

MENDELSSOHN.

31. At eight years of age he played the most difficult fugues of Bach's at sight; at ten he made his first public appearance as a pianist; at eleven he began to compose. On his fifteenth birthday his fourth opera was played to an admiring audience. He gave concerts in London with wonderful success.

32. He had an ideal career, surrounded by wealth and culture. His circumstances were all that could be asked—honored by musicians and worshipped by the people.

33. "Elijah," his most admired production, "The Midsummer Night's Dream," containing the famous "Wedding March," "St. Paul," and "Songs Without Words."

34. He was thorough, studious, earnest and religious. He never indulged in ease or sloth, had a dignified and gentle personality. Every one who knew him loved him. "Not a day passed," said Schumann, "in which he does not utter thoughts worthy to be graven in gold." His utter freedom from conceit was his greatest charm.

35. His genius is shown in an original system of romantic expression, and has been a powerful influence in shaping the thoughts of the musical world. He is called the "Tennyson, the Longfellow of musical art." His songs, like his life, are all sunshine.