

it is very scant. When great men fall society deeply feels and laments the wide-spread loss. The great man is very often quite reticent concerning himself, and although widely valuable work is done, is not always known as the author of it. Were it not for the stupendous work of labour left to benefit the present generation and those in the future, we should not cease to lament the demise of the subject of the present notice. Even with this legacy his presence in the world of action will be greatly missed. On

THE BEAUTIFUL BANKS OF THE HUDSON, the most noted and the most beautiful of all American rivers, Charles Downing was born, of humble parentage, July 9th, 1802; and thirteen years afterwards on the same romantic site was added to the family circle his gifted and famous brother, A. J. Downing, the early author of many popular works on economic horticulture. Their father was a nurseryman of some considerable experience and culture, and owned a good property near his home in Newburgh, N.Y., where he did a large business. But before the subject of our notes had attained his majority his father died leaving the whole control of the business to devolve upon Charles. But later, as the younger brother had completed his school training, necessary for business, they together carried on the work of their father under the joint firm name of C. & A. J. Downing, and later of A. J. Downing & Co. After a few years, however, Charles purchasing a property a short distance from their old home, establishing his well known

"NURSERY AND EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN."

At a very early date the Downings became very widely known for their deep and broad intelligence in matters pertaining to general horticulture and fruit growing. The development of

fruits, their nomenclature and classification were specialties with them, and they speedily became very popular as advisers and corresponding members of many local and foreign horticultural societies. In the language of a fair correspondent, "During the 21 years Charles is but little heard of, while his young and talented brother astonished the conservatives of the whole world with his 'Landscape Gardening' at the early age of 26 years. Then came his 'Cottage Residences.' Then the volumes of 'Downing's Horticulturist,' and in 1845, when but 30 years of age, appeared 'The Fruits and Fruit Trees of America.' The correspondents of Charles Downing of the past half century need not be told that he was the great laborer of his age in the field of untangling the confusing nomenclature of the fruits of temperate zones." My venerable and esteemed veteran friend

J. J. THOMAS, OF NEW YORK, contributes the following notes of information bearing on the subject:—"I first met the two brothers at the state fair at Albany, 1842, where they had a fine exhibition of fruit—at that time one of the finest I had seen. Charles Downing then showed his simple, straightforward character. I had charge of the exhibition of fruit, and was to meet them early the next morning before the arrival of the great crowd to examine their exhibition. I found Charles there at the minute appointed. I asked him where A. J. D. was? 'Oh, he was down at the city among the big folk.' This simple, unpretending character was always the same through his long life. He greatly disliked any kind of pretention and strongly expressed his disapproval on one occasion of the word 'Esq.' attached to his name. Three years later I visited him at

HIS RESIDENCE AT NEWBURGH. Partaking of an early meal, I went to