

**JULIAN FANE: A  
MEMOIR; PP. 5-179**

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Julian Fane: A Memoir; pp. 5-179 by Robert Lytton

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**ROBERT LYTTON**

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**JULIAN FANE.**



*Julius Farn*  

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LONDON: JOHN WOODS, 105, FLEET STREET 1851

*Hon.*  
JULIAN FANE.

A Memoir.

BY

ROBERT LYTTON.

" Ah, not the music of his voice alone,  
But his sweet melody of thought, which fed  
Our minds with perfect harmony, is shown !"  
*Lay of Bragh. By the Hon. JULIAN FANE.*

SECOND EDITION.

WITH A PORTRAIT.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1872.

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## CHAPTER II.

Childish Days. Intimacy between Mother and Son. School Days. Thames Ditton. Harrow. His father appointed British Minister at the Court of Berlin. Ill-health. Life at Berlin. Precocious Musical Faculty. Meyerbeer. The Diplomatic Service in 1844. Taste for Poetry. Heinrich Heine. Preparation for the University. At Oakington.

HE was born on the 2nd October, 1827, and was only three years old when his parents returned to England. Wordsworth has ascribed the most permanent tendencies of his own mind to those influences of external nature which, mingling with the unconscious acquisitions of childhood, "lived along his life" through later years. Perhaps the temperament of Julian Fane may have been similarly favoured in childhood by those sweet influences which haunt the purple slopes of the Apennines and the sunny banks of the Val d'Arno. He was not destined to revisit Florence in after life; but, when contemplating all the flower-like grace of his luxuriant nature, I have sometimes thought there was a felicitous fitness in the fact that to this fair child the gods, who loved him, should have allotted so fair a birthplace as "the city of flowers." Not many years after their return to England, Lord and Lady Burghersh were plunged into deep affliction by the loss of a beloved daughter, who died at the age of fifteen. Their elder boys were already at school, and their only

surviving daughter (now Lady Rose Weigall) was still in the nurse's arms. The companionship of the little Julian, to whose education she devoted herself, then became the chief solace of his mother; and with her the child remained till he was eleven years old. I cannot better describe the peculiar character of their intercourse at this period than by the touching words in which she herself has alluded to it.

"His tender devotion to me during that time," she says, "and the feeling and good sense he showed, were much beyond his years. They laid the foundation of that intense love and perfect confidence which bound us together ever after. Apart from filial and maternal affection, we were the closest and most trusted friends to each other. Even his marriage did not abate in the least this love and confidence." The education of Julian's two brothers, who had chosen the army for their profession, was more directly under the superintendence of their father. It was the wish of Lord Burghersh that his youngest son should be educated at Harrow and Cambridge; but all other arrangements for the boy's education he left, with well justified confidence, to the judgment of his wife. This accomplished woman was already the friend and correspondent of many of the most eminent men in Europe. She was herself a good musician, and a painter whose power of execution and knowledge of art were considerably beyond those of a mere dilettante. The daily companionship of such a mother must have been far more instructive than any ordinary 'schooling' to the child; who doubtless derived from it that intense distaste of all vulgar and unintelligent pleasures, and that

instinctive appreciation of intellectual and moral beauty, which gave select distinction to the character of his after-life.

The regular school-days came, however, and in the year 1838 the little Julian was sent to a private establishment at Thames Ditton. He was then in his eleventh year; and he remained at Thames Ditton till 1841, when he commenced at Harrow the customary course of an English boy's education.

Meanwhile, the Whigs had been in office, and Lord Burghersh on the shelf. But on the return of the Tories to power Lord Burghersh re-entered the foreign service as British Minister at the Court of Berlin; to which post he was appointed by Lord Aberdeen in 1841. Shortly afterwards his son Julian, in consequence of a severe fever which had greatly weakened a frame already delicate, was obliged to leave Harrow. He rejoined his parents at Berlin; and the five years passed with them in the Prussian capital constituted one of the most important educational periods of his life.

Berlin was, at that time, the residence and the rendezvous of an unusual number of distinguished men. To a thoroughly sociable temperament, and the exquisite amiability of perfect high-breeding, Lord and Lady Burghersh united a keen taste for intellectual refinement. Lord Burghersh was himself an enthusiastic musician. His wife was a woman whose society was as delightful to artists and men of letters as to statesmen and men of the world. In their hands the hotel of the British Legation at Berlin became a sort of continental Holland House, where Genius and Beauty, Science and