

## Musical Mention

John Randolph.

The long promised pianoforte recital by Xaver Scharwenka attained brilliant success at the Lansing theatre on Tuesday evening April 27th. An unusually large audience for this form of entertainment received the calm and somewhat phlegmatic appearing pianist when he made his initial bow to Lincoln people. Of course no one could reasonably expect so large a house as greeted the De Wolf Hopper company in "El Capitan" on Wednesday evening for Mr. Scharwenka did not carry with him the accessories of chorus, ballet and scenery; he did not even sing a topical song, but depended upon himself and a Steinway pianoforte to entertain the cultured audience. And the audience was a cultured and representative one. The best part of society, town and university was present in force. It is only fair to say that they were not disappointed in his playing. Certainly more brilliant pianists technically, as well as artists who have enthused the audience by a greater display of the intellectual and emotional in interpretation have appeared here. Mr. Scharwenka's playing was not unfrequently slightly blurred by injudicious use of the pedal, his virtuosity in scale passages and in other technically difficulties is not impeccable, and his interpretation in certain impassioned numbers was phlegmatic as compared say, with the fiery intensity of Carreno or of Bloomfield Zeisler. Certainly Mr. Leopold Godowsky is much his superior in digital facility and in every thing which makes for virtuosity. But Mr. Scharwenka's claims to attention are not based wholly upon his pianism. His reputation in this country and in Europe as the teacher of many brilliant pupils, as the conductor of orchestra, as a composer of more than ordinary merit would insure respectful audition for him were he a less capable pianoforte virtuoso. Not a few who heard him were glad of the opportunity to hear him give an author's reading of four of his shorter compositions, including his extremely popular "Polish Dance," in E flat minor. Mr. Scharwenka was heard first in "that cheval de bataille of pianists, the Beethoven "Sonata Appassionata." (Would he had made it our own MacDowell's "Sonata Tragica!") This composition seems to me unfitted for this pianist's style of playing, which was not impassioned. He gave, however, a finished and intellectual interpretation freer from gust and from undue sentimentality.

Perhaps music so virile as the larger works of Beethoven should be played in this broad unemotional manner; certainly, the great pianist, D'Albert, plays it in this fashion, but this particular Sonata, it seems to me, is not adapted to the coldly intellectual school of interpretation. Mr. Scharwenka produced an admirable effect in the "Nachtstueck" of Schumann and in the beautiful G minor impromptu of Schubert. In the compositions and arrangements by Liszt—variations upon a Russian air, the familiar overture to William Tell, and the "Ricordanza"—the pianist was heard to less advantage, except in the last, being apparently somewhat overweighted by their technical difficulties. Nevertheless the mood of the "Ricordanza" with its resignation and pathos seemed more in accord with the pianist's temperament than the impassioned B flat minor

"Scherzo," of Chopin, which preceded it. In this, one felt a certain effect of anticlimax, as though the pianist's wrists were not equal to the demands made upon them. Probably the most interesting numbers to musicians and the general public alike were the compositions by the pianist composer himself.

These were four in number; "Prairie Flower," "Novellette," (opus 12), "Valse Caprice," (opus 31) and the well known "Polish Dance." Of these the first was the least interesting. The other numbers were most attractive and delightfully played. Altogether the Lincoln public may congratulate itself upon this opportunity to hear this artist, who, while he is not a technical pianist of the first rank, is nevertheless a strong and interesting player and a composer of undoubted ability. It is to the zeal of Mrs. Jean M. Plank that we are indebted for this opportunity to hear Scharwenka and the thanks of every music lover in the city are due her.

J. R.

On Wednesday Harry Briggs played a few selections on the piano for Xaver Scharwenka and was highly praised for his ability. Harry Briggs is a young boy of remarkable talent who promises a brilliant future. Mr. Scharwenka advises him to continue his practice and gives him great encouragement.

Mrs. Will Owen Jones returned on Wednesday from New York where she has spent the winter studying music. Musical and social circles alike have missed Mrs. Jones. Among the large number of musicians who live here Mrs. Jones is the favorite of all. Her absence from the musical feasts of the season in Lincoln has left a distinct feeling of something gentle, and peaceful gone. Mrs. Jones' playing is characterized by an intellectual breadth a classic correctness and inspired by a spirit always in repose. Her friends wait with much interest to hear the results of her winter's application.

### The City Improvement Association

The parlors of Rose Cottage were well crowded Tuesday afternoon at a meeting of the city improvement society. Miss Elliott as hostess welcomed each member and made everyone feel at home. Mrs. Langworthy Taylor presided and a discussion of the condition of the society and its aims was the first part of the program. When the minutes of the last meeting were read, the secretary announced the gift of a check for \$5 from Sorosis and a vote of thanks was tendered to the club for its gift. It was made the sense of the meeting that a mass meeting in the interest of the society should be held next Monday evening in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. Chance for MacLean will be one of the speakers. An effort will be made to increase the membership at this meeting and all interested in the cleaning up of the city are invited. The program will be announced later.

Mary Blakely read the following report of Secretary Cliff Deyo for the Bancroft school. She read with a clear and well modulated voice and seemed perfectly self possessed, being indeed an example for some of the older persons present.

"The following is the report for the last two weeks:

"Pieces of paper picked up and dis-

posed of, 456; tin cans picked up and disposed of, 56; gardens made, 12; yards raked, 28; alleys cleaned, 9; flower beds made, 10; stones, sticks, bottles and cobs, etc., picked up and disposed of, 75; sidewalks and streets in front of houses cleaned, 11.

The report of the Capitol school was given by Mrs. Grace Mason Wheeler. It follows:

"Your committee on Capitol school grounds desire to submit their report as follows:

They have collected from friends and patrons of the Capitol school the sum of \$40.35, which sum they have expended in providing lattice work for the two outhouses, sowing grass seed and providing window boxes for the school rooms. The committee desire to express their gratitude for the encouragement and substantial assistance rendered them in their work by the city council, the school board and the individuals of whom they purchased supplies; also, to C. H. Green, to whose careful superintendence of the work of preparing the ground for, and sowing grass seed, the success of that feature of our work is owing; lastly and earnestly we desire to express our deep appreciation of the spirit of co-operation shown by the pupils, teachers, and principal of the Capitol school. Without this co-operation our efforts must have come to naught, with it we feel that we have at least made a beginning in the work we have undertaken to do and not the least encouraging feature of our work is the fact that the children themselves under the direction and advice of their respective teachers and parents have made flower beds, and set rose bushes and plants in the front yard. The educational value of this feature of our work is certainly very great. Your committee believe measures should be taken to prevent the promiscuous scattering of hand bills in

the grounds. The labors of the children who are keeping these grounds free from litter of this character are unnecessarily increased in this manner, and in at least one instance, the bill boy maliciously strewed large quantities of torn hand bills upon the grounds."

Alice Dates and Zelle Cornell of the Prescott school made a verbal report that showed that much had been done in that part of the city for improvement. Much clearing up had been undertaken and flower beds and trees were now ornamenting the school grounds where before had been unsightly places.

Mrs. Hartley reported for the C street school. Much has been done there also for improvement. The children are all working with a will and money has been raised and much work done. Mrs. Newmark reported for the Park school. She said that there was much need there for work and that it would take lots of work and a good deal of money to do what had been planned. She had planned a concert to be given in the near future at which the best talent obtainable in the city would be present and give numbers. Other reports were interesting. The report of Mrs. Tait, who has charge of the streets, was not read for lack of time. She wishes all the women of the city to co-operate with her in reporting all infractions of ordinances. All women will report to her, and she will take the matter to the city officials for prosecution or aid in enforcing.

The Beggar—Pity a poor man who lost an arm!

The Passerby—I'm sorry, I've not seen it anywhere. Better report your loss to the police.

### MONEY LOANED

on Diamonds, Pianos and any good personal security. Diamonds bought and sold. Business strictly confidential.

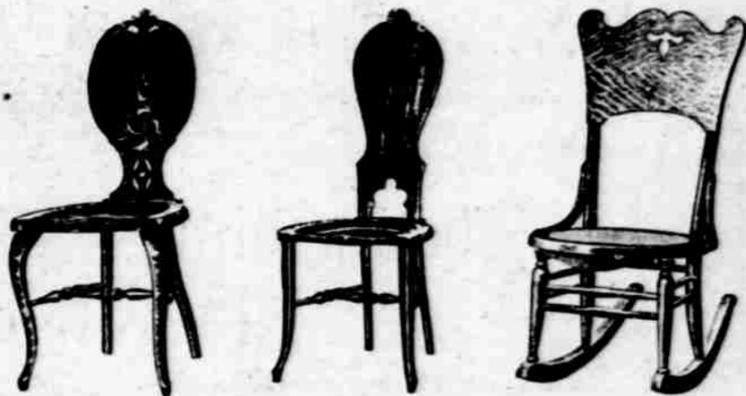
WALT MELICK, ROOM 20 BURR BL'K

## Save Your Money

By trading at

## Rudge & Morris Company

We have all the new and stylish designs in furniture.



Fancy mahogany parlor chair, something new, \$8.25.

One of our new hall chairs, mahogany finish, \$4.50.

New style sewing rocker, quartered oak back, \$2.75.

We take great pleasure in showing you our new stock even if you do not wish to buy.

We have the newest stock of carpets, draperies and yard goods for draping that are to be found in the city. Lawn mowers \$3.75, \$4, \$4.25 and \$4.50. Garden tools, wire screen and galvanized netting.