

## IV.

## OF PRACTISING STUDIES AND PIECES.

DON'T begin your practice at too rapid a *tempo*. At the first reading sixteenth notes should be played at the speed of quarter notes, *andante*; other notes accordingly. This is very important.

DON'T stumble or hesitate, even at a first reading. If you do, you may be quite sure that you are practising too fast. Take it at a slower *tempo*.

DON'T begin twice. Look at the piece carefully, and begin with the firm resolve that you will not stop, no matter what happens.

DON'T play out of time. You should be able to count aloud regularly throughout the piece, giving the proper length to each note. Counting aloud is the best way to acquire correct ideas of time. Schumann says :—" Play in time ! The playing of many *virtuosi* is like the gait of a drunkard !"

DON'T play where rests are marked. You might as well try to walk on water.

DON'T repeat a piece over and over, like a machine wound up to go for ever. Seek carefully for the