

ADVANTAGES OF THE SILENT PIANO

to keep up his practice and Liszt himself said to use one as skilfully. The object of substituting a silent instrument, which is said to be growing in favor with musicians, is to subordinate the sense of hearing in practice and to protect the player from the nervous strain produced by the use of that sense, at the same time that the senses of sight and touch are employed. A skilled musician said recently to a reporter of the New York *Sun* that the exhaustion from practicing upon a piano was greater than most persons imagined. He doubted whether

practice at the afternoon. He favored the use of a piano that made no noise. He had heard a physician say that the nervous headaches of young women in musical conservatories were largely due to the din of practice, and it was often thought that this noise impaired the musical sense. The mute piano makes the performer depend upon his eyes and his touch, and enforces more attention to the score, so that he will be able to get a notion of the music upon sight-reading. — *New Orleans Times-Democrat*

well-attested instances of the toadstool-like growth of solid masses of stone, referring to the particular case of discovery in 1834, of a man working in a flint-pit, and having a large piece of flint. The strength of the evidence thus presented is so great, that I need only insist that it is unwise to doubt the truth of the facts, and that it is impossible, although none of the reported cases are quite beyond the reach of fraud. To explain the occurrence of the cases, it is necessary to suppose that the creatures have existed in their close prison during the unnumbered years in which the plastic material has been hardened into stone. This is a somewhat prolonged confinement, as was shown by Scudine, who, in 1822, enclosed a toad in a plaster covering

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