

RACHMANINOFF IN LIVERPOOL.

COMPOSER PLAYS HIS FAMOUS PRELUDE.

By **SIEGMUND.**

A recital by Rachmaninoff, the famous Russian composer-pianist, was the attraction at the International Celebrity Concert at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, last night.

Rachmaninoff is a many-sided musician. His playing of Chopin reached the high-water mark of technical and artistic worth in three of the composer's works—the Sonata in B flat minor, opus 35 (which brings in the Funeral March), the Mazurka in B minor, and the Ballade in G minor.

While there is poetry in his Chopin playing, there is nothing effeminate in the more aggressive passages, as in the passionate outbursts of the Ballade. The Russian composer gets a wonderful tone from the piano; he is a strong player, and that left arm of his was always sure for a virile tone.

PATHOS AND PASSION.

Some of his best work, I thought, was in the double notes of the Scherzo in the sonata. These were astonishingly well done. It was in the great Ballade that his highest powers as an interpreter of Chopin and an executant stood out prominently. It was akin to a drama in tones, so well merged were the contrasted feelings of pathos and passion.

Rachmaninoff gave a poetic reading of Liszt's Sonetta del Petrarca, and enjoyed himself in the showy music of the composer in the E major Polonaise.

He is not generous with encore pieces, but at the finish there was a suspicion that the audience was waiting in the expectation of the famous G sharp minor Prelude. They were not disappointed, and there were delightful countenances when the massive, melodic chords of the opening were heard. One has only to hear the composer of this piece play it to recognise there are subtle beauties in it that only he can bring out.

A storm of applause greeted his playing of this notable work.