

—\$1.25,—the “Ave Maria” Press, Notre Dame, Indiana. The life of “Father” Haydn, the great Austrian composer, is faithfully portrayed herein. It tells of the struggles of his youth, and the triumphs of his mature age. Joseph Haydn began his life-work in the clutches of poverty; in fact, he was not in comfortable circumstances until many long years after he had attained fame. But, to him, money was not a primary consideration; his aesthetic taste rebelled against a matter of such practical importance.

His soul was wrapt in music; whilst engaged in the composition of his soul-stirring symphonies he was oblivious to all else. He revelled in music; it formed a necessary part of his existence. He never lowered himself to make an unworthy use of his talents; his themes were the purest, the noblest, the highest. He himself said of his two famous oratorios, “The Creation” and “The Seasons”: “I esteem ‘The Creation’ higher, for in it the angels of God speak; but in ‘The Seasons’ it is only the peasant Simon that talks.”

A notable side of his character was his close friendship with Mozart, his great rival. Their affection was as dear as it was lasting, and was only terminated by the death of Mozart. He also bestowed his friendship on Ludwig von Beethoven, who was a rather young man. Joseph Haydn died at Vienna in 1809, with a *Laus Deo* on his lips, in his seventy-eighth year.

We heartily recommend this interesting and beautiful biography to our readers.

Among the Magazines.

In our last number we made reference to an article in a certain magazine having respect to the raising of the U. S. battleship *Maine*. As is well known to all on this continent, the blowing up of the *Maine* was the signal for the United States to make war on Spain in 1898. The vessel was supposed to have been blown up by the Spaniards, which supposition being acted upon furnished a cause for war. But it has been oft disputed whether it was the Spaniards or the Americans themselves who blew the vessel up. To the end of clearing the matter up, Congress last year voted \$300,000 for the purpose of raising the battleship for examination. Much has transpired of a strange nature since then.