

# Mr. FRANCIS J. FOOTE'S CHOIR.

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At the rehearsal of the above on Monday, February 28th, it was unanimously decided to give a performance of that glorious work, Verdi's "Manzoni Requiem," on Wednesday, May 25th, in the Great Hall. Some of the distinguishing features of Verdi's masterpiece are:—intensely dramatic depiction of the text—making urgent demands upon the varied emotions of the heart and mind—the generation of a sense of "atmosphere" which is constantly changing—the stillness of death—the terrors of hell and judgment—joy of fuller and nobler life—inaffable sweetness and tenderness—the exalted strains of the sanctus—all are portrayed with the utmost power and arresting vividness. Great and many are the difficulties involved in giving a truly comprehensive and spiritual rendering of this noble composition.

The Orchestra has to be enlarged, including the employment of four trumpets and additional percussive instruments. Mr. Foote's friends of his Orchestra (numbering nearly 50 players) are almost entirely leading public soloists, and constitute one of the most brilliant orchestras in the world. The effect of such an orchestra with a highly trained and "sensitized" choir can be none other than unique and altogether magnificent. These things should stimulate our members to still further ungrudging and enthusiastic effort. Our conductor particularly wishes us to say that he is relying upon us all to attend the rehearsals *regularly* and *punctually*, which should be decided upon as a fixed and important engagement. Owing to the shortness of the time between now and the Concert steady and consistent work is absolutely imperative if our standard of excellence is to be maintained or advanced.

*Two* rehearsals *weekly* will be necessary, viz.:—Mondays and Thursdays at 8.15 p.m. commencing from MONDAY, MARCH 14th. What more worthy object can be perceived than advancing the beautiful mission of exalted art which is ever beneficent?

We have the pleasure to be,

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) F. M. E. SMITH,

„ H. BARLOW,

„ SIBELLA JONES.

*Hon. Secretaries.*

Those who think music ranks amongst the trifles or mere luxuries of existence are in gross error, because, from the beginning of the world down to the present time it has been one of the most forcible instruments of training—both for arousing and for governing the mind of man.—W. E. GLADSTONE.