MUSIC AND DRAMA

Robert Downing at the Theater Next Week in Classical Play a —The Bill at the Grand—Notes.

Robert Downing will be the attraction on the last two nights of the coming week at the Salt Lake Theater.

On Friday night he will open his engagement with what is claimed to be Vesterlin Sardou's masterpiece, the romantic drama, Helena, a companion play to the Gladiator.

On Saturday afternoon Julius Cæsar will be the bill, this delightful classic being presented at that time to give an opportunity to the scholars and students of Salt Lake City's schools to study Shakespeare's great play.

Ingomar will be presented on Saturday night, with Robert Downing as Ingomar, and his talented leading lady, Eugenie Blair, as Parthenia. It will be remembered that when Mary Hunderson played Ingomar as the chief play in the repertoire, Robert Downing played the title role and easily divided the honors with the star.

Interest in the engagement centers upon the production of Helena, a play which was given for the first time in English by Mr. Downing and his present company last September, in Washington. The place has excited all sorts of comment, and while it has been criticised somewhat severely on the point of morality, it has certainly met with popular favor. The action of the play occurs in the troublesome times of the Guelph-Ghibeline struggles during the epoch of the free Italian cities. The motive turns on the hatred of a younger woman, and its sudden metamorphosis into love. Mr. Downing is said to have in Oreo, the leading male part of the play, a role that is distinctly in his line and one that fits him as well as the Gladiator. The strongest character is that of Helena, which is played by Eugenie Blair. She has been recognized as an actress of superior merit and her impersonation of Virginia, Parthenia, Nisdamia, and similar characters, have received such praise as to place her at the head of those representing the classic heroines of the American stage. Mr. Downing's company this season is said to be the largest and strongest by which he has ever been surrounded. It includes such excellent artists as Edwin Ferry, Chas. M. Collins, J. H. Kolker, Alexander McKenzie, William Burton, George Barnes, Nettie Baker, Helen Bunn, Mrs. F. M. Bates and others.

Grand Opera House.

The stock company at the Grand is steadily growing in public favor. They have been doing an unusually good business with the comic drama, A Scrap of Paper.

The title of the piece which will constitute the bill for the next week is Woman Against Woman. It is by Frank Harvey, one of the best of the living English authors, and the writer of Wages of Sin and many other pronounced successes.

The character of John Truesdale, the leading male role, will be assumed by Walter Edwards, who has played the part many times before during the tour of the piece through the United States. It is a characterization in which he excels, and he has, perhaps, never done anything better than the honest, hard working young husband, who through a strong chain of circumstances imagines himself deceived.

The principal lady role will of course fall to Miss Warren, and it will deserve upon her to depict a sweet and loving young wife who, through an unfortunate promise, whereby she binds herself to protect at all costs the good name of her sister, puts herself in a trying position in the eyes of her husband.

Mr. Edelsen has an unusually rich character delineation in Phil Torresalder, a lazy old loper who has strayed from the paths of industry through the agency of "the cup that cheers." This is a sort of a companion part to Eccles in Caste, though on the whole a better one.

The play is a rich comedy and very strong in heart interest. The nature of the play is one well suited to the tastes of the patrons of the Grand and should prove a highly successful production.

The inclement weather of last evening did not prevent a good attendance at the Grand. The performance evoked the usual applause and appreciation which it has received from the first presentation. The Tenuole Cyclone Foot Ball team occupied an upper box, from which, at intervals, they let loose their "Hah, Hahs." The music under the direction of Prof. Krause was a pleasant feature.

Scandinavian Drama.

A Scandinavian dramatic company of local talent will appear at the Theater December 11, in a genuine old-time comedy entitled, Anonymous, Pitaemon och Lundstrom. Alfred Nilsen, who since was connected with Nya Theater, Stockholm, will be supported by M. Monsen, F. M. Ericson and others. The music has been arranged by Prof. Anton Pedersen.

Carnival.

Christensen's Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, will be thrown open for a merry masked carnival. The other premises to be a large one. Workmen have already started to put in the electrical effects and decorations. The merchants of the city have been lavished complimentary tickets for the occasion, several well known men will act as officials and it is proposed to have a detective at the door to exclude all objectionable characters.

Pantomime at Daly's.

Augusto Daly is the object of complimentary harness of his effort to give New Yorkers a certain entertainment in the form of pure pantomime. It, however, he counted on the aid of the metropolitan newspapers, he evidently failed, for, according to the papers, but a handful of people attended the opening performance, notwithstanding the announcement of June May, the famous Pattens minuet. In England pantomimes are still successful, but here they are somewhat out of vogue.

The performance is, nevertheless, spoken of as one of the most delightful seen in New York in a long time. It is so excellent and graphic that it gradually moved the audience to a rapture of delight, and at the end of the first act the audience was in a state of enthusiasm.

A Salute at Rehearsals.

Keiser Wilhelm has tried a little of everything, and has succeeded in creating an impression among his intimate members that he is a poet, a painter, a naval architect and a general all-round genius. His latest is a display of interest in the business of a stage manager. The new Berlin opera house is but a short distance as up from the royal palace, and very frequently in the morning—as the story goes—his imperial majesty is to be seen, arrayed in civil dress, wearing a light cloak and smoking a cigarette, crossing over to the theater for the purpose of superintending the rehearsals. It is said that the stage manager frequently finds his criticisms and suggestions of great value. It is of even more interest that his imperial majesty is an excellent authority upon the ballet. He is in the theater being so far as the most of the employes are concerned, and once or twice at least he has come very near being put out work and beats an intruder. Smoking is absolutely prohibited upon the stage, and the kaiser as a rule remembers to throw away his cigarette before he steps in at the stage door. Once, however, he entered without doing so, and the inspector respectfully called attention to the matter. Whereupon the monarch in all the Prussian bowed his head dramatically, and answered: "The regulations for the preservation of order in this house naturally hold good also for me."

The Four Dorcas.

Surely an earlier story, says the New York Evening Sun, was ever flashed across the cable than that which came from Sydney, New South Wales, telling of Arthur Dacre's killing his wife, Amy Roselle, and himself. In New York both husband and wife were well known. There was a time in England when Amy Roselle was a name to conjure with; she was an actress of power and distinction. But when New York saw her in 1891, she had grown too stout and matronly for the roles which otherwise she could so well interpret.

As for her husband, whose real name was Culver James, the worst that could be said of him was that he was a bad actor. He was a fine, strapping figure of a man, graceful, handsome and distingue.

His wife, Miss Roselle, had accompanied him to this country and the two spent the rest of the season in a vain search for engagements. Late in the spring at the Garden theater they produced a play called Love and War. It failed. A Friends gave a benefit performance for the Dacres and they returned to England.

Before leaving England Miss Roselle said to one of the friends who went down to the steamship to bid them goodbye:

"We have almost lost hope. Australia is our last card."

On their arrival in Australia the Dacres produced A Scrap of Paper, Caste, The Ironmaster and other plays. They played to empty benches.

According to the latest dispatch from Sydney, Dacre shot his wife and then killed himself with the same revolver. Both left heartbreaking letters in which they said that they had decided to kill themselves because there was no chance of their succeeding any more. A sister of Arthur Dacre, Helena, was a famous beauty in the Robina Vokes's company for several seasons.

Funny Trouble.

Theatrical folk are having lots of fun over the troubles of Miss Davis and Mrs. Carter, and one veteran observer, in discussing the case, said to a New York Sun reporter:

"It's the same old jealousy story over again. The history of the stage is full of it, and men and women are alike its victims. I don't presume to say whether Mrs. Carter was jealous of Miss Davis or whether Miss Davis was jealous of Mrs. Carter, but I'd wager that they were both jealous and that each one raised Cain with the other. Jealousy is inevitable among stage people, and this case reminds me of many others that have come to my notice during my career as a teamager. I remember how Clara Louise Kellogg refused even to ride in the same carriage with Annie Louise Cary one season while they were on a concert tour, and I remember the rage of Minnie Seligman, now Mrs. Cutting, out on the Pacific coast, when an understudy took her place at a matinee and made a hit. Miss Seligman was in the front of the house, and the understudy got three curtain calls in the actress' favorite scene. That settled it for the understudy. Miss Seligman rushed behind the scenes and ordered the understudy to take off her costume. Then she dressed herself and finished the last two acts of the play. The understudy didn't get another chance during the entire trip. Maria Janssen did the same thing to this city when she pretended illness to get a night off, and let Lois Gaser take her part in the Lion Tamer. Miss Janssen was Francis Wilson's prima donna long. Miss Gaser is now Alice Ritchie left a company in this city because the soubrette, who was a brunette, insisted on wearing a blonde wig. Miss Ritchie insisted that there wasn't room in one company for a real blonde and a fake blonde, and she resigned. It's the old story, but it's funnier every time it's told."

The World of Music.

The opera season, which opened at the Metropolitan Opera house, New York, last week, with Gounod's Romeo et Juliette, promises to be a most brilliant one, says Prounis Musical Weekly. The large audience which attended the performance, having forgotten the Nibs show, leaving the house in their stalls at Madison Square Garden, to admire the series in the boxes at the Metropolitan, gave a warm welcome to their favorite singers.

The re-appearance at the Metropolitan Opera house of Mme. Calve in Carmen is spoken of as a great artistic triumph. Her first reception seems to have been rather cold, but she put her whole soul into her work. She brought all resources into play. She flirted with her crimson satin petticoat—the bit of vanity of the wayward girl—she undulated with all the traditional grace of the true Andalusian, she seemed captivated by her own coquetry, her glances shot fires of passion, she fairly thrilled with the nervous force of her emotional individuality—and slowly but surely she conquered, says one of the critics.

The success of Paderewski in New York created an intense desire among his Boston admirers to again enjoy his gifts as a pianist. The consequence was that the box office at Music Hall was besieged by music lovers, and it was found necessary to open a special window for the accommodation of buyers of Paderewski tickets.

Although it had been announced that Mr. Frank Omdiveer, the Boston violinist, would make his first appearance at the Philharmonic concert, he is really made his American debut at Lord Paget's wedding.

Pelgouses.

One of the most unique souvenirs yet given to a theater, will be used to commemorate the fifteen consecutive performance of May Irwin, in The Widow Jones, at the Bijou, New York.

Richard Harlow, the original Isabella, Dulcy Queen of Spain, who is among the members of Hoyt's big company, who present 1492 here this season, visited Europe the past summer, where he procured a most elaborate wardrobe.

Miss Fanny Bowman has resigned from the Frederick Warde company in order to come to Frisco to marry Charlie Hall. She was tendered a banquet before she left, in which the whole company participated, and which proved an enjoyable affair.

Frederick Warde is doing an enormous business through the South, and has broken all previous records of his own in Atlanta, New Orleans and the larger cities. During the next three weeks he will make a brief tour of Texas.

The only play which is adequately presented without properties is the immortal Mother's comedy, Shakespeare. A Physician in Spite of Himself, which Mr. Charles Hoyt's gives in double bill, both with The Merchant of Venice and Hazwell, a dramatization of Anna Katherine Green's celebrated novel, The Leavenworth Case.

Jacob Litt, the owner of The War of Wealth, it is claimed, has never had a failure. His first success was The Lights O' London. This was followed in rapid succession by The Shoemaker, The Konigs, Two Nights in Old Kentucky, and now The War of Wealth, which will be shortly seen in this city. This is a spirited picture of a certain phase of American life heightened in its effect and adorned by sumptuously realistic and beautiful stage settings.

Arrangements are being made by Victorien Sardou for an early production in Paris at the Odeon theater of his play, "La Haine." This is another name for "Helena," the tragic drama in which Robert Downing and his company are meeting with such success this season. "La Haine" will probably be produced under the direction of M. Coquelin. Sardou is also arranging for an early production of a new play, "Marcelle," at the Gymnase, with Jane Hading in the title role.

On the tenth of April, at Athens, Greece, there will be a grand athletic congress and revival of the Olympian games. Robert Downing contemplates playing in Athens at this time and presenting his well known production, "The Gladiator," and a new and elaborate production of a play, the rights to which he has recently purchased, entitled "The Wife of Miletus." This play is from the pen of T. T. Tomaras, professor of Greek at Harvard University. Those who have read this piece pronounce it one of the most beautiful examples of lyric verse and dramatic construction composed during the century. Some time ago it was given in Athens to the vernacular, and ran for one hundred nights.

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We are pleased to announce the following as some of the leading features of Volume Seventeen of THE CONTRIBUTOR. It is the determination to make this magazine occupy the first rank in our home literature, and we trust this effort will meet encouragement in the liberal patronage of the public.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH will instruct and interest our readers with some articles descriptive of

Early Days in the Valley,
Which will contain reminiscences of his valuable though oftimes trying experiences as a boy and man in Utah.

My First Mission,
Will be the title of some articles from the pen of APOSTLE FRANCIS M. LYMAN, wherein he will give an account of his interesting experience of traveling "without purse or scrip," and many marvelous incidents connected with his ministry abroad.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT will narrate in a series of illustrated articles the incidents of a

Visit to the Moquis,
Made by himself and APOSTLE BRIGHAM YOUNG. These papers will portray in a remarkable manner the care and power of God which accompanied these Elders. The customs of this Indian tribe will also receive attention.

Salem Witchcraft.
A succinct historical account of this remarkable episode of New England colonial history; theories and explanations of its phenomena, offered by leading writers; treatment of the subject from the standpoint of a Latter-day Saint, by B. F. CUMMINGS, JR.

ELDER MARVIN E. PACK will prepare a series of illustrated and highly interesting papers on

The Sandwich Islands Country and Mission
These articles will give a brief historical account of the group of islands, review some of the customs of the people and describe the past labors of our missionaries and the present condition of the latter-day work.

Twelve papers will be furnished by ELDER JAMES H. WALLIS, on

The Consistencies of Mormonism.
These will be most ably written, and are designed to furnish arguments in favor of the truth for our missionaries and those who are called to defend our religion.

My School Days at Ann Arbor,
Will receive treatment by ELDER RICHARD R. LYMAN, who recently graduated as a civil engineer from this noted Michigan school with high honors. These articles will be illustrated.

John Stevens' Courtship, a Tale of the Buchanan War,
Is the title of a deeply interesting serial story which will be continued through the whole volume; its author is our versatile and talented friend SUSA YOUNG GATES (HOMESPUN), whose already published narratives have been of so much interest.

Ideal Manhood: Some Suggestions About It.
This will be the title of some articles containing valuable suggestions to our young men who have an ambition to do or be something in the world. The author is a long resident of Utah, but desires his identity concealed and will consequently write under the nom *de plume* of SIMPLEX.

College Department.
The Latter-day Saints' College in Salt Lake City, will be represented by a department which will be supplied with essays and other articles from students and teachers. These productions will represent, as far as possible, the actual work of the college, and will pass through the hands of the Principal, who will see that everything used is of a high order.

The Musical Department
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Association Intelligence.
In this department will appear all instructive or interesting matter pertaining to M. I. A. work, including answers to questions, reports, suggestions, etc. We particularly invite all active workers in the Associations to assist by their literary contributions in making this department of prime importance.

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