

LISZT'S LAST WISH.—It was Liszt's last wish to be buried beside Wagner in Bayreuth. Wagner's grave is in the garden of the villa "Wahnfried," a beautiful, quiet spot, shaded by dark evergreens. Unfortunately, for some reason, the city could not grant Liszt's request.

At a recent sale at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's an A. Stradivarius violin (1712) fetched £120 and one by Guarnerius (1738,) £110, while another, also by Guarnerius (1732), went for £160. A violoncello by Guarnerius (1712) was sold for £100, a couple of Boehm flutes, in solid silver, by Messrs. Rudall, Carter, were knocked down for the very low sums of £11 and £9 respectively. One of these flutes was an extra long one (extended down to G) and capable of emitting a lovely full tone in low notes, even like the French horn. Upon making inquiry at the manufacturers' we were surprised to ascertain that even such special flutes as here described are kept in stock at Borne-st.—*Musical Opinion.*

SARASATE.—If for once a proverb is not applicable, it is that of "No one is a prophet in his own country" in regard to the great Spanish violinist, Sarasate. Whenever he appears in his native town, Pamplona, in Spain, the whole city turns out. Annually he goes there and gives four concerts for the benefit of the poor, and is made much of in return. The inhabitants of the city, with the employees of the Government at their head, receive their beloved Sarasate at the railway station; processions with torchlights and music pass through the town; illuminations adorn the principal buildings, and before Sarasate's hotel the open square becomes a dining hall, where thousands of couples pass the whole night dancing, singing, and rejoicing at the presence of their famous townsman.—*American Musician.*

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

Grace is to the body what good sense is to the mind. —Rochefoucauld.

The smallest act of charity shall stand us in great stead.—Atterbury.

Nothing that is self-evident can be proper subject of examination.—Southey.

Falseness and fraud shoot up in every soil, the product of all climes.—Addison.

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.—Colton.

Actions, looks, words, steps, form the alphabet by which you spell characters.—Lavater.

Thou true magnetic pole, to which all hearts point duly north, like trembling needles! —Byron.

Agitation is the method that plants the school by the side of the ballot-box.—Wendell Phillips.

The troubles of age were intended to wean us gradually from our fondness of life, the nearer we approach the end.—Swift.

The infinitely greatest confessed good is neglected to satisfy the excessive uneasiness of our desires pursuing trifles.—Locke.

He that doth a base thing in zeal for his friend, burns the golden thread that tied their hearts together.—Jeremy Taylor.

So our lives glide on; the river ends we don't know where, and the sea begins, and then there is no more jumping ashore.—George Eliot.

The scholar without good breeding is a pedant, the philosopher a cynic; the soldier a brute, and every man disagreeable.—Chesterfield.

We praise the dramatic poet who possesses the art of drawing tears—a talent which he has in common with the meanest onion.—Heinrich Heine.

Number itself importeth not much in armies where the people are of weak courage, for, as Virgil says, it never troubles a wolf how many the sheep be.—Lord Bacon.

There is but one law for all, namely, that law which governs all law, the law of our Creator, the law of humanity, justice, equity—the law of nature and of nations.—Burke.

The accusations of conscience evidence the omniscience and holiness of God, the terror of conscience, the justice of God, the approbation of conscience, the goodness of God.—Charnock.

If the search for riches were sure to be successful, though I should become a groom with a whip in my hand to get them, I will do so. As the search may not be successful, I will follow after that which I love.—Confucius.

COMMERCIAL.

No material variation has been observable in the general course of trade during the past week. A fairly active and satisfactory movement has continued in most of the staple lines. As a rule, prices have remained steady; and as there have been no fluctuations, business has been done on a steady basis.

Figures are curious things to manipulate sometimes. For instance, we note that some of the Opposition papers are showing that the official returns for the fiscal quarter and year ending on the 30th of June last show the "balance of trade" to be woefully against Canada. That is, that in that period, we imported and paid duties on more goods than we exported. Looking merely at the surface, this appears to be quite true, but the fact is, that, as every one knows, the changes in the tariff which were made to go into effect after the 30th June caused immense quantities of goods to be hurried forward, entered as for consumption, and duties paid on them before that date. Also, that large quantities of spirits paid the internal revenue taxes at the same time, to avoid the new regulations respecting warehousing, which went into effect on the 1st of July. It would be as reasonable to

argue that the consumption of intoxicants was suddenly, mysteriously, and enormously increased at once, and to assert that in the last week in June more liquor was drunk than in the whole of any previous year.

One of the most important local events of the week, has been the trouble of the contractor for the building of the new city hall. It has not as yet been officially stated how grave the disaster is, but the immediate effect that concerns the citizens is, that the work on the new building will be retarded. This event will afford the Board of Works an opportunity to blunder, if they are not very careful. The contractor was under bonds to complete the work within a certain time, and his sureties should be held to the terms of their bonds. At all events, no action or inaction on the part of the city should give them a loophole for escape.

We note that his honor the Recorder has been instructed by the City Council to urge on the Department of Agriculture the claims of this city to have the Dominion Exhibition of 1888 held in Halifax. We trust he may succeed. Speaking of exhibitions, leads us to remark that the plan of holding an annual county fair is a palpable failure for many reasons. It would be better for the Government to save the money thus frittered away, and to have Provincial Exhibitions held at stated intervals, say once in every four years. If this should be done, prizes could be offered that would be worth competing for, and competitors and the public would stand a chance of learning something which they cannot do under the present system.

Civic affairs are coming to a pretty pass in many things. The City Assessor declines to furnish the License Inspector with lists of the parties who are entitled to sign petitions for licenses unless he is paid extra for doing so. The City Council should here interfere and compel the Assessor to do all the duty for which he receives his salary. The City Health Inspectors are not properly backed up by their official superiors in their efforts to compel nuisances to be abated where the offenders are men of wealth and standing in the community. A certain lawyer has made it his business of late to hunt up women who have been so unfortunate as to bear children without previously going through the legal forms prescribed, and inducing them to go to the Poor House for a few days, so that they and their illegitimate offspring may become chargeable upon the city. He then, in the name of the Board of Charities, prosecutes (or persecutes) the alleged father, and generally makes him a charge on the city, by lodging him in jail for six months. This he does with the (perhaps innocent) connivance of the Board of Charities. His object is, of course, to get fees from some one, but we are pleased to note that some of the Aldermen have had their attention directed to the matter, and they declare that they will not vote the money to pay such bills. It is to be hoped that this species of black-mailing will be at once effectually stopped.

The following are the business changes in this Province during the past week:—Brennan & Brown, painters, Picton, dissolved; W. J. Holley, clothing, Halifax, succeeded by R. B. Elliot.

OUR COOPS.—The weather has been too fine to favor an active movement in heavy textile fabrics as yet. Money comes in slowly, because farmers show no haste in disposing of the results of their last season's work. Still a fair amount of business is doing in this line, though it is chiefly of the sorting-up order. The Manchester, England, *Guardian* says:—"The market is quiet throughout. The inaction of buyers continues. For the present the larger wants of the distributing markets are fully satisfied. Prices, however, are firm. Some sellers are supported by the strength of their position, having sold as much as they care to sell at present. Others are confident that before they actually need them they will be able to command orders at or near current rates. They are conscious of the difficulty of raising prices. Experience has taught sellers and buyers to disregard the movement of the cotton market as a factor in determining prices. There is a moderate demand for some spinnings and export yarns from several eastern markets and Egypt, but, on the whole, the transactions are not large. Purchases by home manufactures are limited. Cloth is inactive. There is little enquiry for India and China staples. The demand from Calcutta is especially slack. Prints and other finishing goods are steady. There is little doing for India. Fine and fancy goods are almost neglected. Heavy goods are quiet, with a moderate demand."

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—A very good local trade has been done in iron and hardware, and a fair amount of business has been accomplished for forward delivery. Buyers hold the advantage owing to good supplies, but prices have been nominally steady. Warrants are cabled at 40s. 6d., which is a decline. London cables are:—"Tin, spot, £105 16s.; three month's futures, £105. Market firm. G. o. b. Chili bars, £39 15s.; soft Spanish lead, £11 17s. 6d.; do English do, £12 2s. 6d.; best selected copper, £45 5s.; tin plates, 13s." At Pittsburg, Pa., the entire iron market is reported strong. Manufactured iron is in good demand, and all the mills throughout Pennsylvania and the West are crowded with orders. The entire production of the mills will be absorbed to the end of the year. Nails are in fair demand at \$2. Merchant steel is not so active, although there is no change in price. Wrought iron pipe manufacturers have booked heavy orders during the past few days. Steel rails are dull at \$38, at their works. Blooms and billets are at \$32 50. The entire outlook is encouraging.

BREADSTUFFS.—The flour market has been steady and fairly active, with a satisfactory trade in grades below superior, including extra, fancy and spring extra. Low grades were slow. Beerbohm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast, wheat and corn nothing offering. Cargoes on passage and for shipment, wheat slow, corn quiet. French country markets dull. Liverpool standard, California wheat, including club whites, 6s to 6s. 3d. Wheat and flour in Paris, quiet. Mark Lane, English and Foreign wheat quiet, American and Danubian maize steady; English and American flour quiet." The Chicago grain option markets were weaker, and fractionally lower.