

“ O, Who Will O'er the Down so
Free ?”

“ Dame Durden ”

“ Hail, Smiling Morn !”

“ God Save the Queen.”



Mr. George Frederic Allen.

The second and several succeeding concerts were of the same style as the first ; and then it was resolved to attempt a higher flight. So “ Judas Maccabaeus ” was given, in aid of the New Zealand Patriotic Fund for the families of those killed in the Maori War then in progress. The band of the 57th being at the front, we had to be satisfied with the accompaniment of an harmonium (Mr Robert A. R. Owen), a cornet (Mr D. Scott), and two flutes (Mr George Scott and myself), though I must confess I did little more than the obligato in “ O Lovely Peace,” sung by Miss Neville and Miss Cummins. At the same concert Locke’s “ Macbeth ” was given, in which Arthur Gower, a boy of ten, was the First Witch, Andrew McFarlane Fourth Witch, and Peter Bell, Hecate.

Soon after Mr Owen became pianist, I offered to retire and propose him as conductor. His reply

was characteristic of “ R.A.R.O.”—
“ My dear Mr Allen ! You say you’re satisfied with me as pianist. Well, I’m satisfied with you as conductor. We are getting along scrumptiously. Why make any change ?”

Sterndale Bennett’s “ May Queen ” was next attempted, the casts being : Miss Agnes Gower, May Queen ; Miss Emily Neville, Queen Elizabeth ; Mr Geo. Fred. Allen, the Lover ; Mr Peter Bell, Robin Hood.

The profits of this concert, some fifty pounds, were handed to Mr Owen in lieu of salary. He resigned, and Mr Wm. Haydn Flood was elected pianist. After a miscellaneous concert or two, I asked Mr Flood to relieve me of the conductorship, which he did.

Mr Flood was a good performer, both as an organist and a pianist, but his conducting of the Whanganui Choral Society was somewhat disastrous. Instead of train-



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ing the voices to sing without accompaniment, he trusted to his powerful pianoforte playing to “ pull them through,” as he expressed it. The result was that,