

LORD DUFFERIN.

The Marquis of Dufferin, on his return from the arduous duties of British Ambassador in Paris, has received a welcome which must have satisfied him that he has deserved the confidence and approval of his countrymen while in office as their representative. The reception given to him in Ireland has, doubtless, been particularly gratifying to him, and he has soon resumed his active interest in Irish politics by his strongly worded support of the work of the Irish Repeal Committee. Lady Dufferin and Lady Hermione Blackwood have naturally come in for their share of welcome in the festivities given at Belfast, where "Lady Dufferin's Health" was one of the toasts, and at Bangor, where Lord and Lady Dufferin were received by the clergy and vestry amid a scene of general rejoicing.

ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

The Bulgarian authorities at Varna have been much cumbered by the difficulty of providing for the great number of Armenians who have taken refuge within their gates since the beginning of the recent massacres at Constantinople. At the end of October, Vice-Consul Brophy wrote from Varna to the effect that between fourteen and fifteen thousand panic-stricken Armenians had landed, more than eight thousand of whom remained in the town. Our illustration shows a group of Armenians at the Varna hospital, which has been placed at their disposal by the Bulgarian Government. The local Armenian Relief Committee are making an appeal not only for funds, but for presents of clothing for the poor creatures who left their homes in summer garments utterly insufficient to protect them in winter.



THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA IN HIS STUDY.

MUSIC.

The last three Lamoureux Concerts proved conclusively — if further proof, indeed, were wanted — that in this French conductor we possess an artist of the finest quality, a musician of the acutest intelligence, and an organiser of singular power. His playing of the "Eroica" Symphony and the Seventh of Beethoven was literally superb; it would be impossible to conceive anything more massive or more clearly right. His last programme on Saturday, too, was quite ideal in the mere choice of works. He gave us, besides the Seventh Symphony, the Berlioz Queen Mab Scherzo, the Good Friday music from "Parsifal," and three selections from "Die Meistersinger." They were all played exquisitely, especially the last.

M. Eugène D'Albert on Tuesday afternoon gave a recital at the St. James's Hall, consisting entirely of the pianoforte work of Beethoven. By that achievement he placed himself in the very front rank of living pianoforte players. Self-restrained, delicate, yet for ever strong and virile, he displayed not only an extraordinary technical skill, but also intellectual qualities very rare and splendid. He devoted himself mostly to the later sonatas, which was perhaps a pity. Still, he gave us so much of what is fine that we forgive him this small detail.

The performance, too late for notice this week, of the "Messiah," announced to be given at Westminster Abbey on Thursday night, is an exceedingly gratifying matter to all who care anything about the conditions under which oratorio should be given. Handel, at all events, had the cathedral in view for all his sacred compositions, and it is so rare that this design is now carried out that this solitary occasion deserves prominent record.



ARMENIAN REFUGEES AT THE HOSPITAL AT VARNA.