

WILLIAM STEINWAY HOME.

INTERVIEWED BY OUR REPRESENTATIVE—HE CHATS FREELY ABOUT HIS TRIP ABROAD— HIS VISIT TO THE EMPEROR OF GER- MANY—MR. MORRIS STEINERT— MR. STEINWAY MEETS RUBIN- STEIN—REMARKS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION —HE IS A PRO- TECTIONIST. A GERMAN MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION—HIS VOYAGE HOME.

PUBLIC eminence and success bring with them considerable responsibility and annoyance. Mr. Wm. Steinway, however, while his position as a public man, and as the head of the eminent house of Steinway & Sons, involves him in no little care and worry, is fortunate in being so much respected and so popular that he finds in the latter a counterpoise and compensation for the former. Ever since Mr. Steinway's return from Europe, on Saturday last, he has been besieged by callers of every description. His patience has been sorely tried. That is, meanwhile, the price of popularity, but it evidently agrees with Mr. Steinway, for he looked extremely vigorous and well when I called upon him on Tuesday afternoon, with the compliments of THE MUSIC TRADE REVIEW. Mr. Steinway's ruddy and healthy appearance is not owing to the effect of the sea voyage, for the passage over was a very rough one, but to a naturally robust and well-balanced organization, refreshed and strengthened by rest and the salutary hygienic treatment of the German Medical Springs.

After congratulating the eminent principal of Steinway & Sons upon his return home and on his general appearance, I was favored with a conversation—an informal sort of interview—upon various events relating to his trip.

In reply to a query bearing upon his recent audience with the Emperor and Empress of Germany, a brief account of which has already appeared in these columns, Mr. Steinway remarked that the Emperor was most friendly in his references to the United States. He also appeared most interested in the success of the World's Fair. Mr. Steinway took pains to give the German crowned head an idea of the modern improvements in transatlantic travel, and of the conveniences and luxuries which American railroads afford to visitors, while assuring him of a hearty welcome. Though the Emperor could not positively promise to honor the United States with a visit, the chances in favor of his coming have been strengthened very materially through Mr. Steinway's representations. Mr. Steinway speaks in the warmest way of the cordiality of the German ruler, and of the Empress, whom he describes as a lady with a most gracious manner.

"How did you find German feeling in relation to the World's Fair? Do you think Germany will participate to any extent?" were asked.

"Germany will make a great showing," Mr. Steinway promptly replied.

Referring to Mr. Steinert's success at Vienna with his valuable musical instrument collection, Mr. Steinway expressed much pleasure at the recognition accorded his friend in literary, art and musical circles. Personally, he had not seen Mr. Steinert in Europe, but had corresponded with him frequently.

I ascertained, incidentally, from Mr. Steinway, that he met Rubinstein in Berlin. The great virtuoso is still in the enjoyment of per-

fect health and of those rare faculties which have won for him the distinguished place his name occupies in the roll of musical genius. Though cherishing grateful feelings for America, where he achieved so many notable triumphs in the past, he will never again cross the ocean. No managerial or speculative offers could induce him to face the tortures he always found inseparable from an ocean voyage. Even crossing the English channel, a matter of a few hours, is equally a torture to Rubinstein.

Mr. Steinway also saw young Otto Hegner. Rubinstein holds a very high opinion both of Hegner and Josef Hoffman, and believes these youthful pianists have a brilliant future ahead, if not spoiled by indiscreet flattery and want of direction and control.

"What do you think of the political situation at home, Mr. Steinway?" was ventured.

There was a slight pause. Presently the head of Steinway & Sons looked at the questioner with his remarkably penetrating eyes, and said indirectly:

"Both of the presidential candidates are eminently qualified for the office aspired to. I, however, believe that Cleveland will be elected. Everything points that way."

"You are recognized as a very prominent Democrat"—I paused. Mr. Steinway anticipated a reference to the democratic tariff plank, and remarked with some emphasis:

"Yes, but I am a protectionist, although I do not believe in the necessity of the McKinley tariff."

"Grover Cleveland is one of my oldest friends," said Mr. Steinway later on. "We made each other's acquaintance at a singing festival in Buffalo back in 1856, and our acquaintance grew into a friendship which has never ceased. At the time we first met I little thought that the promising lawyer would rise to the great position he has since occupied with such admirable dignity and distinction."

I am indebted to Mr. Steinway for the following important piece of trade news:

The German piano makers are taking steps to organize themselves on the lines of the American Piano and Organ Manufacturers Association. A meeting was to have taken place on September 13, at Leipzig, but the cholera scare interfered with this preliminary. The postponed meeting will be held toward the end of this month, however, when the idea will take definite shape. The manufacturers in Germany, Mr. Steinway remarked, have heard of the success of the American body and are anxious to combine with the same objects in view. The laws of their empire are, so far as they aim to protect inventors and originators of new ideas, rather lax and lacking in stringency. To remedy this condition of things will be one object of the German organization. Meanwhile there are a hundred advantages to be gained through combination and disciplined action in all things pertaining to their mutual good.

Regarding the London branch establishment, which I had the pleasure of writing up a short while ago, Mr. Steinway expressed perfect satisfaction with the state of things over there. I mentioned the name of Mr. A. J. Hipkins, of Broadwood & Sons, and ascertained that Mr. Steinway called on that gentleman while in the English metropolis. The presiding genius of Steinway & Sons and Mr. Hipkins are excellent friends and mutual admirers. Mr. Hipkins speaks of Mr. Steinway in the warmest terms of esteem and vice versa. It is, indeed, a pleasure to note the prevalence of such good feeling. Of

the house of Broadwood Mr. Steinway expressed himself in an equally friendly spirit to the writer during the progress of this interview.

Though the voyage over was an unusually stormy one, Mr. Steinway was not incapacitated by Neptune from presiding at the entertainment given on board the *Fuerst Bismarck* on the evening previous to coming into port. From an account given by one of the passengers to the press, it may be gleaned that he directed the events of the concert with characteristic tact and grace, and threw himself into the spirit of the occasion so unaffectedly that he sang a humorous song. At the conclusion of the entertainment Captain Albers was tendered a flattering compliment by the passengers in a set of resolutions signed by Mr. Steinway, chairman, and several other notables on board, among whom were ex-Postmaster General James and ex-Judge Dittenhoefer, of New York. Captain Albers, however, received a more lasting and practical compliment in the shape of an order for a Steinway upright piano, one of the best styles, as a tribute to his two musical daughters.

To Gilmore.

M. J. H.

What tears can now awake that buried heart?
What anguished cry can pierce that deafened ear?

And yet a nation mourns for him who lies apart,
For him who oft has held enchanted with his art

The youthful bard and hoary-headed seer.

Thou great commander! truly loved wast thou,
By little children and by men grown grey.
Thy deeds shall live though marble be thy brow,
Though stilled the baton hand, and quiet now,
For over all men's hearts thou didst hold sway.

An alien wast thou from a foreign land,
But loved thou much this country of thy choice,
To it thou brought'st the power of a most gifted hand,
A mind which through all ages shall forever stand,
And the rare treasures of thy mellow voice.

Thy name shall ever be a household word
'Mong lovers of the music for which thou lived.

Thy hand could wield the baton or the sword;
In peace or war thy patriotism stirred
The hearts of those who loved and with thee breathed.

The world is better for such men as thee;
Thy work upon this earth was not in vain.
Now pray we that thy mantle we may see,
Resting on living shoulders dear to thee,
And thus in spirit thou shalt visit us again.

THE cornet band has been reorganized at Toms River, N. J., with Daniel Hoffnir, president, and Samuel Williams, vice-president.

THE Keystone Flute and Drum Band has been organized at Chester, Pa.

THE Roosevelt Organ Co., of New York, have sold their entire plant to Farrand & Votey, of Detroit, Mich. The terms of the transfer have not been divulged.

THE citizens of New Benton, Pa., are very much interested in a new cornet band which has been organized there.

NUMEROUS improvements are being made to the music store of Manby & Sweeney, McKeesport, Pa.