

MR. ABBEY'S ORCHESTRA.

ARRIVAL OF THE CONDUCTOR, SIGNOR VIANESI—HIS WORK AND ASSISTANTS.

Signor Auguste Vianesi, the conductor of the orchestra at the Metropolitan Opera-house, arrived on the Normandie yesterday from Paris. He is a small, active man, not over 5 feet 6 inches in height, with a clear gray eye, a high forehead, an iron-gray moustache, and gray hair. His form is compact. His manners and speech are pleasant. He speaks half a dozen languages, and English as well as any except his native tongue. He came to this country to look over the ground for Mario and Grisi 20 years ago, but the war was in progress, and the country was troubled and he returned. He is 45 years old. He was born in Leghorn, Italy, and was the son of Joseph Vianesi, a composer. His mother was a pianist. Music was a gift in him. He studied with Döhler, the pianist, and Pacini, the composer. Mme. Pasta advised him to go to London, and thither he went, in 1859, to lead the orchestra in the Drury-Lane Theatre.

This was the first time he acted in the capacity of a conductor. The next eight seasons he served in the Imperial theatres in Moscow. Then he passed 12 years in Covent Garden, London, 3 in Paris, 2 in Barcelona, and one year in Madrid. He appeared, besides, in different parts of the United Kingdom and on the Continent. He was knighted by the Italian Government and wears the decorations of the Crown of Italy and St. Maurice et Lazare. In Belgium he was made a Knight of the Order of Leopoldo, and in Russia of the Order of Vladimir. He is a personal friend of Gounod, and knew Meyerbeer and Wagner well. He conducted the orchestra for the performance of "Lohengrin" and "Tannhauser" in the presence of Wagner. His father studied with Rossini and Donizetti, and he came of a family of musicians.

Signor Vianesi said last evening that his orchestra consisted of 76 musicians, besides a military band of 20. The musicians were selected from the theatres of Venice, Naples, Milan, Brussels, Leipzig, and London. The first cornet player was Cavazza, the first clarinet Maguani, the first bassoon Orioli, the first oboe Carpi, the first violoncello Mattioli, the first double bass Menoni, and the first trombone Azzola, all of Venice. Cavazza was one of the first cornet players of Italy. It cost \$5,000 to bring the musicians to Havre alone. There was no truth in the report that 19 of the men refused to sail. They all knew him and would go with him. Signor Vianesi was willing to accept the verdict of the public on the orchestra. Mme. Lablache, with her daughter and Mirabella, the basso, sailed from Havre yesterday in the America. Signor Vianesi said he saw her, and she said she was going to sing with Mr. Abbey. He supposed Del Puente would, too. The courts would probably decide that. He had not seen Del Puente. Donesi, the ballet-master, was on the way with a corps of dancers. Signor Vianesi thought the new opera here a grand affair, and he was well satisfied with Mr. Abbey's troupe.