

"The Register" 30th April 1898.

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"The Advertiser" 6th May 1898.

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

An important step has been taken by the authorities of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, whereby Heinicke's Grand Orchestra will, it may be expected, shortly become affiliated with that institution. Mr. Heinicke, the conductor of the Conservatorium orchestra, which has just been formed, pointed out to the authorities how desirable it would be that this band should be increased to the full strength of a concert orchestra, and with this object in view negotiations have been going on for some little time between the University authorities and the committee of Heinicke's Grand Orchestra with a view to amalgamation. On Wednesday evening a conference was held between Professor Ives, as representing the University, and the Orchestra Committee, with the satisfactory result that certain definite proposals were made and unanimously agreed to. These were accepted by the orchestra at their meeting on Thursday evening, and it now remains for the Board of Musical Studies of the University to formally accept in order to consummate the agreement. That they will do so there can be little doubt. The principal terms of the agreement between the University and the Orchestra are that thirty, or thereabouts, of the leading members of the orchestra be engaged by the University at a fixed rate of remuneration both for practice and concerts, and that the University shall take over the engagements which the orchestra have already fixed and give the series of ten concerts at the Town Hall, commencing next month. The title "Heinicke's Grand Orchestra" will now cease to exist, and though a name has not yet been decided upon for the new organization it seems likely that it will be called "The Conservatorium Orchestra." As before, of course, Mr. Heinicke will conduct. This new orchestra is to contain three classes of members—professional members, the bulk of whom are to be taken from Heinicke's orchestra; honorary members, comprising such enthusiastic amateurs as are competent to take part in the performances given; and students from the Elder Conservatorium. At the forthcoming series of orchestral concerts at the Town Hall the entire arrangements, rates of admission, &c., will be exactly the same as have prevailed in former years.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

The Elder Conservatorium of Music, for which the tender of Mr. W. C. Torode was accepted by the Adelaide University Council on Thursday, is to be built on the land to the east of the University, and there will be a space of 60 ft. between the two structures. The general design, although not quite so elaborate, is in harmony with that of the present edifice, and it will have a very handsome effect when completed. The frontage to North-terrace will be 60 ft., while the total depth of the building will be about 170 ft.

The principal feature is a spacious concert hall, which will occupy the whole of the main floor, its dimensions being 132 ft. long, by 59 ft. broad, with a height of 60 ft. to the apex of the open timbered roof, the walls being 35 ft. high. This spacious chamber is to be fitted with cathedral chairs, and will give comfortable seating accommodation for 1,000 persons. On the stage at the north end space will be provided for 150 performers, at the rear being an alcove which will give room for a large organ. There are to be two dressing-rooms, each 14 ft. by 12 ft., on either side of the stage, while the entrance-hall will be flanked by cloak-rooms and lavatories. The lobby itself is to have an open timbered roof and a floor of encaustic tiles. The cloak-rooms are to be so fitted as to be available for teaching purposes when desired. Access to the concert-hall is to be given in front and at each side, the approaches being by flights of steps, as the floor is raised somewhat to give proper height for the apartments in the basement. The hall is to be ornamented internally with a paneled dado of Sydney cedar. Ample light is secured by large windows at the sides, and the Gothic timbering of the roof will lend a light, airy, and attractive appearance to the chamber, on the acoustic properties of which much care has been spent. Ventilation is obtained by means of sashes which slide upwards in the walls, while the ceiling will be fitted with tubes through which the heated air will escape by means of a main pipe to the ornamental fleche in the centre of the roof. Every precaution has been taken to minimize the effect of a panic in case of fire. There are three means of egress for the audience, and the doors, which are each 6 ft. wide, will open outwards, one leading to the main entrance and the others to the open spaces at the sides. In addition, steps on the east and west of the platform will be constructed for the escape of the performers in case of urgency.

The basement rooms are all to be 12 ft. high, and they will include six teaching apartments ranging from 12 ft. x 19 ft. 6 in. in size to 20 ft. x 19 ft. 6 in. In this part of the building, too, are to be provided a directors' office and a professor's common room of good dimensions. A concert chamber 49 ft. x 24 ft. and 15 ft. high will occupy the north end of the basement, while at the southern extremity will be a chamber 49 ft. x 23 ft., which will be used as a class-room by one of the University lecturers who is without such accommodation at present. The concert-room in the basement will seat about 150 persons, and near at hand are lavatories with a large room to hold the engine which will supply wind to the organ as well as any other necessary machinery. Hollow brick walls will divide the rooms, and by this means as well as by the use of double doors it is hoped to render them soundproof. The space between the floor of the large concert hall and the ceiling of the basement apartments will be so treated too that not only will it be fire and waterproof but it will be impervious to sound either from above or below. So while the ordinary work of the classes will not interfere with any concert held above they will in their turn not be interrupted either by the music of the performers or the applause of the audience.

Local freestone from Mr. W. C. Torode's quarry at Stirling East will be used for the main walls of the superstructure, the dressings, quoins, and turrets being in Sydney freestone. The roof will be of iron, with ornamental ridging and hips. Mr. F. J. Naish, the architect, has done all in his power to thoroughly meet the wishes of Professor Ives and the members of the University Council in the design of the building and its accessories, and when completed the Conservatorium will be one of the best of its class in the world. The amount of the contract is £13,625.

UNIVERSITY SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Adelaide University Shakespeare Society was held in the University on Thursday evening. The patron (Right Hon. S. J. Way) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. E. H. Lock (hon. secretary) moved the adoption of his annual report, which contained the following items—

During the past session the roll of membership has undergone a phenomenal change, indicative of the new life in the society which was anticipated at the close of the thirteenth session. The roll then numbered 28. Five of those members resigned, and 28 new members were enrolled. The membership thus almost doubled itself, and at the close of this session stands at 61.

The patron of the society, the Right Hon. Chief Justice Way, Chancellor of the University, was absent from the colony during nearly the whole of the session, but before leaving sent a message expressing the hope that the coming session would be successful. Since his return he has taken unto himself a wife, and the society offers its congratulations to him and Mrs. Way upon the happy union, with the best wishes for their future. We hope they may find opportunity to spend some evenings with us during the coming session. We cannot but regret the absence of one of our vice-presidents, the Rev. J. Day Thompson, who has left the colony to take an appointment in Liverpool. The Rev. gentleman took great interest in the society, and his lectures were amongst the finest that have ever been presented to the society. Before leaving he promised that if opportunity should occur he would send us something and thus retain his interest in the society, the meetings of which he always enjoyed. The society will also lose the services of Mrs. Keiley, who is arranging for a journey to England, but hopes to renew her membership upon her return.

The president (Dr. W. Barlow, B.A., LL.D.), delivered an address at the opening of the session, which gave a sufficient taste of his refined literary skill and knowledge to make the members wish for more. The vice-presidents have rendered assistance at the public lectures. It would seem almost invidious to mention the work of the committee, all of whom have attended the meetings with splendid regularity, begotten of extraneous interests in the welfare of the society. Special mention, however, must be made of Mr. A. W. Marshall, who has placed the society under great obligation to him for the use of his music showroom every week for the purpose of rehearsing. Mr. H. Barrett's unceasing energy, peculiar and happy tact, and undoubted ability and experience have all been largely displayed in training the members in the histrionic production of parts of Shakespeare's plays on the evenings set apart for music and drama. The same commitment must also be passed to Mr. F. F. Wholohan, who has so ably presided over the meetings set apart for the connected study of the play Richard II.

Among the many visitors present at the meetings were Lady Victoria and the Misses Burton, accompanied by Major Guise. Her ladyship was pleased to express great pleasure at the work of the society, and wished to be advised of the meetings which were to be held in the hope that they might have further opportunities of being present.

Mr. F. F. Wholohan seconded the motion, and alluded to the success of the musical and dramatic evenings which had been held during the past year. The motion was carried.

The following officers were elected for the fifteenth session, 1898:—Patron, the Chancellor, the Right Hon. Chief Justice Way, F.C., D.C.L.; president, Dr. W. Barlow, B.A., LL.D.; vice-presidents, Professor Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., Professor Ives, M.A., B.Sc., Professor Salmon, LL.B.; Mr. P. McM. Glynn, B.A., LL.B., M.P., Rev. A. T. Ecos, Mr. Wybert Reeve, and Mr. J. H. Symon, Q.C.; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. E. H. Lock; hon. librarian, Mr. H. L. Kekwick; committee, Mr. F. F. Wholohan, Mr. A. W. Marshall, Mr. C. R. Hodge, Mr. H. Barrett, Mrs. Ives, Miss Deeble, and Miss Furniss.

A programme for the present session was adopted, including lectures by the Rev. Martin Johnson, B.A., Mr. Wybert Reeve, the Rev. A. E. Peilby, and Professor Ives.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was passed on the motion of Mr. Wybert Reeve, seconded by Mr. H. Barrett.

In acknowledging the vote of thanks the CHAIRMAN said he was glad that the Adelaide University, like almost all the universities of the English-speaking world, could boast of its Shakespeare Society, and that the professors of the university were showing so much interest in the work of the association. He hoped the students in all the faculties would devote their attention to the study of the national poet's work, for no more delightful or instructive pastime could be found.

"The Advertiser" 2nd May 1898.

THE NEW PROFESSOR OF SINGING.

[From our Special Correspondent.]
London, April 1, 1898.

The authorities of the Elder Conservatorium were, I think, very wise to stretch a point in the matter of the age limit of 35 fixed by them when instructing Mr. Playford to find a teacher of singing. By doing so they have obtained the services of a gentleman exceptionally well fitted for the post in every way, though he does not possess what the Conservatorium elders seemed to deem a most important attribute, namely, a tenor voice. Mr. Frederick Bevan, upon whom the choice of the committee of selection (composed of Sir Frederick Bridge and Signora Randegger and Vassetti) has fallen, will be familiar by name to all who indulge in vocalism or patronise concerts. His songs "The Flight of ages" and "The Admiral's broom" I've little doubt have been as popular "down under" as in the old country. Mr. Bevan, who since 1888 has been what is called "a gentleman of the Chapel Royal," i.e., a chorister, received his early instruction as a vocalist from the late Signor Schira, and was a pupil of Mr. Henry Deacon and Mr. Fred. Walker, from whom he received his training in oratorio, operatic, and ballad singing. He has had a wide experience of the concert platform, and accompanied the late Madame Patey upon several of her most successful provincial tours, much to that great singer's satisfaction. He has also fulfilled engagements with most of the leading vocal societies in England. He has had considerable experience as a teacher of singing, both as a private practitioner and at those well-known London institutions the Briston College of Music and the South London Institute of Music. Three of his pupils recently gained free scholarships at the first named school. Mr. Bevan is, moreover, an experienced organist, and for a time filled the post of choir trainer to the Chapel Royal. As a composer of ballads, anthems, and part songs he has achieved marked success. His testimonials from such authorities as Sir John Stainer, Sir George Martin, and Mr. Cumming, the principal of the Guildhall School of Music, are in themselves sufficient to justify his selection for the post. Dr. Stainer speaks of him as an excellent singer (his voice is what is called "basso cantante") with a wide and valuable experience as a teacher, whose general musicianship is much in his favor. Sir George Martin expresses respect and admiration for Mr. Bevan's vocal powers and his artistic method of expression, and sums him up as being "highly qualified" for the Adelaide position. Mr. Cumming testifies similarly, and speaks to his being well versed in the theory of music. Sir Ponsonby Fane, speaking for the Chapel Royal, bears witness to the very able manner in which Mr. Bevan performed his duties there "not only as a soloist but in the difficult concerted music performed in the Chapel Royal." The suburban also pays a warm tribute to Mr. Bevan's abilities, and expresses great regret that his acceptance of the Adelaide post will deprive the Chapel Choir of so valuable a member. Mr. Bevan is happy in the possession of a charming wife and two as yet unaged respectively 18 and 16, who will accompany him to Adelaide in the Himalaya, which sails on April 25.

"The Evening Journal" 7th May 1898.

The number of entries for the primary examinations in theory and practice of music at the Adelaide University has this year exceeded all expectations. Last year—the first time these examinations were held—there were thirty-eight entries for theory and eighty-three for practice. This year the former figures are more than trebled, and the latter more than doubled, the exact number being 119 candidates for theory and 190 for practice of music. This list includes students from Perth, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Port Pirie, and Broken Hill. The Board of Examiners will consist of Professor Ives, Mr. G. Reimann, Mr. H. Heinicke, and Mr. T. N. Stevens. No entries have been received from students of the Elder Conservatorium. An examiner is to be sent to Moolana, Port Pirie, and Broken Hill to conduct the practical tests. The Adelaide examination will commence at the University at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, June 1.

According to a provisional arrangement, the first concert by the Elder Conservatorium is to be devoted principally to chamber music, and will be given on Wednesday evening, June 8. At this it is intended that Mr. Bevan, the singing master, shall make his Adelaide debut. On the following Friday the Conversazione, to commemorate the opening of the new institution, will be held, and on Saturday evening, the 11th of June, the first of the series of popular orchestral concerts will be given at the Town Hall.

"The Evening Journal" 7th May 1898.

Mr. Frederick Bevan, the Singing Master of the Elder Conservatorium, who left London on April 29 by the Gruba, was entertained by a large number of his fellow-musicians at a banquet four days before he sailed.