

## CHOPIN.

41. He is a typical representative of Polish music. He has been compared to an artist whose greatest labors were exerted on carving a minute piece of ivory into a marvel of delicate beauty. His forte lay in small forms of music. He was a composer of eminent individuality.

42. He was brought up among sons of Polish nobility; at the age of nine improvised in public and excited general admiration. In character he was weak and vacillating. There was a pronounced ironic and comic vein in his character. He was painfully fastidious; had an engaging personality. The devotion of his pupils bordered on fanaticism.

43. His playing was too delicate and refined for large audiences. This lack of success on a large scale was a great disappointment to him. He said the crowd paralyzed him with their curious looks, but with congenial spirits he delighted in showing his unique mastery of the piano. (George Sand called him "Velvet Fingers.") His indescribable mechanical dexterity, the melancholy tints in his style of shading, the rare clearness of his delivery and unique mastery of the pedal, are qualities which bear the stamp of genius.

44. The exquisite modulation into foreign keys, abound in all his works. No one has written more soulful melodies, most of his preludes being outbreaks of wildest anguish. His music is an exact reflex of his character and history. His songs are highly dramatic.

45. Exclusively upon his piano music. His range though limited, reached perfection in finish and originality.