THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION—MUSIC LOAN COLLECTION

The story runs that a countryman, visiting London for the first time, and feeling bound to see Westminster Abbey, by a slight mistake overlooked the Royal Fane, and attended service in St. Margaret's Church hard by. He told his friend in the hands on coming home that the ancient edifice was sadly overrated. Exactly a parallel case to this has just occurred to the writer of the present lines. He was informed by an unknown friend that the small collection of unlabelled instruments in the basement of the Albert Hall was unworthy of the occasion; and he only made out on close inquiry that the person in question was speaking of one out of the two "overflow rooms" in which the superabundant stores of the Loan Collection are housed, and had never seen the Loan Collection itself at all. This was the more remarkable as the said individual carried the proof-sheets of his guide-book to the Inventories which he was in the act of sending to the printers. It is therefore clearly not superfluous to state that this, probably the grandest and most complete illustration of the history, progress, and development of music ever furnished, occupies the whole of the circular gallery which forms the top storey of Capt. Fowke’s gigantic building, and runs over into two large rooms at a lower level.

It is impossible in a short preliminary notice to do more than call early attention to the vast mass of priceless materials here collected, and soon to be again dispersed; nor can sufficient credit be accorded to Mr. Alfred Maskell, who, aided by his learned father, has been mainly instrumental in arranging and bringing it into order. He has been seconded signaly by Mr. Hipkins, representing the old and honoured firm of Broadwood and Sons, so that the collection of ancient spinets, virginals, clavichords, harpsichords, and the like, is the most remarkable ever brought together. There is at least one such instrument lent by its noble owner from his family seat in Ireland which is all but unknown even to connoisseurs.

The Belgian Government have most liberally lent the whole of the grand museum of the Brussels Conservatoire of Music, originally presented to that institution by M. Victor Mahillon. This in itself is a "Syntagma Musices," like the scarce work of Praetorius, but presenting the very things themselves, not merely their graven images.

The realism of the exhibit is carried to the highest degree by three beautiful model rooms, designed with the taste and accuracy for which Mr. Davidson, himself an exhibitor of some grand fiddles, is so justly noted, each room showing furniture, decoration, and instruments of a

---

1 We hope to supplement this preliminary note by a more detailed notice of the collection when it is complete and the Catalogue ready. —Ed.
giving numerical expression to the amount of boredom expressed by the audience generally during the reading of any particular memoir.

F. G.

**RECENT EARTHQUAKES**

The shocks of earthquake in Cashmere continue with unabated violence and even appear to increase in frequency and force. Three severe shocks occurred during the night of the 13th and a smart convulsion on the morning of the 14th. It is now ascertained that 2251 lives were lost in the Muzaffarabad district, where at first it was thought there had been no casualties. The earthquake was also felt in Gilgit. Another very severe shock at Baramula on the 17th demolished all the buildings which escaped former shocks. At Skardu on the 14th and at Srinagar on the 17th, 18th, and 19th, shocks were felt. In the Kamraj district the loss of life exceeds 2700. The Jhelum Valley, from Srinagar to Dopatta, appears to have suffered most. It is stated that both sides of the river from Sopur to Baramula have been scarred with cracks, as also the low alluvial hills in the vicinity. The available data fix the centre of the disturbance in the vicinity of Gurais. It thus appears that in extent and amount of destruction the Cashmere earthquake must rank amongst the great seismic catastrophes of the century.

On Thursday morning last (June 18) a portion of Yorkshire was visited by an earthquake shock. The reports from outlying districts show that the shock extended from the east coast through the Wolds and westwards as far as Headingly, near Leeds. Signalmen on the North-Eastern Railway speak of the vibration and noise. Crockery and glass rattled on the shelves of houses, and at Knottingley and Ferrybridge persons ran from their houses from fear. At Easingwold desks and tables were seen to move, and there was a rumbling noise as of thunder. In some cases there was a severe shaking of houses, and doors were moved. The various reports concur as to the time being 10.30, and it is said there were two shocks. It is a curious coincidence that about an hour previous to this on the same day and in the same region the frightful explosion at the Clifton Hall Colliery took place. Unhappily our knowledge will not permit us to connect seismic disturbances with disasters or misshaps in mines, but we have here a violent and unusual disturbance in the crust of the earth in Yorkshire and an almost simultaneous mining catastrophe in Lancashire.

We have received the following communications with reference to the Yorkshire earthquakes:

A slight shock of earthquake was felt here yesterday morning in the favourable stillness of the “Friends” meeting for worship. The time was observed to be about 10.47 a.m. I was seated with my back to the north, when a rumbling sound appeared to be swelling onwards for about two seconds from the south or south-west. I then noticed that the hanging leaf of a small table in front of me (its plane lying east and west) was rattling very distinctly, and immediately I became aware that the back of my seat was shaking me perceptibly. Others heard some of the windows rattling on both the east and west sides of the house, and were shaken by their seats moving slightly; these seats were some of them at right angles to mine. Some of these persons thought the rumbling came from the east; others from the west. One gentleman, sitting in a corner, thought that his right shoulder, against a north partition, was shaken more than his left, against the east wall. He also thought he rumbling came from the south end of the house. The place of worship is about two-thirds of a mile to the north-east of our observatory, which is in lat. 53°38'40"N, and long. 1°20'32.75"W. Nothing was noticed at the time by a man and a boy working in our garden. It is reported in to-day’s Leeds Mercury to have been felt at York, Leeds, and Driffield.

**William Scarnell Lean**

Flounders College, Ackworth, near Pontefract, June 19

Capt. Staveley, at whose house the recent earthquake of June 18 was felt in a marked degree, gives me the following information respecting it. His house at North Dalton (seven miles south-west of Driffield) stands on a slight elevation surrounded with undulating hills common to the Cretaceous formation of the Wolds. The shock occurred between 10.30 and 10.45 a.m. (the exact time was not noted), and lasted about three seconds, travelling from west-south-west to east-north-east. Mrs. Staveley, who was in her bedroom at the time, felt a slight shock, then a rumbling sound as of thunder, and after that another stronger shock. The servants downstairs felt a distinct rocking, and the bricklayer’s boy, on a ladder level with the roof, saw the whole roof heave up and down three times. In the dairy some dishes firmly placed on a high shelf were thrown down and broken, and at the inn on the other side of the road the walls trembled perceptibly, and the bottles and glasses were shaken and knocked against each other. The inhabitants of this and neighbouring villages felt the vibrations more or less distinctly, but the shock seems to have been greatest at, and in the direction of, Capt. Staveley’s house. The colliery explosion near Manchester happened about an hour earlier; is it possible for there to be any connection between the two?

**J. Lovell**

Driffield

The following extracts are from the Hull Express of June 20:

Information which reached us yesterday shows that the earthquake-shocks experienced on Thursday in York and Market Weighton were also felt in more or less degree in other parts of the great shire.

Mr. W. Botterill, of Parliament Street, Hull, writes:

“On returning home (Newland Park) from business last evening, my wife informed me that during the morning she had for several seconds felt a vibratory motion in the house, which she fully believed to be caused by a slight shock of earthquake, and added that she should confidently expect to find in this morning’s papers notices in confirmation thereof. It was, therefore, so sure to learn from your current issue, and other papers of to-day, that similar effects had been experienced at York, Market Weighton, and elsewhere, about the same hour of the day.”

A North Cave correspondent says that at about eleven o’clock in the morning nearly every house was subjected to a slight shaking.

A Driffield correspondent says that at the village of Hutton several residents felt a severe shaking of their houses, and at the same time the inner doors were suddenly moved, crockery upset, and other signs of disturbance were observed. People were so terrified that they cannot very accurately describe the shock, but state they felt a ‘reeling’ sensation.

Another correspondent, writing from Driffield says:

“Yesterday morning a somewhat severe shock of earthquake was felt at North Dalton, a village about eight miles from Driffield. The shock appears to have been the most distinctly felt at the residence of Capt. Staveley, which stands in an isolated and elevated position, and the house vibrated from basement to roof for several seconds. A bricklayer’s apprentice who was repairing the roof had a narrow escape of being thrown down, and the greatest alarm was felt by the villagers, who ‘ran out of their houses in fear for their lives.’”

The shock was also distinctly felt in Leeds. In Delph Lane, Wood-house Ridge, the occupants of three houses which adjoin each other noticed it. It resembled the effect which would be produced by the violent shutting of doors, the windows rattling, and there being a perceptible