

With The First Nighters

THE MESSIAH

Interest centers in the Salt Lake Oratorio's society's production of "The Messiah" on New Year's afternoon, at 5 p. m., in the Salt Lake theatre. The society gave the same oratorio last year with the most pronounced success in the Empress theatre; but many were turned away because of insufficient seats. Indications now point to a crowded house in the Salt Lake theatre.

The soloists this year are: Mrs. Fay Loose Stiehl, soprano; Edna Lamb Williams, alto; Farguhar Murray, tenor; Willard Andelin, baritone.

All are local singers except Mr. Murray, who came originally from Aberdeen. The London Daily Chronicle calls Mr. Murray the "Scotch Caruso." Mr. Murray now claims Montreal, Canada, as his home; but he has been living for some time in Denver, where his musical work has received marked praise. Recent notices from Denver comment very highly on his rendition of "Comfort Ye in the Valley" from The Messiah. This and other solos in Mr. Murray's repertoire indicate that he is familiar with the oratorio in which he will greet his Salt Lake audience.

Mr. Murray toured as leading tenor in a thirty-six weeks' engagement with the Moody-Manners Grand Opera Co. He has also appeared in rolls with notable stars in "Carmen," "Il Trovatore," "Pagliacci," "Rienzi," etc. He is a close student of Wagner and studied this master under a former tutor of the great composer.

"IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE"

"It Pays to Advertise" is counted by Cohan and Harris as one of their best successes. The play proves its title, and every rusty old business house in the country that has "something the matter with it" should send its representative to see it and find out the reason, for there are thousands of rich old conservatives like Cyrus Martin, the head of the soap trust in the play, who need a few practical illustrations of the fact that "It Pays to Advertise." The play is one of the funniest combination of circumstances ever staged, but is a practical lesson to those who do not believe it teaches a great truth.

ORPHEUM

"The Coward" heads the list at the Orpheum this week, with Lillian Kingsbury, Leighton Stark and some others in rather a socialistic protest against war. However, Miss Kingsbury is a splendid actress and some of the lines in the sketch are thrillers. As a whole the bill is not up to the usual Orpheum standard, but there are some bright spots, Olga, for instance, the modern dancing violiniste, and then Henrietta Gores with "Chuck" Reiser, "It's Only a Show," and Glen Ellison, "A Scot Without a Kilt," who has the real thing in burrs and whose articulation is wonderful.

The bill opens with Maizie King and Ted Donner who dance, but who have also taken to the cakewalk habit.

Robert L. Dally and company are also on the bill in a sketch called "Our Bob," and Ben Beyer and company in a cycling novelty.

Beginning tomorrow the Orpheum bill will include Claude Gillingwater and Miss Stella Archer and company as the headliner, in a sketch called "The Decision of Governor Locke." James Diamond and Sibly Brennon will be seen in "Nifty nonsense;" Percy Bronson and Winnie Baldwin have something called "Pickings From Song and Dance Land;" Claudius and Scarlet will present "The Call of the Sixties;" Sherman

Van and Hyman will be heard in melodious nonsense; the gymnastic end of the performance will bring the Flying Wertz duo and the Six Schiovanis will be seen in a comic novelty.

"TWIN BEDS"

"Twin Beds," with Marian Lord, who has more personality than anyone seen in a comedy role here during the season is a Frenchy farce by Salisbury Field and Margaret Mayo, and was enjoyed by large audiences whose hilarity did not cease from the time of the first curtain to the drop of the last.

Miss Lord is a most remarkable person and the way she controlled her excitable Italian tenor husband, cleverly played by Mr. Porcasi, at the same time making it understood that she was for him, was a perfect scream. In lines, manner and action, nothing more delicious has been seen here in years.

EMPRESS

Now we are to have the "question play." We have had the "crime play," the "divorce play," the "problem play," and a lot of other kind of plays. The latest is "The Blindness of Virtue," which has been dubbed both sex and "question play." Cosmo Hamilton, a clever English author, is the man who has put the question mark in the drama this time. The Ernest Wilkes stock company, who have given Salt Lake theatregoers so many good plays during their engagement at the Empress theatre, will present the play next week, opening Sunday night.

Mr. Hamilton is original in his "stage quizz," for every author and playwright but asks a

question—is this or that right. But Hamilton comes out in a startling fashion. He makes you sit up and take notice, so to speak.

The story of the play is considered one of the real sensations of the drama, because it deals in a fearless style with sex education, a question that is frowned upon by a large majority. The author has at the same time incorporated some very brilliant comedy lines in his play. We have long known that love is blind. Hamilton asks the question: "Shoul virtue be blind?" The play will not doubt have a splendid production, and after we have seen it, we will give you our answer.

Paul Harvey will be seen as the Vicar, Nana Bryant as "Effe," and "Cliff" Thompson as the young Oxford student.

AMERICAN

"The Penitents," in which Orrin Johnson stars with Seena Owen in his support, is a story of love and intrigue, and will be the principal feature on the American theatre program for tomorrow and Monday. The scene is laid in New Mexico two centuries ago, when a fanatical religious society known as the Penitents flourished, although vigorously opposed by the church. The story has to do with the weird and barbarous customs of this sect. The film is true to history in so far as the principal theme is concerned although of course the romance that is interwoven is fictional.

Orrin Johnson plays the role of a shepherd in a picturesque fashion. He is a Kentuckian by birth and has had a career of note as a Broadway star in dramatic productions. In this picture he is seen to great advantage in the simple flowing

Scene from "It Pays to Advertise" at the Salt Lake Theatre, next Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

