

# MATLOCK UNITED PRIZE BAND.

Matlock, or as it is termed by some, the Switzerland of England, is 16 miles from Derby and is in the centre of some of the most lovely scenery in England. It is also celebrated the world over for its Hydropathic Baths.

Matlock has been noted for its brass band for upwards of 50 years, the old band being one of the leading bands of England during the seventies, winning a number of prizes at Belle Vue and other contests throughout England; their conductor and solo cornet being the late Mr. Jno. Naylor, of Sutton. Mr. A. Holmes, senr., solo Euphonium of the band, was a player over 50 years and at the present time does a little.

The present Matlock United Prize Band has been in existence 6 years. A third class set of Besson's prototype Instruments was obtained at a cost of about £100, the money for same being guaranteed to Bank by 10 of the then members of the Band. The next step was the engagement of Mr. Jas. Frost, of Manchester, as tutor, the whole of the members being new beginners. The band made very satisfactory progress during Mr. Frost's term of office of three years.

For financial reasons Mr. Frost's services were now dispensed with and Mr. L. G. Wildgoose (who had been assistant conductor) was appointed honorary conductor of the band. About this time some of the senior members of the Old Band wished to retire from playing, so about half-a-dozen of the members threw in their lot with the United, thus making it united in reality.

The Band now started in earnest for a good winter's practice and during the following summer attended two contests, obtaining third prize at Belper, in July, 1897. Then during October the band held a very successful bazaar, the result being £225, with which was purchased a complete set of Besson's prototype contesting instruments.

Being now equipped with a good set of instruments the committee thought it advisable to get the band some good professional tuition, so Mr. Rimmer, the popular musical editor of the "Cornet" Journal, was engaged for 5 lessons during the 12 months, the band doing extremely well during the summer of 1898, as results below will show.

During the past season 1899 they have had a few lessons from the "Grand Old Man" of Brass Bands (Mr. J. Gladney), who has given them the benefit of his great experience in contesting.

We believe this band holds a record for Derbyshire, as during the seasons 1898 and 1899 they attended 15 Contests consecutively and secured 18 prizes, besides specials, never returning without a prize, the lowest being a fifth.

A sketch of the band would not be complete without giving a word of praise to their young conductor, Mr. L. G. Wildgoose, who neither spares time nor trouble for the welfare of the band. It is greatly due to his untiring efforts that they have

got on so rapidly, which can readily be seen, as they took 1st prize at one contest without having had a professional lesson on the selection.

## LIST OF MEMBERS.

Professional Conductor... Mr. J. Gladney  
Bandmaster..... Mr. L. G. Wildgoose  
Secretary..... Mr. Wm. Jas. Slater

Soprano..... Mr. Horace Holmes  
Solo Cornet..... Mr. Wm. Holmes  
Do. .... Mr. G. Sluin  
Do. .... Mr. G. P. Rouse  
Do. .... Mr. Jno. Massey  
Repiano Flugel..... Mr. Philip Dakin  
Do. Cornet..... Mr. Fred Bell  
2nd Cornet..... Mr. T. W. Slater  
Do. Flugel..... Mr. A. E. Kirkby  
3rd Do. .... Mr. Wm. Jas. Slater  
3rd Cornet..... Mr. Hy. Smith  
Solo Tenor..... Mr. A. Holmes  
1st Do. .... Mr. W. Crowder  
2nd Do. .... Mr. F. Dakin  
1st Baritone..... Mr. Wm. Kirkland  
2nd Do. .... Mr. James Autliff  
Solo Euphonium... Mr. Jno. B. Holmes  
1st Trombone..... Mr. Jno. Moreton  
2nd Do. .... Mr. G. E. Slater  
2nd Do. .... Mr. Herbert Smith  
Bass Do. .... Mr. Hy. Simpson  
Eb Bass..... Mr. Jno. Byard  
Do. .... Mr. A. Roose  
Bb Do. Messrs. G. Wall and R. J. Needham  
BBb Do..... Mr. Herbert Slater

## LIST OF PRIZES WON.

1897.		
Contest.	Selection.	Prize.
Belper	"Macbeth"	3rd
1898.		
Codnor	"Meyerbeer's Works"	2nd
Alfreton	"Meyerbeer's Works"	div. 1st & 2nd
Ripley	"Memories of Mozart"	5th
	(Also Euphonium Medal).	
Belper	"Meyerbeer's Works"	2nd
Alfreton	"Meyerbeer's Works"	1st
Eckington	"Meyerbeer's Works"	3rd
Mansfield	"Meyerbeer's Works"	3rd
Mansfield	March	2nd
Wirksworth	"Meyerbeer's Works"	1st
1899.		
East Kirkby	"La Sonnambula"	1st
Do.	March	2nd
Alfreton	"Memories of Rossini"	3rd
Pleasley	"Memories of Rossini"	2nd
Codnor	"Memories of Rossini"	1st
Do.	March	1st
Alvaston	"Donizetti"	2nd
	(Also Soprano and Euphonium medals.)	
Buxton	"Memories of Rossini"	4th
Leicester	"Lucia di Lammermoor"	5th