

TENNYSON.

Lord Alfred Tennyson was the third son in a family of twelve, and was born Aug. 6, 1809. His early education was imparted by his father, Rev. G. C. Tennyson, at the parsonage at Somerby, Lincolnshire. Afterwards he distinguished himself at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1829 he gained the chancellor's medal by a poem in blank verse entitled "Timbuctoo." With the exception of a volume of poems published in conjunction with his brother Charles when they were boys, and a prize poem composed whilst an undergraduate at Cambridge, Mr. Tennyson did not publish anything until 1830, when "Poems Chiefly Lyrical" appeared. From 1842 the steady and rapid growth of his fame may be traced. It was at once apparent that the author of "Morte d'Arthur," "Locksley Hall," the "May Queen" and "The Two Voices" was entitled to take the first rank among English poets—a reputation which was more than sustained by the great works that followed.

MADE LAUREATE.

So well-known and popular, indeed, did Mr. Tennyson become after the publication of "In Memoriam" in 1850 that it seemed only a matter of course, upon the death of Wordsworth, that the privilege of wearing "the laurel green from the brows of him who uttered nothing base" should be offered him. This was also the year of his marriage to the niece of Sir John Franklin, by whom he has had two sons Hallam and Lionel.

The ode on the death of the Duke of Wellington was published in 1857 on the morning of the funeral, and since that occurrence few events of more than ordinary interest in the eyes of Englishmen have taken place without eliciting from the laureate some poem worthy of the occasion.

HIS PROLIFIC MUSE.

"Mr. Tennyson has also written "Poems" (1841), "Poems" (1842)

"The Princess" (1847), "In Memoriam" (1850), the latter being a series of elegies to the memory of Arthur Hallam, the son of the eminent historian and the chosen friend of the poet in his earlier days at Cambridge. "Maud" was published in 1855, "Idylls of the King" in 1858, "Enoch Arden" in 1864. "The Holy Grail" and "The Widow, or the Songs of the Wrens" appeared in 1870, "Gareth and Lynette" in 1873. In 1879 Tennyson republished "The Lovers' Tale" and the "Golden Supper." Since then he has published "Ballads and Other Poems."

Among Lord Tennyson's dramatic compositions are "Queen Mary" in 1875, "Harold" in 1876, Mr. Irving taking the principal character; "The Falcon" in 1871, produced by Mr. and Mrs. Kendal. "The Promise of May," a drama in three acts, was brought out in the Globe Theatre, London, in 1882.

MADE A PEER.

In 1883 he accepted a peerage as Baron Tennyson, of Aldworth, Sussex, and of Freshwater, Isle of Wight. Since this time he has published "Becket," "Tyrecius" and "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After." To add to this remarkable list of literary works, in his 81st year Lord Tennyson issued another volume, "Deneter and Other Poems," which is very popular on both sides of the Atlantic.

The occasion of "In Memoriam" is well known. It was owing to the sudden death of Arthur Hallam, Tennyson's bosom friend, and to whom Tennyson's favorite sister was betrothed. Arthur died suddenly whilst travelling in Europe. His remains were brought to England and interred in a tranquil spot on a lone hill that overhangs the Bristol Channel.

Tennyson had an uphill fight. In his early days some of the reviewers were violent and antagonistic, but his talent overcame all obstacles. "You will last," Douglas Gerald said, and Carlyle, "Eh, he has got the grip of it,"