

MUSICAL SOCIETY FOR LIMERICK.

SUCCESSFUL START.

Yesterday afternoon a meeting convened by circular was held in the Athenaeum for the purpose of organizing a Musical Society in Limerick for the production of choral works, glee, etc., with orchestral accompaniment. The meeting was very large and representative, thus showing the great interest which is evinced in so laudable a movement, and which is deserving of the best success, as it undoubtedly promises to be. A very good start has been made, the list of membership being already a numerous one.

Amongst those present were the following—Sir Thomas and Lady Cleeve, Miss Cleeve, Mrs. J. W. Cleeve, the Misses Laird, Miss LaGrove, Miss O'Halloran, the Misses Nestor, Miss Swaine, the Misses Sullivan, Mrs. DeDoucey, Mrs. Lutton, Captain and Mrs. Edwards, T. M'Sweeney, M. Cusack, A. Hall, junior; M. Egan, Mrs. and Miss Irwin, Miss Low, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gaffney, J. Cusack, W. B. Joyce, M.A.; D. Tidmarsh, N. A. Johnstone, J. Fogarty, Kendal Irwin, Mr. Latham, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Gine, A. M. DePrins, A. J. Eakins, M. M'Coy, solicitor; Mrs. and Miss Hodgson, Mrs. F. Fitt, Mrs. Haurahan, Mrs. Toppin.

On the motion of Mr. Tidmarsh, seconded by Mr. Windle,

Sir Thomas Cleeve took the chair. He remarked that the circular which had been sent out gave the ladies and gentlemen present an idea of what the meeting was called for. It was really to revive the old Limerick Musical Society, which some of them probably did not remember, but he himself did. It was under the directorship of a gentleman who was very much esteemed in Limerick, the late Mr. Handel Rogers, who for several years conducted the Society with great advantage to the city and very much to the advancement of the pleasure of those who happened to have the good fortune of being residents of Limerick during that time. Mr. Rogers was succeeded in the carrying on of this good work by Dr. Smith, who was also most successful. However, for several years past the society had, he regretted to say, lapsed in Limerick. Now it was proposed that the society should be revived, and they were there for that purpose. Mr. Kendal Irwin, who was taking this matter very much in hand, would be able to explain it much better than he (Sir Thomas) could, and he would now ask him to put it before them.

Mr. Kendal Irwin said that most of the ladies and gentlemen present knew pretty well the lines on which it was intended to work the society. The Corporation had kindly given them the use of a room here to hold the practices, and they intended to have one every Thursday evening at eight o'clock. The members of the society would be asked to give 5s. each to defray the cost of the music. It was hoped that the receipts from the concerts would cover the other expenses; they did not want to make any money, but simply to cover expenses and have two or three concerts during the season. He hoped to be able to give a concert towards the end of November, and to produce, if possible, Counod's "Gallia," a very beautiful *motet*, also a trio of Mendelssohn; a double quartet of Schubert's, and the magnificent chorals from the *Redemption* "Unfold ye Portals Everlasting." In the second part of the programme they intended to devote some time to Irish folk songs from heart. He then mentioned some pieces which he intended to select for the orchestra. The concert in November should be a very attractive one, and would give the people an opportunity of hearing high class music in their own city. He had received a number of letters expressing sympathy with the movement, and promising support. He saw every possibility of having a Choral or Musical Society here in Limerick with about 80 performing members in the choir, and in the orchestra from 25 to 30. He thought they ought to be able to have a Society here of which Limerick would be proud (hear, hear). He knew the material that he was privileged to work with, and he felt sure the results would be most satisfactory.

The Chairman proposed that the following Committee be appointed—Mrs. F. Fitt, Miss Dillon, Mr. Tidmarsh, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. J. S. Gaffney, Mr. R. Geiston, and Mr. Kendal Irwin.

Mr. Windle seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Irwin proposed, and it was resolved, that Mr. Johnstone act as Treasurer, and Mr. Windle as Secretary.

Mr. Tidmarsh proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Thomas Cleeve for taking the chair and by his voice and presence giving hearty support to the movement. He was sure they would be all happy to pass this vote of thanks (applause).

Mr. Johnstone seconded the vote of thanks, which was passed unanimously.

Sir Thomas Cleeve said the duty that he discharged had been a very light one. It gave him very great pleasure to do anything in his power for the advancement of the city (hear, hear), and he was certain this movement would be of great advantage to them all. He hoped to be present at some of these entertainments when they would be conducted under the conductorship of Mr. Irwin, and listening to those voices, many of which they had heard before (applause).

The proceedings then terminated, and most of those present joined the list of members.