

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The coming of Margaret Mather to the Victoria Theatre next Wednesday and Thursday nights brings to the local stage the leading theatrical star in the dramatic firmament of the American stage. Outside of this fact there is still another that should have weight, and that is the patriotism that should attach to her first visit to Victoria. It is not generally known, but it is a fact, that Miss Mather is a Canadian bred and born. Her birthplace was in the little town of Tillbury West, Ont., and her father, John Finlayson, moved with his family, Margaret included, to Detroit when she was but a child. Her long residence in Detroit gave rise to the mistaken impression that she was born there. Miss Mather to-day not only occupies the proud position of being the leading American tragedienne on the stage, but also that of being the only Canadian who has attained a position of note in the legitimate drama.

For her coming here she promises two bills of much pleasure, the first being composed of the one-act curtain-raiser, "Nance Oldfield," which Novelist Charles Reade wrote for Ellen Terry, and which Miss Mather bought from her after she had made it the success of the London season. Grouped with this is her latest tragic success, "The Egyptian," said to be a remarkably close copy of Victor Hugo's thrilling story, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." For the second night she promises a satisfactory and adequate rendition of Bulwer-Lytton's masterpiece of English romance, "The Lady of Lyons."

In both the curtain-raiser and in "The Lady of Lyons" Miss Mather is given opportunity to wear bewilderingly handsome costumes that cannot but help win encomiums from those who delight to see handsome costumes becomingly worn.

Her work in "The Egyptian" is said to transcend in power and intensity anything that she has ever done. The role is said to call for the display of all the power that marked her Leah, her Juliet, her Gretchen, her Lady Macbeth and her Pauline; and in the third act she is said to reach a point of genius which compels the audience to sit spellbound.

Taken all in all, Miss Mather's coming promises to be the most important event of the whole theatrical year, and from the large take of seats it is certain that she will be greeted by two of the largest and most brilliant houses of the season.

Especial attention is called to the fact that on the second night the curtain will rise and performance begin at 7.45. This is necessary as Miss Mather and company must catch the boat for Tacoma, and she will not listen to any proposition tending to an elimination of any of the scenes or lines of the play.

"The Junior Partner," which will be seen at The Victoria on the evening of October 15, is produced by one of Frohman's companies. The comedy is said to be superior in many respects to "Jane," and if the notices it has received from the press throughout the country be a criterion, no doubt it will please every person who attends The Victoria.

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