

MR. SIMS REEVES.

Mr. Sims Reeves, whose farewell as a vocalist to English music-lovers and to the world was the occasion of so much sadness, was born at Shooter's Hill, Kent, October 21, 1822. Like many remarkable musicians, he received his earliest musical instructions from his father, and at the age of fourteen, after having sung some time as a choir-boy, was appointed organist of North Cray Church. The young organist then applied himself to the study of the piano, violin, violoncello, oboe and bassoon. He first appeared as a baritone in opera at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1839, and eight years later on his return from Italy, he appeared as first tenor, taking the role of Egarde in Lucia di Lammermoor at Drury Lane Theatre. Success was certain from that day, December 6, and Mr. Reeves soon reached the top round of the ladder where, solitary because inimitable, he remained for nearly half a century.

In 1840 he was engaged by the management of the Norwich Festival for oratorio, and there his rendering of "The Enemy said" placed him at once in the foremost rank of oratorio singers.

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