PADEREWSKI CONCERT A SOMBER, WET BLANKET OF MUSICLESS BANGS AND NERVE-RACKING CRASHES

By G. I. W.

"The significance of Paderewski's exclusive use of the Weber piano is plainly evident." (Quoted from program last night.)

Yes, we may well take off our hats to the piano and its sturdy make. And as to hats, have you ever seen a Panama hat tested? A picture advertising its strength will show a man trying to tear it, stamping on it, sitting on it, beating the chairs with it and committing every destroying act his fertile mind can conceive of and the hat will come out none the worse for wear. Now, of course, a hat is not made for such treatment, but its durability is so demonstrated.

Paderewski's concert last night was attended by a great and enthusiastic multitude which even paid for standing room and lined the aisles nearly to the rostrum. But the public likes a big noise and would probably have applauded more wildly had the pianist got both feet on the keyboard as some feared he might. It is players of the Paderewski type that have created the cartoons of that kind and that have given the world a mistaken idea of the exaggeration and lack of sanity in all great pianists. However, feet up on the dashboard would not beget a graceful attitude, and as artistic effect is one of the things Mr. Paderewski strives for he has schooled himself to play with his feet beneath the piano box at just as lively a tempo and with just as much elastic bouncing up and down as with his hands above board.

There were doubtless those in the audience who were impressed as much as ever with the romanticism of the pianist's appearance. But to those who have seen him and heard him (both are equally important) several times before, the "dim, religious light," the 15-minute hush after the audience was seated before the pianist's appearance, the stately tread and the automatic bows when the applause greeted him, the crashing preliminary chords and rippling, meaningless scales as a "feeler" before every number, and the countless other affectations which have become history, even including the style of dress, were more nearly ridiculous than impressive, and certainly not dignified. Paderewski does not get in touch with his audience at any time. He stands off separate and distinct like a god receiving condescendingly the adulation of his mortal worshipers. There is none of the warm camaraderie of Mme. Carreno, none of the gentle sympathy of Gabrilowitch, none of the virile enthusiasm of Harold Bauer.

As for the program he offered—well, it need but be compared with the programs of other masters of the piano to show its rank. There were two new things on the program—things he has not been playing for years. One was his own "Variations and Fugue," which was commonplace and uninteresting to the extreme, merely letting go a lot of fireworks—a composition which will doubtless never again find its place on a concert program. The other was a little love song by a little almost unknown composer, Stojowski—a simple little melody well enough for what it presumes to be. The Beethoven sonata was one of the smaller and earlier compositions of that composer, not in the class of the wonderful Sonata Impassionata played here by Rosenthal with such magnificent effect. The Schubert-Liszt group were all old numbers that every one knows from start to finish, as were also the Chopin numbers. The Liszt thirteenth rhapsodie he has been playing for the last 13 years. Not a sign of a Bach number, of the bigger Chopin numbers, or even of the American MacDowell whom he so professes to admire. If so what better place to begin missionary work with the unrecognized prophet than in his own country?

Paderewski doubtless had the elements of greatness when he began to play and when he set the world on fire 16 years ago. But he has not grown since then. With his fame, his standing in the world, his undeniable influence over the public, what noble missionary work could he do in blazing the trail for the lesser known composers and educating the public to grow in its ideals! He is playing the same program he played years ago, with more crash and bang and more extreme contrasts; without any modulation, without any middle tones, all in a shriek or in a whisper. There are no sane moments.

And yet with his power and his rapid fingering, his artistic sense, for he must have it under his affectations, he could have grown so much greater. None will deny that he certainly can handle the keyboard and the pedals marvelously. But his playing is like living in a climate with no spring or fall—all hottest summer and coldest winter. And the constant jumping from one extreme to another, together with the one sustained note, sustained for half a minute sometimes, whenever a passage is closed and then jumping to come down with a sudden crash on the next passage, is such a strain on the nerves that it is no wonder people say he has them hypnotized. They have to explain their unnerved condition some way.

The encores were the Spinning Song from "The Flying Dutchman" and the second rhapsodie following his last number. Most of the audience remained and applauded him persistently for many minutes after the program, which shows that he knows how to please them, and that is something.

Incidentally Rosenthal can make just as much noise and can attain greater velocity on the keyboard. But he doesn't play so familiar a program and there is some sanity in the relation of parts, and so his audience does not stand up and line the walls for two hours.

CHINA RICH IN NATURAL WEALTH

Within a Generation Will Be Called a Modern Nation, Says Missionary.

Rev. Frank W. Bible, a missionary from Hang Chow, China, who is in this country on furlough, spoke at the ministers' meeting yesterday at the First Presbyterian church, on the great educational and material awakening in China and the great problem which confronts the church of Christ of promulgating the Christian religion among an atheistic people.

Mr. Bible says that China is so rapidly modernizing that he believes in 30 years it will be called a modern nation. He spoke of the situation which Yuan Shih K'Ai and Chang Chih Tung, whom he calls "the whole of China" are facing in that country. These men, he says, have the largest problem in government on their hands that exists in the world, the problem of making a people of 430,000,000 who have been facing in one direction for thousands of years, right about face and take up the problems of modern civilization. He says further that no one ventures an opinion as to what will happen when the empress dowager dies, nor even how soon the people would learn of the fact.

Mr. Bible explained the two great powers which are now working toward a new civilization, the new press, which, instead of the literary language which is understood by but a few, or the mandarin language which is that of the court, is using the colloquial, the language of the common people, and the power of association, of a new patriotism, which is rapidly developing. These two powers, he explained, are bringing the people to a realization of the tremendous material powers of the country."

"China," he said, "has the richest natural resources of any nation in the world—a thing hard for Americans to believe. There is coal in every section, and a larger deposit of anthracite than is known anywhere else; the largest deposits of magnetic iron ore in the world, and all of these things within direct reach of the most perfect canal system for cheap transportation that the world knows."

Of the Yangste he said that Admiral Evans' fleet could easily steam 600 miles up the river and have plenty of water under the keels of the vessels. The smaller cruisers could then without difficulty go 400 miles further and within a few years when locks are provided, the largest river which flows into the Pacific ocean will be navigable at least 1,400 miles from the sea.

"China," said Mr. Bible, "cannot escape the fate of becoming one of the great industrial nations of the world." The period of 30 years he sets as the time for missionary work in China. By the end of that time he thinks that the nation will be so thoroughly a modern and materially industrial country that the time for promulgating a religion which is not their own will be closed. This situation, he says, is now at hand in Japan. "It is 30 years of missionary effort in China or not at all," said Mr. Bible. "And how is a civilization as strong as ours industrially with greater natural advantages, if it is thoroughly atheistic, going to react on our own?"

AMUSEMENTS

"New Dominion" Tonight.

The last performance of "The New Dominion" will be given at the Marquam by Clay Clement tonight. It was written by the star, and in it he has given a distinct character to the American stage. Tomorrow and Thursday nights Mr. Clement will present "The Bells," and Friday and Saturday nights, with a matinee Saturday, "London Assurance" will be played.

"The Walls of Jericho" Coming.

The attraction at the Heilig theatre, Fourteenth and Washington streets, for four nights, beginning next Sunday evening, March 1, with a special-price matinee Wednesday afternoon, will be the famous players, Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon, and their excellent supporting company, in the society comedy, "The Walls of Jericho." The advance seat sale will open next Friday morning at box office.

"Graustark" at the Baker.

Those people who love a play like "The Prisoner of Zenda" will take great delight in George Barr McCutcheon's "Graustark" at the Baker this week, for while entirely different in plot and characters, yet it is a romantic drama dealing with two young Americans in a European principality, and filled with novel and exciting scenes.

Empire Matinee Tomorrow.

Ethel Tucker, the clever emotional actress, is at the Empire this week in the new and interesting drama, "The Battle of Life," which deals with the vengeance of a beautiful Mexican woman on the man who deceived her. The scenes are laid in Old California during the days of the great gold excitement.

Verna Felton as "Camille."

There has never been more interest in a local theatrical production than in that at the Lyric this week, where Verna Felton is making her first appearance as Camille in the historic emotional drama of the same name. Miss Felton not only plays the part satisfactorily but she makes a decided hit. Matinees Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Grand's Good Show.

Better vaudeville than that which is at the Grand this week has never been seen in this city. The bill takes first place in the history of good entertainments offered in this theatre. Gilroy, Haynes and Montgomery have a nautical comedy burletta in "The Good Ship Nancy Lee," which is making the same sort of big hit that the act enjoyed when it visited the Grand two years ago.

At the Star.

At the Star theatre this week the French Stock company is offering a new play and one constructed on new lines. It is "Adrift in the World," and is classified as a polite and refined melodrama. This drama affords the company an opportunity to be seen to advantage. Matinees Thursday and Saturday.

BAN ON SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PARADE

A body blow was dealt to what was expected to be one of the prettiest features of the Rose Festival parade in June when a majority of the members of the board of education expressed themselves yesterday afternoon as unfavorable to the request of the festival committee asking that the school children be allowed to march.

The children were the hit of last year's parade, and their drilling and marching was the most talked-of feature of the carnival. Postcards illustrating the various formations of the youthful marchers were sent broadcast over the country, and wherever seen were commented on favorably.

The reasons given for refusing the request to allow the children to march was the fear on the part of several of the members that the itinerary would be too long for some of the smaller children. Action was delayed until a report could be secured from City Superintendent Rigler and Mrs. L. W. Sittons, who were appointed a committee to consult with the teachers and children to see what they thought of the plan.

SWAMP EAST WITH OREGON LITERATURE

Chamber of Commerce Orders Publication of 50,000 Advertising Brieflets.

At a called meeting of the trustees of the Portland chamber of commerce yesterday to determine upon questions of Oregon publicity literature for the year 1908 it was decided to let a contract to the Pacific Monthly to print an edition of 50,000 of the chamber's booklet. This number will probably be increased to 100,000, as the edition of 50,000 last year was exhausted long before the demand was supplied.

The trustees passed the following resolution concerning the death of E. M. Brannick:

"Whereas, Divine Providence has removed from our midst Edward Matthew Brannick, and by his death this community has suffered a severe loss, therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Portland chamber of commerce expresses its sorrow for this event; that it pays tribute to the noble qualities of the deceased, and that it holds up his high character as worthy of emulation. Be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the chamber, and that the public press be requested to publish the same."

A resolution was passed urging congress to erect suitable consulate buildings for United States representatives in the orient.

The following applicants for membership in the chamber were favorably voted upon: The Crossley company, Multnomah Iron works, Multnomah Trunk & Bag company, Hood River Milling company, Jens Olsen, the J. A. Reid company, Snodgrass & Williams, Parrish, Watkins & Co., the Whitney company, Willamette Tent & Awning company, Devlin & Firebaugh, Dolph, Mallory, Simon & Gearin, J. M. Cameron Realty company, Beeman-Spaulding-Woodward company, Portland Manufacturing company, J. Frank Porter, William P. Hayhurst, W. J. Day & Co., J. P. O. Lownsdale, John Wood Iron works, Union Box & Lumber company, F. F. Williams, Wheeler Timber company, J. O. Elrod, M. C. Davis.

PORT HAS RIGHT TO MAINTAIN DRY DOCK

Judge Wolverton in the United States court yesterday handed down three decisions in cases pending before him. A demurrer filed in the case of Lucy Scott Bower vs. Hartman Stein was also argued and taken under advisement.

In the libel case of the Port of Portland vs. the George W. Elder, Judge Wolverton denied the exceptions filed by the respondents. This was a case in which the Port of Portland had libeled the George W. Elder for costs of repairs made at the Port of Portland drydock. The attorneys for the Elder excepted to the libel, arguing that the Port of Portland did not have the power to maintain and operate a drydock. The court held that such power was held and overruled the exceptions.

In the case of the Northwestern Warehouse company vs. the O. R. & N. the court denied a motion made by the respondents to quash the complaint. This was a case growing out of the failure of the O. R. & N. to furnish cars to certain members of the warehouse company. The company brought suit against the O. R. & N., and the latter filed a motion to quash. The court denied the motion.

The case of L. Simons vs. the city of Eugene was dismissed by the court. This is a suit growing out of a bond issue made by the city of Eugene.

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THE PLAY

With nothing unusual on its bill, the Grand offers a dozen or so attractions that were received with favor yesterday afternoon. Ramza and Arno are European clowns, or say they are, and they act quite as clowns are apt to. The Piottes play "The Italian and His Sweetheart," a little act which pleased; James R. Waite and his company play "At Lighthouse Point," a sketch which smacked of the sad stage sea waves, while the salty atmosphere is still further maintained by Gilroy, Haynes and Montgomery in their nautical burlesque "The Good Ship Nancy Lee." It was all as invigorating as shaking a package of seasalt into the bathtub, so as to have a real surf bathing.

Donell and Rotali are contrasted comedians and "grand opera" entertainers. Their rapid change of costumes made a deep impression on the audience. "The Hoosier Fighter," the new moving pictures, came in for more than the usual amount of approbation. The other acts are good.

Suffering and Dollars Saved.

E. S. Loper, of Marilla, N. Y., says: "I am a carpenter and have had many severe cuts healed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It has saved me suffering and dollars. It is by far the best healing salve I have ever found." Heals burns, sores, ulcers, fever sores, eczema and piles. 25c at Skidmore Drug Co., druggists.

Build What You Build, Well

Build your body cell by cell, WELL. Use properly selected FOOD. That is the material, and, as the builder of a building selects the best brick and mortar, so you should select the very best material the world affords from which to build your body.

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Grape-Nuts

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"There's a Reason" and a profound one for GRAPE-NUTS.

The Triumph of the WEBER PIANO

At the Paderewski Recital Last Evening

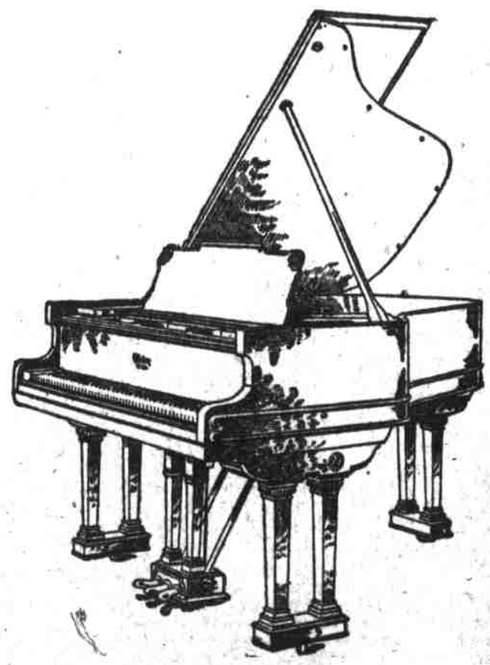
One cannot but admire Paderewski's selection of the "Matchless Weber" piano as the medium of his wonderful art.

Tested as no other instrument ever was or probably ever will be—the Weber piano, indisputably and pre-eminently the piano of the day—astounded the greatest audience of musicians and music lovers ever assembled in this city.

Never has a piano been called upon to respond to such varied and seemingly impossible demands—and never has a piano responded so nobly to every whim, mood and desire of the artist as the Weber last evening.

The wonder of it all was that a creation of wood and metal could be so delicately and adequately responsive to both the most delicate of shadings and the superhuman muscular onslaughts of the master artist of the keys.

It's Weber tone—It's Weber construction—It's Weber individuality—It's Weber durability—In a word, it's the IDEAL—that elevates it to the highest pinnacle of supremacy.



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