



CHICAGO, January 11, 1896.

LEOPOLD GODOWSKY has demonstrated that he is an artist of high rank. He had many difficulties to overcome, but he played well a program which opened with the prelude and fugue by Bach-Liszt. Bristling with difficulties, Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Paganini he surmounted with perfect ease, but Chopin is the composer with whom Godowsky is most in sympathy, and he gave an especially interesting interpretation of the third scherzo (C sharp minor), which evinced his thorough understanding of the art of phrasing and also his knowledge of the meaning of legato. The tremendously difficult A flat polonaise, op. 53, was played superbly, also the same composer's valse in D flat, arranged in double thirds by Moritz Rosenthal. It requires grand technic and perfect command, consequently few pianists attempt it. Mr. Godowsky plays double thirds splendidly, but still Chopin doctored loses much of the wonderful charm, even though there be an evanescent effect gained. In addition to the foregoing the program included Schumann's Sonata, op. 11 (F sharp minor), and Liszt's Waldesrauschen and the same master's Tannhauser Fantaisie.

The question usually asked about an artist is, "With whom did he study?" Regarding Leopold Godowsky, the question is in the inverse ratio and would be, "Who will be fortunate enough to study with him?" Favored, indeed, are those who obtain the benefit of his tuition; and the Chicago Conservatory is to be congratulated upon having secured his exclusive services. Under the auspices of the conservatory's directorate Mr. Godowsky is now giving a series of eight recitals, to which the students have the advantages of being admitted free, and the general public can attend for the small sum of fifty cents. The general public fails to grasp the opportunity, however, as it invariably follows the press, and Godowsky being now a local artist but scant attention is paid him by the newspapers. The great dailies ostensibly labor for advancement and enlightenment in musical as in other matters; but here is a great artist dwelling with us who, because peculiarly deficient in the art of self-advertisement, and lacking the preliminary puff, is allowed to be passed over with merely a slight reference to his achievements, or is given a five-line notice tinged with that faint praise which in his case happily cannot damn. The future possibilities of Leopold Godowsky are great, and time alone can show if he will be content to remain only a local artist. His is the music which refines and leads to higher ideals, and his artistic work is productive of genuine delight.
