

A NEW PIANO KEYBOARD.

Writing to a contemporary on the new form of keyboard for the piano, organ and similar instruments invented by Herr Paul von Janko, of Vienna, and exhibited recently at Leipzig, Mr. T. L. Southgate, of Epsleadale, Gipsy Hill, draws attention to the fact that the inventor's idea is not in reality a novelty. The main features of the invention are that the notes of the scale are arranged in *two* rows of keys in place of only one, as is now the rule; and also that there is a *tone* between each note and its immediate neighbor, instead of the tone and semitone arrangement which now obtains.

A quarter of a century ago Mrs. L. Read exhibited a harmonium of precisely the same construction, fitted with what she entitled "Automatic Progression," in the Great French Exhibition, held at Paris, in the year 1867. Mr. Southgate inspected the instrument in question on that occasion and sent a description of the invention to the *Musical Standard* which appeared on Nov. 13, 1867, in that paper, and was illustrated with four engravings. The description of both instruments is identical. The tonal arrangement of the notes on two tiers or banks, and the grouping of the white and black keys are the same in both, Mrs. Read providing a supplementary set which were severally connected to the uppermost tier, moving at the same time. As far back as 1843, Mr. W. B. Lunn invented a sequential keyboard arrangement consisting of two tiers of keys, the notes being grouped in series of sixes, instead of the ordinary seven and five in the octave. In 1876, Mr. Bosanquet, of St. John's College, Oxford, invented a symmetrical keyboard and applied it to an enharmonic harmonium, containing fifty-three sounds to the octave. This instrument had seven tiers of keys and the fingering of each scale was identical. Mr. Poole and Mr. Colin Brown, of Glasgow, have also employed similar contrivances.

Mr. Southgate concludes as follows: "If music were in its infancy, it would doubtless be possible to design a more convenient keyboard than the one we now possess. But the art is too old for such an alteration. For the modern keyboard and the tonal divisions of the scale which now constitutes our alphabet of sounds, the great masters have written their piano and organ music. It is hardly likely that we shall accept a new system, however convenient it may be for the fingers, or delightful it may appear on paper to the mind of acoustical mathematicians."

It is only just to add, in order to counterbalance the impression which the above remarks will probably produce, that Mr. Janko exhibited his keyboard at a *soiree* at the Hotel de Pruse, Leipzig, which resulted in a verdict from competent critics that as soon as its advantages become known it will entirely supersede its predecessor. We may also add that, as a proof of this statement, all the best reputed firms of Leipzig pianoforte manufacturers have already constructed, or intend constructing, piano models fitted with the new keyboard.—*London Piano, Organ & Musical Trades Journal.*

NEW CORPORATION.

THE Prescott Piano & Organ Co. held its first meeting Wednesday evening, and organized under its new charter. Five directors were elected as follows: A. J. Prescott, J. R. Foster, George D. B. Prescott, H. J. Crippin, and F. P. Andrews, and at a subsequent meeting of the directors A. J. Prescott was chosen president; George D. B. Prescott, treasurer, and Frank P. Andrews, clerk.

It was voted to purchase of the Prescott Organ Co. all its real estate and other property, and to assume all its liabilities. The present capital stock of the corporation is \$30,000, which will be increased as fast as needed. The change as indicated above was decided upon solely to enable the company to expand its business to an extent not provided for in its original charter.

WANTED.

A First Class Tuner and Repairer.
State salary expected.

A. A. POND,

207 St. Louis St., Springfield, Mo.

HILBORNE L. ROOSEVELT SUCCEEDED BY FRANK ROOSEVELT.

EDITORS MUSIC TRADE REVIEW:

I have the honor to inform you that I have succeeded to the business of my brother, the late Hilborne L. Roosevelt.

Having been intimately associated with his work and plans for some time past, I will continue to manufacture on the same basis which he adopted at the start and practiced throughout, and with the same high aims which he always had in view, viz.: to endeavor that every instrument, whether large or small, shall be of the best materials, and most honest workmanship possible, and shall produce the most artistic results, preferring quality to quantity in every detail and shunning competition in the latter feature at the expense of the former. It will be my ambition to maintain, and if possible to increase the enviable reputation gained by my predecessor through many years of earnest work.

The factories will be continued as heretofore in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and the same corps of assistants and workmen, comprising among them some of the most skilled organ builders in the world, will be retained.

Mr. Walter F. Crosby will continue to officiate as general manager, and Messrs. Wm. N. Elbert and A. Stein will remain as managers of the Philadelphia and Baltimore factories, respectively.

I remain, very respectfully,

FRANK ROOSEVELT.

RENDER UNTO SEIZERS THE THINGS WHICH ARE SCISSORS.

Miss Birdie McGinnis imagines that she is a talented performer on the piano, and whenever there is company at the McGinnis mansion, she inflicts on the visitors the only piece she knows, which is very long and is entitled: "Mozart's Funeral March to the Tomb."

On a recent occasion she had been getting her work in slowly for about half an hour, when her brother Hostetter, who had heard that funeral march a thousand times, heaved a deep-drawn sigh, and remarked in anguish:

"Good gracious! Birdie, how much longer will it take you to get to that cemetery?"—*Exchange.*

SEVERAL GENTLEMEN IN THE TRADE DINE TOGETHER IN PITTSBURG.

Several of the leading piano and organ manufacturers of the country accidentally met in this city yesterday. They were entertained at dinner at the Seventh Avenue Hotel, by Messrs. E. G. Hays and H. P. Ecker. Among those present were J. H. White and E. H. White, of the Wilcox & White Organ Company, Meriden, Conn.; Mr. Fischer, of J. & C. Fischer, piano manufacturers of New York; Mr. Howard, of the Hallett & Cumston Piano Company, of Boston; Mr. Tremaine, of the American Mechanical Organette Company; Mr. Votey, of the Farrand & Votey Organ Company, of Detroit; C. A. House, of Wheeling; Mr. Sisson, a well known traveling piano man. All united in saying that the business prospects in Pittsburg and elsewhere, musically, are very good for the coming year. The second musicale of the Wilcox & White Organ Company has been postponed, pending the additions and alterations to be made in their store. This will take about ten days.—*Pittsburg Ex.*



SEND TO

BURDETT ORGAN CO.,

LIMITED, ERIE, PA.,
FOR LIST, BEFORE BUYING.

HEADQUARTERS

OF THE

MUSIC TRADES

OF

AMERICA,

ARE NOW AT THE OFFICES

OF THE

**MUSIC
TRADE
REVIEW**

3 East 14th St.,

NEW YORK CITY,

(NEAR FIFTH AVENUE.)

Our friends in the music trades will find every arrangement for their convenience or comfort at our offices, while they are visiting New York.

We have all the conveniences, so that members of the trade can attend to their correspondence here, use telephone, messenger and telegraph calls, meeting other members of the trade, transact business if they wish, and secure our best advice if they desire to consult us about trade matters.

To insure prompt delivery, all communications should be addressed to

HILL & CARR,

PROPRIETORS,

THE

Music Trade Review,

3 EAST 14TH STREET.

ISAAC I. COLE & SON,

MANUFACTURERS OF
ALL KINDS OF

VENEERS.

Make a Specialty of Piano Case Veneers.

FACTORY AND WAREHOUSES,

Foot 8th St., E. R., New York.