



A FEW BARS OF BACH'S MS. MUSIC.

five children, the youngest of whom, our great Sebastian, was born on March 21st, 1685. They lived in a comfortable two-storied house at Eisenach, and the father rejoiced in the high-sounding title of *Hof und Rath Musikus* (musician to the court and town council of Eisenach).

Hard by lived Sebastian's uncle, Johann Christoph, the organist of Eisenach, a man whose genius must have had considerable influence on the impressionable nature of his little nephew. At the neighbouring town of Arnstadt lived another uncle, Michael Bach, also an excellent organist and maker of clavichords and violins. The daughter of this uncle afterwards became Sebastian's wife.

Before he was ten years old the little Sebastian had lost both father and mother, and was taken to live with his elder brother,

Johann Christoph, who was organist at Ohrdruf. This brother was already a married man, and, though only twenty-four years old, had the cares of a growing family pressing upon him. Some excuse must therefore be made for him if his treatment of his little brother was somewhat harsh and unsympathetic. Johann Christoph was a pedant; he doled out music to the greedy Sebastian with, as he thought, a prudent discretion, but this was just what Sebastian could least endure. A book of manuscript music, containing copies of the works of the best composers, was kept in a locked book-case, and the boy longed with an ever-increasing longing to possess it. A trellis wood-work alone separated him from the coveted treasure, and, at length, after much manipulation, the eager little student succeeded in working the book

through the narrow openings. In his own small attic, by the light of the moon, he copied it all out; but, just as he had finished his self-imposed task, he was discovered, and the work of six months was confiscated by the relentless Christoph.

Soon afterwards it became necessary for Sebastian to leave his brother's house, and he was taken as scholar at the St. Michael's School at Lüneburg. He had excellent musical training there, was taught Latin, and had access to an unlimited supply of the best music. At the age of eighteen he was appointed court musician at Weimar, and from there he went as organist to Arnstadt. Here, however, he had little success; his soaring spirit would not let him rest content in the old grooves, and when, in 1705, he went on foot to Lübeck to hear the great organist



BACH'S INTRODUCTION TO FREDERICK THE GREAT AT POTSDAM.