing business there.

The occupation of Mexican Territory, by the United States Troops, caused great excitement on the Rio Grande, and is received here with intense surprise. It is not believed that this action has been contemplated by this Govern-

ment, though it may be a part of the Sherman-Campbell programme.—Gen. Sheridan is on the Rio Grande, his course in the matter is awaited with interest.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By Atlantic Telegraph.

ENGLAND.—London, Nov. 26.—Further arrests of suspected Fenians have been made in Ireland. The national troops are ready to move at a moment's warning.

Proposals for some parts of the Nicaragua route have been awarded. The Times considers that the entire scheme will be divided between the Governments of England, France, and the United States.

There has been renewed fighting in Candia. It is said that the Turks have been badly beaten, and have suffered greatly, no less than 3000 having been killed and 2000 taken prisoners.

Twelve thousand breech-loading Rifles are to be sent by the British Government to Ireland for the use of constables. Arrests of Fenians continue to be made in Ireland, and the troops are vigilant.

Nov. 27.—A marked sensation is manifested here at the prospect of an immediate outbreak in Ireland. All the London papers to-day, except the Post, simultaneously use strong and bitter language against the Fenians, and warn them that they will receive no mercy. The Times says the rebellion must be stamped out as we stamped out the cattle plague. The News says, "England must put down relentlessly the seditious movement which her misrule has stirred up." The Telegraph declares that measures must be taken which will render it certain that the very first symptoms of revolt shall be stamped out with an iron heel. Captured robbers should certainly be left to the just rigor of the law and there should be no hope for them from the U. S. The Morning Herald referring to the condemned Fenians in Canada says there should be no loop-hole of escape for future offenders.

Troops are being sent to Ireland and gunboats are sailing for Irish ports.

The Fenian troubles in Ireland have assumed considerable importance, and there is no doubt that a serious outbreak has occurred. Two regiments of national troops were urgently ordered to Ireland yesterday afternoon, and transports were being prepared all last night at Portsmouth. A large detachment of marines was also sent over to Queenstown from the war steamer Plymouth. A gunboat at Chatham was ordered to sail for Queenstown immediately. Much alarm was felt at Cork and throughout Ireland generally. The London Times of this morning believes the chief organizer Stephens will command at the rising if he has not already. The Globe editorially hints that more serious trouble with the United States is really at the bottom of the Fenian outbreak.

Nov. 30.—A gunboat left Sheerness yesterday and another will leave to-day. Their destination is Ireland. They carry with them a large supply of arms and ammunition to be used in the suppression of Fenian outbreaks.

No more arrests have been made. Dec. 1.—Queen Victoria and suite went to Wolverhampton to-day, where she took chief part in the ceremony of unveiling the statue of Prince Albert. Immense crowds of persons were present, who extended an enthusiastic welcome to the Queen.

There is a vague rumor that the Chief Organizer, Stephens, lately arrived in Paris, and is secreted there.

It is reported on good authority that Mr. Bigelow, United States Minister at Paris, recently read to Napoleon in person a very grave and decided despatch from Secretary Seward. His despatch, so the report goes, implicitly required France to fulfil the engagements she entered into with regard to the Mexican question. The Emperor, however, made no reply.

It is denied that the English militia will go to Ireland.—Martial law has been proclaimed in Limerick city.

All the regular troops in this city will be strictly confined to the precincts of their barracks during the Reform meeting, which takes place here on Monday.

Lieut. Maury, late Confederate naval commander, has arrived in London.

It is quite probable that troops will be sent to Liverpool and Glasgow on account of the bad feeling that prevails among the Irish in those cities.

Many arrests have been made by the Government in Ireland.

Liverpool, Nov. 26.—The Barque Alice Grey, from Bangor, Maine, has been lost at sea. The mate was drowned, but the rest of the crew are safe.

Dec. 1.—The Cunard steamer Java, which sailed from Boston Nov. 21st, arrived here this morning.

FRANCE.—Paris, Dec. 1.—The Journal Debats says Rome will be evacuated on the 12th inst.

Dec. 2.—A despatch from America concerning the occupation of Matamoras by the United States troops caused a marked sensation here.

ITALY.—Florence Nov. 24.—The Government of Italy will renew negotiations at once with the Pope.

PRUSSIA.—Berlin, Nov. 26.—The Prussian Government intends to have a Consul General located in the city of New York.

PORTUGAL.—Lisbon, Dec. 1.—The famous Miantonomah and six other vessels belonging to the United States navy, are now riding at anchor in this harbor. It is ascertained, however, that they will sail in a few days. Their destination is unknown.