

A PORTRAIT OF PHIDIAS.

With reference to the portrait of Phidias incorporated by Kaulbach in his picture of the Golden Age of Greece, we will say that that by some accident we have positive knowledge that Phidias included his own picture in the battle of the Amazons on the Gorgoncion, the shield of Athene. We must remember that in the classic period of Pericles, the most corrupt politicians had great influence and in their hostility to Pericles vented their wrath on his friends, of whom Phidias was perhaps the most distinguished person.

We quote the following condensed statement from Harper's *Dictionary of Classical Literature and Antiquities*, p. 1226: "On the return of Phidias to Athens [after completing his statue of the Olympian Zeus, the greatest of



PORTRAIT OF PHIDIAS ON ATHENE'S SHIELD.

all his works], he fell a victim to the jealousy against his great patron, Pericles, which was then at its height. The party opposed to Pericles, thinking him too powerful to be overthrown by a direct attack, aimed at him in the persons of his most cherished friends—Phidias, Anaxagoras, and Aspasia. Phidias was first accused of peculation; but this charge was at once refuted, as, by the advice of Pericles, the gold had been affixed to the statue of Athene in such a manner that it could be removed and the weight of it examined. The accusers then charged Phidias with impiety, in having introduced into the battle of the Amazons, on the shield of the goddess, his own likeness and that of Pericles. On this latter charge Phidias was thrown into prison, where he died from disease, in 432."