

No. 30.—MEYERBEER.

Meyerbeer, the eldest son of a rich Jew banker of Berlin, was born in that city on the fifth of September, 1794. While he was four years old little Jacob Liebmann Meyerbeer began to play on the piano, and hearing tunes played by street organs, would in the parlor improvise accompaniments thereto. Zetler, the teacher of Mendelssohn, instructed him in the theory of music, assisted later by one Bernard Anselm Weber. When about sixteen years of age, Meyerbeer went to Darmstadt, to the music school of the Abbé Vogler, where among his fellow pupils was Carl Maria Von Weber, the composer of the "Freischütz." In Darmstadt, Meyerbeer composed an oratorio called "God and Nature," which was well received; and in 1812 his first opera, "The Vow of Jephthah," was produced at Munich, and was not well received. About this time Meyerbeer heard Hummel play the piano at a concert, and charmed with his ability, determined also to become a pianist, and to this end shut himself in his house for six months, practising night and day. He made his debut as a concert-player in Vienna, and became popular; but the old instinct of composing returned, and he gladly seized an opportunity which offered of writing an opera for the Court of Vienna, but "The Two Caliphs" was also a failure. Friends advised him to go to Italy, and in Venice he first heard Rossini's music. Here he learned in what he was deficient; and he immediately devoted to the pursuit of melody the same energy which he had hitherto devoted to the theory of music. He succeeded, for though he never attained the utter ease and flowing melody of the Italian composers, he has yet written airs as delicious and graceful as any of theirs. In 1825 Meyerbeer fairly "clutched the diadem of Fame." The occasion was the production at Venice of his opera "Il Crociota," which was soon produced in Paris. Thenceforth Meyerbeer took greater pains than ever with his operas, to which—influenced partly by domestic affliction in the loss of two children—he imparted a grander and at times more melancholy tone. In 1826 he finished "Robert le Diable," which he kept in his portfolio four years, selling it to the director of the Grand Opera at Paris, in 1830. In 1831 it was produced, and from the first night of its representation was the most popular opera ever given in Paris. All the great singers of the present day have considered themselves honoured in representing its characters. In 1836 appeared the "Huguenots," which most critics deem the composer's grandest effort; in 1849 the "Prophete" was produced at Paris with the most elaborate scenic effects yet known on the operatic stage. In 1854 came "L'Etoile du Nord," and in 1858, "Le Pardon de Ploermel." The fall of 1864 was to have been marked by the production of "L'Africaine," an opera which Meyerbeer has been promising for five years past to give to the world.

No. 31.—MAJOR-GENERAL J. B. E. STUART.

Since the death of "Stonewall" Jackson, no death has produced so profound a sensation in the Southern confederacy as that of Gen. Stuart. In repulsing one of the Federal raids, and in one of those desperate charges at the head of a charging column, the gallant and chivalrous Stuart fell, mortally wounded. He was speedily conveyed to Richmond, but did not survive long. His many gallant and daring deeds and glorious exploits will challenge the admiration of the world. He was best known and loved by his troopers. His frank and greable face always cheered them in the camp, the march, and he bivouac. His bright flashing eye and clear ringing voice inspir and nerved them in the hour of battle. His funeral took place the appointed time. The metallic coffin, containing the remains of the noble soldier, was carried down the centre aisle of the church and placed before the altar. Wreaths, and a cross of evergreens, interwoven with delicate lilies of the valley, laurel, and other flowers of purest white, decked the coffin. The scene was sad and impressive. President Davis sat near the front, with a look of grief upon his care-worn face; his cabinet officers were gathered around, while on either side were the senators and representatives of the Confederate Congress. Scattered through the church were a number of generals and other officers of less rank—among the former were General Ransom, commanding the department at Richmond. Hundreds of sad faces witnessed the scene; but the brave Fitz Lee and other war-wearied and war-worn soldiers whom the dead Stuart had so often led where the red battle was the fiercest, and who would have given their lives for his, were they in the fight, doubtless striking with a noble courage as they thought of their fallen general. The short service was read by the Rev. Dr. Peterson, a funeral anthem sung, and the remains were carried out and placed in the hearse, which proceeded to Hollywood Cemetery, followed by a long train of carriages. A military escort accompanied the procession, but the hero was laid in his last resting place on the hill side, while the earth still trembled with the roar of artillery and the noise of the deadly strife of armies.

No. 32.—NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, ESQ.

Mr. Hawthorne was born at Salem, Mass., on the 4th of July, 1804. He entered Bowdoin College, Maine, in 1825, and at the close of his collegiate career he settled at Salem. Fortune some time later (in 1838) found him a government position as gauger in the Boston Custom House, under Mr. Bancroft, then the collector at that port during the Van Buren administration. When the Whigs came into power in 1841, Hawthorne lost his appointment, and, conceiving (probably like Southey, Coleridge, and Lovell) the idea of a pantocracy, he joined the famous Brook Farm Association, returning, however, fully satisfied with his experience of "a perfect state of society" to Boston, in 1843. Here he married and made his home; subsequently for some years in "the Old Manse," at Concord, Mass. On the accession of the Polk administration, he received the appointment of Surveyor of the port of Salem. When the Whigs returned to power, Hawthorne returned to his retreat and to his studies among the hills of Berkshire. Once again, in 1842, he was tendered and accepted office under government—the Consulate at Liverpool, one of the most lucrative appointments in the gift of the President, being placed at his disposal by Mr. Pierce, partly, no doubt, as a tribute of long standing personal friendship, and partly as a reward also for important service as a party penman. His remaining days, after his return from Liverpool, were spent at Concord, New Hampshire. Hawthorne's literary life commenced at Salem on the close of his college days. Leading, for several years, almost the life of a recluse, he here produced a series of sketches, tales and romances, some of which were found worthy of revival in his maturer years under the title of *Twice-Told Tales*. Then followed, after his retirement from the Boston gaugership, the papers called *Mosses from an Old Manse*, succeeded by the most widely known of all his works, *The Scarlet Letter*, in 1850; by the *House of Seven Gables*, in 1851; by the *Blithedale Romance*, in 1852; by the *Marble Faun*, in 1859; and by *Our Old Home*, his last work, in 1863. His minor sketches would be difficult of enumeration. They continued to grace the pages of the best cotemporary periodicals, occasionally, up to the time of his death.

No. 33.—THE REV. DR. HITCHCOCK.

Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, formerly President and late Professor in Amherst College, died at his residence in Amherst, Massachusetts, in the seventy-first year of his age. Dr. Hitchcock obtained great celebrity as a scientific geologist as well as for his theological attainments.

IX. Papers relative to the Bible.

1. LORD LYNDHURST'S FAITH IN THE BIBLE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby, chairman of the Stafford Auxiliary Bible Society, was prevented attending a recent meeting by the severe storm of wind, snow, and hail, which raged with such violence that he did not like to expose his servants to such a trial. His lordship, if he had been able to be present, would have told the meeting the following anecdote, which we have no doubt will be perused with great interest at the present time. "A few months ago," his lordship says in his letter, "I had occasion to call on the late Lord Lyndhurst, and having for some years communicated with him from time to time on the subject of Mount Sinai, and the disquisitions upon the origin and interpretation of the inscriptions which had been published by the Rev. Mr. Forster, referred to a recent publication by that gentleman, and asked him his opinion of the conclusions come to. I found that he agreed, as heretofore, generally in the conclusions, without binding himself to an agreement upon every point. But the old man proceeded to say, with great emphasis, 'A highly interesting subject—highly interesting; every thing that concerns the Exodus—especially in these days. But none of these questions that are now raised trouble me.' When I recollect that our Saviour said, 'If a man hear not Moses and the prophets, he will not be persuaded though one rose from the dead.' I think that should be enough for me. No! these things don't trouble me. If, when Ezra revised the Pentateuch, any mistakes were made in numbers and figures, that makes no difference to me. I know in all manuscripts there is nothing so liable to error as figures.' After a few observations expressive of his interest in the whole story of Abraham, as recorded in Genesis, and its consequences, the subject dropped, and we passed on to other topics. The body was feeble, but the mind was clear and vigorous as ever. There are many, who have not the means of investigating these subjects themselves, to whom the testimony of the faith of such a man, unshaken by investigation, might be of comfort.—*Staffordshire (England) Advertiser*.