

hundred and seventy-three concerts were given without cessation. The boy singers were all members of the Coronation Choir, and each has been solo boy in one of the principal London churches. Their success, alike in Canada and here, has been remarkable.

Mr. Percy Coward, the male alto, was originally solo boy at the Chapel Royal, St. James, and subsequently filled the posts of assistant lay vicar at the Abbey and vicar-choral at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. A son of the well-known organist of the Crystal Palace, Mr. James Coward, he was a great

for a singer—of being an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, and is at present assistant organist to His Majesty the King, at Sandringham.

Mr. Pownall is an occasional tenor at the Abbey, and is in great request all over England as a glee singer.

Lovers of the legitimate may deprecate, but the passion for melodrama is national and ineradicable, and it will scarcely profit us to spend time in moralising over it. If we are wise we shall all strive to do what little we may to make the play of blood and thunder less con-



G. E. Jones, photo.

Auckland.

The Boy Singers of the Westminster Abbey Concert Company.

favourite of the late Queen Victoria, and holds the Jubilee Medal for twenty-five years' service under Her Majesty. In England he is looked upon as perhaps the finest example of the male alto. Mr. Coward is so impressed with the warmth of the reception given to him in Canada that he means to settle permanently in Toronto.

Mr. Hilton, the bass of the party, won a scholarship for singing at the Royal College of Music, and appeared with distinction in the College Opera performances. He possesses the qualification—rather uncommon

spicuously sanguinary and not so desperately thundrous as its unchecked tendencies would lead it to be, and to stop at that. Mr. Cuyler Hastings and the Williamson Company gave us the article in its best form, and Mr. Anderson, though he confessedly caters for a wider audience, has adopted and follows a standard that may fairly lay claim to excellence. Melodrama, no matter what its merits, cannot entrance everybody. It is for ever balanced between pathos and bathos, and there are minds so constituted—and not ill-constituted,