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#### MUSIC AND TRE DRAMA.

Just now Henry Irving is an object of interest in New York, and doubtless to many here who look forward with pleasure to his visit to this c ty during the present season. Fow actors have been the subject of so much fulsome adulation and ridiculous disparagement; and while we are all, doubtless, will ing to wait to form our own individual opinion of the man and the actor, it may not be uninteresting to read somewhat of what other people have to say of him. In Lippincott's Magazine for November is a timely "Sketch and Criticism" of Henry Irving by the Rev. Robert Laird Collier, which will be found interesting reading just now, when the American press is discursing the merits and mannerisms of the man who has wo-ked so remarkable a revolution in things theatrical in London. Speaking of the methods of work adopted by Irving Mr. Collier says: "He re-studies and re-reads his parts. He in no instance so illustrates the beauty of his genius—the moral beauty of his genius—as in the readiness with which he alters and modifies his intellectual conception of his characters as well as the least detail of outward appointment." "The escret of Mr. Irving's power," says our author-"for sccret it is-is 'a hidden mystery.' His faults are palpable and ever present, indeed one must shut one's eye and cars to them. It is necessary to forgive them even before they are committed, and afterwards not only to forgive seven times but seventy times seven. \* \* Mr. Irving has the spell-binding power of an enormous personality. One feels his presence. No sooner does he put his fcot on the beards than his audience know-not through his speech or his action, but through this 'hidden nightery' of personality-that they are the spell-bound captives of an exceptional, indeed unique, histrionic power." Of the much talked of manuerisms of gait and speech, says our author : "These stage peculiarities characterize both his walking and his speaking. Mr. Irving strides the stage at times with a rigidity that seems artificial, and his speaking is not unfrequently absolutely indistinct. He occasionally recites passages in a sort of rhythm which his own cars seem to mistake for emphasis, and in certain endences of voice rut only words but entire sentences are un'ntelligible to the audience. However, these mannerisms do not make Mr. Icving a great actor, and happily they do not intrinsically man Mr. Irving's great acting."

In the Century for November there is also a sketch of another "footlight favorite"the famous actress Mdme Modyaka, who has acquired so permanent a reputation and grown so constantly in public favor. The author—J Ranken Towso—thinks that "her greatest strength lies in the direction of pure comedy, and that she imposes too great a strain upon her physical strength, and ex-ceeds the limits of her inspiration in simulating the stormy passions of tragedy, or even the emotional throns of the modern lating the atormy passions of tragedy, or oven the emotional throes of the modern lachtymose drama. She can portray haukeur, anger, or score, but not the frenzy of either rage or despair: she can be infinitely tender and exquisitely pathetic, but the agony of a great nature is boyond her grasp. She can in licate the pange of suppressed sorrow with admirable and tourhing truthfulness, but the full expression of tragic grief or horror is not within her range." This will, we think, be accepted by those of our readers who have witnessed the gifted actress im perstractions, as a just criterion of her power. She is," says our author, "undoubtedly advancing in artistic growth. She is, and long has been, entitled to a place in the front ranks of living players, but it is not easy to determine her exact position. " " Whether Modjesks has genius or not is a question which the reader may decide in his own way, according to his own definition of that much abused term. She has at least the power of infusing life iato her oreations, and of exciting sympathy in their behalf,

which is to create an illusion and to fulfil

the principal aim of the actor."

Just now American actresses and American plays seem to be all the rage in Lindon, Mary Anderson, Minnie Palmer, Lillian Russell, all have had the London cockneys Rissell, all have had the London cockneys—and London fashionables—at their feet; and now comes the news of the instantancous success in London of Mrs. Burnet's charming little idyl, "Esmeralde," which was placed on the stage in an admirable manner, and acted in a manner that left nothing to be desired. The Times online to the transfer of American life, trathful at least in essentials if not in defail "and thinks that the play "with means." train," and thinks that the play, "with many faults, possesses a distinct value, and must be assigned in that respect to a higher rank than any recent production of the English

The variety stage may not be the most ele-vating form of the modern drams, but there can be no doubt it is a very popular form, and many a new famous actor and actross has graduated therefrom with honors. And as a little nonsonse is now and then relished by even the wisest, the variety artist is by no means to be despised as a caterer to our amusements. To criticize so varied and amusements. To criticize so varied and lengthy a programme as that now being presented at the Grand would be impossible. Suffice it to say that if we have seen very much better performances of a similar nature, we have also endured very much worse—and survived to tell the story.

The Adelaide Street Rink is more than The Adelaide Street Rink is more than crowded day after day and night after night to witness the performance of Jacob's Novelty Company. Just now the wild Zolus are decidedly the attraction, but they are not all that is worth going to see. Mr. Jacob is to be congratulated on the success attending his efforts to place before the public really innocent ammusement at a figure which is within the means of all.

Mr. Edward Fisher, the popular corduc-tor of the Toronto Choral Society, has been appointed to a similar position in a similar musical organization in Ghelph. We con gratulate the former on this evidence of the appreciation in which he is held, and the latter on having secured the services of so able and gentlemanly a conductor.

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