

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S FAREWELL CONCERT,

A large audience attended Mrs. Armstrong's farewell concert in the Town-hall on Saturday night. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Loch arrived punctually, and were received with the performance of the national anthem by Mr. Guenett at the organ. The musical entertainment provided was of the most respectable kind. It commenced with the ballad, "T was sad when I and Dolly parted"—from the opera "The Sultan of Mocha," composed by Mr. Alfred Cellier, now present in Melbourne as conductor at the Theatre Royal. The song was sung by Mr. T. Bergin, whose fine voice was well suited to do justice to the work. It was the first specimen of Mr. Cellier's composition that we remember to have heard here in public, and was notable for appropriate rhythm, pleasing modulations, and good tune preserved throughout. The audience received most favourable impressions, both of the singer and the song-writer. At a later hour Mr. Bergin sang with good effect the song named "Imperfectus," composed by Sir William Robinson, about which we have spoken favourably in previous notices. Mr. John Lemmon played a "Caprice" for flute, and in this instance appeared in the dual capacity of composer as well as executant. The opening andante movement is graceful and original, and the second theme is "varied" with skill and good taste. This young Victorian musician is heard with ever-increasing favour upon each re-appearance, and has won already a foremost place in popular esteem. The *beneficiale* was the next to appear on the platform, and received an enthusiastic welcome. Her first selection was the grand *scena* "Oh! fors è lui" from "La Traviata," of Verdi. In connexion with this it had been announced on the programme that the tenor *intermezzo* would be sung by Signor Cecchi, "in complement to his favourite pupil," but that gentleman was unfortunately prevented from singing in consequence of relaxed throat. Concerning Mrs. Armstrong's remarkably pure and perfect performance of this elaborate *scena* we have already spoken at length, and in terms of unqualified praise. It is such a performance as this which makes us look forward with highest anticipations to the results of the enlarged experiences she is about to acquire

in visiting European schools, and profiting by observance of the best of living models. With such rare voice and intelligence of the already displays on the platform, her success should be great, if, after due preparation, she should make an appearance as prima donna on a well-appointed operatic stage. Mrs. Armstrong's other selections throughout the evening were "The Image of the Rose," by Reichard, with humming accompaniment of male-quartet, supplied by 24 gentlemen amateurs conducted by Mr. Julius Herz; the song, "Dear Heart," composed by Mattei; and Benedict's song, "The Bird that came in Spring." The audience applauded, and in some cases encored, these performances with genuine enthusiasm, and they loaded the accomplished singer with such beautiful bouquets, wreaths, and baskets of flowers as have never been surpassed on any previous occasion. The demonstration in favour of the departing artist was weighty and emphatic in the highest degree, and should be most gratifying to the lady who was its object. Madame Carlotta Tusca was the sole pianist, and played during the evening "La Kileuse," by Raff, the "Valse Brillante," Op. 34, by Chopin, and Liszt's "Fantaisie on Lucia;" in each case the reading was sympathetic and high-minded, and the execution perfect. Signor Stellani, as solo violinist, evoked a storm of applause, and was twice recalled, and ultimately encored for his finished performance of Schubert's "Serenade" transcribed by Alard, and Wienlawski's Mazurka, Op. 12. On no previous occasion has this accomplished violinist appeared in such thoroughly favourable light. Miss Christie Fuller sang Tosti's "Good-bye," and as an *encore*. "Auld Robin Gray." The first-named was a very admirable performance. The second was unintentionally comic on the part of this ultra-serious young singer, on account of the variety of English and Scotch accents employed in the pronunciation of the words. Mr. Rudolph Himmer sang Beethoven's "Adelaide," with the original German words by Mattheson, and afterwards in English the songs "Resolution" and "It was a dream," both by Lassen. The good phrasing and delivery by which this gentleman's style is distinguished, found great favour with the audience, so that he was applauded and recalled with great warmth. The gentlemen forming the "male quartet" sang with good effect "Hunter's Joy," by Astholz, and "Soldiers' farewell," by Kinkel. The work of accompaniment being entrusted to Mr. Zerbin, Mr. Guenett, and Mr. Herz, left nothing to be desired.

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