

Henrik Hertz



King Rene's Daughter

A Danish Lyrical Drama

SFA-89 2012

KING RENE'S DAUGHTER:

A Danish Lyrical Drama.

HENRIK HERTZ.

TRANSLATED BY

THEODORE MARTIN.

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MDCCL.

THIS Translation was prepared upwards of two years ago, with the view of being produced on the English Stage. The part of IOLANTHE, one of the most exquisite creations of modern poetry, seemed to be peculiarly adapted to the genius of Miss HELEN FAUCIT. It was accepted and studied by that lady, the alterations required by the exigencies of the Stage were made, and the piece was on the point of being produced by her in Dublin last season, when circumstances occasioned its temporary postponement. The recent production of the piece at the Strand Theatre took place with Miss FAUCIT'S permission; and it has afforded the most gratifying proof, that there is no want of either inclination or power in an English audience to appreciate a Drama which owes its effect solely to the simplicity of its structure, the ideal beauty of its central character, and the atmosphere of poetry and old romance by which it is pervaded.

LONDON, *20th December*, 1849.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

KING RENE, of Provence.

IOLANTHE, his daughter.

COUNT TRISTAN of **Vaudemont**.

SIR GEOFFREY of Orange.

SIR ALMERIK.

EBN **JAHIA**, a Moorish Physician.

BERTRAND.

MARTHA, his wife.

(The scene lies in Provence, in a valley of Vaucluse, and lasts from mid-day to sun-set. **Time**—**The** middle of the 15th century.)

To the left (of the actor) stands a house of one story, covered with ivy and roses,—its windows shaded by verandahs. A garden runs backwards from the house, in which the vegetation displays a tropical luxuriance. Some date-palms in the foreground. At the end of the garden is seen a wall of rock, overgrown with brushwood, and in it a door so covered with moss and stones, that it is only perceptible when open. Behind this wall lofty mountains stretch into the distance.