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BERLIN

The popular concerts of the Philharmonic orchestra under the direction of Dr. Kunwald afford at all times the highest enjoyment, as much by the contents of the programmes as by the artistic excellence of the performances, to say nothing of the low prices of admission. A hearer of last Tuesday's concert must have left the hall fully satisfied and in the highest degree moved. Goldmark's *Sakuntala* overture stood at the head of the programme, which contained also some Brahms songs, sung by Frau Grumbacher de Jonge with her usual mastery. The second part consisted entirely of Beethoven's *Eymont* music complete, the connecting text being recited by an actor. Frau Grumbacher de Jonge sang the two songs, "Die Trommel gerührt" and "Freudvoll und leidvoll". The concert closed with Brahms' 3rd Symphony under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Kunwald. G. M. A. G.

There is not much to be said of the song recital which was given in the Bechstein Hall by Fräulein Gerty Schmidt. The voice is not a very powerful one, but the singer showed considerable ability in her treatment of the text. The programme which she had prepared also testified to true and honest effort; Händel, Schubert, Brahms, Wolf, Kahn, Delibes, Weckerlin, Weingartner, being the composers represented. The transition from piano to forte is too abrupt and uneven. Fräulein Schmidt in singing forte exerts herself too much, and she would do well to cultivate the graceful manner which is indispensable for the due rendering of such songs as Brahms' "Vergleichliches Ständchen" and "Das Mädchen spricht." Her performance on this occasion cannot be described as impressive or above the average. Herr Otto Bake accompanied with refined taste.

It was quite otherwise with the song recital of Fräulein Emmy Mohr at the Beethoven Saal. Even if the voice has no great compass, its velvety quality of tone, particularly in the low register, is very agreeable. Fräulein Mohr has also quite overcome all technical difficulties; at least, to all outward appearance, she sang with ease an extensive programme in which Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Richard Strauss, Bach, Reimann, Reinecke, Selle, and in an encore Hugo Wolf, were well represented. In spite of the great variety, one listened without fatigue to the soulful utterances of the singer, the effect of which was heightened by her well managed facial expression. In the "platt-deutsch" songs of Reinecke her vivacious and pretty mimicry were specially effective. To Herr Conrad V. Bos, one of the best accompanists we have, a share of the success is justly due. Together with Fräulein Elga Ruegger, he further gratified the audience by playing the pianoforte part of Beethoven's Sonata for Violoncello No. 2, a work which is somewhat indistinct but yet possesses all the virtues of the master's classic muse. G. M. A. G.

Pianoforte concert given in the Beethoven Saal by Frau Slottko. That the concert-giver has certain good qualities cannot be gainsaid; her execution is smooth and her tone round and pleasant. The first piece on her programme was the Kreutzer Sonata of Beethoven, in which Professor Dessau took the violin part. The ensemble was not as intimate as could have been wished, the pianiste's conception of the music apparently not being on a par with the wonderful impressiveness of Professor Dessau's interpretation. Schumann's "Kreisleriana", which was the concert-giver's next number, undoubtedly gave convincing proof of her talent, although the great length of the piece was fatiguing. The "Wanderer" Fantasia, which closed the programme, showed Frau Slottko's gifts in the rosiest light, although the performance was not up to the highest standard. One felt that in some passages the music had been learnt by rote. The overwhelming vehemence and deep feeling that are inherent in this work of Schubert were not brought out. The playing of Frau Slottko certainly stirs the hearer, but does not carry him away. G. M. A. G.

(Continued on page 2.)



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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE ATLANTIC TARIFF WAR.

According to the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, the conference between the Transatlantic shipping lines has been postponed until February 5. In the meantime informal negotiations are in progress between interested parties. Among the outstanding questions to be settled is that of the divergent tariffs for the "Lusitania" and "Mauretania," but there is a general belief that a mutual agreement of the Hamburg-American and Cunard lines is the main point of discussion.

DARING JEWEL ROBBERY.

The police authorities at Scotland Yard were notified on Tuesday morning that, taking advantage of the fog, some daring thieves had smashed the windows of the premises of Mr. Lewis at 123, Kingsland-road, E., with bricks, and had then cleared the windows of the stock, comprising rings, brooches, watches and chains, bracelets, &c., getting clear away with their haul.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

NEGRO'S RECOVERY AFTER LYNCHING.

Details of a remarkable lynching affair are forthcoming from Mobile, in Alabama. A negro, who had been convicted of an assault upon a white woman, was taken outside the town and unceremoniously hanged upon a tree. The mob afterwards amused itself by firing revolver shots at the body, and then went back into the town, leaving the body for dead.

The next day some friends of the negro went to cut down the body, and what was their astonishment to find that he was still alive. The rope had not done its work, and none of the bullets had touched a vital spot. The man is stated to be making good progress towards recovery.

DEPARTURE OF THE FLEET FROM RIO.

The Atlantic fleet weighed anchor and left Rio de Janeiro roads on Wednesday, with the exception of the gunboat "Arethusa." The fleet's next port of call is Punta Arenas.

(Continued on page 2.)

DRESDEN

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

In view of the expressions of regret that continue to reach us, relating to the omission of the complete daily programmes, we desire to state that we are giving the matter our careful consideration and hope to be in a position to announce a mutually satisfactory decision in the course of the next few days.

In the meantime, we trust that our subscribers will appreciate the fact that we are endeavouring to meet diverse wishes in a manner pleasing to all parties, and this of necessity involves a little delay.

Consul-General T. St. John Gaffney has returned from Berlin, where he has commenced negotiations to bring the Minstrel Show to Dresden.

Cards have been issued for a Ladies' Day at the Anglo-American Club, to take place on Monday next, January 27, 1908.

The funeral of the Grand Duke of Tuscany took place at Vienna on Wednesday afternoon. The ceremony was attended by members of the Imperial House, headed by the Emperor Franz Josef. The German Emperor was represented by Prince Friedrich Leopold of Prussia, the King of Saxony by his ambassador at the Viennese court.

We hear that the eminent American vocalist, Mr. Eduard Lankow, whose magnificent bass voice created such admiration during his appearance in Dresden, has been gaining fresh laurels at Frankfurt and several provincial towns. The occasion of the grand *Festspiel* at Frankfurt in December gave Mr. Lankow an opportunity of assuming, for the first time, the rôle of *Ramphis* in "Aida". Signor Caruso was a participant in this Festival. The Press published most laudatory criticisms of Mr. Lankow's powers on this occasion, and Herr Mengelberg, the well-known Dutch conductor, has engaged him for several concerts to be given in Holland during the Spring.

Mr. Lankow is at present in Berlin for the purpose of singing ten Arias, with orchestra, for the Gramophone Company. From authentic sources we learn that he is in receipt of highly remunerative proposals from both the Berlin and Vienna Royal operas, at the conclusion of his Frankfurt contract. He has also been engaged for the festival performances to be held in America next May, for which the artist will doubtless obtain leave of absence.

The numerous Dresden friends of Mr. Lankow will watch with warm interest the brilliant career of this gifted vocalist, whose voice, it is said, has rarely been equalled within the memory of living musical authorities.

August Wilhelmj, the world-renowned violinist, died in London on Wednesday at the age of 63.—Wilhelmj received his musical education at the Leipzig Conservatory, and during his artistic career he played in almost every civilised country of the globe. He was intimately connected with the Bayreuth performances, being the leader of the first violins at the primary productions of the "Ring" in 1876. He lived in Blasewitz, near Dresden, from 1886 to 1901, when he was called to the Guildhall School of Music in London.

Central Theatre: The composer Lehár, by his work *Die lustige Witwe* (*The Merry Widow*), has become very popular, and now attention has been concentrated on one of his former works. On Wednesday last the *Rastelbinder* was performed at the Central Theatre,—a laudable act, for it conclusively proved how much the *Merry Widow* has been over-estimated. This earlier work contains far more original freshness and jollity than its successor; there is an absence of false sentimentality and silly love passages; above all, none of that stale, knock-about "humour," reminiscent of a cabaret, which of late has been introduced into

(Continued on page 2.)