

A HALLE TRIUMPH.

Rachmaninoff's Playing of his Own Compositions.

Rachmaninoff had the honour of playing last night, in Manchester, to what seemed the biggest audience of the Hallé season. Perhaps it was a case of cause and effect: That it was Rachmaninoff who attracted the additional army of music lovers.

If that were the case, then the result was satisfactory all round, for the distinguished Russian pianist had a welcome worthy of his talent, and the audience heard the player (in many of his own compositions, which have reached the "popular-classical" designation in the libraries) at his best.

The Prelude in C sharp minor is synonymous with Rachmaninoff, and of course it was included in the selections, but the audience were as delighted with others of his compositions, all rendered with a force and felicity of expression that marked the pianist as a master of melody and execution. If he seemed to some of his student-auditors to be taking liberty occasionally with the marked tempo, there was no cavilling with the effect of it. His playing was a sheer delight.

The concert opened with Strauss's "Aus Italien" Symphony, figuring in the Hallé programme for the first time—too long to have waited, we thought, after judging of its excellence when done so well and so "grandly" under Mr. Balling's direction. For a first performance it was an achievement. Also in the programme was the Spanish overture of Balakireff, which was admirably orchestrated.

With Miss Dilya Jones, Mr. Gervase Elwes, and Mr. Thorpe Bates as principals Bach's Mass in B minor will be given next week.