

## Awkward.

The resemblance (of which the composer was doubtless quite unconscious) between an important part of Rachmaninoff's new Piano Concerto, played at the Queen's Hall last night, and "Three Blind Mice," with a touch of "Two Lovely Black Eyes," is not the first instance of a new and serious work suffering in this fashion.

In the case of Massenet's opera "Werther" the resemblance was costly. It was produced at Covent Garden just at the time that Miss Lottie Collins was singing "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" at the old Tivoli. All went well until the big love duet. The tenor and soprano then let themselves go in a phrase that was, unmistakably, almost identical with Miss Collins's song.

The gallery could not resist it, and a peal of laughter came. Although "Werther" is quite a good opera in its way and a large sum of money had been spent in the production, it has since been banished from the Covent Garden repertoire.