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EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, January 7, 1888.

A MUSICAL PRODIGY.

In regard to the wonderful playing of Joseph Hoffman, the boy pianist, who is startling New York with his extraordinary performances, Fannie Thomas writes to an eastern journal as follows:

Josef Hoffman is about ten years old. His parents are Poles. He was born at Cracow. He was found and one-half years of age when his wonderful genius first discovered itself on the family piano. His father is a skilled musician, and has been the boy's only teacher.

He is a very dark man, very masterful and impressive, and a great enthusiast in his profession.

His mother is light, retiring and no musician, except in appreciation and having a correct ear for tune.

The couple are ardently attached to each other.

His mother knows not no special musical impression being made upon her before the boy's birth, other than the worship she had for her musical consort.

The boy inherits his mother's physique, disposition and soul—his father's intellectuality.

He is small of his age, with a white face, with a round, full contour. He has a little dimple in his chin. His hair is fine and light. His eyes are gray, but neither large nor remarkable.

His head is noticeably round and full. He has a large mouth, and smiles easily on meeting a friendly eye. His hands are small and rather fleshy, but with that peculiar little curve upward of the finger tips noticeable in all pianists of note.

His legs are thin and his feet rather long, but not large.

He has a rather neat manner.

He wears a sailor shirt of blue or garnet and knee pants.

He steps with a light, quick, but not nervous motion, such as you have noticed in little boys who were expert roller skaters or dancers.

Close to him in a room there is not a trace of the genius about him. Nothing even unusual, unless it be the alertness and precision of his movements, and the expression of his hands, which are indefinable.

He is a boy of good general intelligence, wide awake, interested in ordinary things, gay of spirits and health, which, so far, has given no cause for uneasiness.

He converses only in French and German.

He is not specially devoted to music, is equally interested in tops, shot guns and target practice.

He does no sing, whistle or reflect more than ordinary boys.

Music in its entirety—time, technique, note reading, writing, improvising and remembering is all with him, just as rolling a ball across the table is to an infant, into whose hands it has been put.

It has absolutely no more difficulty for him and he is just as unconscious of its being anything out of the usual run.

He knows no technical difficulty. Chords, trills, arpeggios, runs, scales, chromatics, and changes of keys are all equally subservient to the shade of the piece played—just as though a child could write a story as soon as he was physically capable of holding a pen, being born able to make the letters, to spell correctly, and with a perfect knowledge of all grammatical and rhetorical rules.

That species of skill could be more easily comprehended, however, than the astounding fact that he is able to understand and express sentiments, feelings and passions, of which he can have no personal knowledge.

How can he who has never felt despair know just how to sustain a succession of tones, all to produce a wail like a lost spirit?

From some twenty different ways in which the same note might be played his baby chooses, on first sight of them, that one which has been decided upon as being the intention of the master who wrote it, by all the learned musicians of the world.

Fear, hate, love, compassion, ecstacy, are equally expressed as by men and women who have made the subject a life study.

Beethoven and Bach are played with mild severity, as though he felt the eyes of the strict old masters resting upon him, and he dared not take any liberties with their work.

Again, in the lighter efforts of romance, souvenir or reverie, he allows himself more latitude—just like an old musical veteran. He hastens or retards, lights or darkens with charming but scientific irregularity even to the secular, bewildering trick of holding back in one hand while keeping strict tempo in the other, which is one of the bon bouches of the musical epicure.

There is no clap-trap about his playing—no tricks for effect.

The great hope for the future of this little creature is that he is correct.

Besides interpreting in such a wonderful manner, he has composed some fifty pieces, of wonderful meaning and finish, all in strict obedience to the laws of composition, though never having studied the subject.

One of his pieces he himself named "Ile Larmes."

He writes the notes himself in a quick, deft, business like way, just as we do letters. Once in a while the pen is poised for a second—just as we do in arranging the words in a sentence.

His notation is fine with precision in mark of expression, and has but few erasures.

He also improvises marvelously and in accordance with rule.

A stranger in the audience plays a theme, which he has never heard, two or three times over.

He picks it from under the hands, carrying it through all sorts, shapes and descriptions of narration and accompaniment—now in right hand, now in left, now in major, again in minor, now sad and tender, then composed and strong, but making all the returns, cadenzas and modulations decreed for correct musical arrangement.

At one of his matinee concerts Mme. Teresa Carenno, who happened to be passing through the city, came to see and hear the young wonder and kindly played the theme for him.

Although the result was not quite up to that of some others, it was wonderful and the famous artist embraced the little fellow as he tripped off the stage.

His touch is clear and bracing ("like sheet lightning," was remarked in the audience) and he is startlingly prompt in "taking up" and "letting go."

He sustains notes with great richness in melodic passages.

The force with which he strikes sharp or heavy passages must be something more than physical, for on closing the eyes and listening it sounds just as if a man were playing.

If there is any weakness it is in the octave passages owing to the shortness of the fingers.

The Metropolitan opera house is crowded daily to the roof.

Amongst the audience are many who have never before been to a musical entertainment. Many business men and a few from Wall street have come to quaff a drink from a pure spring for a change.

The applause is enthusiastic, of course, but the most greedy could not find it in his heart to insist upon an encore. He is frequently recalled two or three times, and receives bouquets which almost hide him and his dear little bow from the audience.

There is something patadic—if not awe-inspiring—at sight of this child playing pitch and catch to an orchestra of some sixty-five pieces with the greatest masters—his little body still and manner unstrained as if sitting at a table pasting pictures in a scrap book.

During passages in which the orchestra plays alone, he either watches them or looks at the people next him in the front row.

He follows the music with one or both hands on the piano in perfect sympathy with the piece—just as one moves involuntarily a foot or a finger in response to rytim.

He practises only about two hours a day. At first he practiced very reluctantly. Now he grows to enjoy it, and values the music more. Beethoven and Bach are his favorite composers.

One year ago he made his first appearance in Berlin.

Many famous musicians have heard him. Rubenstein and Theodore Thomas, among those we know best, are very enthusiastic in his praise.

His father and mother are both travelling with him.

It is utterly useless wondering about it all.

As well ask how the barrel in a musical box proves as such sweet tones so perfectly. Everything is all arranged so that it shall do so by simply turning round and round.

The pegs and pins have been all arranged for that special purpose by a higher intelligence.

The spring is touched at birth—lo! The world listens and marvels.

A silver-haired patron of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, who has lived there for twenty-five years, claims that in that time his lodgings and meals have cost him $700,000.

A GREAT MEXICAN SCHEME.

FIFTY-FIVE MILLION ACRES OF LAND TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE—CONCESSIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT IN BEHALF OF THE PROJECT.

Says an El Paso, Tex., dispatch: The details of a gigantic project for placing upon the market 55,000,000 acres of land in eleven states of Mexico have just been learned. They are as follows: In Chihuahua, 10,000,000; Durango, 5,000,000; Coahuila, 5,000,000; Sinaloa, 3,000,000; Zacatecas, 6,000,000; Guanajuato, 3,000,000; Tamaulipas, 3,000,000; Vera Cruz, 2,000,000; Michoacan, 5,000,000; Jalisco, 3,000,0000; Guerrero, 3,000,000; total, 55,000,000 of acres. These lands are adapted to almost every imaginable pursuit, and the constitutions and tastes of emigrants from any climate on the globe and to all the products of the temperate and tropical zones. The project has been set on foot by parties here, operating in conjunction with some enterprising spirits of the city of Mexico, at both of which points there is already established an agency to handle the business. It will be conducted under the auspices of the Mexican Land-Mine, and General agency, in the city of Mexico, and of the El Paso Brokerage company at this point. Agencies will also be established in the principal cities of Mexico, the United States and Europe. An abstract of a prospectus, now in course of preparation, will be issued as soon as some minor details are settled.

The parties have secured control of these lands at prices that will no doubt cause them to be sought by colonists and capitalists everywhere, and have at the same time secured the following valuable concessions, emphasizing in a conspicuous manner the liberality and progressive spirit of the present Mexican government:

1. Exemption from all taxes for 20 years on all capital invested by the company.

2. Exemption from import duties for twenty years on all tools, machinery, live stock, etc., for its own use.

3. Exemption from port charges on all vessels bringing emigrants for the company.

4. Sale at special low prices and on long terms of payment of public land for settling emigrants on them.

5. Transportation of all emigrants by the Mexican steamships from Europe and over the lines of railway in Mexico to destination for $12.

The concessions to the emigrants are:

1. Exemption from military service for ten years.

2. Exemption from taxes for ten years.

3. Exemption from import duties for ten years on all tools, machinery, and live stock for their own use.

4. Exemption from all export duties for ten years. Prizes for new cultures and industries introduced into the country.

These lands will be offered with all the favorable conditions attached not only to all emigrants, but to capitalists, in large or small tracts. The parties at the head of this gigantic enterprise are thoroughly familiar with Mexico. They have had their fingers upon her pulse for years, aware that as soon as established government was assured, the great wealth and numerous attractions of that country would inevitably start her on the road to progress, and they, with all patriotic Americans and lovers of good government everywhere, hail with delight the certain return to power of that able, wise and intelligent executive, President Diaz, at the auspicious moment in which to inaugurate the enterprise, which must prove of great advantage to themselves and to Mexico—a regular boom, in fact, seems to be clearly foreshadowed for Mexico. She is doing everything possible to amend her credit, restore confidence, and induce foreign immigration and investment. Railroad construction has taken a fresh impetus, large foreign syndicates are investing heavily in mines and lands, the specific evidence of which is seen through this agency, who themselves have a group of mines and several tracts of land of 5,000,000 acres now under examination and negotiation by a foreign syndicate. —*Ex.*

ELECTRIC WIRE DANGERS.

IT IS SAFER NOT TO TOUCH A BROKEN WIRE THAT DANGLES IN THE STREET.

"Very few people know how to handle electric wires," remarked a well-known electrician to a N. Y. *World* reporter, "and it is unfortunate that such is the case in view of the frequency with which broken ends of such wires are encountered dangling in the street. How would I advise people to handle them? Well, I would advise them not to handle them at all. A very innocent-looking piece of telephone or district-call wire, even, may conceal instant death. The broken telephone or messenger-call wire may at some point come in contact with an electric light wire, over which a fierce dynamo current is being sent, and that current is made to be diverted and rush to the earth through the smaller wire and the body of any one who happens to touch the latter.

"The electric-light wires strung overhead are covered with cotton or some other non-conducting substance, and as long as this insulating covering remains intact the wires can be safely handled, but the friction caused by another wire resting on the covering soon wears it off and makes a good electrical contact between the two wires, rendering the ordinarily innocent wire as deadly as its electric light neighbor. A person standing on the stone pavements is a good electrical conductor, and a double contact is not necessary. The people who know a little about electricity run more risk than those who do not. The former usually know that to send telegraph messages a complete circuit is necessary and that no shock occurs unless you form a connecting link between the two ends of a circuit. Hence they conclude that electric-light wires are harmless unless you are in contact with both ends of the circuit, which is erroneous, as death has resulted in many instances from merely touching an electric-light wire, or another wire which is in contact with an electric light wire."

A night or two ago the writer saw two men pulling at the end of a broken telephone wire on Broadway, and as it lay across an electric light wire he cautioned them to desist; they sneered at this suggestion; but finally one of them put on a glove and resumed pulling and jerking. Within three minutes thereafter he lay stunned on the sidewalk. He had worn the coating off and but for his glove would probably have been killed.

Speaking of the horrors of Bavispe in Arizona, a recent visitor says: It is not an easy task to depict their sufferings. Imagine a hill covered with snow and dotted with over a hundred huts, in which, on account of their inflammability, no fires are burned. In them are upwards of 150 men, women and children, buried in hay with old rags covering their shivering bodies. Like so many rats emerging from their holes, pour out the cotton and calico-clothed, barefooted people, expecting to see the earth yawn and swallow their hill. For hours they stand without their hats with the thermometer at zero, lest more shocks will come. Some days the recurring tremblings would not be experienced, but so sure as a day elapsed without them, the following day a succession of the shocks, so strong in their nature as to make standing impossible, would follow. While there have been no new rifts opened in the earth by them, heavy boulders have been displaced from the mountains and rolled thundering to the valleys. To this horror add a small band of murdering Apaches and you will have some idea of the condition of affairs at Bavispe. It is the opinion of many that the earthquakes will continue at Bavispe until a volcano breaks forth. A gentleman who has made a study of volcanoes and their origin in Central America is pronounced in the opinion that it will not be long before one of the mountains in that vicinity will be vomiting fire.

How Miss Kellog Was Won.—Speaking of actors and the craft generally, reminds one of the romance of Miss Kellogg's marriage to her manager. It seems that it is an old affair, and that the lady would have consented long before, but that she is like St. Theresa, of Spain, in that she hates to be asked "Why?" To avoid the queries of friends she therefore put herself in the position that no one could question her. It seems that her mind was made up one evening last summer when rowing on a lake in Western New York. A storm came up and the boat overturned, but the bold Strakosh was near, leaped into the water and rescued her, let us hazard, as she was going down for the third time. He is of German extraction, and said to be about 25 or 20.—*Hartford Courant.*

A California farmer at Pasadena cut open a pumpkin to feed his cow the other day, and found within a nice little pumpkin vine growing. One of the seeds had sprouted inside of the nice her pumpkin.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post Office at Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 7th, 1888, which if not called for within one month, will be sent to the Dead Letter Office at Washington, D. C.:

LADIES' LIST.

Ames Miss Lottie	Jones Mrs Alice
Anakin Miss A	Knight Eliza J
Bell Miss Mary	Louis Miss N
Brough Mabel	Lewis Miss Vady
Burgess Mrs J F	Lowry Mrs Bird
Benson Miss E	Luce Mrs Annie
Beckman Mrs C	McMasters Miss R
Bassler Belle J	Mallory Lida
Cope Nelly	Martin Mary J
Cook Miss M E	Morrison Miss H
Cook Mrs Lydia	Monson Miss H M
Clark Miss Hattie	Mosher Miss E
Chase Elizabeth	Mann Mrs Addie
Conrad Miss A	Montgomery Miss B
Cures Miss B	Ottman Miss L
Dykens Rhoda	Olsson Miss S
Davis Mrs Fannie	Phelps Sarah B
Dawless Miss C	Parker Susan
French Mrs L D	Peters Miss C
Fyson Mrs H	Partington Miss F
Gardner Mrs S	Smith Miss C W S
Gatewood Louisa	Sullivan Mrs J
Gray Mrs Jno	Schreck Catherine
Gunn Mrs H B	Stuart Mrs C
Gray Mrs Henry	Schwartz Mrs A
Griffin Mrs D M	Thorup Mrs M C
Getz Carrie	Triver Maria W
Giesy Miss Annie	Wetzel Mrs L
Grenert Miss B	Woodward Miss L R
Hicks Miss M J	
Halmberg Miss L	Wilson Miss C
Hinckley Mrs U N	Whitehead Miss A M
Holmer Miss A	Zeender Mrs M
Jones Mrs W D	

GENTLEMEN'S LIST.

Adams Wm	Melarn Jas S
Anderson Jno B	McKean Wm
Akert Hans	Munson L
Avers A A	Mackay Jos
Brown Jas S	Mablateer G
Brennan F F	Merritt Carlos
Berrson Richard	Maher C R
Bonks M W	Maccondray & Co
Bush Joe	Nielsen J J
Brough Jno H	Noyce W
Bennett H	Nebeker W G
Brunner Herman	Olsson J F
Blair A	Olsen Paul
Bush F L	Peterson Wm
Barnum Chas D	Palmer Wm
Braiu D G	Perrson Niels
Berndt Benj	Platts Orson
Cline Wm H	Parish Hyrum B
Chasan Pat	Pincombe Alf
Cornill Osmond C	Prudence A H C
Cartz Jno	Roberts Walter
Clark J H	Rance S J
Chapple Geo	Rice Jos C
Crawford A	Robertson Jas
Coonrod A E	Rash H
Couley Alvey	Reirs C G
Daniels L A	Smith Chas
Delemaine C E & Co	Sigman W H 2
Dunlill Dr C H	Southard T A
Davidson B E	Snider Pietro
Elvin R M	Stingham Jno A
Ercsarack Jno	Selander J
Edwards Geo E	Stevenson E L
Frisbee M P	Schrope Chas W
Farren J	Spiz Dave & Bro
Gelton Jno F	Sprague Dr C A
Golding C D	Thord Mr
Heynan M	Taylor Geo F
Holden N J	Thompson A
Horpberger T M	Taylor Francis
Hurst J M	Unsworth Mr
Harris Geo W	Vail Mr
Hawkins Chas	Warren Martin
Horne & Stewart	Williams Miles L
Juest Joseph	Woodward Jos
Jorgensen J C	Walsh John
Johnson C J	Wilbur Geo W
Jensen Anton	Watson H
Knapp Orson 2	Wilson E J
Keating Jno	Woodruff Enslop
Kadlatson Jno	Williams David R
Lens W J	Woodruff Ashael
Lynch J E	Webner Adolf

To obtain any of these letters the applicant must call for "Advertised Letters," and give the date of the list.

THE ARBEITER KOLONIE.

For several years a movement has been progressing in Germany to solve logically the problem of dealing with the unemployed, independently of alms-giving and charities. Though little has been reported of the societies having the work in charge, there have been very satisfactory results attained in the past three years, and the success of the Arbeiter Kolonie, of Berlin, the most important colony, has been of a character to recommend the plan to all large cities of Europe and of the United States as well. How to deal with men out of work without making them a charge upon the county is a question for most serious consideration; yet it has never been squarely met nor studiously investigated. Any one who will take the trouble to look into the labor and aid statistics of a large city, even in bounteous America, will be astonished at the large percentage of persons capable of doing work who are, nevertheless, objects of common charity, or are on the dependent rolls of the country. The condition is proportionately worse in many European countries, but Germany is the only country in which has been undertaken a practical plan of dealing with the idle classes that are willing to work but are unable to find employment. The colonies referred to, of which that of Berlin is the fittest example, were organized "to employ industrious and unemployed men of all conceptions and classes, so far as they are really capable of work, in agrarian and other labor until it is possible to procure them remunerative work elsewhere and to help them to quit the life of itinerants, and also to remove the excuse of lazy vagabonds that they have no work." The Berlin colony was founded in 1883. It has a plot of land several acres in extent, on which fruits, flowers and vegetables are cultivated, and several shops, besides lodging and eating apartments, where various trades and general work may be engaged in. An investment of more than 85,000 marks is represented. Besides the garden and fruit culture the occupations are straw-plaiting, carpentering, shoemaking and copying, and all kinds and conditions of workmen are represented, including tradesmen, clerks and writers, apothecaries, engineers, teachers, servants, &c. There are three systems of employing colonists—work on the premises on behalf of the institution; work on the premises for outside parties who furnish their own tools and raw material, and work on the outside under special agreement.

The cost of keep is six shillings and one-halfpenny a day, but all earned in excess of this goes to the credit of the workman who receives his surplus earnings on quitting the institution. Some, of course, do not earn their keep, and the colony is not reimbursed for excess of expenditure on their behalf. The proportion of these is not large. The two objects of the colony, to do away with begging and indiscriminate alms giving, and to give the honest unemployed a chance to work till better employment can be secured for them, are doubly encouraged by the public. That is to say, the householder gives to the beggar at his door a ticket entitling him to admission to the colony, where work may be had, and general employers give preference to the applications of the colony. So well has the plan worked that, despite its comparative newness in the reformatory field, the Berlin colony has received 595 colonists, all of whom were relieved from pressing want and most of whom were helped to settled employment at their own trades. Small as these figures are in themselves, they are large when taken into account with the fact that there is less mendicancy in Berlin than in any other great city in the world. Indeed, Germany is exceptionally free from beggars. Moreover the colonies are only for those who can and will work, but are unable to find employment. We hardly need moralize on the good results possible to be accomplished by an institution that steps in between unemployed workmen and beggary or starvation or the crimes of desperation. Nor need it be urged that there are few better ways for the utility of practical philanthropy. The moral influences of such a movement are incalculable, and the material good to be accomplished not inconsiderable. An institution of the kind could soon be made self-supporting; or if it were not, the indiscriminate charities now so liberally dispensed could be turned wisely to its maintenance. The existing labor unions that are now trying to solve the labor problem by limiting the hours of work and equalizing the prices of labor would evince more wisdom by heeding their energies and applying their resources to the establishment of colonies that should harbor surplus labor until such time as the demand should equal the supply. The institution of such colonies by workingmen would place the just equalization of labor within their own hands and enable them to control the market without injury to the employing classes and without hardship to the workmen, who are now very often the helpless victims of reform movements by the orders they have made masters over them.—*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

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NOTICE.

THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE YOUNG Men's Co-operative Company of this city, will hold their Annual Meeting at 373 South, Fifth East Street, at residence of O. H. Pettit, on Monday, January 9th, 1888. d3t L. O. TAFT, Sec'y.

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CURRENT TIME TABLE.

East Bound Trains.

	No. 8.	No. 10.
Ogden.....Lv.	6:30 a. m.	8:45 p. m.
Salt Lake City...Lv.	10:50 a. m.	10:10 p. m.
Denver.....Arr.	8:45 p. m.	7:10 a. m.
Chicago.....Arr.	8:00 a. m.	6:55 a. m.

West Bound Trains.

	No. 7.	No. 9.
Salt Lake City...Lv.	8:55 p. m.	7:30 a. m.
Ogden.....Arr.	7:15 p. m.	9:10 a. m.
San Francisco...Arr.	8:10 a. m.	10:40 a. m.

Bingham and Wasatch Trains.

Leave Salt Lake City, 7:45 a. m. Returning, arrive Salt Lake City, 4:30 p. m.

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