



LAURENCE ALMA-TADEMA.

liberal education at the Leeuwarden Gymnasium. He became especially interested in classics. At this time of his life he was so passionately devoted to Greek and Latin literature that his contemporaries might easily have supposed that he would make his mark as a scholar. Love of art was, however, in his blood. His classical education was to be used, but not in the ordinary way. The more he saw of the great triumphs of Dutch art, and drank into its traditions, the more he longed to

be a painter. He left the Gymnasium with honours, and became a student in the Antwerp Academy—one of the most famous schools of art in Europe—in 1852. There was living at this time in Antwerp, Baron Henry Leys, a history and *genre* painter of considerable eminence. He had a somewhat stiff and formal style, but he was a solid artist, and to his studio as a disciple Alma-Tadema went when he was eighteen or nineteen. He had shown in the Academy much pertinacious Dutch industry, and he carried the same earnest endeavour