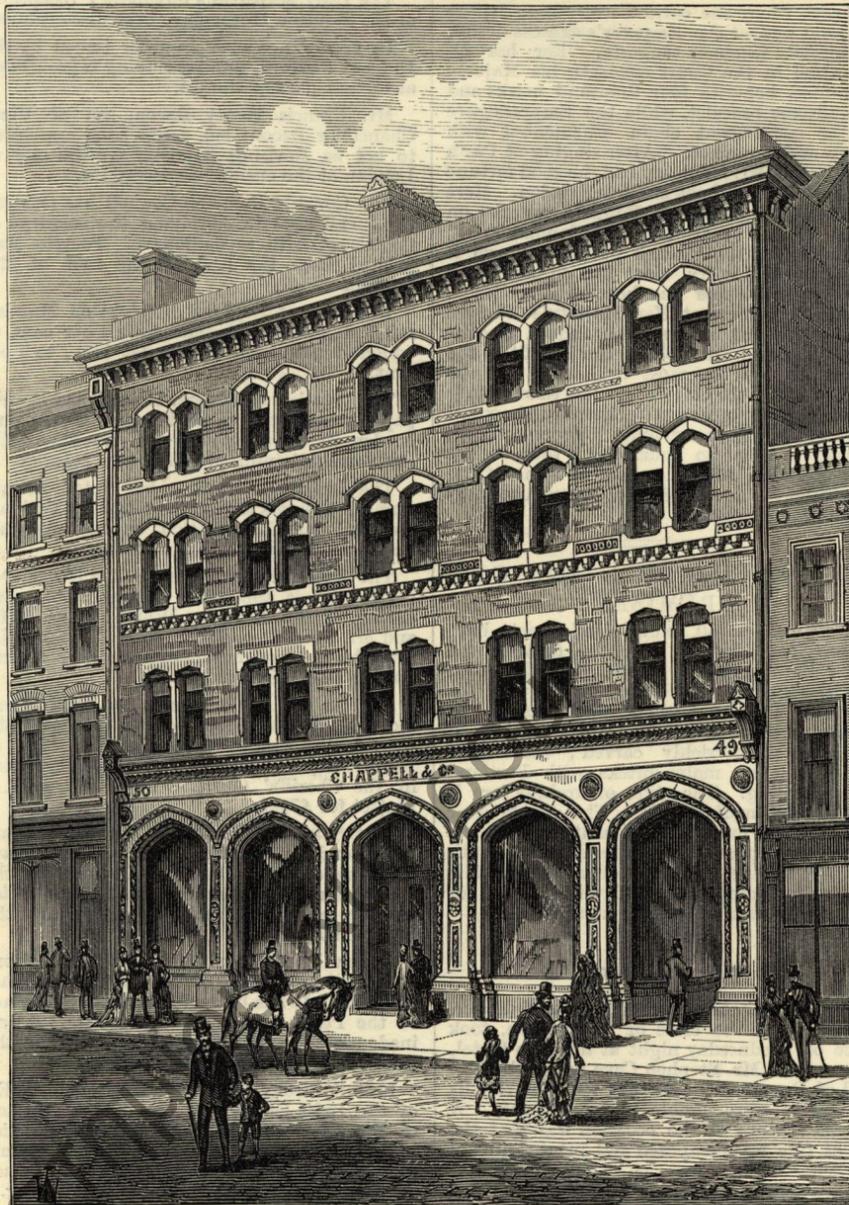




MADAME ETELKA GERSTER.



MESSRS. CHAPPELL AND CO.'S PREMISES, NEW BOND-STREET.

We are enabled to present, with the accompanying portrait, a short biographical sketch of Madame Etelka Gerster's career. This lady was born on June 16, 1857, at Kaschau, in Hungary. At a very early age she evinced musical abilities of no ordinary kind. Her clear and silver-toned voice drew the attention of everybody acquainted with her family. By the advice of the Director of the Conservatoire at Vienna, who chanced to hear her sing at the head of one of the Catholic processions in her native town, she was placed under the tuition of the far-famed Madame Marchesi, with whom she studied most diligently for

three years—1873 to 1876. In the mean time rumours of her wonderful voice had got abroad, and offers were made her from several German towns. Etelka, however, declined these, as she was determined to commence her career in the Italian school, and in January, 1876, she made her debut at Venice, under the management of Signor Gardini, in the character of Gilda in Verdi's "Rigoletto," and with wonderful success. Almost at once followed the parts of Ophelia, Lucia, Amina in "La Sonnambula," and Marguerite, which last character she at first sang, as it was originally

written, in French. Her next triumph was at Berlin, where it may be justly said she turned everybody's head and created a furore such as had hitherto never been known in the German capital, and her benefit night seemed the climax of her many well-earned triumphs. The demand for places was so great that the administration of the theatre was compelled to ask the public to apply by writing, and it is said that more than 21,000 applications were refused. She then made a short sojourn at Buda-Pesth, where she appeared in the operas of "La Sonnambula" and "Hamlet."



NORTH COAST VIEW, FROM ST. HILARION, OF THE MOUNTAIN CHAIN OF KYRENIA, CYPRUS.