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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

LETTER FROM OTTAWA.

Since my last letter Ottawa theatre-goors have been treated to the rate pleasure of two performances by Janushek—the only living exponent of that fine old school of tragic acting, of which Charlotte Cushman was the "bright, particular star." Madame Janushek has the good taste to secure for herself competent professional support, and the personnel of her companies invariably consists of first rate performers whose faithful representipanies invariably consists of first rate performers whose faithful representa-tion of their respectives parts adds materially to her stage successes. She was greeted with large and brilliant audiences while here, and during her weird and wonderful impersonation of the mad witch in "Meg Merrilies," on the second night of her engagement, the great tragedienne was repeatedly called before the curtain by her enthusiastic patrons. Januashek announces that she is now making her farewell tour of the continent; but whether this is only one of the advertising tricks common to the profession, or that she really intends to fulfill what her posters declare to be her intention it is quite certain that on her retirement, we lose one of to be her intention, it is quite certain that on her retirement we lose one of the brightest ornaments of the American stage.

Born in Bohemia in the early part of the century, Janaushek at a tender age manifested marked genius for dramatic representation, and, while yet in her teens, adopted the "sock and buskin" of the Thespian art. She at once became famous amongst her own people, but her ambition was not bounded by the narrow confines of her native land, and she determined to make a name for herself abroad. Assiduously applying herself to the study of German, she mastered the language in an incredibly short time, and started upon a tour of the principal cities of Prussia and Austria, carrying her audiences by storm by her great personal magnetism

and dramatic genius.

Then, with a view to further triumphs in her art, she acquired a knowledge of English and came to America, meeting with success wherever she went, and quickly taking front rank among the great English-speaking tragediennes. Since her coming to America she has steadily advanced in public favor, and although she is now considerably advanced in years, her recent engagement in Ottawa shows that she has lost none acting during her recent engagement in Ottawa shows that she has lost none of her old-time fire, and that her ability

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art, To raise the genius, and to mend the heart,"

has not abated one whit.

Lord Lansdowne's departure from Canada is not to be made with the indecent haste that has been ascribed to it by some Ottawa correspondents of the Maritime press, and he will so far stand upon the order of his going as will enable him to leave his official post swept and garnished, so to speak, for his successor, and also give him opportunity to receive some practical manifestations of esteem from those amongst whom he has sojourned for the past four years. During his tenure of the vice-regal chair, Lord Lansdowne has discharged the functions of his office to the fullest satisfaction of Parliament and the country generally, while the unwearyin, courtesy of his manner, and his ostentations hospitality in social life, will cause him to be long and pleasantly romembered by the Canadian people.

As Vice roy of India, he will be entrusted with wider powers and weightier responsibilities than those assigned him as representative of the Crown under the Canadian constitution, but the ability and sterling force of character he has heretofore manifested in the service of the state will stand him in good stead in his new sphere of usefulness, and are a sufficient guarantee of his success therein.

With a proper appreciation of the eternal fitness of things, Mayor Stewart has taken prompt steps towards giving tangible expression to the esteem in which His Excellency is held by the citizens of Ottawa. A public meeting has been convened to consider what shape a demonstration in his honor should assume, and there is every reason to believe that whatever programme is adopted will be carried out in a manner creditable alike to

Canada and its capital.

Hon. Mr. Blake being absent, the Opposition loses its central figure in debate, and the Government, in consequence, will be in a position to act with more temerity and indifference than in that of past sessions, when the pulitical foresight and incisive criticism of the great liberal statesman stimulated them to caution in operating their policy and framing legislation. It is to be regretted by the country at large that Mr. Blake was constrained by illness to resign the leadership of his party last year. He is by all odds the best qualified man for the position within its ranks. True, the Hon-Mr. Laurier, the present leader of the party is in many respects an able man, but he is in no sense the peer of Mr. Blake, even in the estimation of his most ardent admirers. Besides this, he is painfully out of touch with the environment of his position, and finds the pleasant phases of the office so incommensurate with its cares and perturbations that he is anxious to resign. The names of Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Mowatt have been recently mentioned in connection with the leadership of the Opposition, but the acceptance of it by either of them would not be viewed with satisfaction by the rank and file of their party. The hauteur and repellent mannerisms of the former are not qualities that go to make up a successful political general, while it is conceded with respect to the latter that his tact is employed with better results in the more limited range of Provincial affairs. It would certainly appear that a great mistake will be made by the Liberal party unless they urgo upon Mr Blake his return to the leadership as soon as his health will permit. That the party under his leadership was not successful in its battles, is not proof that Mr. Blake is an incompetent general. Many a skillful soldier whose abilities are unquestioned has suffered