

PR
4883

L65Z774



3-

MRS. LEONOWENS

A perfect woman nobly planned,
To warm, to comfort and command;
And yet a spirit too, and bright
With something of an angel light.—*Wordsworth.*

MANY readers of the UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE in Montreal and elsewhere were not unaware that with the death of the lady who passed away after an illness of some three years on the 19th of last January, a person of rare distinction had vanished from our eyes and an unusually rich and varied life had reached its final close. This writer of this notice had for some years enjoyed the honour and inspiration of a somewhat close acquaintance with her, which had the effect of impressing upon his mind, among other things and thoughts, the strong conviction that she was, on the whole, the best, bravest and wisest among the many good and wise women he has known. She represented the type which has made the Empire. Two of her grandsons are now at the front. She was indeed "a mother in Israel." Would that she were with us in these days of stress!

Mrs. Leonowens, whose maiden name was Anna Harriette Crawford, was born at Carnarvon in Wales on November 5th, 1834, the daughter of an English gentleman, who died young, and a Welsh mother. The mother, on whom devolved the entire charge of forming her character, was quite uncommonly fitted to undertake that sacred responsibility. She was evidently what her little girl afterwards came in eminent measure to be, a woman of force and stout heart. One incident in this mother's life sufficiently exhibits her quality. It was, one feels, precisely what little Anna, come to full stature, would have done under the same conditions.

Mrs. Crawford had married a second time, and accompanied her husband, an English officer, to India. He had