

conductor. A committee was appointed, consisting almost entirely of men whose names began with "B"—Beaven, Bell, Boyle, Bridson and Burnett being among them, and they were commonly called "The Busy Bs."



Mr. William Bridson.

In accordance with Mr Bridson's suggestion, two singing-classes were formed. He preferred to teach those who knew nothing of music. I took those who knew something of it. He taught on the Tonic Solfa System; I on the Hullah. His class of forty made so much better progress than mine of twenty, that I abandoned Hullah, and adopted the Solfa.

The number of singing members soon increased to above ninety, and there were eighty-six present at a practice-meeting shortly before the first concert. But of these a fourth were what a rude person called "weeds," and the committee instructed the unfortunate conductor to "root them out." Happily he was spared this unpleasant task, for the weeds, with two or three exceptions, eradicated themselves. There were sixty-five singing members present at the first concert, which was given in Howe's Assembly Rooms (afterwards called

"The Princess Theatre") on January 20th, 1864. All the ladies appeared in white dresses, the soprani wearing red sashes, and the contralti blue, while the gentlemen were in evening dress. The concert began with an overture played by the second band of the 57th Regiment, consisting of about a dozen players, conducted by Sergeant-Major Heywood.

The following was the programme:—

Part I.—Sacred.

- "O, Praise God in His Holiness"
- "Plead Thou My Cause, O Lord"
- "Behold, How Good and Joyful"
- "O Thou Whose Power Tremendous"
- "Thine, O Lord, is the Greatness"
- "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning"
- "In Jewry is God Known"



Mr. James Garland Woon.

Part II.—Secular.

- "The Hardy Norseman's House of Yore"
- "O Where, and O Where?"
- "See Our Oars With Feathered Spray"
- "Rich and Rare Were the Gems She Wore"
- "Rule, Britannia!"
- "Home, Fare Thee Well!"