

## The Theaters

Theater: CONVENTION HALL.  
Attraction: CONCERT. Principal:  
RACHMANINOFF. Few great pian-  
ists,—and Sergei Rachmaninoff  
ranks high among the greatest,—  
color their interpretations of com-  
posers so little with their own  
musical personality as he. The  
“pure white light of inspiration”  
shines through his mind and fingers  
still the color it came from the  
composer. And yet he is one of the  
most interesting, one of the most  
individual, one of the most compell-  
ing and enjoyable. His program last  
evening was chosen from the works  
of the most standard of composers;  
Handel, Schumann, Webber and  
Tuassig, Chopin, Bizet and Liszt.  
Perhaps it was because he inter-  
prets them more nearly as they  
themselves thought their music as  
they wrote it, that numbers as fre-  
quently heard as the “Invitation to  
the Dance,” the Chopin numbers  
and the final Liszt took on a new  
dress and new meaning. Certainly it  
is true that one has never appre-  
ciated Rachmaninoff, the composer,  
until one has heard Rachmaninoff  
the pianist. The warm applause  
given to the artist last night when  
he finished his own magnificent  
Prelude in C-sharp minor was a tri-  
bute to the composer as well as to  
the pianist. Here one looks for his  
finest work, nor are they disap-  
pointed. Broad and comprehensively  
human he tells a story and lifts up  
a picture which is simple and direct.  
One sees the march of prisoners,  
bound for Siberia across the steppes,  
the melancholy of the man stand-  
ing forth. The sincerity of inter-  
pretation is as fine and genuine as  
the man himself when to hear the  
musician is to understand the man.  
The program last night diverged  
from the usual melancholy tone  
which appears to be the predilection

of this earnest-mannered Russian. The dance motif was predominant in two waltzes, two minutes, a mazurka and a polka. The Weber-Tausig, "Invitation to the Dance," was a delightful tone picture full of color and imagination. The Chopin group, particularly pleasing, concluded with and was dominated by the Polonaise number. It was magnificently performed. Even to every encore which he gave graciously the evening was a feast.

The man's personality is not to be ignored though he sinks it so successfully. His physic is commanding, his face fine and serious and sensitive. It is a credit to the artist that a personality so magnetic at no times interferes in his complete absorption in the music. Without sacrificing a quiet reserve, he is gracious and human holding himself apart from his auditors only as he separates himself from the composer, both of whom he treats with rare insight and sympathy.—A. C.