



Mark Hambourg's Last Concerts.

Lovers of music and the innumerable admirers of Mark Hambourg had the satisfaction of hearing this great pianist on two more occasions, at the concerts given at the Town Hall last Friday and Sunday, respectively. The artist was in great form and gave to the large audiences his best. The programme on both occasions was of the "plebescite" nature, that is to say, Hambourg played only such works as were chosen by the majority of the votes recorded and was thus in accordance with the public's wishes. Accordingly, the programme contained very few new items, one of which, at the first concert, being Mendelssohn's Wedding March, arranged by Liszt. Every musician knows that any composition, with which Liszt's name is connected, demands the greatest possible technique and everyone who has heard Mark Hambourg play will therefore also know that the faultless execution of this composition at the hands of the artist was a foregone conclusion. He repeated the Appassionata in grand style and also played several waltzes, Nocturnos and a mazurka by Chopin. Other composers on that occasion were Bach, Cyril Scott and Rachmaninoff. Sunday night's concert constituted a veritable triumph for the virtuoso and both his first and last appearance on the platform was greeted with enthusiastic applause by a "packed house" which had assembled to pay homage to this wonderful exponent of pianoforte technique. On that night he played compositions by Scarlatti, Schumann's Carnival, a large Chopin bracket, Liebestraum and Second Rhapsodie by Liszt and a few others, with numerous encores, upon which the audience insisted.

Thus ended a memorable Mark Hambourg Season which will remain in the minds of all who had the pleasure of hearing him, whilst the many students who took advantage of his presence, should greatly benefit thereby, as their visits to these concerts should act as an impetus and incentive for further conscientious study and perseverance.

P.J.

Shakespeare at the Standard.

On Monday night last, "The Merry Wives of Windsor" was revived at the Standard Theatre by the Johannesburg Shakespeare Players, with Mr. H. Miles as producer. If we consider that most of the actors and actresses are amateurs and if we wield the wand of leniency on that

account, also making due allowances for "first night" nervousness, we are ready to admit that the performance was a success. Needless to say, Mr. Miles, who acted the part of Falstaff, was an outstanding feature in the proceedings. His make up and playing were faultless and he was the mainstay of the whole production. The parts of Mistress Page and Mistress Ford were taken by Miss Sarah Goch, and Mrs. E. Solomon respectively who deserve unstinted praise for the thoroughly capable manner in which they handled their parts, Mrs. Solomon all the more, as I understand that she had barely a week in which to prepare herself. Mr. Mario Zoccola's Welsh Parson was a clever bit of acting, as was Mr. Theo Owston's Doctor Caius, albeit he played somewhat too boisterously, which latter also applies to Mr. Jules Mendelssohn in the part of the Host. Mr. P. J. Hittinger gave a good account of himself in the role of Ford and was ably supported herein by Mr. Arthur Dean, as Page. Mr. M. H. Mendelssohn played Slender in just the right spirit, whilst Miss Enid Silva made a sweet Anne Page. Mrs. Weightman portrayed Dame Quickly in a capable manner and the remaining parts of more or less importance were taken by Mr. Cyril Spurling (Shallow); Mr. George Kreser (Bardolph); Mr. Ronald Dawson (Nym); Mr. Sam Skinner (Pistol); Mr. Ned Leon (Simple); Mr. Michael Shrier (Rugby); Mr. Aubrey Feitelberg (Fenton) and Miss Doris Hittinger (Robin).

It was altogether a praiseworthy performance, which will be followed next week by "Romeo and Juliet," and I honestly think that these commendable endeavours to revive Shakespeare deserve the fullest public patronage and encouragement, if for no other reason than "to preserve the language of Old England", as Mr. Miles remarked at the closing of Monday night's performance. As an introduction, Mr. Weinbrenn's orchestra played the well known overture to "The Merry Wives of Windsor" as well as other suitable items during the intervals.

P.J.

Sir Frank Benson.

It is interesting to note that Sir Frank Benson, the renowned Shakespearean actor, sailed for South Africa by the Norman on Friday the 15th instant.

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