

## The Musicians' Company.

On Tuesday last the members of the Worshipful Company of Musicians dined together at Stationers' Hall, the large company including many guests. Amongst those present were the new Master, Mr. Arthur F. Hill, the Senior Warden, Mr. W. P. Fuller, the Junior Warden, Mr. Clifford B. Edgar, the Lord Mayor, who had just been admitted an Honorary Freeman of the Company, the Sheriffs, Mr. A. H. Littleton (Immediate Past Master), the Earl of Malmesbury, Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Balfour, the Hon. Nelson Hood (Duke of Bronte), Sir George Power, Sir A. Mackenzie (Principal Royal Academy of Music), Sir Frederick Bridge (Past Master), Mr. M. Shearman, K.C., Colonel Labalmondiere (Kneller Hall), Mr. Fritz Kreisler, Señor Arbos, Sir Homewood Crawford, Dr. Alcock, Sir George Martin, Major Bett (Adjutant R.M.S.M.), Sir G. Donaldson, the Rev. H. C. de Lafontaine, Dr. Markham Lee, Mr. Landon Ronald (Principal G.S.M.), Alderman Cooper, Dr. T. Lea Southgate (Past Master), Sir Ernest Clarke, Mr. F. W. Renaut, Mr. H. Saxe Wyndham, Dr. McNaught, Mr. Ernest Palmer, Mr. T. C. Fenwick (the Clerk), and many others.

The loyal toasts having been honoured, Sir Frederick Bridge, speaking under the influence of strong feeling, said he had been asked to say a few words about the late Chaplain of the Company, Canon Duckworth. It was a

melancholy duty that had been laid upon him, but it was a duty that had to be done. At the request of the Master he would remind them that they had lost in Canon Duckworth a great personality, one who loved music, and was devoted to the Company, of which he rejoiced to be the first Hon. Chaplain. His genial personality, his pleasant smile, his interest in music, were familiar to them all. He (the speaker) had lived next door to him in the Abbey for thirty-six years, during which time he had never heard from him a harsh or unkind word. It was owing to the late Canon's initiative that he (Sir Frederick Bridge) had been appointed to Westminster Abbey, and the last time he saw him was at a meeting where they were present with the Dean, the Canon remarking what a remarkable thing it was that each of the three possessed the same order (C.V.O.). His memory would live long among them.

The toast was honoured in solemn silence, all standing while Elgar's "Dirge" was performed.

MR. ALFRED H. LITTLETON (Immediate Past Master) expressed his gratitude for the help he had received during his year of office just concluded. Several important events had occurred during that time, especially the International Musical Congress, which had done so much for music. Many members of that Company had contributed to its success. English hospitality did not fail, neither did the artistic side fail, but showed that English music was fit to stand shoulder to shoulder with other countries. Their new Freeman, the Lord Mayor, had worthily carried out the traditions of the Mansion House in connection with the Congress. Then there was the Coronation. He was sure that Sir Frederick Bridge would agree that the choir would not have been what it was without the assistance of members of the Company. In conclusion, he proposed to them the health of the new Master, Mr. Arthur F. Hill, who had been installed earlier in the day. He possessed sterling qualities, and great enthusiasm which caused him (the speaker) to look forward to the coming year with confidence. Mr. Hill had all the qualities to be looked for in a Master.

MR. ARTHUR HILL, in responding, said that he esteemed very highly the privilege of being Master. His ancestors had been members of the Company for some two hundred and fifty years, but none had before attained to the position in which he now found himself. He would always strive to advance the interests of the Company, and to prove him a not unworthy successor of those who had occupied the chair before him. It was twenty years since he became a member, and in that time their numbers had trebled. In the eighteenth and first part of the nineteenth centuries they had but few musicians in their ranks. Now there were very few that were not. As an instance of their real devotion to the art of music, he would only mention one fact, that £3,000 were guaranteed by members towards the expenses of the International Musical Congress. Today they had a better claim than ever before in the past two centuries to call themselves a Company of Musicians. In glancing over old records he found that in 1616, under the will of Henry Walker, from whom Shakespeare bought his house, they were given a piece of plate. It had, however, disappeared, probably melted down to help King Charles, for musicians had ever been first to alleviate the misfortune of others.

SIR HOMEWOOD CRAWFORD proposed the health of the Lord Mayor, their new Freeman, who would, he was sure, be as proud of that honour as the Company was. On their roll they had many distinguished names, and it was well rounded off by the inclusion therein of the Lord Mayor, who was just completing an arduous year of office, during which he had carried out all the duties and traditions of his great position. He did not claim to be a musician, but he had in many ways extended a friendly hand to music.

THE LORD MAYOR, in the course of an eloquent and witty speech, said he desired to assure them of his most grateful thanks for the many kind things that had been said about him, and for the honour that they had done him in admitting him to the coveted position of Hon. Freeman of that ancient Company. For many long years the Company had exercised a careful control over music, but notwithstanding their vigilance they had admitted him on the strength of a speech without testing his knowledge of music. But for the fact that in singing "He's a jolly good fellow," they had manifested true British independence, he would have hesitated to address them. He was encouraged, however, by the knowledge that on occasion they could forget themselves musically and come down to earth. A very plain man once went to have his portrait taken, and begged the photographer to do him justice. "My dear sir," said the other, "what you want is not justice but mercy!" Similarly he hoped that they would be merciful towards him. Everyone was moved by a concord of sweet sounds, and in that way might claim fellowship with the great ones in art. All were influenced by it, all ennobled, whether in private life, in municipal enterprise, or in national life. During his year of office he had tried to use some part of his time in spreading the love of music. As regards the Musicians' Company, he was glad to note that it had been going ahead. Primitive in origin, it was progressive in spirit. It had a great inheritance, and it was its privilege by appreciation of the past to show to the generations yet unborn the ever-widening influence of the art it represented.

Mr. Clifford B. Edgar, Prof. Wagstaff, Alderman Cooper, and the Earl of Malmesbury were the subsequent speakers.

During the evening a selection of music was performed by students of the Royal Military School of Music, and by Miss Lily Fairney, Mr. Percy Heming, Mr. Willie Davies, and Mr. Vivian Langrish, from the Royal Academy of Music.

The silver medals of the Company were presented to Bandmaster Vitou, Royal Naval School of Music; Student Charles E. Richardson (2nd King's Own Regiment), Royal Military School of Music; and to Sir A. Mackenzie, on behalf of Miss Olive Turner, Royal Academy of Music.

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