

MATTERS MUSICAL

A Sketch of the Hambourgs

By DONALD SINCLAIR

OF course, you have heard of the Hambourg family if you take any interest in music. Mark Hambourg is a name very familiar to a host of people who never have the price to hear him perform when he takes a long jump from New York for a flying Canadian tour. The brothers of the famous Mark—Jan, the violinist, and Boris, the 'cellist—are almost equally celebrated, but not known so well to Canadians, for the concert managers have not booked them in Canada.

Down in Toronto musical people are discussing the Hambourgs just now, for lately the family of Hambourg has moved to Toronto. No, none of the members have contemplated a plunge into trade. They are evincing an active interest in the musical life of the city. Professor Michael Hambourg, father of Mark, Jan and Boris, and Mr. Jan Hambourg have opened a musical studio—piano or violin lessons six dollars an hour.

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Jan Hambourg to me the other day. "People are wondering why we came to this country. Really, there's no mystery in the matter." He smiled. "Why does anyone come to Canada?—opportunity. We wish to have a share in the growing and wonderfully promising aesthetic life of the Dominion. Yes, we have studied this Canada."

And he instanced as proof that his brother, Mark, had played in over forty Canadian towns on his last tour; ever for the land-hungry in the mushroom hamlets of the prairie.

"He was feeling the pulse of the country, that's all. Mark reported well of Canada; he advised us to come and locate in Toronto, which, in his opinion, was fast becoming the leading musical centre in America. We also considered that my younger brother and sisters would have a much better chance here than in London. They were crazy to come—and Canada is the place for young life. isn't it?"

The Hambourgs are living in a large apartment house. Just at present, Mrs. Hambourg, and her two daughters, charming girls of nineteen and eighteen years—Miss Luba and Miss Mania—are busy forming impressions of the Dominion and trying to discover what's what here.

"Is it home life or society that Canadian women go in for—oh, how are the suffragettes in Canada?" said Miss Mania to me the other day in delightful impetuosity.

Clement Hambourg, aged ten, is an interesting youngster. He looks like

Mark, plays the piano, also chess, wants to be a detective—against his father's wishes; but is quite optimistic these days at a public school, where he is being instructed in the ideals of Canadian citizenship.

You would expect the father of three world-great musicians to be a man out of the ordinary. So is Professor Michael Hambourg. The suggestion of old world distinction impresses you immediately when you glance at the tall old gentleman—the long silken waves of his hair falling down to the shoulders.

Professor Hambourg was born at Yaroslav, Russia, in 1855. Early he showed marked aptitude for intellectual pursuits. He loved music; political handicaps restrain the free, full expression of the Muscovite soul in most of the arts but that of song. The two Rubinstein, Tchaikovsky were some of the

masters who guided his youthful talents. For years he occupied chairs in the first conservatories of Europe—his most brilliant pupil being his son Mark, whom in 1890, a prodigy of nine years he brought to London. Mark made a fortune and a great name. His two younger brothers, Jan and Boris, followed close in his footsteps.

Jan Hambourg, now of Toronto, is a versatile and charming young man—not yet thirty. He speaks four languages, knows the literatures of England, France, Russia, and Germany—not as well as his violin, however. Ysaye, head of the French school of violin playing, recognizes in him its foremost exponent.

Altogether, the advent of the Hambourgs is of considerable significance to music lovers in this country. Will other European masters follow their example and migrate to Canada? The "average" father and his "promising" daughter confronted with the post-graduate problem would welcome the invasion.

THE Toronto Symphony Orchestra concerts promise as much of a feast in harmony and solo attractions as they have given in former seasons. The ever-welcome Madame Gadski is to appear at the opening concert. This local organization has done such excellent work already that the highest results are anticipated.

AN event of considerable interest to Canadian music-lovers took place recently, when Miss Jean Nesbitt, a gifted pupil of Tschetitzky, and a native of Toronto, made her first London appearance in a pianoforte recital at Bechstein Hall. Miss Nesbitt, if she fulfils the promise displayed in her performance, will undoubtedly find herself in the illustrious company of great pianists, including Paderewski, Hambourg, Sabrilowitsch and Essipoff, already launched from the school of the famous Vienna master. She is possessed of an adequate technique which has all the brilliance which is the hall mark of pupils of Tschetitzky, with little of the hardness which they sometimes display.



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