MUSIC AND DRAMA

Local Amusements During the Christmas Week—Our Sweet Singers.

The season mostly dreaded by theatrical managers is drawing to a close. Shortly before the Christmas holidays, the minds of the general public are naturally so much occupied, that even strong theatrical attractions often fall short of being remunerative. With the arrival of the holidays, amusements are again looked for and the managers generally expect a rich harvest and are not disappointed. The coming week is not likely to prove an exception to this rule, as far as the Salt Lake places of amusement are concerned, especially as both at the Theater, the Grand and the Lyceum, strong attractions are offered the theatregoers.

The Theater.

Mr. Louis James will appear at the Theater on Christmas day and the two evenings following. During his engagement Mr. James will be seen in three of his classics and in one new play, the romantic tragedy Marmion, which is a dramatization of Sir Walter Scott's noted poem.

The opening bill, Christmas matinee, will be Sheridan Knowles' noble tragedy, Virginius, to be followed by Macbeth at the evening performance, Marmion Thursday night, and Friday night Hamlet.

Mr. James is an old favorite in Salt Lake. It is needless to say anything about his acting, his personality or his equipment for the interpretation of the heroic roles of tragedy. In his Virginius and Macbeth he has been seen here before. These are two of his best creations. His Macbeth stands alone today. Henry Irving presented the character in New York recently, but while all concede that his production of the play was by far the most magnificent ever attempted, there was much disagreement with the English actor as to his characterization. Mr. Irving lacks the personality and power which are essential features of the character, and sought to remedy it by a novel and interesting interpretation which lacked, it was thought by some, the essential characteristics of Macbeth.

Hamlet is a new character with Louis James, new at least, to Salt Lake. He has for several years attempted to bring it forward, but his idea of Shakespeare's great Prince of Melancholy was such a rational one, and the spell of Edwin Booth's Hamlet was so strong on the public, that he was discouraged by his friends and managers from attempting it. This season he tried it for the first time in New Orleans, scheduling it for one performance only, but it created such a impression and there was such a demand for it that he was induced to repeat it and it drew the largest house of the season.

Marmion, the new play, is a dramatization by Percy Hage of Scott's famous poem, and, as everyone knows, the story it tells is full of action and teems with brilliant pictures of the life of that period. The peculiar character of the hero is most interesting. His splendid dash, his physical courage and prowess, cause one to look upon his fame with more leniency probably than they deserve. The story of Marmion in brief outlines is as follows: Marmion has taken Constance de Beverley from a convent, but through ambition he finally deserts her and leaves her in St. Cuthbert's abbey, under the assurance of protection. She follows her faithless lover, partly with hopes of winning him back, or, failing in that, of securing some papers which by proving his treachery to his foe and rival, De Wilton, would give her a hold upon him. Meanwhile Marmion is sent by Henry VIII of England on an embassy to the court of Scotland. On his way he stops for the night at an inn over the borders, where he is overtaken by Constance. He throws himself down on a bench and in a dream has the encounter with the spectre knight which is such a thrilling episode of Scott's story. The dream is reproduced in the form of a vision and is a most effective bit of stage mechanism. Constance slips into the room and steals the papers from him. She is about to escape when seized by the monks who carry her back to the Abbey and doom her to death for the violation of her vows. Marmion learns of her fate and hastens to her rescue but too late to save her. She has been immured alive in a vault built into the wale of the Abbey dungeon and Marmion rushes in and with his battle axe beats down the stones, when she calls out and dies in his arms. The last act of the play is the battlefield of Flodden where the Scotch met there final downfall at the hands of the English. Here Marmion appears for the last time filled with remorse and hatred, incites into the thickest fray seeking a soldier's death. His death in defense of De Wilton closes the play. The somewhat sombre story is lightened by clever comedy.

Mr. James's company comes highly recommended. It includes sterling material in Guy Lindsley, William Hattin, Harry Langdon, James Hamilton, Morris Nolte, Miss Florence Everett, Mrs. Agnes Hendricks, James and Miss Alma Kruger, whose success in the leading women's roles with Mr. James this season has been little short of sensational.

Thomas Keene is booked to appear at the Salt Lake Theater on Monday and Tuesday nights, December 30 and 31, in Shakespearian revivals. He brings with him a selected company of twenty-three players, many of them favorably known in the theaters of eastern cities. It is unnecessary to comment on the prominence of Mr. Keene as a tragedian. The scholarly study of his authorities and his dramatic instincts, combined with other qualifications, have placed him in the position he holds today in the esteem of the public.

Mary Wainwright comes to the Theater January 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Grand Opera House.

The past week at the Grand has been a most successful one, the stirring war time play Lynwood having been received with enthusiasm at every performance.

Next week, beginning Monday, Dec. 23rd, a modern romantic drama by Marina Morton, entitled Helene, is to be presented. It is a play of modern thought and tone and the story is quite interesting and dramatic. The central figure of the play is Helene, the daughter of a political refugee who is spending the season in Paris. The girl has three admirers who have all proposed for her hand. One is the Baron de Serene, another Raymond, the orphan and heir, and the third, Maurice Clermont, a young gambler whose love she returns. The Baron, however, has allies her father to escape at a critical moment and out of gratitude, knowing also that it is her father's wish, she marries him. Eighteen months lapse between the first and second acts and the scene comes on the occasion of the latter's return to Paris. Raymond de Serene has always received the success of his suits in winning the women he loved and has been patiently awaiting an opportunity to get his revenge in the way in which some one marries the baron's wife, Maurice Clermont, the young dandy who has always been a firm friend of the Baron de Serene, is called to account to attend him, and relaxes his gambling, in the course of which he hands to Raymond, who substitutes a poisonous drug which causes his sudden death. Another year lapses and Maurice and Helene are about to be married when Raymond, driven to desperation by the thought of losing her, picks a quarrel with Maurice in the hope of killing him, so he is an expert with both swords and pistols. Maurice, however, knows of Raymond's skill and chooses a novel method of dueling. He elects to draw lots to see who shall die and comes out victorious. Helene is then chosen to draw for the duel. Five papers are folded carefully and laid upon the table, three being blank and on the other two is written the names of the duellists. Not a word is spoken during the drawing, the men watching the process. Here silence adds to Helene's terror by conflicting emotions, is hardly able to stand until the winning paper is drawn on which is written the name of Maurice and seals the fate of Raymond. This is he cast:

Maurice Clermont, a young gambler ..... Frank Worthing
Baron Adolphe de Serene ..... Stephen Moyer
Raymond de Serene, the cousin and heir ..... Harry Langdon
Lord Jack Carlyfood ..... George K. Atkinson
Sydney Gardner Cobb ..... Hugh J. Ward
Teddy Smith, an American boy ..... Master Harry Hallaway
Hippolyte le Tort ..... William H. Foster
Michel Richard ..... Edward Morris
Lady Sarah Carlyfood ..... Marie Carr Cook
Madam Clermont ..... Catherine Jordan
Hélène de Serene, Adolphe's wife ..... Julia Dean
Fantette ..... Edith Fulton

There will be a matinee on Christmas day at the Grand, for which there is already a heavy advance sale.

Madge Carr Cook, who was such a big favorite last season, makes her first appearance Monday night in Helene. She has been associated with most of the players of the present company, as she was a prominent member of the stock company at Manhattan Beach last season, where Mr. Lagerald, Mr. Edson and Mr. Edwards were engaged.

Miss Julia Dean, a prominent Salt Lake society girl, will make her debut on the professional stage with the Grand Opera company in Helene.

Brigham Royce, who is a well known face in Salt Lake, and who was last seen here with the Coughlan-Stockwell company, takes a small part in Helene next week.

Women as dramatists are coming to the front. Christopher Jr., in which John Drew and Maude Adams recently made such a hit, is from the pen of Madalene Lucette Ryley. The play, which will be placed upon the Grand boards next week, and which in the opinion of Messrs. Edson and Edwards will be the strongest yet presented since the opening of the house, is also written by a woman, Martha Morton being the author.

The Grand company are rehearsing the Amazons, which will follow Helene. Manager Rogers is negotiating with Mr. Edith Clawson Knowlton to take a prominent part. The property man is having a hard time rustling up bloomers for this attraction.

The Lyceum.

Forgiven or Jack o' Diamonds, a melodrama of Western life, will be presented at the Lyceum this week. Matinees will be given on Christmas day and Saturday. The scenes are laid in Florida and New Mexico, and the cast of characters includes: Mexicans, gamblers, negroes, and others of the border type.

The World of Music.

One hundred and fifty of our Tabernacle choir singers, including the amateur contra who took the fifth place at the Eisteddfod last fall, also the Cecilia club, and most of the Bel Canto (the winning ladies' chorus), the Harmes course of forty gentlemen and the Harmony Glee club, intend taking a musical pleasure trip to California in the early spring. Nearly all of our leading artists are among the number, and if they give concerts in the western metropolis—as they undoubtedly will—we will have representatives who will reflect much credit on our fair city and state, and California will know what the noted "Mormon choir" means.

A series of three concerts are being arranged for, to be given in the Tabernacle on the second Friday of each month, beginning in January. The California contralto chorus and nearly planned for there, when they learned of a more among the M. I. A. to fill up a gymnasium and reading rooms in this city. Professor Stephens being interested to such enterprise brought both legislators with the result that the series of concerts will be given under the auspices of the Improvement Association League, each doing its utmost to aid the other in securing such patronage from the public and their friends as will assure substantial aid to both.

Among those whose services are already secured, besides the separate organizations mentioned above, are R. C. Easton, Logan, Reeds Dean Allison, Ogden, Agnes Olsen Thomas, Lizzie Thomas Edward, George D. Pyper, Willard Weihe, Heber S. Gledard, Thomas Ashworth, Miss Maud Babcock, Master Charles Pike, Horace Ensign, Mable Cooper, and others. Negotiations are going on to secure Mrs. Nellie Dunn Passey, Mr. N. Brigham, Mr. Pakhody with his Hungarian band, and others of our leading musical and other public favorites. The whole is under the direction of Prof. Stephens.

Young singers will come to the front this season—do says Prof. Stephens—are Miss Nellie Penrose, Miss Allie Bowring, Miss Della Dayton, Miss Maud Pratt and Mrs. Charlie Clermont, a young graduate