

Last Days of Franz Liszt

Fifty Years Ago a Great Composer and Pianist Left a Grateful World

ON July 31, fifty years ago, Franz Liszt died at Bayreuth, after surviving for many years his great friends Chopin, Mendelssohn and Schumann. Broadcasting has familiarised a huge new public with his music and has given the world at large some little idea of his immense influence upon his generation. It is only the truth to say that Liszt left behind him greater musicians than he did music.

Not only must his piano pupils be remembered—a few solitary ones still



THE ABBE LISZT.

remain with us in the persons of Rosenthal, de Greef, and Lamond, the Scotsman—but also the numerous band of distinguished composers who met with such sympathy and princely generosity at his hands. Liszt fought the battles of Wagner, Chopin, Schumann and Berlioz, and to him went the young Brahms and the young Grieg for their earliest encouragement.

A few months before his death Liszt paid his last visit to England, dined with the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House, supped with Mr. Henry Irving at The Beefsteak Club, and visited Windsor to play for Queen Victoria.

His visit to the St. James's Hall was an "occasion." Piccadilly became impassable, and it is upon record that the very cabmen caught by the fever of the mob, rose from the high seats of their handoms, and shouted with a single voice: "Three cheers for the Happy Liszt!" The Abbe Liszt was then 75. The venerable figure at the St. James's Hall during the performance of his Cantata "St. Elizabeth," was observed by a thousand eyes to be gently falling asleep! Little wonder—he was a tired old man. A few months later saw the end.

On May 30 he played for the last time before a small circle of friends at his home in Weimar, gave his last "lesson" there on June 26, and a recital at Luxemburg on July 19, which was the last public effort of his life.

On July 25 he was present at the "Parsifal" performance in Bayreuth. (The previous day he had played the piano for the last time.)

He sat in a box right at the back of the opera house, partly asleep and coughing all the time, holding a handkerchief to his mouth. At the end of the performance he moved to the front of the box. The audience, recognising him at once, gave him a hearty reception, which Liszt acknowledged. On the morrow the aged composer did not rise from bed. The cold took a turn for the worse.

Cosima Wagner took charge of her father by completely isolating him from all callers. On the 31st, Cosima realised the seriousness of her father's illness, and spent the entire day by his bedside. That evening at about half-past ten Liszt distinctly pronounced the word "Tristan" and an hour later the great musician quietly died.

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LETTER FRAGMENTS

AN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

NO. 2

WRITE THESE LETTER FRAGMENTS
IN THEIR CORRECT ORDER.

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Dear Jack

other night but

the burglar

Now the

must have

as nothing

disturbed

of any value

burglary near our

There was a

was taken

Your sincerely
Bill

someone

INSTRUCTIONS

This is a short letter from one boy to another about "A BURGLARY," but it has been unfortunately torn into a number of pieces.

Assemble these fragments in their correct order and you have solved the puzzle. There are no fragments missing. To help you, the correct solution to the letter starts thus:—

Dear Jack,

There was a burglary near our—
Now complete the letter and write your solution on plain paper and forward with an entry fee of 1/- Postal Note or 1/1 in stamps to

LETTER FRAGMENTS, No. 2,
P.O. Box 1207R,
CHRISTCHURCH.

Bearing postmark not later than
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1936.
If you consider that alternative solutions are possible you may submit additional entries for 6d. each additional entry.

The correct solution and £25 cash have been lodged with "N.Z. Truth" as an evidence of good faith but not so as to involve that paper in the liability of stakeholder or otherwise.

RULES

1. £25 will be paid to the competitor who enters the correct or most nearly correct solution.
2. Errors will be calculated on the number of fragments placed in their incorrect order and words misspelt.
3. In the event of ties the prize money will be divided equally, but no winning competitor shall receive less in prize money than the amount of his or her entry fee.
4. No competitor may win more than one share of the prize money.
5. The decision of the adjudicators must be accepted as final.

RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS PAPER ON AUGUST 14, 1936.

RESULTS LETTER FRAGMENTS No. 1. Correct solution of letter as lodged with "N.Z. Truth": "Dear Bill,—We visited the Rimu dredge and Lake Kanieri while on our tour. We had a great time and we motored on our holiday a distance of 600 miles.—Yours sincerely, Jack." Three competitors succeeded in arranging the fragments in the same order as the above sealed solution and the prize-money of £25 is accordingly divided equally, each receiving £8/6/8. Those who divide are: F. Saville, 398 Gloucester St., Christchurch; Miss N. Hudson, 56 Wilson St., Wellington; W. O. Wilson, c/o Mr. P. Selby, Tamahere. See our No. 2 competition—much easier—and the opening words of the letter are given in the instructions. Winning entries have been checked with the sealed solution by "N.Z. Truth," and prize-money has been posted.