

LITTLE FOLKS

The Boy Musician.

Eight years ago a famous musician, Sir Frederick Gore Ouseley, was taken to his rest. As a child he was remarkable for his great love of music. What others learn with great trouble he seemed to know by instinct. As he grew older, his relatives were astonished at his quickness. When two years of age, he could sing correctly any tune which he had heard a few times. When he had learnt the names of the keys he could always tell by the sound, without looking at the instrument, which keys had been struck. Many

Ouseley lived much on the Continent, where it is too much the custom to treat the Lord's Day in an irreverent manner; but, in spite of this, little Frederick was taught by her example to keep the holy day properly. It was probably his mother's example that planted in him that devotion to duty and intense love and reverence for the service of God which marked his after-life.

Sacred music in particular had a great attraction for him, and he carried it in his memory in a surprising manner. When he was only six years old, one of his aunts found

ed into seven parts, which he headed as follows—'Beginning to be ill. Now I'm very ill. Iller than ever. Blisters! A little better. Not quite well yet. Now I'm quite well!'

Sir Gore Ouseley, Frederick's father, had been the English ambassador at the Court of Persia, and therefore knew many great men. One of Frederick's godfathers was His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, brother of King George the Fourth, who would afterwards have been king himself had he lived. The other was Arthur, the great Duke of Wellington. The little boy was named Frederick Arthur after these important persons.

The Duke of Wellington thought it his duty to come and see his godson once a year; and the sight of the 'Iron Duke,' as he was called, the greatest military commander of his own and perhaps of any age, talking to the gentle musical boy, must have been deeply interesting. But the Duke, though very kind in his manner, never seemed to know quite what to say, and they were probably both glad when the meeting was over.

What delighted the boy was to see and talk to the great musical men and women of the day. Many of them came on purpose to hear him play and sing. King William IV. (younger brother of Frederick's godfather) and Queen Adelaide came; the Duchess of Hamilton, a most accomplished musician, was delighted with him; the great composer Mendelssohn played a duet with him when Frederick was only six years old; and at some time or other he is said to have played duets with Queen Victoria herself at Buckingham Palace.

As Frederick grew older, he felt that his gift of music was a talent committed to his charge by God, to be used in his service. He became a clergyman, and founded a college to train up boys to take a delight in the musical part of divine worship. In this college hangs a picture which shows him playing on a piano when about seven or eight years old.

Sir Frederick composed much music, which is in use now in many places of worship. An interesting story is told of one of his choir-boys, who, as he grew up, fell in with bad companions, got into trouble, and enlisted as a soldier. His regiment was ordered to South



FREDERICK OUSELEY AT EIGHT YEARS OF AGE.

attempts were made to puzzle him, sometimes by striking several at once, but he always correctly named them all.

He could play the pianoforte almost before he could talk. His earliest composition was taken down by his sister when he was under four years of age. At four years old he played the piano for the servants to dance to.

Happily, he had the blessing of a good mother, who brought up her son to fear and love God. Lady

him playing Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' upon the piano.

'Why, what do you call that?' she asked.

'I'm sure I don't know,' was his reply. 'It's something the man played to-day on the organ as we came out of church.'

Shortly after this little Frederick had a fever, and was very ill for some weeks. When he got well, he wrote a little piece of music to describe how he felt during the progress of his illness. It was divid-