

53. His  
chant in  
ndon, and  
l, Totten-  
mother of  
vert, and a  
erick, the  
ir George  
retary of  
England,  
the foun-  
he United  
eated Earl  
s mother's  
hat strong  
ty for pub-  
ch a strik-  
er. There  
this branch  
afterwards  
England by  
d later on,  
ne of the  
eyanizing a  
law. Mr.  
as received  
man of the  
fter which  
of Lon-  
he wish of  
d enter the  
do so, and,  
responsibility  
firm of so-  
ondon A  
ag his ma-  
for British  
n Victoria,  
June, 1877.  
he devoted  
the study of  
30th day of  
mitted as a  
the bar the  
successfully  
examination.  
me has been  
In 1883 he  
c notary for  
same year  
of the Court  
al under the  
Act. This  
er since, dis-  
that respon-  
satisfaction  
r to himself.  
r, 1876, Mr.

Mills was united in marriage to Matilda, the sixth daughter of Henry Donald, Esq., of Highbury Crescent, London. Four children was the result of this union, the youngest of whom bears the name of Leonard Calvert Mills, after Leonard Calvert, who was the first Governor of Maryland. As a barrister, Mr. Mills stands at the head of the profession in Canada. He is one of the most convincing and eloquent orators that ever addressed a jury. Whenever it is known that he is to plead before a court, a crowded room is sure to result. His grasp of all legal matters is thorough, and his knowledge of human nature, of which he is a close student, aids him not a little in his practice. Mr. Mills has made a special study of divorce, criminal and sheriff's law, and his almost unbroken record of successes in these lines attest his thorough mastery of legal knowledge. He is at present devoting himself to the especial study of constitutional questions that must eventually arise under the B. N. A. Act. Mr. Mills is a widely read man, a brilliant conversationalist, and, with all, a thorough gentleman. He is affable and courteous to all, and, although like all men of superior mental development, rather reserved, he has a large circle of warm personal friends, one of whom said to the writer a short time ago, "it is impossible to know him and not love him. Mr. Mills is generally a very quiet, but independent, man to those who do not know him, but is brimful of good humor and fun to those who know him well." The Seabird marder case, tried at Nanaimo, proved him to be one of the finest cross-examiners at the Bar in the Province. He was highly complimented by the presiding judge. In his able and successful defence of Mrs. Rutledge, charged with murder, he was highly commended by all parties; both his addresses were openly and loudly applauded in the Court. One of his latest successes is the Greer case. It is believed that Mr. Mills will in the not distant future enter politics.

### MUSIC.

THE social importance of the piano is, beyond question, far greater than that of any other musical instrument. "One of the most marked changes in the habits of society," writes Thalberg in his valuable study, "as civilization advances, is with respect to the character of its amusements."

Formerly, nearly all such amusements were away from home and in public; now, with the more educated portion of society, the greater part is at home and within the family circle, music on the piano contributing the principal portion of it. In the more fashionable circles of society, private concerts increase year by year, and in them the piano is the principal feature. Many a man engaged in commercial and other active pursuits, finds the chief charm of his drawing-room in the intellectual enjoyment offered by the piano. In many parts of Europe, the piano is the greatest solace of the studious and solitary. By the use of the piano, many who never visit the opera or concerts become thoroughly acquainted with the choicest dramatic and orchestral compositions.

It may here be suggested that the most wearisome as also the most worthless kind of practice is that gone through by the children who are without talent or even inclination for music. "When," said a little girl of this species to her mother, "when, mamma, shall I play well enough not to have to play any more?" But a genuine taste for the piano is increasing more rapidly than the population; and one can already see a time when, in all well-appointed houses, it will be thought necessary to have in the drawing-room not one, but two pianos; for how otherwise are some of the finest piano duets to be played?

Mr. Gladstone declared some years ago in one of his ingenious speeches that the invention of the

violin was as much a work of genius as that of the steam engine. The contrast between the two things invented was more striking when, in opposition to a heavy and formidable locomotive, the harmless and portable violin was put; but the piano, regard being had for the complexity of its construction, the wideness of its utility and the powerfulness of its effect, is a much more wonderful piece of mechanism than the violin. The piano, too, possesses in common with the steam engine, this noticeable particularity, that people are by no means agreed as to who invented it.

Italy, Germany and France claim equally, the honor of having invented the piano, and it is now generally assigned to Bartolomeo Cristoforo, sometimes called Christofali, a native of Padua, who perfected his discovery, according to some authorities, in 1711.

The Germans, on their side, assert the piano was invented in the year 1717 by C. A. Ahxeter, a German organist, to be afterwards improved by Silbermann Stein and others.

The great Mozart, however, seems to have taken kindly to the piano almost from the first; and in 1711, when it is true the piano had already been some years before the world, he wrote from Augesburg to his father a letter in which he expressed particular admiration for the pianos manufactured by a maker named Stein of that city, who with Spachth, of Ratisbon, was the best maker of the day in Germany. "Stein," writes Mozart, "does not sell his pianos for less than 300 florins. That is a good deal of money, but the labor and zeal which his work represents cannot be paid too highly. Many years later, in 1763, poor Schroeter published a long letter asserting his claim to the invention which was now being represented in Germany as the work of various manufacturers.

FRANK BOURNE.