

Church Music in England

Every one acquainted with the religious life of Great Britain knows that, especially in the cathedrals, church music has reached a high degree of perfection. It is not so generally known that many of the Non-conformist churches have given great attention to music as an aid to worship, and that among them are to be found some of the finest choirs in the Kingdom. The church of which the late Dr. Henry Allon was pastor, Union Chapel, Islington, was known all over England as having a peculiarly inspiring and worshipful musical service. Dr. Allon told the writer at one time that his large choir had never at a regular service of the church rendered any music by itself; everything is congregational. An anthem and a chant are sung at every service in addition to the hymns, and all the people sing with the greatest enthusiasm. They are led by a choir of between fifty and seventy-five voices, and those who have not heard the service at that church do not know what music can do for worship. As indicative of the enthusiasm in the cultivation of church music we call attention to the recent Nonconformist Choir Festival which was held at the Crystal Palace. Prizes were offered for choral singing, one being given to a Congregational church at East Dulwich, and another to a Wesleyan choir from Tunbridge. Then the combined choirs of the Union rendered some of the great music of the church in a way which could be done only by those who are carefully trained. We call attention to this Festival because we are fully convinced that the American churches might well take lessons from the English in church music. Either we go to one extreme, and put everything in the hands of a paid quartet, many of whose members often have no interest in religion; or we go to the other extreme, and presume that there can be no choir and congregational singing at the same time. In very few Dissenting churches in England have we ever heard anything rendered by the choir alone. They all have choirs, and are very careful about their training; and, on the other hand, they all have congregational singing. We know no churches in England in which the people keep silence during the service of praise. The Nonconformist Choir Union has done a great work in cultivating a taste for the best musical services among the people.



Gleanings

—The Presbyterian Synod of Cincinnati, by a vote of 78 to 51, has sustained the action of the Presbytery in suspending Professor H. P. Smith for heresy.

—The Rev. Theodore W. Curtis, who was lately arrested in Boston for Preaching on the Common without having previously procured a license to do so, has been fined one cent for the offense.

—The latest plan devised by Chautauqua consists in sending lectures, syllabuses, and all other materials to such centers as desire local lectures but are as yet unable to afford the expense of a lecturer. The Chautauqua extension lectures are arranged in courses of six lectures each, and are furnished in printed or mimeographed form. Local ministers, school-teachers, and others are secured to read them, and questions for discussion at the close of each lecture are suggested in the syllabus,

a copy of which is given to every ticket-holder. Nearly seventy courses were given last winter with only one set of lectures, and so satisfactory were the results that five courses are now offered—viz., "Social Science," by Professor A. W. Small, Head Professor of Sociology in the University of Chicago, a course treating many of the pressing social questions of the times; "Prophecies Concerning the Fall of Jerusalem," by Dr. William R. Harper, the well-known Biblical specialist; "Medieval History and Art," by Professor William H. Goodyear, of the Brooklyn Institute, this course accompanied by an illustrated syllabus; "The Poetry and Teaching of Robert Browning," and "Greek Social Life," by Professor Owen Seaman, a graduate of Cambridge, England.

—The twelfth biennial Conference of what is now known as "The International Board of Women's and Young Women's Christian Associations" is to be held in Buffalo, under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association of that city, from Tuesday, October 24, to Tuesday, October 31, inclusive. It promises to be one of the most important and interesting conferences ever held. Representative women will be gathered, as delegates, from all over the land; over one hundred have already signified their intention to be present, including two from California, and almost all departments of woman's philanthropic work will be represented. Each branch of work will have a distinct time set apart for its consideration; boarding-homes, educational classes, industrial training, kindergartens, day-nurseries, Bible class and religious work—each will have its appropriate place, and much good is expected to result from the interchange of ideas on these and kindred subjects. The Buffalo Association offers a cordial welcome to all who are interested in Women's Christian Association work. Notice of intention to attend the Conference should be sent to Mrs. George Wadsworth, 370 Franklin Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

—A few days ago," says the "Christian Advocate," "Mrs. Thornton, wife of the Rev. Mr. Thornton, missionary of the American Missionary Society at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, arrived at San Francisco on the United States revenue cutter Corwin, bringing the body of her husband, who had been killed by the natives. He was thirty-six years old, a native of Virginia, and a graduate of Hampden Sidney College, and had been in the employ of the Missionary Society for three years in Alaska. After the first year he came to this city and took a medical course, where he met Miss Pratt, of Auburn, Maine, who was engaged in home mission work. They were married in April, 1892, and left at once for the mission fields. In his last letter home Mr. Thornton wrote that the natives were peaceable when not under the influence of liquor; when intoxicated they are dangerous. He was shot by three boys, one of whom had been expelled from the mission school. The natives generally were indignant, and slew two of the boys." The laws of the United States strictly forbid the furnishing of liquor to these Indians. That the Government does not or cannot enforce its own laws was the cause of Mr. Thornton's death.



Ministerial Personals

CONGREGATIONAL

—Caldwell Morrison, of Orange, N. J., accepts a call from Conway, Mass.

—D. Butler Pratt has become associate pastor of

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the Rev. S. B. Halliday over the Beecher Memorial Church of Brooklyn, N. Y.

—J. W. Strout, of Thomaston, Me., has resigned.

—J. C. Young accepts a call to the church at New Sharon and Farmington Falls, Me.

—Oscar Ostrum accepts a call to the church in Carbondale, Kan.

—C. T. Brown accepts a call to the First Church of Salt Lake City, Utah.

—C. F. Clarke, of Machias, Me., accepts a call to Whitneyville, Conn.

—Frank Blomfield accepts a call to Dexter, Mich.

—C. H. Ticknor, of Somerset, Mich., accepts a call to Galesburg.

—W. B. Allis has become pastor of the Pleasant Street Church of Arlington, Mass.

—W. H. Tibbals, late of Park College, accepts a call to the Lynn Church of Ogden, Utah.

—E. L. Clark was installed as pastor of the Central Church of Boston, Mass., on Thursday of this week.

—J. F. Van Horn was ordained and installed as pastor of the Columbia Church of Cincinnati, O., on October 5.

—E. J. Banks has become pastor of the church in Wayland, Mass.

PRESBYTERIAN

—E. F. Hallenbeck, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has accepted a call to Green Bush.

—John Hutchison, of Freeport, L. I., accepts a call to Arlington, N. J.

—C. H. Field accepts a second call to Bedford, N. H.

—George Miller accepts a call to the First Church of Chillicothe, Mo.

—J. A. Adair accepts a call to Grace Church, Saginaw, Mich.

OTHER CHURCHES

—Henry F. Nichols, M.D., who had preached for twenty years or more in Methodist churches in this vicinity, carrying on at the same time the study and practice of medicine, died in New York City on October 9, at the age of fifty-four.

—Isaac Carpenter was lately installed as pastor of the Main Street Baptist Church of Hinsdale, N. H.

—W. R. Breed, of Concord, Mass., accepts the rectorship of Christ Church (P. E.), Quincy.

—W. E. Evans accepts the rectorship of Trinity Church (P. E.), Columbia, S. C.

—A. G. L. Trew has resigned the rectorship of St. John's Church (P. E.), Oakland, Cal.

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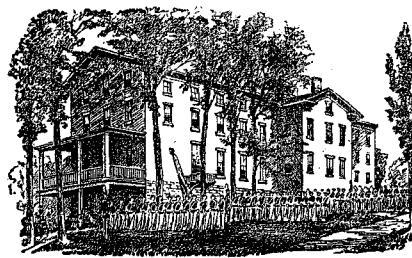
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