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SHERIDAN'S

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

WITH CHINESE TRANSLATION

By

SU CHAO LUNG (蘇兆龍)

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序

理查布麟司力薛立敦(Richard Brinsley Sheridan)系出名門，夙標物望。其祖父爲斯尉夫特 (Swift) 之摯友。其父博學雄辯，善演劇，兼能編纂辭典，所著斯尉夫特傳，名作也。其母嘗撰劇本發見 (The Discovery) 與小說息特內畢達夫女士 (Miss Sidney Biddulph)，均爲當時士大夫所傳誦。薛立敦於一七五一年生於愛爾蘭之都伯林，髫齡時遷家英國，家人卽遣赴哈洛 (Harrow) 讀書，雖未能孜孜好學，而頗見契於師友焉。年十八，還家從父習雄辯術，業大進，與友人哈克德 (Halked) 同譯 Aristænetus，並著滑稽戲曲一齣。一七七〇年，其家遷至巴斯 (Bath)，有賣曲女子林力 (Linley) 者，薛立敦一見而傾心。林力色藝俱美，衆爭獻媚，薛氏於一七七二年挈渠逃至法國，祕密訂同居之好。由是薛氏屢與情敵決鬪，煩惱殊甚，至一七七三年，其岳父不復反對，遂正式宣布結婚。時薛氏雖窮困，終不許其婦鬻歌以自給也。一七七五年一月，薛氏第一篇喜劇情敵 (The Rivals) 出現於卡汾特園 (Covent Garden) 舞臺之上，雖初演時頗形失敗，卒經修改而備受歡迎。是年五月及十一月，薛氏又有滑稽戲曲聖巴特里克節日 (St. Patrick's Day) 與滑稽樂劇 (comic opera) 侍女長 (The Duenna) 之表現，一歲而出三劇，可謂盛已。名優加立克 (Garrick) 見薛氏聲譽鵲起，極器重

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之，一七七六年，辭去德魯立巷戲院 (Drury Lane Theatre) 經理職務，因售其股份於薛氏及薛之友人。薛氏新任經理，所貢獻者除斯喀彼羅旅行記 (A Trip to Scarborough) 外，別無新穎之作，且是劇亦不過就凡布魯 (Vanbrugh) 之故態復萌 (The Relapse) 而改作，以是觀衆憾焉。是年五月，造謠學校 (The School for Scandal) 出，社會乃爲之轟動。翌年，薛氏與友人等更將德魯立巷戲院其他之股份盡行收買。一七七九年，薛氏發表其最後之劇本批評者 (The Critic)，雖其後更有比撒羅 (Pizarro) 一劇，第該劇僅係科策部 (Kotzebue) 之譯本或改本而已。一七八〇年，薛氏被選爲國會議員，代表斯塔福 (Stafford) 州，迨年二十九，始作政治家與演說家，爲民黨黨魁之一，而其彈劾窩梭 哈斯丁 (Warren Hastings) 之辯論辭，允膾炙人口。渠於法蘭西革命極表同情；攝政王喬治第四既寵禮之，當代才人亦多樂與爲友。一八零九年，德魯立巷戲院於改建後忽燬於火，薛氏復失其國會中之議席。最難堪者，渠竟以債訟被逮，除二三摯友外無人照拂。病革之際，負債約四千鎊，債主逼索甚苛，藉攝政王等之資助，始脫於難，惜從此不起矣，時一八一六年七月七日也。死後，葬韋斯敏斯德大寺 (Westminster Abbey) 中，送殯者多王子貴族云。

先是造謠學校以觸當局之忌，禁止排演，嗣經作

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者求援於御前大臣赫特福(Hertford),乃於一七七七年五月八日始演於德魯立巷戲院,其後屢經奏演,至百餘年而聲價不衰。大俗人士勒得(Schröder)曾親赴英國以觀是劇,歸而譯演之於奧京維也納(Vienna),其名貴可知矣。是劇改竄數四,茲所載者乃其晚年通行之稿。按薛氏戲劇風派,直遠追文藝復興時代之作者,且其喜劇備極詼諧,而絕不流於猥褻,雖滑稽如孔格雷夫(Congreve),亦瞠乎莫能及焉。或謂是劇有所仿襲,固也,然薛氏取材於他人而精心結撰之,一經着手,便爾不凡,殆與莎翁之藝術相類耳,夫何病其仿襲歟?

民國十七年五月譯者識。

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Dramatis Personæ

SIR PETER TEAZLE	CRABTREE
SIR OLIVER SURFACE	ROWLEY
SIR HARRY BUMPER	MOSES
SIR BENJAMIN BACKBITE	TRIP
JOSEPH SURFACE	LADY TEAZLE
CHARLES SURFACE	LADY SNEERWELL
CARELESS	MRS. CANDOUR
SNAKE	MARIA

Gentlemen, Maid, and Servants

SCENE : *London.*

ACT FIRST

SCENE I

LADY SNEERWELL'S *Dressing room.*

LADY SNEERWELL *discovered at her toilet*; SNAKE *drinking chocolate.*

LADY SNEER. The paragraphs, you say, Mr. Snake, were all inserted?

SNAKE. They were, madam; and, as I copied them myself in a feigned hand, there can be no suspicion whence they came.

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劇 中 人 物

彼得提茲爾勳爵

奧力佛守發斯勳爵

哈立班勃勳爵

本甲明拔克把脫勳爵

約瑟夫守發斯

查理士守發斯

愷耶列司

司耐克

克刺布屈里

牢萊

摩西

屈烈勃

提茲爾太太

司尼雅威爾太太

坎多爾夫人

馬利亞

紳士們,女婢,和僕役們

佈景: 倫敦.

第 一 齣 第 一 幕

司尼雅威爾太太以下簡稱司太太的梳妝室。

開幕時只見司太太在梳妝着,司耐克吃着諸

果律茶。

司太太。照你的話,司耐克先生,那些段落已經
攙總插進去了麼?

司耐克。牠們都插進去了,太太;而且我用一種
假筆跡去抄寫牠們,所以人家不會知道牠們從那
裏來的。

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LADY SNEER. Did you circulate the report of Lady Brittle's intrigue with Captain Boastall ?

SNAKE. That's in as fine a train as your ladyship could wish. In the common course of things, I think it must reach Mrs. Clackitt's ears within four-and-twenty hours ; and then, you know, the business is as good as done.

LADY SNEER. Why, truly, Mrs. Clackitt has a very pretty talent, and a great deal of industry.

SNAKE. True, madam, and has been tolerably successful in her day. To my knowledge, she has been the cause of six matches being broken off, and three sons being disinherited ; of four forced elopements, and as many close confinements ; nine separate maintenances, and two divorces. Nay, I have more than once traced her causing a *Mé-à-tête* in the *Town and Country Magazine*, when the parties, perhaps, had never seen each other's face before in the course of their lives.

LADY SNEER. She certainly has talents, but her manner is gross.

SNAKE. 'Tis very true. She generally designs well, has a free tongue and a bold invention ; but her coloring is too dark, and her outlines often extravagant. She wants that delicacy of tint, and mellowness of sneer, which distinguish your ladyship's scandal.

LADY SNEER. You are partial, Snake.

SNAKE. Not in the least ; everybody allows that Lady Sneerwell can do more with a word or look than many can with the most labored detail, even when they happen to have a little truth on their side to support it.

LADY SNEER. Yes, my dear Snake ; and I am no hypocrite to deny the satisfaction I reap from the success of my

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司太太。你把那布里忒爾太太和波司托爾船長私通的醜史傳布了麼？

司耐克。這醜史已乘着你太太頂喜歡的火車了。就常理講來，我想牠在二十四小時以內定達到克臘基特夫人的耳邊；那末，你知道，那事情可算是做成功了。

司太太。可是，真的話，克臘基特夫人却有一種很好的天才，並且是很勤勉的。

司耐克。誠然，太太，而且她當日也算是利達了。照我所知道的說來，因為她便拆破了六個婚姻，剝奪了三個承繼子的家產；因為她又有了四個強迫養的私奔案，四個密的監禁案，還有九個分居贍養的案和兩個離婚案。而且，我常常得她叫別人在那“城鄉雜誌”上登出一種囁情話的照片，其實那所指的兩人在以前或者不會見過的一面。

司太太。她誠然有許多天才，可是她的品格不雅。

司耐克。這話很對。她平常很會弄花樣兒，舌頭很是巧滑，並能說好大的謊；但她的着色嫌其太濃，她的描寫動輒出乎規矩之外，像你是太太的毀謗裏的，帶着優美的色彩和軟熟的譏諷，却是她所沒有的。

司太太。你很徧私啊，司耐克。

司耐克。毫不徧私的；誰都承認司尼雅威爾太太的一句話或一瞥眼勝似許多人十分勞力的譏評，雖是他們還有一些真憑實據來證明牠。

司太太。是，我親愛的司耐克；我不是僞君子，也不必諱言我從我成功所得的快活了。我在年幼

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efforts. Wounded myself, in the early part of my life, by the envenomed tongue of slander, I confess I have since known no pleasure equal to the reducing others to the level of my own reputation.

SNAKE. Nothing can be more natural. But, Lady Sneerwell, there is one affair in which you have lately employed me, wherein, I confess, I am at a loss to guess your motives.

LADY SNEER. I conceive you mean with respect to my neighbor, Sir Peter Teazle, and his family?

SNAKE. I do. Here are two young men, to whom Sir Peter has acted as a kind of guardian since their father's death; the eldest possessing the most amiable character, and universally well spoken of—the youngest, the most dissipated and extravagant young fellow in the kingdom, without friends or character; the former an avowed admirer of your ladyship, and apparently your favorite; the latter attached to Maria, Sir Peter's ward, and confessedly beloved by her. Now, on the face of these circumstances, it is utterly unaccountable to me, why you, the widow of a city knight, with a good jointure, should not close with the passion of a man of such character and expectations as Mr. Surface; and more so why you should be so uncommonly earnest to destroy the mutual attachment subsisting between his brother Charles and Maria.

LADY SNEER. Then, at once to unravel this mystery, I must inform you that love has no share whatever in the intercourse between Mr. Surface and me.

SNAKE. No!

LADY SNEER. His real attachment is to Maria, or her fortune; but, finding in his brother a favored rival, he has

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的時候便被那毀謗的毒舌所中傷，所以我承認我從那時以後覺得人生最樂的事情就是把別人的名譽弄得和我一樣。

司耐克。那是自然。但是，司尼雅威爾太太，有一件事，你現在爲着牠雇用了我，我承認我却猜不着你的做牠的宗旨。

司太太。我知道你的話是指着我的隣人彼得提茲爾勳爵和他的家人吧？

司耐克。我是這樣。這裏有兩位少年，自從他們的父親去世之後，彼得勳爵便做了他們的監護人；那位年長的有很可愛的品格，人家都誇獎他——那位年幼的乃是全國裏頂頂放蕩奢侈的少年，沒有的朋友也沒有品格；那位年長的自己承認是你太愛那彼得勳爵的，又明明是你的人；那位年幼的却戀所鍾愛。現在，照這樣的情形看來，我很不解你這樣一個城裏的勳爵的孀婦，又有偌大的遺產，爲什麼不和那像守發斯先生這樣有品格有希望的人相愛；我更不解你爲什麼偏激急地要破壞他的兄弟查理士和馬利亞的兩好的姻緣。

司太太。那末，要立刻解釋這件神祕，我便不得不告訴你，守發斯先生和我兩人的交際裏面並沒有絲毫的戀愛。

司耐克。不是麼！

司太太。他的真情原是傾向馬利亞或是她的財產；可是他看出他的兄弟是一個被寵愛的情敵，

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been obliged to mask his pretensions, and profit by my assistance.

SNAKE. Yet still I am more puzzled why you should interest yourself in his success.

LADY SNEER. Heavens! how dull you are! Cannot you surmise the weakness which I hitherto, through shame, have concealed even from you? Must I confess that Charles — that libertine, that extravagant, that bankrupt in fortune and reputation — that he it is for whom I am thus anxious and malicious, and to gain whom I would sacrifice everything?

SNAKE. Now, indeed, your conduct appears consistent: but how came you and Mr. Surface so confidential?

LADY SNEER. For our mutual interest. I have found him out a long time since. I know him to be artful, selfish, and malicious — in short, a sentimental knave; while with Sir Peter, and indeed with all his acquaintance, he passes for a youthful miracle of prudence, good sense, and benevolence.

SNAKE. Yes; yet Sir Peter vows he has not his equal in England; and, above all, he praises him as a man of sentiment.

LADY SNEER. True; and with the assistance of his sentiment and hypocrisy he has brought Sir Peter entirely into his interest with regard to Maria; while poor Charles has no friend in the house — though, I fear, he has a powerful one in Maria's heart, against whom we must direct our schemes.

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便不得不帶着他的假面具而利用我的幫助了。

司耐克。然而我還更不解你爲什麼關心他的成功。

司太太。天呀！你是怎樣的愚笨！我因爲害羞連你都瞞着的那種缺點，你難道不能夠猜着麼？難道一定要我承認查理士——那個浪子，那個狂徒，那個家財和名譽兩俱破產者——承認我爲他懸念而妬毒，我只要得着他便肯犧牲一切麼？

司耐克。啊，真的，你的行爲好像有一定的張本了：可是你和守發斯先生爲什麼這樣相契呢？

司太太。因爲我們兩造的利益。我久已看出他的行徑了。我知道他是很狡猾，很自私，又很妬毒——總之，是一個假作多情的惡漢；只是據彼得勳爵和他的攏總相識的人看來，他却被稱爲一個極謹慎極有道極仁愛的少年。

司耐克。是；可是彼得勳爵誓言他在英國算是第一無雙；他却最稱贊他，說他是一個多情的人。

司太太。不錯；因爲他的多情和僞善的幫助，他已經叫彼得勳爵完全袒護他和馬利亞的相愛了；至於可憐的查理士在那個家庭裏却沒有一個朋友——但是我恐怕他在馬利亞的心腹裏尋着一個強有力的朋友，所以我們須得設計去反對她。

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Enter SERVANT

SER. Mr. Surface.

LADY SNEER. Show him up. [*Exit* SERVANT.] He generally calls about this time. I don't wonder at people giving him to me for a lover.

Enter JOSEPH SURFACE

JOS. SURF. My dear Lady Sneerwell, how do you do to-day? Mr. Snake, your most obedient.

LADY SNEER. Snake has just been rallying me on our mutual attachment, but I have informed him of our real views. You know how useful he has been to us; and, believe me, the confidence is not ill-placed.

JOS. SURF. Madam, it is impossible for me to suspect a man of Mr. Snake's sensibility and discernment.

LADY SNEER. Well, well, no compliments now; but tell me when you saw your mistress, Maria — or, what is more material to me, your brother.

JOS. SURF. I have not seen either since I left you; but I can inform you that they never meet. Some of your stories have taken a good effect on Maria.

LADY SNEER. Ah, my dear Snake! the merit of this belongs to you. But do your brother's distresses increase?

JOS. SURF. Every hour. I am told he has had another execution in the house yesterday. In short, his dissipation and extravagance exceed anything I have ever heard of.

LADY SNEER. Poor Charles!

JOS. SURF. True, madam; notwithstanding his vices, one can't help feeling for him. Poor Charles! I'm sure I

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僕人上。

僕。 守發斯先生。

司太太。 引他進來。(僕下。) 他常常在這個時候來探訪。 這也無怪人家把他當作我的情人啊。
約瑟夫守發斯(以下簡稱約瑟)上。

約瑟。 我親愛的司尼雅威爾太太，你今天好麼？
司耐克先生，你的最恭順的僕人。

司太太。 司耐克剛纔因為我們相契已經嘲笑了我，但是我把我實在的意思告訴了他。 你知道他對我怎樣的効力；而且，你可相信我，我的信任不是亂用的。

約瑟。 太太，像司耐克先生這般聰明多智的人，我是不能夠疑惑他的。

司太太。 是，是，現在不要講客氣話了；可是告訴我什麼時候你看見你的情人馬利亞——或是，那於我更吃緊的問題，什麼時候看見你的兄弟。

約瑟。 自從我和你分手之後，我却不曾看見過他們；但是我可告訴你，他們也不會相會過。 你的謠言裏面有幾個很能夠影響馬利亞了。

司太太。 啊，我親愛的司耐克！這種成績是你的。但是你的兄弟的苦惱便因此增加麼？

約瑟。 每點鐘逐漸增加的。我聽說他昨天在家裏又有一番的打毀了。總之，他的放蕩和奢侈是我向來所罕聞的。

司太太。 可憐的查理士！

約瑟。 真的，太太，雖是他有罪過，人却不能不憐惜他。 可憐的查理士！ 實在我巴不得我能夠替

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wish it were in my power to be of any essential service to him; for the man who does not share in the distresses of a brother, even though merited by his own misconduct, deserves —

LADY SNEER. O Lud! you are going to be moral, and forget that you are among friends.

JOS. SURF. Egad, that's true! I'll keep that sentiment till I see Sir Peter. However, it is certainly a charity to rescue Maria from such a libertine, who if he is to be reclaimed, can be so only by a person of your ladyship's superior accomplishments and understanding.

SNAKE. I believe, Lady Sneerwell, here's company coming: I'll go and copy the letter I mentioned to you. Mr. Surface, your most obedient.

JOS. SURF. Sir, your very devoted.—[*Exit SNAKE.*] Lady Sneerwell, I am very sorry you have put any further confidence in that fellow.

LADY SNEER. Why so?

JOS. SURF. I have lately detected him in frequent conference with old Rowley, who was formerly my father's steward, and has never, you know, been a friend of mine.

LADY SNEER. And do you think he would betray us?

JOS. SURF. Nothing more likely: take my word for 't, Lady Sneerwell, that fellow hasn't virtue enough to be faithful even to his own villainy. Ah, Maria!

Enter MARIA

LADY SNEER. Maria, my dear, how do you do? What's the matter?

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他盡一些實力；因爲一個人不能和他的兄弟同患難，雖說是他的兄弟有應得之咎，那個人也該受一

司太太。天啊！你又說這些道學話，忘却你是在朋友中間了。

約瑟。天啊，那是不錯！我留着這種情感，等到我看見了彼得勳爵。然而，從這種浪子的手裏救出馬利亞，真是一件好事，要想把這種浪子弄了回頭，也只有像你太太這般程度和智識的人辦得到啊。

司耐克。司尼雅威爾太太，我相信有一個朋友來了：我要去抄寫那我和你說及的一封信哩。守發斯先生，你的最恭順的僕人。

約瑟。先生，你的極誠懇的僕人——（司耐克下。）司尼雅威爾太太，你很相信這個脚色，我心裏很覺得難過。

司太太。爲什麼？

約瑟。我近來看出他常常和老牢萊密談，老牢萊從前是我父親的管家，你知道他絕不是我的朋友。

司太太。你以爲他能賣我們麼？

約瑟。那是無疑：司尼雅威爾太太，你可相信我，這個脚色的道德很壞，連他自己的惡行他也要翻翻覆覆地保不穩。啊，馬利亞！

馬利亞（以下簡稱馬利）上。

司太太。馬利亞，吾愛，你好麼？有什麼事？

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MAR. Oh! there's that disagreeable lover of mine, Sir Benjamin Backbite, has just called at my guardian's, with his odious uncle, Crabtree; so I slipped out, and ran hither to avoid them.

LADY SNEER. Is that all?

JOS. SURF. If my brother Charles had been of the party, madam, perhaps you would not have been so much alarmed.

LADY SNEER. Nay, now you are severe; for I dare swear the truth of the matter is, Maria heard you were here. But, my dear, what has Sir Benjamin done, that you should avoid him so?

MAR. Oh, he has done nothing — but 'tis for what he has said: his conversation is a perpetual libel on all his acquaintance.

JOS. SURF. Ay, and the worst of it is, there is no advantage in not knowing him; for he'll abuse a stranger just as soon as his best friend: and his uncle's as bad.

LADY SNEER. Nay, but we should make allowance; Sir Benjamin is a wit and a poet.

MAR. For my part, I own, madam, wit loses its respect with me, when I see it in company with malice. What do you think, Mr. Surface?

JOS. SURF. Certainly, madam; to smile at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast is to become a principal in the mischief.

LADY SNEER. Psha! there's no possibility of being witty without a little ill nature: the malice of a good thing is the barb that makes it stick. What's your opinion, Mr. Surface?

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馬利。啊！我的很討厭的情人本甲明拔克把脫勳爵剛纔和他的很討厭的叔父克刺布屈里到我的監護人的家裏來探訪；所以我偷偷地溜出來，跑到這裏避掉了他們。

司太太。沒有別的話麼？

約瑟。倘使我的兄弟查理士也在這裏，太太，或者你不至於這樣的驚駭吧。

司太太。喂，你現在的話太嚴厲了；因為我敢斷言這事件的真相是，馬利亞早已聽得你在這裏了。可是，吾愛，你這樣的避掉本甲明勳爵，他到底做了什麼事呢？

馬利。啊，他不曾做什麼事——只是因為他所講的話：他的談話常常是毀謗他的攏總的相識的人。

約瑟。唉，最壞的就是，不認識他也沒有好處；因為他喜歡毀謗一個陌生的人正和喜歡毀謗他的最好的朋友一樣；並且他的叔父也是這樣的不好。

司太太。是，可是我們應該原諒；本甲明勳爵本是個滑稽家，又是一個詩人。

馬利。照我看來，太太，我承認我對於那含有惡意的滑稽是瞧不起的。你以為怎樣，守發斯先生？

約瑟。你的話當然不錯，太太；拿激刺別人家的滑稽來取笑，便是一個惡作劇的人。

司太太。唉！沒有不帶一些惡性質便能夠滑稽的；妬毒一件好事，乃是牠的方針啊。你的意見怎樣，守發斯先生？

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JOS. SURE. To be sure, madam ; that conversation, where the spirit of raillery is suppressed, will ever appear tedious and insipid.

MAR. Well, I'll not debate how far scandal may be allowable ; but in a man, I am sure, it is always contemptible. We have pride, envy, rivalry, and a thousand motives to depreciate each other ; but the male slanderer must have the cowardice of a woman before he can traduce one.

Reënter SERVANT

SER. Madam, Mrs. Candour is below, and, if your ladyship's at leisure, will leave her carriage.

LADY SNEER. Beg her to walk in.—[*Exit* SERVANT.] Now, Maria, here is a character to your taste ; for, though Mrs. Candour is a little talkative, everybody allows her to be the best-natured and best sort of woman.

MAR. Yes, with a very gross affectation of good nature and benevolence, she does more mischief than the direct malice of old Crabtree.

JOS. SURE. I' faith that's true, Lady Sneerwell : whenever I hear the current running against the characters of my friends, I never think them in such danger as when Candour undertakes their defense.

LADY SNEER. Hush ! — here she is !

Enter MRS. CANDOUR

MRS. CAN. My dear Lady Sneerwell, how have you been this century ? — Mr. Surface, what news do you hear ? — though indeed it is no matter, for I think one hears nothing else but scandal.

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約瑟。你的話自然是很對，太太；那禁絕譏刺的談話，老是無味而討厭的。

馬利。是，我不願討論那毀謗怎樣纔可以容許了；只是我確知道毀謗常常是男子的惡德。我們有驕傲，忌妬，爭勝，和許多的原動力，所以纔互相輕薄；可是那毀謗的男子必定先有婦人的卑鄙，然後纔能夠毀謗別人啊。

僕人又上。

僕。太太，坎多爾夫人在底下哩，假使太太有空，她就要下車來了。

司太太。請她走進來。——（僕人下。）現在，馬利亞這裏有一個人很中你意；因為，坎多爾夫人雖是有一些嚙嚙，誰都承認她是一個脾氣最好品行最好的婦人。

馬利。是，她有一種溫柔和仁慈的粗劣的假裝，所以她比那老克刺布屈里的直率的妬毒更加惡作劇些。

約瑟。真的不錯，司尼雅威爾太太：凡是我聽得大家攻擊我的朋友們的品行的時候，我總以為他們的危險比坎多爾給他們辯護的時候還小。

司太太。別作聲！——她來了！

坎多爾夫人（以下簡稱坎夫人）上。

坎夫人。我親愛的司尼雅威爾太太，久不見了，你可好麼？——守發斯先生，你聽得什麼消息？——可是這問題却真無關緊要，因為我想我們所聽得的只有毀謗罷了。

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JOS. SURF. Just so, indeed, ma'am.

MRS. CAN. Oh, Maria! child,— what, is the whole affair off between you and Charles? His extravagance, I presume — the town talks of nothing else.

MAR. I am very sorry, ma'am, the town has so little to do.

MRS. CAN. True, true, child: but there's no stopping people's tongues. I own I was hurt to hear it, as I indeed was to learn, from the same quarter, that your guardian, Sir Peter, and Lady Teazle have not agreed lately as well as could be wished.

MAR. 'Tis strangely impertinent for people to busy themselves so.

MRS. CAN. Very true, child: but what's to be done? People will talk—there's no preventing it. Why, it was but yesterday I was told that Miss Gadabout had eloped with Sir Filigree Flirt. But, Lord! there's no minding what one hears; though, to be sure, I had this from very good authority.

MAR. Such reports are highly scandalous.

MRS. CAN. So they are, child—shameful, shameful! But the world is so censorious, no character escapes. Lord, now who would have suspected your friend, Miss Prim, of an indiscretion? Yet such is the ill nature of people, that they say her uncle stopped her last week, just as she was stepping into the York Mail with her dancing master.

MAR. I'll answer for 't there are no grounds for that report.

MRS. CAN. Ah, no foundation in the world, I dare swear; no more, probably, than for the story circulated last month,

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約瑟。正是，真的，太太。

坎夫人。啊，馬利亞！孩子，——什麼，你和查理士的情事難道完全作罷麼？他的浪費，我猜想——這鎮上街談巷議的只是這句話罷了。

馬利。太太，這鎮上沒有別的事情做，我覺得很難過。

坎夫人。真的，真的，孩子：可是人們的舌頭禁止不住。我承認我的聽着這消息很是痛心，而且我從這鎮上又聽得你的監護人彼得勳爵和提茲爾太太近來不像那樣的投契了，我也很是痛心。

馬利。人們這樣的搬弄是非，真是唐突之極。

坎夫人。一點不錯，孩子：可是怎麼辦呢？人們總是要說話的——沒有禁止牠的方法。啊，我昨天聽得迦代布忒小姐和斐列革里勳爵私奔了。

但是，天呀！我們聽着傳言是不可以介意的；雖然這消息我確從可靠的方面得來。

馬利。這種傳言真是極毀謗的能事了。

坎夫人。真是這樣，孩子——很可恥，很可恥！但是世界是很會譏評的，沒有人能夠逃脫。天呀，誰猜着你的朋友普利姆小姐會幹出一件魯莽的事情來呢？然而人們的性質是很惡的，他們說當她上禮拜剛要和她的音樂教師乘那約克郵船的時候，她的叔父却攔住了她。

馬利。我能保證這消息是沒有根據的。

坎夫人。唉，世界上什麼都沒有根據，我敢斷言；就是上月流傳的那斐斯別諾夫人和嘎西諾大佐

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of Mrs. Festino's affair with Colonel Cassino — though, to be sure, that matter was never rightly cleared up.

JOS. SURF. The license of invention some people take is monstrous indeed.

MAR. 'Tis so ; but, in my opinion, those who report such things are equally culpable.

MRS. CAN. To be sure they are ; talebearers are as bad as the tale makers — 'tis old observation, and a very true one : but what's to be done, as I said before ? how will you prevent people from talking ? To-day, Mrs. Clackitt assured me, Mr. and Mrs. Honeymoon were at last become mere man and wife, like the rest of their acquaintance. She likewise hinted that a certain widow, in the next street, had got rid of her dropsy and recovered her shape in a most surprising manner. And at the same time Miss Tattle, who was by, affirmed that Lord Buffalo had discovered his lady at a house of no extraordinary fame ; and that Sir Harry Bouquet and Tom Saunter were to measure swords on a similar provocation. But, Lord, do you think I would report these things ! No, no ! talebearers, as I said before, are just as bad as the tale makers.

JOS. SURF. Ah ! Mrs. Candour, if everybody had your forbearance and good nature !

MRS. CAN. I confess, Mr. Surface, I cannot bear to hear people attacked behind their backs ; and when ugly circumstances come out against our acquaintance, I own I always love to think the best. By the by, I hope 'tis not true that your brother is absolutely ruined ?

JOS. SURF. I am afraid his circumstances are very bad indeed, ma'am.

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私通的風說也許和這消息一樣的沒有根據——雖是那件事絕不會有正當的解釋。

約瑟，有些人自由捏造，真是怪可怕的。

馬利，是這樣；可是，在我看來，那些傳布這等消息的人，也是一樣的有罪。

坎夫人，當然他們是有罪；播醜史的人和那造醜史的人是一樣的不好——這是一句古話，也是一句實在的話；可是像我剛纔說過，這件事怎麼辦呢？你怎樣能夠禁止別人家談話呢？今天克臘基特夫人確實的告訴我，說亨乃滿先生和夫人到底成了平常的夫婦，像那些和他們相識的人們一樣。她也暗暗地說，隣街上某寡婦已經很奇怪的脫離了她的水腫病而恢復她的原狀了。同時塔忒爾女士在旁也確實的說，柏發魯勳爵值得他的太太在一個名譽不十分好的房子裏；又說哈烈波愷勳爵和湯姆桑透也因為同樣的事動了刀兵起來。可是，天呀，你以為我肯傳布這些消息麼！不！不！播醜史的人，像我剛纔說過，和那造醜史的人正是一樣的不好。

約瑟，唉！坎多爾夫人，巴不得人人有你的忍耐性和好脾氣啊！

坎夫人，我承認，守發斯先生，我不耐聽別人家背後被人攻擊；當惡環境來攻我們的朋友的時候，我承認我常喜歡向好處着想。還有，你的兄弟完全失敗的消息，我想是不確吧？

約瑟，我怕他的環境真是很壞了，太太。

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MRS. CAN. Ah! I heard so — but you must tell him to keep up his spirits; everybody almost is in the same way: Lord Spindle, Sir Thomas Splint, Captain Quinze, and Mr. Nickit — all up, I hear, within this week; so, if Charles is undone, he'll find half his acquaintance ruined too, and that, you know, is a consolation.

JOS. SURF. Doubtless, ma'am — a very great one.

Reënter SERVANT

SER. Mr. Crabtree and Sir Benjamin Backbite. [*Exit.*]

LADY SNEER. So, Maria, you see your lover pursues you; positively you sha'n't escape.

Enter CRABTREE and SIR BENJAMIN BACKBITE

CRAB. Lady Sneerwell, I kiss your hand. Mrs. Candour, I don't believe you are acquainted with my nephew, Sir Benjamin Backbite? Egad, ma'am, he has a pretty wit, and is a pretty poet too. Isn't he, Lady Sneerwell?

SIR BEN. Oh, fie, uncle!

CRAB. Nay, egad it's true; I back him at a rebus or a charade against the best rimer in the kingdom. Has your ladyship heard the epigram he wrote last week on Lady Frizzle's feather catching fire? — Do, Benjamin, repeat it, or the charade you made last night extempore at Mrs. Drowzie's conversazione. Come now; "your first is the name of a fish, your second a great naval commander, and—"

SIR BEN. Uncle, now — pr'ythee —

CRAB. I'faith, ma'am, 'twould surprise you to hear how ready he is at all these sort of things.

LADY SNEER. I wonder, Sir Benjamin, you never publish anything.

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坎夫人。唉！我聽得這樣說——可是你該叫他
振作精神；差不多個個人都是這樣。司聘特爾勳爵，
湯麥斯潑林脫勳爵，魁因士船長，倪基德先生——
我聽說他們都在這個禮拜裏要破產了；所以，假使
查理士失敗，他須知道他的一半的朋友也是如此，
那末你曉得，這便是一種安慰。
約瑟。那是無疑，太太——一種很大的安慰。

僕。克刺布屈里先生和本甲明拔克把脫勳爵。

(下)

司太太。那末，馬利亞，你可知道你的情人追着你；一定你是不能夠逃脫的。
克刺布屈里(以下簡稱克刺布)和

本甲明拔克把脫勳爵(簡稱本勳爵)上。

克刺布。司尼雅威爾太太，讓我吻你的手。坎多爾夫人，我不相信你和我的姪兒本甲明拔克把脫勳爵熟識吧？天呀，太太，他真有好的滑稽才，而且也是一位好詩人。他不是麼，司尼雅威爾太太？

本勳爵。啊，吓，叔父！

克刺布。不，天呀，絲毫不錯，我能賭說他的畫謎或是演謎可以賽過本國裏第一等的詩人。你太太曾聽得他上禮拜所作的那首諷刺佛立茲爾太太的飾羽着火的短詩麼？趕快，本甲明，背誦牠出來，或是你昨晚在特羅賽夫人的談話會裏即席賦就的那個演謎。背出來啊；“你的第一部是一個魚的名兒，第二部是一個海軍大將，並且——”

本勳爵。叔父，現在——央求你——
克刺布。實在，太太，你聽得他對於這些事怎樣的老練，不由不驚奇的。
司太太。我本甲明勳爵，你絕不會刊刻什麼作品。

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SIR BEN. To say truth, ma'am, 'tis very vulgar to print ; and as my little productions are mostly satires and lampoons on particular people, I find they circulate more by giving copies in confidence to the friends of the parties. However, I have some love elegies, which, when favored with this lady's smiles, I mean to give the public. [*Pointing to MARIA.*]

CRAB. [*To MARIA.*] 'Fore heaven, ma'am, they'll immortalize you! — you will be handed down to posterity, like Petrarch's Laura, or Waller's Sacharissa.

SIR BEN. [*To MARIA.*] Yes, madam, I think you will like them, when you shall see them on a beautiful quarto page, where a neat rivulet of text shall meander through a meadow of margin. 'Fore God they will be the most elegant things of their kind!

CRAB. But, ladies, that's true — have you heard the news?

MRS. CAN. What, sir, do you mean the report of —

CRAB. No, ma'am, that's not it. — Miss Nicely is going to be married to her own footman.

MRS. CAN. Impossible!

CRAB. Ask Sir Benjamin.

SIR BEN. 'Tis very true, ma'am: everything is fixed, and the wedding liveries bespoke.

CRAB. Yes — and they do say there were pressing reasons for it.

LADY SNEER. Why, I have heard something of this before.

MRS. CAN. It can't be — and I wonder any one should believe such a story of so prudent a lady as Miss Nicely.

SIR BEN. O Lud! ma'am, that's the very reason 'twas

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本勳爵。老實講，太太，刻書是很卑鄙的；而且我的作品大都是譏諷某某的文字，所以我看把牠們的樣本更廣些。然而，我有戀愛的輓歌若干首，倘使這位小姐肯賜垂青，我預備把牠們公諸大衆。

克刺布向馬利亞。天在頭上，小姐，牠們要把你傳之不朽哩！——你的大名要流芳百世，像俾屈拉克的勞拉或是瓦祿的薩卡烈灑一般。

本勳爵向馬利亞。是，小姐，我想你一定要喜歡牠們，當你看見牠們刊在那四開本的美麗的書頁上，那裏的文字像幽靜的小溪似的迂迴地在牧場似的書邊中流着。天在頭上，牠們要算是最精緻的詩本了！

克刺布。可是，太太們，這是的確的話——你們曾聽得那消息麼？
坎夫人。什麼，先生，你是不是說那——

克刺布。不，太大，不是。——娜愛司雷小姐要和她的僕人結婚了。
坎夫人。不會的！

克刺布。問一問本甲明勳爵。

本勳爵。絲毫不錯，太太：樣樣事情都弄定當了，結婚的禮服也預辦了。
克刺布。是——並且人家說這個婚禮是有緊急的理由呢。

司太太。啊，這件事我從前早已聽得一些了。

坎夫人。不會的——我不信有人會相信像娜愛司小姐這般謹慎的女子倒幹出這種笑話來。

本勳爵。天呀！太太，人們就因此纔立刻相信這

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believed at once. She has always been so cautious and so reserved, that everybody was sure there was some reason for it at bottom.

MRS. CAN. Why, to be sure, a tale of scandal is as fatal to the credit of a prudent lady of her stamp as a fever is generally to those of the strongest constitutions. But there is a sort of puny sickly reputation, that is always ailing, yet will outlive the robuster characters of a hundred prudes.

SIR BEN. True, madam, there are valetudinarians in reputation as well as constitution, who, being conscious of their weak part, avoid the least breath of air, and supply their want of stamina by care and circumspection.

MRS. CAN. Well, but this may be all a mistake. You know, Sir Benjamin, very trifling circumstances often give rise to the most injurious tales.

CRAB. That they do, I'll be sworn, ma'am. Did you ever hear how Miss Piper came to lose her lover and her character last summer at Tunbridge? — Sir Benjamin, you remember it?

SIS BEN. Oh, to be sure! — The most whimsical circumstance.

LADY SNEER. How was it, pray?

CRAB. Why, one evening, at Mrs. Ponto's assembly, the conversation happened to turn on the breeding Nova Scotia sheep in this country. Says a young lady in company, "I have known instances of it; for Miss Letitia Piper, a first cousin of mine, had a Nova Scotia sheep that produced her twins." "What!" cries the Lady Dowager Dundizzy (who you know is as deaf as a post), "has Miss Piper had twins?" This mistake, as you may imagine, threw the whole company

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種笑話。因為她平常總是很謹慎，很沉靜，所以大家都相信這種態度的骨子裏定有原故。

坎夫人。啊，自然，醜史足以毀壞像她這般謹慎的女子的名譽，猶如熱病足以毀壞那些最強壯的身體一樣。可是有一種微小孱弱的名譽，牠雖然的常帶病痛，却比那許多假道學的婦女的頂括括的名譽還要長命些。

本勳爵。真的，太太，有些人身體孱弱，有些人名譽孱弱，這些名譽孱弱的人知道他們自己的弱點，所以風絲兒也不敢冒，拿小心謹慎來補充他們精力所缺乏。

坎夫人。是，但這件事也許純是錯誤。你知道，本甲明勳爵，很微末的事情常常引起了極致命的醜史。

克刺布。牠們是這樣，我能誓言，太太。你會聽得佩璞小姐去夏在吞不列治失掉她的情人和她的名譽的故事麼？——本甲明勳爵，你記得嗎？

本勳爵。啊，當然記得！——那頂可笑的事情。

司太太。牠是怎樣，請問？

克刺布。啊，某晚，在彭駝夫人的聚會席裏，偶爾談及本地畜牧新蘇格蘭種的羊的問題。座中有一位少年女士說道，“我已知道牠的不少的例子了；因為我的嫡堂妹妹賴提西亞佩璞小姐有一頭新蘇格蘭的羊，生了個雙胞胎。”“什麼！”節婦鄧狄養太太你知道她是絕頂聾的嚷着道，“佩璞小姐生了個雙胞胎麼？”這句誤會的話，你可猜着，惹得

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into a fit of laughter. However, 'twas the next morning everywhere reported, and in a few days believed by the whole town, that Miss Letitia Piper had actually been brought to bed of a fine boy and a girl: and in less than a week there were some people who could name the father, and the farmhouse where the babies were put to nurse.

LADY SNEER. Strange, indeed!

CRAB. Matter of fact, I assure you. O Lud! Mr. Surface, pray is it true that your uncle, Sir Oliver, is coming home?

JOS. SURF. Not that I know of, indeed, sir.

CRAB. He has been in the East Indies a long time. You can scarcely remember him, I believe? Sad comfort, whenever he returns, to hear how your brother has gone on!

JOS. SURF. Charles has been imprudent, sir, to be sure; but I hope no busy people have already prejudiced Sir Oliver against him. He may reform.

SIR BEN. To be sure he may: for my part, I never believed him to be so utterly void of principle as people say; and, though he has lost all his friends, I am told nobody is better spoken of by the Jews.

CRAB. That's true, egad, nephew. If the Old Jewry was a ward, I believe Charles would be an alderman: no man more popular there, 'fore Gad! I hear he pays as many annuities as the Irish tontine; and that, whenever he is sick, they have prayers for the recovery of his health in all the synagogues.

SIR BEN. Yet no man lives in greater splendor. They tell me, when he entertains his friends he will sit down to dinner with a dozen of his own securities; have a score of

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在座的人們聞堂大笑起來。然而，第二天早上這
種消息便各處傳布，不幾天全鎮也都相信，說賴提
西亞佩璞小姐真的產生了一個俊的男孩和一個
女孩；並且不到一個禮拜，有些人居然能夠說出那
父親的名字，和那孩子們寄養的農家。

司太太。真奇怪！

克刺布。這是實在的事情，我告訴你。天呀！
守發斯先生，請問你的叔父奧力佛勳爵要回家麼？

約瑟。我不會知道，先生。

克刺布。他在東印度羣島多時了。你不大記
得他了吧，我相信？不管他什麼時候回來，可是聽
得你兄弟這樣的行徑，總有些不快啊！

約瑟。查理士爲人孟浪，先生，那是真的；可是我
希望那些好管閑事的人們還不至於預先在奧力
佛勳爵的面前說他的壞話。他也許改過自新哩。

本勳爵。自然他也許這樣；至於我，我却絕不信
他像人家所傳說的那般放蕩；而且，他雖是失掉了
他的一切的朋友，我聽說猶太人却頂頂誇獎他。

克刺布。上帝知道，那是真的，姪兒。假使老猶
太城變做一個市區，我相信查理士定然做一個市
長；那裏沒有人的再比他得大衆的歡心了，天在頭上！
我聽說他所納的年金正像那愛爾蘭的年金之多；
又聽說凡是他生病的時候，那些猶太人的教堂裏
面都替他祈禱痊癒。

本勳爵。然而沒有人再比他闊綽了。他們說，
當他款待朋友的時候，他和他的十幾個擔保人一

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tradesmen waiting in the antechamber, and an officer behind every guest's chair.

JOS. SURF. This may be entertainment to you, gentlemen, but you pay very little regard to the feelings of a brother.

MAR. [*Aside.*] Their malice is intolerable ! [*Aloud.*] Lady Sneerwell, I must wish you a good morning : I'm not very well. [*Exit.*]

MRS. CAN. O dear ! she changes color very much.

LADY SNEER. Do, Mrs. Candour, follow her : she may want your assistance.

MRS. CAN. That I will, with all my soul, ma'am. — Poor dear girl, who knows what her situation may be ! [*Exit.*]

LADY SNEER. 'Twas nothing but that she could not bear to hear Charles reflected on, notwithstanding their difference.

SIR BEN. The young lady's *penchant* is obvious.

CRAB. But, Benjamin, you must not give up the pursuit for that : follow her, and put her into good humor. Repeat her some of your own verses. Come, I'll assist you.

SIR BEN. Mr. Surface, I did not mean to hurt you ; but depend on't your brother is utterly undone.

CRAB. O Lud, ay ! undone as ever man was — can't raise a guinea !

SIR BEN. And everything sold, I'm told, that was movable.

CRAB. I have seen one that was at his house. Not a thing left but some empty bottles that were overlooked, and the family pictures, which I believe are framed in the *wain-scots*.

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起聚餐；有二十來個商人在前廳裏伺候着，每個客人
的椅子後面還有一個官吏。

約瑟，你們可以把這事當作趣談，先生們，可是
你們不會注意那做兄弟的情感。
馬利亞（側語），他們的惡意真是不容忍耐了！—
（高聲）司尼雅威爾太太，我要和你作別了：我覺
得不很舒服。（下。）

坎夫人，哎呀！她臉上大大的變色了。

司太太，趕快，坎多爾夫人，去跟着她：她也許需
要你的幫助呢。

坎夫人，我情願，實心實意的，太太。——可憐的
女孩兒，誰知道她的境況怎樣！（下。）

司太太，只不過她不忍聽查理士被人批評，雖
是他們的意見不一。

本勳爵，這位少年女士的傾向是彰明較著的
了。

克刺布，可是，本甲明，你却不可因此便捨棄你
的追求：跟着她，叫她高興起來。把你的詩念幾首
給她聽。來，我來幫助你。

本勳爵，守發斯先生，我並不要故意使你難受；
但是你可相信你的兄弟是完全破產了。

克刺布，天呀，唉！完全的破產了——連一個金
幣都辦不來！

本勳爵，並且我聽說凡是動產都賣掉了。

克刺布，我看見一件曾在他屋裏的東西，沒
有一件東西存留着，除非幾個被棄掉的空瓶兒和
幾個裝在壁板裏面的家人的像片。

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SIR BEN. And I'm very sorry also to hear some bad stories against him. [*Going.*]

CRAB. Oh, he has done many mean things, that's certain.

SIR BEN. But, however, as he's your brother — [*Going.*]

CRAB. We'll tell you all another opportunity.

[*Exeunt CRABTREE and SIR BENJAMIN*]

LADY SNEER. Ha! ha! 'tis very hard for them to leave a subject they have not quite run down.

JOS. SURF. And I believe the abuse was no more acceptable to your ladyship than Maria.

LADY SNEER. I doubt her affections are further engaged than we imagine. But the family are to be here this evening, so you may as well dine where you are, and we shall have an opportunity of observing further; in the meantime, I'll go and plot mischief, and you shall study sentiment. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II

A room in SIR PETER TEAZLE'S House

Enter SIR PETER TEAZLE

SIR PET. When an old bachelor marries a young wife, what is he to expect? 'Tis now six months since Lady Teazle made me the happiest of men — and I have been the most miserable dog ever since! We tiffed a little going to church, and fairly quarreled before the bells had done ringing. I was more than once nearly choked with gall during the honeymoon, and had lost all comfort in life

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本勳爵。我也聽得些他的醜史，心裏也很難過。
(將去。)

克刺布。啊，他做了許多的歹事，那是真的。

本勳爵。然而，因為他是你的兄弟——(將去。)

克刺布。他日有空，我們再詳細的告訴你。

(克刺布和本勳爵下。)

司太太。哈哈！沒有一個人不被他們說得一錢不值了。

約瑟。我相信你太太不喜歡這種毀謗，正和馬利亞一樣。

司太太。我恐怕她的情愛不專屬於我們所想着的方面。但是他們全家的人今晚都要到這裏來，所以你最好還是在老地方吃飯，我們便可以得着那進一步觀察的機會了；在這時候我要去佈置些陰謀，你也可以研究些假情義。(同下)

第二幕

彼得提茲爾勳爵家裏的一個房間。

彼得提茲爾(以下簡稱彼得)勳爵上。

彼得勳爵。老年的鰥夫娶了年輕的妻子的時候，他有什麼希望呢？提茲爾太太和我燕爾新婚現在纔六個月——而我從新婚以來却可憐若喪家之犬！我們往禮拜堂的時候便有一些口角，鐘兒不曾響完的時候我們已經大吵起來。我在蜜月期中好幾回差不多要氣死，我的朋友們向我道

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before my friends had done wishing me joy. Yet I chose with caution — a girl bred wholly in the country, who never knew luxury beyond one silk gown, nor dissipation above the annual gala of a race ball. Yet she now plays her part in all the extravagant fopperies of fashion and the town, with as ready a grace as if she never had seen a bush or a grassplot out of Grosvenor Square! I am sneered at by all my acquaintance, and paragraphed in the newspapers. She dissipates my fortune, and contradicts all my humors; yet the worst of it is, I doubt I love her, or I should never bear all this. However, I'll never be weak enough to own it.

Enter ROWLEY

Row. Oh! Sir Peter, your servant: how is it with you, sir?

SIR PET. Very bad, Master Rowley, very bad. I meet with nothing but crosses and vexations.

Row. What can have happened since yesterday?

SIR PET. A good question to a married man!

Row. Nay, I'm sure, Sir Peter, your lady can't be the cause of your uneasiness.

SIR PET. Why, has anybody told you she was dead?

Row. Come, come, Sir Peter, you love her, notwithstanding your tempers don't exactly agree.

SIR PET. But the fault is entirely hers, Master Rowley. I am, myself, the sweetest-tempered man alive, and hate a teasing temper; and so I tell her a hundred times a day.

Row. Indeed!

SIR PET. Ay; and what is very extraordinary, in all our disputes she is always in the wrong! But Lady Sneerweel,

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而的除了麼惡之
然成除什的街
了。長侈道侈那
福鄉麼不的司
幸在什絕飾祿
的全道也裝格
生完知她裏在
一個不外市她
我一絕之城像
掉——外會把
失了襖跳在神
已擇綢馬現的
我選件賽她她
了地一赴而了
終慎了次然會
未謹除一學
還却子年費都
喜我女每浪習

的! 浪壞步。
似地。是這句
草着我。可到這
片載樂忍認
一登的能承
是也一切不
或上一我斷
樹紙的則斷
小報我否却
一棵我了她
一笑奪愛心
過譏刺還軟
見都產。我
曾們財怕然
不友我的恐
來朋我我雖
從的了我而
外我費的然

牢菜上。

牢菜。啊!彼得勳爵,你的僕人:你怎麼樣,先生?

彼得勳爵。很不好,牢菜,很不好。我所遇着的

只有忿怒和煩惱。

牢菜。從昨天起可會有什麼變故麼?

彼得勳爵。一個對於婚後的男子的好問題!

牢菜。不,我相信,彼得勳爵,你的太太總不至於
做你的煩惱的原因。

彼得勳爵。爲什麼,難道你聽說她已經死了麼?

牢菜。喂,喂,彼得勳爵,你愛她,雖是你們的脾氣
不大相投。

彼得勳爵。可是這全是她的不好,牢菜。我自
己却是世界上脾氣最好的人,最不喜一種撩人嘔
氣的壞脾氣;我這樣的告訴她每天總有幾百次。

牢菜。真的麼!

彼得勳爵。是;最奇怪的,就是凡是我們所有的
爭吵總是她的不是! 可是司尼雅威爾太太和在

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and the set she meets at her house, encourage the perverseness of her disposition. Then, to complete my vexation, Maria, my ward, whom I ought to have the power of a father over, is determined to turn rebel too, and absolutely refuses the man whom I have long resolved on for her husband ; meaning, I suppose, to bestow herself on his profligate brother.

Row. You know, Sir Peter, I have always taken the liberty to differ with you on the subject of these two young gentlemen. I only wish you may not be deceived in your opinion of the elder. For Charles, my life on't ! he will retrieve his errors yet. Their worthy father, once my honored master, was, at his years, nearly as wild a spark ; yet, when he died, he did not leave a more benevolent heart to lament his loss.

SIR PET. You are wrong, Master Rowley. On their father's death, you know, I acted as a kind of guardian to them both, till their uncle Sir Oliver's liberality gave them an early independence : of course, no person could have more opportunities of judging of their hearts, and I was never mistaken in my life. Joseph is indeed a model for the young men of the age. He is a man of sentiment, and acts up to the sentiments he professes ; but, for the other, take my word for't, if he had any grain of virtue by descent, he has dissipated it with the rest of his inheritance. Ah ! my old friend, Sir Oliver, will be deeply mortified when he finds how part of his bounty has been misapplied.

Row. I am sorry to find you so violent against the young man, because this may be the most critical period of his fortune. I came hither with news that will surprise you.

SIR PET. What ! let me hear.

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她家裏聚會的一班朋友，都鼓勵她的桀傲的脾氣。還有，更加重我的煩惱的，就是我的被監護人馬利亞，對於她我本該有父親似的權力，而她却也決意反叛，把我久已選給她做夫婿的男子拒絕了；她心裏預備，我想，把她自己給他的放蕩的兄弟呢。

牢萊。你知道，彼得勳爵，對於這兩位青年，我的意見常膽敢和你的相反。我只盼望你不要錯認了那位年長的。至於查理士，我賭得咒他還可以補救他的過失哩。他們的好父親，從前是我的好主人，在像他年紀的時候，差不多也是一個花花公子；然而，當他死的時候，他不曾遺下一個更好心的人去追悼他呢。

彼得勳爵。你錯了，牢萊。他們的父親去世之後，你知道，我便做他們倆的監護人，直到他們的叔父奧力佛勳爵的慷慨使他們早的能獨立了；當然，考察他們的心理的機會，沒有人再比我多了，而且我從來不曾弄錯。約瑟夫誠然是現代青年的模範。他是個有心人，又能實踐他所認的情感；但是，他的兄弟，相信我的話，倘使他有一點遺傳的道德，他也早已把牠和別的承繼物有一同浪費掉了。唉！倘使我的老朋友奧力佛勳爵知道他的恩惠的一部份是被人濫用了，定然要十分忿怒啊。

牢萊。我見你這般強烈地反對那位青年，覺得很難過，因為這時候也許是他的命運中最危急的時候。我到這裏來，帶了一件叫你驚駭的消息。

彼得勳爵。什麼！請告訴我。

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ROW. Sir Oliver is arrived, and at this moment in town.

SIR PET. How! you astonish me! I thought you did not expect him this month.

ROW. I did not: but his passage has been remarkably quick.

SIR PET. Egad, I shall rejoice to see my old friend. 'Tis sixteen years since we met. We have had many a day together:—but does he still enjoin us not to inform his nephews of his arrival?

ROW. Most strictly. He means, before it is known, to make some trial of their dispositions.

SIR PET. Ah! there needs no art to discover their merits—however, he shall have his way; but, pray, does he know I am married?

ROW. Yes, and will soon wish you joy.

SIR PET. What, as we drink health to a friend in a consumption! Ah! Oliver will laugh at me. We used to rail at matrimony together, but he has been steady to his text. Well, he must be soon at my house, though—I'll instantly give orders for his reception. But, Master Rowley, don't drop a word that Lady Teazle and I ever disagree.

ROW. By no means.

SIR PET. For I should never be able to stand Noll's jokes; so I'll have him think, Lord forgive me! that we are a very happy couple.

ROW. I understand you:—but then you must be very careful not to differ while he is in the house with you.

SIR PET. Egad, and so we must—and that's impossible. Ah! Master Rowley, when an old bachelor marries a young wife, he deserves—no—the crime carries its punishment along with it. [*Exeunt.*]

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牢萊，奧力佛勳爵已經回來了，現在他在城裏呢。

彼得勳爵，怎樣！你嚇我一跳！我想你不指望他在本月裏回來吧。

牢萊，我不指望；可是他的行程是意外的快。

彼得勳爵，天知道，我看見我的老朋友要很快活啊。我們還是十六年前相會的，我們好些日來在消子的消息告訴他的姪兒們麼？

牢萊，吩咐得極嚴重的，他想在不知不覺之間試一試他們的品性。

彼得勳爵，唉！用不着什麼伎倆就可以看出他們的品格了——然而，他當然可以自由行動；但請問，他知道我結過婚麼？

牢萊，是，不久他便要向你道賀呢。

彼得勳爵，什麼，像我們向一個患肺癆的朋友祝壽麼！唉！奧力佛要譏笑我。我們倆常常嘲罵婚姻，可是他還堅守他的主義。啊，他一會兒定要人到我這裏，不是，管怎樣——我要立刻吩咐家裏人招待他。可是，牢萊，千萬不要說提茲爾太太和我爭吵過。

牢萊，一定不。

彼得勳爵，因為我絕不能耐着諾爾的譏笑；所以求上帝恕我！我要叫他以為我們是一對很快樂的夫婦。

牢萊，我懂得：——但是他在你們家裏的時候，你們該很當心不要爭吵啊。

彼得勳爵，天呀，我們該這樣——但是那是做不到的。唉！牢萊，一個老年的鰥夫妻了一個年輕的妻子，他便該受——不——這件罪案裏面已經附帶着牠的懲罰了。（同下。）

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ACT SECOND

SCENE I

A room in SIR PETER TEAZLE'S House

Enter SIR PETER and LADY TEAZLE

SIR PET. Lady Teazle, Lady Teazle, I'll not bear it!

LADY TEAZ. Sir Peter, Sir Peter, you may bear it or not, as you please; but I ought to have my own way in everything, and what's more, I will too. What! though I was educated in the country, I know very well that women of fashion in London are accountable to nobody after they are married.

SIR PET. Very well, ma'am, very well; so a husband is to have no influence, no authority?

LADY TEAZ. Authority! No, to be sure: if you wanted authority over me, you should have adopted me, and not married me: I am sure you were old enough.

SIR PET. Old enough!—ay, there it is. Well, well, Lady Teazle, though my life may be made unhappy by your temper, I'll not be ruined by your extravagance!

LADY TEAZ. My extravagance! I'm sure I'm not more extravagant than a woman of fashion ought to be.

SIR PET. No, no, madam, you shall throw away no more sums on such unmeaning luxury. 'Slife! to spend as much to furnish your dressing room with flowers in winter as would suffice to turn the Pantheon into a greenhouse, and give a *fête champêtre* at Christmas.

LADY TEAZ. And am I to blame, Sir Peter, because flowers are dear in cold weather? You should find fault

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第 二 齣 第 一 幕

彼得提茲爾勳爵家裏的一個房間。

彼得勳爵和提茲爾太太(以下簡稱提太太)上。

彼得勳爵。提茲爾太太，提茲爾太太，我不能耐着這樣的光景。

提太太。彼得勳爵，彼得勳爵，你可以耐牠或是不耐牠，聽隨你的意思；但是樣樣事體我總該自由不行的動，而且我也板要這樣。什麼！我雖然受了鄉間的教育，却很知道倫敦的新式女子在結婚以後是不受什麼人的管束的。

彼得勳爵。很好，太太，很好；那末一個丈夫就應該沒有勢力，沒有權威麼？

提太太。權威！一定沒有：假使你要把權威加在我的頭上，你該收我做義女，不該娶我做妻子：我相信你當初已經年紀很大了。

彼得勳爵。年紀很大了！——是，缺點就在這裏。唉，唉，提茲爾太太，雖是你的脾氣可以叫我煩惱，我却絕不容你的奢侈來糟踏我！

提太太。我的奢侈！我相信我的奢侈也不過像一個新式女子的中庸之道罷了。

彼得勳爵。不，不，太太，你不可以再在這種無意識的奢侈上浪費金錢了。天呀！在這冬天裏花許許多多錢買花兒來裝飾你的梳妝室，這筆錢也許能夠把萬神廟改做養花房，在聖誕節開一個大宴會了。

提太太。因為花兒在冷天很貴，彼得勳爵，這難

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with the climate, and not with me. For my part, I'm sure I wish it was spring all the year round, and that roses grew under our feet!

SIR PET. Oons! madam — if you had been born to this, I shouldn't wonder at you talking thus; but you forget what your situation was when I married you.

LADY TEAZ. No, no, I don't; 'twas a very disagreeable one, or I should never have married you.

SIR PET. Yes, yes, madam, you were then in somewhat a humbler style — the daughter of a plain country squire. Recollect, Lady Teazle, when I saw you first sitting at your tambour, in a pretty figured linen gown, with a bunch of keys at your side, your hair combed smooth over a roll, and your apartment hung round with fruits in worsted, of your own working.

LADY TEAZ. Oh, yes! I remember it very well, and a curious life I led. My daily occupation to inspect the dairy, superintend the poultry, make extracts from the family receipt book, and comb my aunt Deborah's lapdog.

SIR PET. Yes, yes, ma'am, 'twas so indeed.

LADY TEAZ. And then you know, my evening amusements! To draw patterns for ruffles, which I had not materials to make up; to play Pope Joan with the curate; to read a sermon to my aunt; or to be stuck down to an old spinet to strum my father to sleep after a fox chase.

SIR PET. I am glad you have so good a memory. Yes, madam, these were the recreations I took you from; but now you must have your coach — *vis-à-vis* — and three powdered footmen before your chair; and, in the summer, a pair of white cats to draw you to Kensington Gardens. No

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道又怪我麼？你該責備天氣，不該責備我。至於玫瑰，我春天，玫瑰又的話，我在長花，我相信的腳底下！

彼得勳爵。啊！太太——假使你生來就是這樣，你的時候你的怎樣的景了。可是你忘記了我娶

太太。不，不，我不會忘記；那是一種很不好的光景，否則我絕不會嫁給你。

彼得勳爵。是，是，太太，你那時候的裝飾有一些兒樸陋——一個儉樸的鄉紳的女兒。想的提茲爾太太，我初次瞧見你的時候，你坐在你的刺繡架的旁邊，穿着一件好看的花布袍，你的腰邊捲帶着的一串鑰匙，你的頭髮滑油的梳成一個捲髮，你的房裏四圍都掛着你所做的絨線果兒。

太太。啊，是！我很記得那種光景，並且記得我就度着的一種奇怪的生活。我的每天的工作就是檢查那製乳場，監管那雞鴨，摘錄那家庭納簿，梳理我的姑母底波拉的叭兒狗。

彼得勳爵。是，是，太太，真是這樣。

太太。你也知道，我的晚上的消遣！打着花邊的圖樣，我却沒有材料去做牠，和那時候補牧師玩來呼的紙牌，對我舊的小風琴，叫我的父親在打狐後呼的睡去。

彼得勳爵。我很喜歡你有這樣好的記性。是，太太，這些消遣你和我的結婚以後便沒有了；可是現在並你必定的有你的四輪大馬車——對坐着的夏季裏還要兩匹馬把你拉到我三顆星吞花園裏去。你從

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recollection, I suppose, when you were content to ride double, behind the butler, on a docked coach horse.

LADY TEAZ. No. — I swear I never did that : I deny the butler and the coach horse.

SIR PET. This, madam, was your situation ; and what have I done for you ? I have made you a woman of fashion, of fortune, of rank — in short, I have made you my wife.

LADY TEAZ. Well, then, and there is but one thing more you can make me to add to the obligation, that is —

SIR PET. My widow, I suppose ?

LADY TEAZ. Hem ! hem !

SIR PET. I thank you, madam — but don't flatter yourself, for, though your ill conduct may disturb my peace of mind, it shall never break my heart, I promise you : however, I am equally obliged to you for the hint.

LADY TEAZ. Then why will you endeavor to make yourself so disagreeable to me, and thwart me in every little elegant expense ?

SIR PET. 'Slife, madam, I say, had you any of these little elegant expenses when you married me ?

LADY TEAZ. Lud, Sir Peter ! would you have me be out of the fashion ?

SIR PET. The fashion, indeed ! what had you to do with the fashion before you married me ?

LADY TEAZ. For my part, I should think you would like to have your wife thought a woman of taste.

SIR PET. Ay — there again — taste ! Zounds ! madam, you had no taste when you married me !

LADY TEAZ. That's very true, indeed, Sir Peter ! and, after having married you, I should never pretend to taste

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前騎着一匹秃尾的驛馬坐在那僕夫的背後，也很覺得滿意，那時候我想你忘記了吧。

提太太。不——我誓言我不會有這回事：我不承認那僕夫和那驛馬。

彼得勳爵。太太，這個是你當日的境況；我怎樣的待你呢？我叫你做一個新式的，有財產的，有爵位的婦人——總之，我叫你做了我的夫人。

提太太。是那末，你還可以叫我做另外的一種人，我也應該感謝，那就是——

彼得勳爵。做我的寡婦，我想？

提太太。哼！哼！

彼得勳爵。我感謝你，太太——可是你別自己矜驕，因為你的壞品行雖然可以惱我的心，牠却絕不能夠斷我的腸，我確實地告訴你：然而，我總歸感謝你這個提示。

提太太。那末你為什麼拼命的和我反對，凡是區區的裝飾費都不准我花用呢？

彼得勳爵。天呀，太太，我說，當你剛和我結婚的時候，這些區區的裝飾費你可有一種麼？

提太太。天呀，彼得勳爵！你肯叫我不新式麼？

彼得勳爵。新式，真的麼！你不曾嫁給我的時候講的是什麼新式？

提太太。據我看來，我總以為你該喜歡人家把你的夫人當做一個時裝的婦女。

彼得勳爵。唉——又是——時裝！天呀！太太，你剛和我結婚的時候並沒有什麼時裝啊！

提太太。那是很對，真的，彼得勳爵！而且，已經和你結了婚之後，我也絕不該再行要求時裝，我承認。

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again, I allow. But now, Sir Peter, since we have finished our daily jangle, I presume I may go to my engagement at Lady Sneerwell's.

SIR PET. Ay, there's another precious circumstance — a charming set of acquaintance you have made there!

LADY TEAZ. Nay, Sir Peter, they are all people of rank and fortune, and remarkably tenacious of reputation.

SIR PET. Yes, egad, they are tenacious of reputation with a vengeance; for they don't choose anybody should have a character but themselves! Such a crew! Ah! many a wretch has rid on a hurdle who has done less mischief than these utterers of forged tales, coiners of scandal, and clippers of reputation.

LADY TEAZ. What, would you restrain the freedom of speech?

SIR PET. Ah! they have made you just as bad as any one of the society.

LADY TEAZ. Why, I believe I do bear a part with a tolerable grace.

SIR PET. Grace indeed!

LADY TEAZ. But I vow I bear no malice against the people I abuse: when I say an ill-natured thing, 'tis out of pure good humor; and I take it for granted they deal exactly in the same manner with me. But, Sir Peter, you know you promised to come to Lady Sneerwell's too.

SIR PET. Well, well, I'll call in, just to look after my own character.

LADY TEAZ. Then, indeed, you must make haste after me, or you'll be too late. So good-by to ye. [Exit.]

SIR PET. So — I have gained much by my intended

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可是現在，彼得勳爵，我們既然完畢了那天天免不掉的喧吵，我敢說我可以去赴那司尼雅威爾太太家裏的約會了。

彼得勳爵。唉，又是一個有價值的環境——你所交結的一班俊俏的朋友都在那裏！

提太太。啊，彼得勳爵，他們都是有爵位有財產的人，並且非常的保守名譽。

彼得勳爵。是，天呀，他們真真是非常的保守名譽；因為他們除掉了自己而外不情願別的人有什麼好的名譽！這樣的一班夥伴！唉！許多上殺場的囚犯比這些播謠言造謔語壞名譽的人所犯的罪還要少些。

提太太。什麼，你想禁止言論自由麼？

彼得勳爵。唉！他們把你弄得和他們一樣的壞了。

提太太。啊，我相信我在他們中確可算得一個有好風格的分子呢。

彼得勳爵。風格，真的！

提太太。但是我誓言我對於我所毀謗的人們並沒有懷着什麼惡意；當我說一句壞話的時候，純粹是出於好意；並且我可以猜定他們的舉動和我答應的態度恰是一樣。可是，彼得勳爵，你知道你也答應到司尼雅威爾太太的家裏去的。

彼得勳爵。是，是，我一定去，只不過去監護我自己的名譽。

提太太。那末，真的，你該趕快跟着我去，否則你要太遲了。再會吧。（下）

彼得勳爵。這樣——我的預定的規勸叫我得

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expostulation! Yet with what a charming air she contradicts everything I say, and how pleasantly she shows her contempt for my authority! Well, though I can't make her love me, there is great satisfaction in quarreling with her; and I think she never appears to such advantage as when she is doing everything in her power to plague me. [Exit.]

SCENE II

A Room in LADY SNEERWELL'S House

LADY SNEERWELL, MRS. CANDOUR, CRABTREE, SIR BENJAMIN BACKBITE, AND JOSEPH SURFACE, *discovered*.

LADY SNEER. Nay, positively, we will hear it.

JOS. SURF. Yes, yes, the epigram, by all means.

SIR BEN. O plague on't, uncle! 'tis mere nonsense.

CRAB. No, no; 'fore Gad, very clever for an extempore!

SIR BEN. But, ladies, you should be acquainted with the circumstance. You must know, that one day last week, as Lady Betty Curriple was taking the dust in Hyde Park, in a sort of duodecimo phaëton, she desired me to write some verses on her ponies; upon which, I took out my pocket-book, and in one moment produced the following:

Sure never were seen two such beautiful ponies;
Other horses are clowns, but these macaronies:
To give them this title I'm sure can't be wrong.
Their legs are so slim, and their tails are so long.

CRAB. There, ladies, done in the smack of a whip, and on horseback too.

JOS. SURF. A very Phœbus, mounted — indeed, Sir Benjamin!

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着許多益處了! 然而她又用了怎樣妖豔的態
來反駁我的的我的總的! 話她又怎樣媚色地表示
她鄙視我却的權威! 唉,我雖然她不能夠叫她愛我的
爭吵的時候,就是她盡力地煩惱我的時候。(下)

第二幕

司尼雅威爾太太家裏的一個房間。

開幕時只見有司尼雅威爾太太,坎多爾夫人,克刺布屈里,本甲明拔克把脫勳爵,和約瑟夫守發斯等人。

司太太。啊,我們一定要聽牠一下。

約瑟。是,是那短詩,一定要聽。

本勳爵。天罰牠,叔父!牠只是胡說罷了。

克刺布。不,不;天在頭上,真是一篇很好的口占詩啊!

本勳爵。可是,太太們,你們該知道那時候的情形。你們該知道上禮拜的某一天柏替卡立克爾太太乘了一輛很小的四輪馬車在亥德公園裏呼吸灰塵的時候,她請我做些詩頌揚她的小馬;於是
我拿出我的筆記簿,一會兒便做出下面的幾句:
雙駒兒向來沒有一美麗得如此;
別馬是村夫,這些却是花公子;
我信此種台銜絲毫不算荒唐,
牠們腿兒這般細,尾兒這般長。

克刺布。喂,太太們,這首詩在一揮鞭的當兒便做成了,而且是在馬上做的。

約瑟。的確是一個騎在馬上的詩仙——真的,
本甲明勳爵!

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SIR BEN. Oh, dear, sir! trifles — trifles.

Enter LADY TEAZLE and MARIA

MRS. CAN. I must have a copy.

LADY SNEER. Lady Teazle, I hope we shall see Sir Peter?

LADY TEAZ. I believe he'll wait on your ladyship presently.

LADY SNEER. Maria, my love, you look grave. Come, you shall sit down to piquet with Mr. Surface.

MAR. I take very little pleasure in cards — however, I'll do as your ladyship pleases.

LADY TEAZ. [*Aside.*] I am surprised Mr. Surface should sit down with her; I thought he would have embraced this opportunity of speaking to me before Sir Peter came.

MRS. CAN. Now, I'll die, but you are so scandalous, I'll forswear your society.

LADY TEAZ. What's the matter, Mrs. Candour?

MRS. CAN. They'll not allow our friend Miss Vermilion to be handsome.

LADY SNEER. Oh, surely she is a pretty woman.

CRAB. I am very glad you think so, ma'am.

MRS. CAN. She has a charming fresh color.

LADY TEAZ. Yes, when it is fresh put on.

MRS. CAN. Oh, fie! I'll swear her color is natural: I have seen it come and go!

LADY TEAZ. I dare swear you have, ma'am: it goes off at night, and comes again in the morning.

SIR BEN. True, ma'am, it not only comes and goes; but, what's more, egad, her maid can fetch and carry it!

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本勳爵。 哎呀，先生！ 算不了什麼—— 算不了什麼。

提茲爾太太和馬利亞上。

坎夫人。 我定然要抄牠一份。

司太太。 提茲爾太太，我希望我們將要會見彼得勳爵吧？

提太太。 我相信他即刻就要來伺候你太太了。

司太太。 馬利亞，吾愛，你的臉色很沉重的。 來，我定要你坐下來和守發斯先生打紙牌哩。

馬利。 我不大喜歡打紙牌—— 然而，我情願遵你太太的命。

提太太(側語)。 守發斯先生居然和她坐下，我真不解；我以爲他將要趁彼得勳爵還不曾來的機會和我講話。

坎夫人。 我誓言你是極喜歡毀謗的，我誓不和你在一起。

提太太。 什麼事，坎多爾夫人？

坎夫人。 他們不肯承認我們的朋友味密崙小姐是美貌的。

司太太。 啊，她誠然是一個美婦人。

克刺布。 我很喜歡你這樣的想，太太。

坎夫人。 她有一副動人的新鮮的顏色。

提太太。 是，當牠新鮮的敷上去的時候。

坎夫人。 啊，呸！我誓言她的顏色是天生的：我看見牠時來時去！

提太太。 我敢誓言你會看見，太太：牠晚上褪去，早上又回來了。

本勳爵。 真的，太太，牠不但能來去；還有，天呀，她的婢女能夠拿着牠帶着牠！

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MRS. CAN. Ha! ha! ha! how I hate to hear you talk so! But surely, now, her sister is, or was, very handsome.

CRAB. Who? Mrs. Evergreen? O Lord! she's six-and-fifty if she's an hour!

MRS. CAN. Now positively you wrong her; fifty-two or fifty-three is the utmost — and I don't think she looks more.

SIR BEN. Ah! there's no judging by her looks, unless one could see her face.

LADY SNEER. Well, well, if Mrs. Evergreen does take some pains to repair the ravages of time, you must allow she effects it with great ingenuity; and surely that's better than the careless manner in which the widow Ochre calks her wrinkles.

SIR BEN. Nay, now, Lady Sneerwell, you are severe upon the widow. Come, come, 'tis not that she paints so ill — but, when she has finished her face, she joins it on so badly to her neck, that she looks like a mended statue, in which the connoisseur may see at once that the head is modern, though the trunk's antique.

CRAB. Ha! ha! ha! Well said, nephew!

MRS. CAN. Ha! ha! ha! Well, you make me laugh; but I vow I hate you for it. What do you think of Miss Simper?

SIR BEN. Why, she has very pretty teeth.

LADY TEAZ. Yes; and on that account, when she is neither speaking nor laughing (which very seldom happens), she never absolutely shuts her mouth, but leaves it always ajar, as it were — thus. [Shows her teeth.]

MRS. CAN. How can you be so ill-natured?

LADY TEAZ. Nay, I allow even that's better than the pains Mrs. Prim takes to conceal her losses in front. She

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坎夫人。哈!哈!哈!聽得你們這樣說,我是怎樣的討厭!可是她的姐姐現在或是從前誠然是很美的。

克刺布。誰? 挨佛格林夫人麼? 上帝啊!她的確是五十六歲了!

坎夫人。你現在真的冤屈她了;五十二三歲是最多不過了——我不以為她的樣子再老一些。本勳爵。唉!不能照她的樣子評論的,除非你能看見她的真面目。

司太太。是,是,挨佛格林夫人雖然盡力的修飾她的老態,可是你該承認她的修飾是極其巧妙;這當當然比嬌婦奧刻胡亂的粉刷她的縐紋要好得多。

本勳爵。啊,司尼雅威爾太太,你現在對於那嬌婦未免苛刻了。喂,喂,並不是她把粉兒搽得這樣壞——可是,當她搽好了臉兒的時候,不會把粉兒均勻地接到頸項上去,所以她的樣子彷彿一個嵌的雕像,立刻可以知道那頭兒是新的,那幹却是舊的。

克刺布。哈!哈!哈!說得好,姪兒!

坎夫人。哈!哈!哈!啊,你引我發笑;可是我誓言我因為這樣便憎惡你。你看辛普小姐怎樣?

本勳爵。啊,她有很美麗的牙齒。

提太太。是;因為這個緣故,當她既不講話也不發笑(那是很少有的事情)的時候,她絕不十分的閉着她的嘴,總要把牠離開一些,好像——這樣。(露出她的牙齒。)

坎夫人。你的脾氣怎麼這樣的壞?

提太太。啊,我承認雖則這個習慣還要比布利姆夫人盡力的隱藏她的門齒的脫落好得多哩。

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draws her mouth till it positively resembles the aperture of a poor's-box, and all her words appear to slide out edge-wise, as it were—thus : [*Mimics.*] *How do you do, madam? Yes, madam.*

LADY SNEER. Very well, Lady Teazle ; I see you can be a little severe.

LADY TEAZ. In defense of a friend it is but justice. But here comes Sir Peter to spoil our pleasantry.

Enter SIR PETER TEAZLE

SIR PET. Ladies, your most obedient. — [*Aside.*] Mercy on me, here is the whole set ! a character dead at every word, I suppose.

MRS. CAN. I am rejoiced you are come, Sir Peter. They have been so censorious — and Lady Teazle as bad as any one.

SIR PET. That must be very distressing to you, indeed, Mrs. Candour.

MRS. CAN. Oh, they will allow good qualities to nobody ; not even good nature to our friend Mrs. Pursy.

LADY TEAZ. What, the fat dowager who was at Mrs. Quadrille's last night ?

MRS. CAN. Nay, her bulk is her misfortune ; and, when she takes so much pains to get rid of it, you ought not to reflect on her.

LADY SNEER. That's very true, indeed.

LADY TEAZ. Yes, I know she almost lives on acids and small whey ; laces herself by pulleys ; and often, in the hottest noon in summer, you may see her on a little squat

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她掀起她的嘴兒，以致牠很像一隻賑濟袋的上口，她的攏總的話兒彷彿從嘴旁溜出，好像——這樣（模仿着）你好麼，太太？是呀，太太。

司太太。很好，提茲爾太太；我看你可以稍爲嚴重一些。

提太太。替朋友辯護，這本來是正義。但是彼得勳爵到這裏來掃我們的興致了。

彼得提茲爾勳爵上。

彼得勳爵。太太們，你的最恭順的僕人：——（側語。）哎呀，這裏是全班人物！每一句話要坑死一個人，我想。

坎夫人。你來了我很快樂，彼得勳爵。他們已經大肆毀謗——提茲爾太太壞得和別人一樣。

彼得勳爵。這種情形你看見了定要很難過，真的，坎多爾夫人。

坎夫人。啊，他們不承認什麼人有好品性；也不承認我們的朋友波賽夫人的脾氣是好。

提太太。什麼，就是昨天晚上在廓德立爾夫人家裏的那個胖寡婦麼？

坎夫人。啊，她的肥大乃是她的不幸；她既然盡力的要免避牠，你就不應該談論她了。

司太太。那是真正不錯。

提太太。是，我知道她差不多全吃酸素和稀的乳漿；用滑車把身子束着帶兒；而且常常在夏天最熱的正午時候，你可以看見她騎在一隻短而胖的

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LADY TEAZ. Nay, I vow Lady Stucco is very well with the dessert after dinner ; for she's just like the French fruit one cracks for mottoes — made up of paint and proverb.

MRS. CAN. Well, I will never join in ridiculing a friend ; and so I constantly tell my cousin Ogle, and you all know what pretensions she has to be critical on beauty.

CRAB. Oh, to be sure ! she has herself the oddest countenance that ever was seen ; 'tis a collection of features from all the different countries of the globe.

SIR BEN. So she has, indeed — an Irish front —

CRAB. Caledonian locks —

SIR BEN. Dutch nose —

CRAB. Austrian lips —

SIR BEN. Complexion of a Spaniard —

CRAB. And teeth *à la Chinoise* —

SIR BEN. In short, her face resembles a *table d'hôte* at Spa — where no two guests are of a nation —

CRAB. Or a congress at the close of a general war — wherein all the members, even to her eyes, appear to have a different interest, and her nose and chin are the only parties likely to join issue.

MRS. CAN. Ha ! ha ! ha !

SIR PET. [*Aside.*] Mercy on my life ! — a person they dine with twice a week !

MRS. CAN. Nay, but I vow you shall not carry the laugh off so — for give me leave to say, that Mrs. Ogle —

SIR PET. Madam, madam, I beg your pardon — there's no stopping these good gentlemen's tongues. But when I tell you, Mrs. Candour, that the lady they are abusing is a particular friend of mine, I hope you'll not take her part.

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小馬身上，她的頭髮編成辮子拖在後面，像一個鼓手似的，氣喘喘地環着跑馬場兒奔馳着。
坎夫人，我感謝你，提茲爾太太，因為你給她辯護。

本勳爵，是，一個很好的辯護，真的。

坎夫人，真的，提茲爾太太喜歡批評，和薩羅小姐一樣。

克刺布，是，而且她是極不配批評人家的一個人——一個蠢笨的傢伙，沒有一種可取的地方。

坎夫人，你斷然不可以這樣的苛刻。薩羅小姐是我的很近的親戚，至於她的身體，我們須得大大的原諒她；因為，老實的告訴你，一個婦人要裝做大三六歲的女子，總有許多的困難啊。
司太太，然而，她却真的還是美好——至於她的

眼光不強，試想一想她借燭光讀了多少書，也就沒有什麼奇怪了。

坎夫人，真的，現在再談談她的態度；我相信牠是很文雅的，因為她一點教育都不曾受過；你知道她的母親是一個威爾士的女帽商，她的父親是一個布里斯拖的烘糖師。

本勳爵，唉！你們倆的脾氣都太好了！

彼得勳爵（側語）是，遭天誅的好脾氣！這還是她們自己的親戚！哎呀！

坎夫人，至於我的話，我承認我不耐聽我的朋友被人批評。

彼得勳爵，不，當然！

本勳爵，啊！你很有些道學。坎多爾夫人和我能夠坐在那裏一小時聽着施忒柯太太說長道短。

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提太太。啊，我誓言施忒柯太太在大餐後吃水菓的當兒是很配的；因為她正像那法國的水菓，人家都爲着是警句纔弄碎牠——是粉兒和格言做成的；這句坎夫人啊，我絕不附和別人家嘲弄一個朋友；這句坎夫人我常常對我的堂姊妹奧格爾講，你們都知道她有批評美貌的資格的。克刺布。啊，當然！她自己有一副世界上最古怪的容貌；那種容貌是由萬國民族的容貌拚合起來的。

本勳爵。她誠然有——一個愛爾蘭人的前額

克刺布。喀利多尼亞人的捲髮——

本勳爵。荷蘭人的鼻子——

克刺布。奧國人的嘴唇——

本勳爵。西班牙人的膚色——

克刺布。中國人的牙齒——

本勳爵。總之，她的臉兒像一張在司巴旅館裏的餐桌——那裏沒有兩個客人是同國的——

克刺布。或是像一個大戰後的會議——在那裏的一切會員，就連她的兩隻眼睛，也好像有不同

的趨向，只有她的鼻子和下頷可以調和。

坎夫人。哈哈！哈哈！

彼得勳爵（側語）。哎呀！——他們每禮拜和她吃

飯兩次的一個婦人！坎夫人。啊，可是我誓言你不可以這樣的取笑——請你許我說，奧格爾夫人——

彼得勳爵。太太，太太，我求你饒恕——這些好紳士的舌頭是禁止不住的。可是，坎多爾夫人，現在我告訴你，他們所毀謗的那位婦人乃是我的一個特別朋友，我希望你不要袒護她。

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LADY SNEER. Ha! ha! ha! well said, Sir Peter! but you are a cruel creature — too phlegmatic yourself for a jest, and too peevish to allow wit in others.

SIR PET. Ah, madam, true wit is more nearly allied to good nature than your ladyship is aware of.

LADY TEAZ. True, Sir Peter: I believe they are so near akin that they can never be united.

SIR BEN. Or rather, suppose them man and wife, because one seldom sees them together.

LADY TEAZ. But Sir Peter is such an enemy to scandal, I believe he would have it put down by Parliament.

SIR PET. 'Före heaven, madam, if they were to consider the sporting with reputation of as much importance as poaching on manors, and pass an act for the preservation of fame, as well as game, I believe many would thank them for the bill.

LADY SNEER. O Lud! Sir Peter; would you deprive us of our privileges?

SIR PET. Ay, madam; and then no person should be permitted to kill characters and run down reputations, but qualified old maids and disappointed widows.

LADY SNEER. Go, you monster!

MRS. CAN. But, surely, you would not be quite so severe on those who only report what they hear?

SIR PET. Yes, madam, I would have law merchant for them too; and in all cases of slander currency, whenever the drawer of the lie was not to be found, the injured parties should have a right to come on any of the indorsers.

CRAE. Well, for my part, I believe there never was a scandalous tale without some foundation.

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司太太。哈!哈!哈! 說得好,彼得勳爵! 但你是
一個殘忍的人——太冷淡而不能滑稽,太乖戾而
不能容別人的笑話。
彼得勳爵。唉,太太,真滑稽裏面總帶着好脾氣,

這是你太太所不曉得的。
提太太。真的,彼得勳爵:我相信他們是聯帶的
骨戚,所以絕不能併在一起。
本勳爵。不如說,牠們是夫婦們,因為別人很難
看見牠們在一起。
提太太。可是彼得勳爵是那毀謗的大仇敵,我
相信他要叫國會來取締牠。

彼得勳爵。天在頭上,太太,假使國會議員把毀
壞名譽看作和侵犯領地相等,通過一種保護名譽的
法令,像保護禽獸似的,我相信許多人要感謝他
們這個議案哩。

司太太。天呀! 彼得勳爵;你難道要剝奪我們
的權利麼?

彼得勳爵。是,太太;那末什麼人都不准坑害損
壞名譽,除非那有資格的老處女和被棄捐的寡婦。

司太太。去,你這怪物!

坎夫人。可是,你一定不肯對那些報告消息的
人們加以嚴重的取締吧?

彼得勳爵。太太,我還要定下商法去取締他們
呢;關於一切通行毀謗的案內,如果那造謊的人不
能尋着,那被毀謗的人們應當有控訴那傳佈人的
權柄。

克刺布。啊,據我看來,我相信沒有一種毀謗的
醜史沒有幾分根據的。

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LADY SNEER. Come, ladies, shall we sit down to cards in the next room ?

Enter SERVANT who whispers SIR PETER

SIR PET. I'll be with them directly. — (*Exit SERVANT.*)
[*Aside.*] I'll get away unperceived.

LADY SNEER. Sir Peter, you are not going to leave us ?

SIR PET. Your ladyship must excuse me ; I'm called away by particular business. But I leave my character behind me. [*Exit.*]

SIR BEN. Well — certainly, Lady Teazle, that lord of yours is a strange being : I could tell you some stories of him would make you laugh heartily if he were not your husband.

LADY TEAZ. Oh, pray don't mind that ; come, do let's hear them.

[*Excunt all but JOSEPH SURFACE and MARIA.*]

JOS. SURF. Maria, I see you have no satisfaction in this society.

MAR. How is it possible I should ? If to raise malicious smiles at the infirmities or misfortunes of those who have never injured us be the province of wit or humor, Heaven grant me a double portion of dullness !

JOS. SURF. Yet they appear more ill-natured than they are ; they have no malice at heart.

MAR. Then is their conduct still more contemptible ; for, in my opinion, nothing could excuse the intemperance of their tongues but a natural and uncontrollable bitterness of mind.

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司太太。來，太太們，我們可以到隔壁房間裏去打牌麼？

僕人上，和彼得勳爵耳語。

彼得勳爵。我立刻就到他們那裏去。——（僕人下。）（側語。）我要偷偷地走開。

司太太。彼得勳爵，你不是要離開我們麼？

彼得勳爵。你太太須得原諒我；我有特別的事情要離開這裏。可是我的名譽還是留在這裏。

（下）

本勳爵。啊——提茲爾太太，你的勳爵夫子真是一個怪人；假使他不是你的丈夫，我可以把他的幾種歷史告訴你，叫你大笑不止。

提太太。啊，請不要把這句話在心；來，讓我們聽一聽這些歷史。

（他們都出，只有約瑟夫、守發斯和馬利亞留着。）

約瑟。馬利亞，我看你對於這班人很不滿意。

馬利。我怎樣能夠滿意呢？假使借那不會傷害我們的人的缺點或是災難作毒意的嘲笑，這就是談諧或是滑稽的職務，那末我願上天賜我加倍的愚笨！

約瑟。然而他們只不過現有惡性質的模樣；他們心裏並沒有什麼毒意。

馬利。那末他們的品行越發可鄙了；因為，據我看來，他們的毒舌實由於一種天然的放僻的毒心。

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JOS. SURF. Undoubtedly, madam; and it has always been a sentiment of mine, that to propagate a malicious truth wantonly is more despicable than to falsify from revenge. But can you, Maria, feel thus for others, and be unkind to me alone? Is hope to be denied the tenderest passion?

MAR. Why will you distress me by renewing this subject?

JOS. SURF. Ah, Maria! you would not treat me thus, and oppose your guardian, Sir Peter's will, but that I see that profligate Charles is still a favored rival.

MAR. Ungenerously urged! But, whatever my sentiments are for that unfortunate young man, be assured I shall not feel more bound to give him up, because his distresses have lost him the regard even of a brother.

JOS. SURF. Nay, but, Maria, do not leave me with a frown: by all that's honest, I swear — [*Kneels.*]

Reënter LADY TEAZLE *Behind*

[*Aside.*] Gad's life, here's Lady Teazle. — [*Aloud to MARIA.*] You must not — no, you shall not — for, though I have the greatest regard for Lady Teazle —

MAR. Lady Teazle!

JOS. SURF. Yet were Sir Peter to suspect —

LADY TEAZ. [*Coming forward.*] What is this, pray? Does he take her for me? — Child, you are wanted in the next room. — [*Exit MARIA.*] What is all this, pray?

JOS. SURF. Oh, the most unlucky circumstance in nature! Maria has somehow suspected the tender concern I have for your happiness, and threatened to acquaint Sir

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約瑟。那是無疑的，小姐；我常常以為任意的散布流言比那造謠報復更加可鄙。可是，馬利亞，你能夠對別人這樣的同情，偏和我沒有情感麼？難道最強烈的愛倒反沒有希望麼？

馬利。爲什麼你又提起這個問題來煩惱我呢？

約瑟。啊，馬利亞！若不是因爲那邪惡的查理士還是一個被寵愛的情敵，你總不肯這樣的待遇我，並且反對你的監護人彼得勳爵的旨意。

馬利。沒有心肝的話！可是，不管我對於那不幸的少年的情感是怎樣，你該知道我不會因爲他的苦惱失了他的弟兄的關顧便覺得更加要棄掉他。

約瑟。啊，可是，馬利亞，別惱着離開了我；老實講，我誓言——（跪下。）

提茲爾太太又從後面上。

（側語。）天呀，這裏是提茲爾太太，——（向馬利亞高聲。）你不該——不，你不可以——因爲，雖則我頂頂尊敬提茲爾太太——

馬利。提茲爾太太！

約瑟。但假使彼得勳爵疑猜——

提太太（向前來）。什麼事，請問？他把她當做我麼？——孩子，隔壁房間裏要你去哩。——（馬利亞下。）什麼事，請問？

約瑟。啊，最不幸的事！馬利亞有些猜到我對於你的快樂的眷顧，要去把她的懷疑告訴彼得勳

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Peter with her suspicions, and I was just endeavoring to reason with her when you came in.

LADY TEAZ. Indeed! but you seemed to adopt a very tender mode of reasoning — do you usually argue on your knees?

JOS. SURF. Oh, she's a child, and I thought a little bombast — But, Lady Teazle, when are you to give me your judgment on my library, as you promised?

LADY TEAZ. No, no; I begin to think it would be imprudent, and you know I admit you as a lover no farther than fashion requires.

JOS. SURF. True — a mere Platonic cicisbeo, what every wife is entitled to.

LADY TEAZ. Certainly, one must not be out of the fashion. However, I have so many of my country prejudices left, that, though Sir Peter's ill humor may vex me ever so, it never shall provoke me to —

JOS. SURF. The only revenge in your power. Well, I applaud your moderation.

LADY TEAZ. Go — you are an insinuating wretch! But we shall be missed — let us join the company.

JOS. SURF. But we had best not return together.

LADY TEAZ. Well, don't stay; for Maria shan't come to hear any more of your reasoning, I promise you. [Exit.]

JOS. SURF. A curious dilemma, truly, my politics have run me into! I wanted, at first, only to ingratiate myself with Lady Teazle, that she might not be my enemy with Maria; and I have, I don't know how, become her serious lover. Sincerely I begin to wish I had never made such a point of gaining so very good a character, for it has led me

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爵，我剛剛勉力的向她解釋，而你便進來了。

提太太，真的麼？可是你好像採用一種很溫柔的解釋的方法——你難道慣會跪下來辯論麼？
約瑟，啊，她是一個孩子，我以爲用一些猛烈的手段——可是，提茲爾太太，幾時你纔能去評閱我的圖書，像你所答應的呢？

提太太，不，不；我現在以爲這是太孟浪了，你知道我只不過因爲俗尚的關係把你當作一個情人罷了。

約瑟，真的——只不過一個純潔的鍾情的男子，每一個妻子所應該有的。

提太太，當然，人總不該離掉時髦。然而，我還帶着許多我的鄉間的成見，所以彼得勳爵的壞脾氣雖則大大的煩惱我，却不能夠激使我。

約瑟，你的勢力裏面的唯一的復讎的方法，好，我很誇獎你的中庸啊。

提太太，去——你是一個下流的壞東西！可是我們要被他們想着了——讓我們到他們那裏去吧。

約瑟，可是我們最好不要一起回去。

提太太，啊，不要逗留着；因爲馬利亞不會再來聽你的解釋了，我告訴你。（下）

約瑟，真的，我的計策把我弄到一個奇怪的進退兩難的境地了！其初，我只不過想和提茲爾太太親善，使她不至於破壞我對於馬利亞的希望；現在我却不知道怎樣，已經變做了她的真正的情人了。實在我巴不得我從前不會苦心的弄得這般

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into so many cursed rogueries that I doubt I shall be exposed at last. [Exit.]

SCENE III

A Room in SIR PETER TEAZLE'S House

Enter SIR OLIVER SURFACE and ROWLEY

SIR OLIV. Ha! ha! ha! so my old friend is married, hey? — a young wife out of the country. Ha! ha! ha! that he should have stood bluff to old bachelor so long, and sink into a husband at last!

Row. But you must not rally him on the subject, Sir Oliver; 'tis a tender point, I assure you, though he has been married only seven months.

SIR OLIV. Then he has been just half a year on the stool of repentance! — Poor Peter! But you say he has entirely given up Charles — never sees him, hey?

Row. His prejudice against him is astonishing, and I am sure greatly increased by a jealousy of him with Lady Teazle, which he has industriously been led into by a scandalous society in the neighborhood, who have contributed not a little to Charles's ill name. Whereas the truth is, I believe, if the lady is partial to either of them, his brother is the favorite.

SIR OLIV. Ay, I know there are a set of malicious, prating, prudent gossips, both male and female, who murder characters to kill time, and will rob a young fellow of his good name before he has years to know the value of it. But I am not to be prejudiced against my nephew by such, I

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好的名譽，因為牠已經引我入於許許多多的詭計之中，我恐怕總有一天被人發見呢。（下）

第三幕

彼得提茲爾勳爵家裏的一個房間。

奧力佛守發斯（簡稱奧）勳爵和牢萊上。

奧勳爵，哈哈！哈哈！那末我的老朋友已經結婚了，囉？——娶了一個鄉下的少年的妻子，哈哈！哈哈！他居然老老實實地持着獨身主義到這般的長久末了又落了那做丈夫的窠臼裏！

牢萊，你不可在這件事體上拿他開玩笑，奧力佛勳爵；牠是足以致命的脇道，我確實的告訴你，雖則他結婚只不過七個月之久。

奧勳爵，那末他坐在悔罪凳上剛剛半年了！——可憐的彼得！可是你說他已完全的棄掉查理士了——絕不再見他了，囉？

牢萊，他的憎惡他的成見是怪可驚異的，而且他妬忌他和提茲爾太太的關係，因此我相信他的憎惡又增加了許多，這種妬忌本是那鄰近的一種毀謗黨引誘他生出來的，該黨人們破壞查理士的名譽不少啊，然而那實在的情形是，我相信，假使是那那位太太偏愛他們倆中的一個，他的哥哥便是那被寵愛者。

奧勳爵，是，我知道有一班毒意的，曉舌的，有深心的閒談者，他們有男有女，傷害別人的名的譽以若消遣，往往在一個少年不會知道名譽的價值的若干年前就把他的好名譽剝奪了，可是我絕不因爲這樣便憎惡我的姪兒，我告訴你！不，不，假使查

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promise you ! No, no ; if Charles has done nothing false or mean, I shall compound for his extravagance.

Row. Then, my life on't, you will reclaim him. Ah, sir, it gives me new life to find that your heart is not turned against him, and that the son of my good old master has one friend, however, left.

SIR OLIV. What ! shall I forget, Master Rowley, when I was at his years myself ? Egad, my brother and I were neither of us very prudent youths ; and yet, I believe, you have not seen many better men than your old master was ?

Row. Sir, 'tis this reflection gives me assurance that Charles may yet be a credit to his family. But here comes Sir Peter.

SIR OLIV. Egad, so he does ! Mercy on me ! he's greatly altered, and seems to have a settled married look ! One may read husband in his face at this distance !

Enter SIR PETER TEAZLE

SIR PET. Ha ! Sir Oliver — my old friend ! Welcome to England a thousand times !

SIR OLIV. Thank you, thank you, Sir Peter ! and i' faith I am glad to find you well, believe me !

SIR PET. Oh ! 'tis a long time since we met — fifteen years, I doubt, Sir Oliver, and many a cross accident in the time.

SIR OLIV. Ay, I have had my share. But, what ! I find you are married, hey, my old boy ? Well, well, it can't be helped ; and so — I wish you joy with all my heart !

SIR PET. Thank you, thank you, Sir Oliver. — Yes, I

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理士不會做什麼詐僞或是卑鄙的事，我要原諒他的浪費的。

牢萊。那末，我誓言，你將要叫他改過遷善哩。

唉，先生，我看見你心裏不曾反對他，我的善良的舊主人，兒子的到底還有一個朋友，我很快活好像得着新生命似的。

奧勳爵。什麼！牢萊，我難道忘記了我自己和他年紀一樣大的時候麼？天呀，我的哥哥和我都不是個小心謹慎的少年；然而，我相信，你不曾看見過許多比你舊主人再好的人吧？

牢萊。先生，就是這種念頭使我相信查理士還可以振揚他的家聲哩。但彼得勳爵到這裏來了。

奧勳爵。天啊，他真來了！哎呀！他是大大的改變了，好像有一種固定的做丈夫的神氣！在這般遠的地方就可在他的面孔上看出做丈夫的樣子！

彼得提茲爾勳爵上。

彼得勳爵。哈！奧力佛勳爵——我的老朋友！不勝歡迎你回英國來！

奧勳爵。多謝你，多謝你，彼得勳爵！看見你身體很好，我心裏實在歡喜，請相信我！

彼得勳爵。啊！我們離別多時了——我恐怕有了十五年了，奧力佛勳爵，而且在這時期裏遇了許多的災禍。

奧勳爵。是，我已經分得我的艱苦了。可是，怎樣！我知道你結過婚了，噯，我的老朋友？是，是，那是免不掉的；所以——我誠心的祝你快樂！

彼得勳爵。多謝你，多謝你，奧力佛勳爵。——是，

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have entered into — the happy state ; but we'll not talk of that now.

SIR OLIV. True, true, Sir Peter ; old friends should not begin on grievances at first meeting. No, no, no.

ROW. [*Aside to SIR PETER.*] Take care, pray, sir.

SIR OLIV. Well, so one of my nephews is a wild rogue, hey ?

SIR PET. Wild ! Ah ! My old friend, I grieve for your disappointment there ; he's a lost young man, indeed. However, his brother will make you amends ; Joseph is, indeed, what a youth should be — everybody in the world speaks well of him.

SIR OLIV. I am sorry to hear it ; he has too good a character to be an honest fellow. Everybody speaks well of him ! Psha ! then he has bowed as low to knaves and fools as to the honest dignity of genius and virtue.

SIR PET. What, Sir Oliver ! do you blame him for not making enemies ?

SIR OLIV. Yes, if he has merit enough to deserve them.

SIR PET. Well, well — you'll be convinced when you know him. 'Tis edification to hear him converse ; he professes the noblest sentiments.

SIR OLIV. Oh, plague of his sentiments ! If he salutes me with a scrap of morality in his mouth, I shall be sick directly. But, however, don't mistake me, Sir Peter ; I don't mean to defend Charles's errors : but, before I form my judgment of either of them, I intend to make a trial of their hearts ; and my friend Kowley and I have planned something for the purpose.

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我已經進了——那快樂的境地；可是現在我們且別談這事。

奧勳爵。真的，真的，彼得勳爵；老朋友剛剛再見的時候總不該開口便講到痛心的事情。不，不，不，牢萊向奧力佛勳爵側語，請小心些，先生。

奧勳爵。是，那末我有一個姪兒做放蕩的惡奴了，嗨？

彼得勳爵。放蕩的！啊！我的老朋友，你因此失望，我很難過；他真的是——一個墮落的少年。然而，他的哥哥要叫你很有希望的；約瑟夫真的是個模範的少年——世界上的人沒有不誇獎他的。

奧勳爵。我聽得這句話很是難過；他的名譽太好了，恐怕他是作僞吧。個個人都誇獎他麼！啐！那末他對那些狂奴和傻子低首下心，正和對那才德兼全的上流人士一樣了。

彼得勳爵。什麼，奧力佛勳爵！你難道責備他不曾結下了冤家麼？

奧勳爵。是，假使他有那結冤家的價值。

彼得勳爵。是，是——你知道他的時候便相信我的話了。聽他講話便是一番教訓；他宣傳着高尚的情感啊。

奧勳爵。啊，天罰他的情感！假使他用一些道學話來恭維我，我馬上就要作嘔了。但是，請別誤會了我的意思，彼得勳爵；我並不是辯護查理士的過失；可是，在我沒有評定他們倆以前，我想試一試他們的心理；我的朋友牢萊和我已經籌劃些試驗的方法了。

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Row. And Sir Peter shall own for once he has been mistaken.

SIR PET. Oh, my life on Joseph's honor!

SIR OLIV. Well - - come, give us a bottle of good wine, and we'll drink the lads' health, and tell you our scheme.

SIR PET. *Allons*, then!

SIR OLIV. And don't, Sir Peter, be so severe against your old friend's son. Odds my life! I am not sorry that he has run out of the course a little: for my part, I hate to see prudence clinging to the green suckers of youth; 'tis like ivy round a sapling, and spoils the growth of the tree.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT THIRD

SCENE I

A Room in SIR PETER TEAZLE'S House

Enter SIR TEAZLE, SIR OLIVER SURFACE, and ROWLEY

SIR PET. Well, then, we will see this fellow first, and have our wine afterwards. But how is this, Master Rowley? I don't see the jest of your scheme.

Row. Why, sir, this Mr. Stanley, whom I was speaking of, is nearly related to them by their mother. He was once a merchant in Dublin, but has been ruined by a series of undeserved misfortunes. He has applied, by letter, since his confinement, both to Mr. Surface and Charles: from the former he has received nothing but evasive promises of future service, while Charles has done all that his extravagance has left him power to do; and he is, at this time, endeavoring to raise a sum of money, part of which, in the midst of his own distresses, I know he intends for the service of poor Stanley.

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牢萊。那末彼得勳爵便要承認一回他弄錯了。
彼得勳爵。啊，我誓認約瑟夫的美德！

奧勳爵。喂——來，給我們一瓶好酒，我們便舉杯祝那孩子們的康健，然後把我們的計劃告訴你。

彼得勳爵。讓我們去吧，那末！

奧勳爵。彼得勳爵，不要這般嚴重地反對你的老朋友的兒子。我誓言！我並不因為他稍稍越出常軌便覺得難過。據我說的來，我不喜歡看見一種謹慎的態度附着那幼稚的青少年身上；這種態度好像那纏着嫩樹的常春藤，阻礙了那樹兒的發育。
(同下。)

第三齣 第一幕

彼得提茲爾勳爵家裏的一個房間。

彼得提茲爾勳爵，奧力佛守發斯勳爵，和

牢萊上。

彼得勳爵。是，那末，我們且先看這位朋友，然後再吃我們的酒。可是這是什麼道理，牢萊？我不懂得你的計劃的旨趣。

牢萊。啊，先生，這位施且立先生，剛纔我所談及的那人，乃是他們母家的至戚。他曾在都伯林做過商人，可是因種種意外的災禍破產了。自從他被監禁以來，他寫信懇求守發斯先生和查理士兩人從守發斯那裏他只得着那種捉摸不定的將來幫助的允許，查理士却盡了他的奢侈的結果所有的力量；他日下正在努力地去借得一筆的款子，他自己的自己則艱窘萬狀，我知道他還預備拿出那款子的一部分去接濟那可憐的施且立哩。

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SIR OLIV. Ah! he is my brother's son.

SIR PET. Well, but how is Sir Oliver personally to —

ROW. Why, sir, I will inform Charles and his brother that Stanley has obtained permission to apply personally to his friends; and, as they have neither of them ever seen him, let Sir Oliver assume his character, and he will have a fair opportunity of judging, at least, of the benevolence of their dispositions: and believe me, sir, you will find in the youngest brother one who, in the midst of folly and dissipation has still, as our immortal bard expresses it, —

“ a heart to pity, and a hand,
Open as day, for melting charity.”

SIR PET. Psha! What signifies his having an open hand or purse either, when he has nothing left to give? Well, well, make the trial, if you please. But where is the fellow whom you brought for Sir Oliver to examine, relative to Charles's affairs?

ROW. Below, waiting his commands, and no one can give him better intelligence. — This, Sir Oliver, is a friendly Jew, who, to do him justice, has done everything in his power to bring your nephew to a proper sense of his extravagance.

SIR PET. Pray let us have him in.

ROW. [*Calls to SERVANT.*] Desire Mr. Moses to walk upstairs.

SIR PET. But, pray, why should you suppose he will speak the truth?

ROW. Oh, I have convinced him that he has no chance of recovering certain sums advanced to Charles but through the bounty of Sir Oliver, who he knows is arrived; so that you may depend on his fidelity to his own interests. I have

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奧勳爵。唉！他纔真是我哥哥的兒子！

彼得勳爵。是，可是奧力佛勳爵將怎樣自己去

牢萊。啊，先生，我要對查理士弟兄們說，施旦立已經得着親自出獄向他的朋友們求助的允許了；因為他們倆總沒有看見過他，就叫奧力佛勳爵假裝個他，那末他便至少得着的一種評判他們的慈善心的機會了；請相信我，先生，你將要看出那做弟弟說的雖則奢侈放蕩，却還有像我們不朽的詩人所說，

“一副慈悲的心腸，和一隻像白晝地開闢的
手，贊助那感人的慈善。”

彼得勳爵。啐！他既然沒有什麼可以賑濟的錢財，那末他的慷慨的手或是易解的囊又有什麼關係呢？是，是，試試吧，倘使你喜歡。但關於查理士的事情你所帶來給奧力佛勳爵試驗的那個人是在那裏？

牢萊。在底下，等着他的吩咐，沒有別的人能夠給他更靈通的消息的。——奧力佛勳爵，這是一個很友愛的猶太人，平心而論，他已經盡力地叫你的姪兒知道他的奢侈的不是了。

彼得勳爵。請叫他上來。

牢萊（喚僕人）。請摩西先生走上樓來。

彼得勳爵。但，請問，爲什麼你知道他肯說真話呢？

牢萊。啊，我已經使他相信我的話，就是說他沒有收回那借與查理士的幾筆款子的機會，除非仗那奧力佛勳爵的善心的力，他現在知道勳爵到了；所以你可相信他對於切身的利害不會有什麼詐

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also another evidence in my power, one Snake, whom I have detected in a matter little short of forgery, and shall shortly produce to remove some of your prejudices, Sir Peter, relative to Charles and Lady Teazle.

SIR PETER. I have heard too much on that subject.

ROW. Here comes the honest Israelite.

Enter MOSES

— This is Sir Oliver.

SIR OLIV. Sir, I understand you have lately had great dealings with my nephew Charles.

MOS. Yes, Sir Oliver, I have done all I could for him ; but he was ruined before he came to me for assistance.

SIR OLIV. That was unlucky, truly ; for you have had no opportunity of showing your talents.

MOS. None at all ; I hadn't the pleasure of knowing his distresses till he was some thousands worse than nothing.

SIR OLIV. Unfortunate, indeed ! But I suppose you have done all in your power for him, honest Moses ?

MOS. Yes, he knows that. This very evening I was to have brought him a gentleman from the city, who does not know him, and will, I believe, advance him some money.

SIR PET. What, one Charles has never had money from before ?

MOS. Yes, Mr. Premium, of Crutched Friars, formerly a broker.

SIR PET. Egad, Sir Oliver, a thought strikes me !— Charles, you say, does not know Mr. Premium ?

MOS. Not at all.

SIR PET. Now then, Sir Oliver, you may have a better

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偽的。我還有另外一個見證在我的勢力範圍之內，一個名叫司耐克的，我曾察出他犯了近似偽造的罪案，不久我便要提出這個見證，把你那關於查理的士和提茲爾太太的憎惡的成見打破一些。

彼得勳爵。這件事我已聽得厭煩了。

牢萊。這裏來了那誠實的以色列人。

摩西上。

——這是奧力佛勳爵。

奧勳爵。先生，我知道你近來和我的姪兒查理士有很大的交涉啊。

摩西。是，奧力佛勳爵，我已經給他盡十分的力了；可是在他沒有向我求助以前他已經破產了。奧勳爵。這真真是不幸了；因為你不會有表示

你的能力的機會。

摩西。一點沒有；我並不知道他的困難，直到他已經負了幾千鎊的債。

奧勳爵。真的不幸！可是我以為你已經給他盡十分的力了，誠實的摩西？

摩西。是，他知道這樣。就在今天晚上我要把一位城裏的紳士領到他跟前，其人不認識他，但是我相信要借錢與他。

彼得勳爵。什麼，是查理士向來不會向他借錢的一個人麼？

摩西。是，普利美恩先生，住在十字僧徒街上，從前是一個捐客。

彼得勳爵。天呀，奧力佛勳爵，我忽的想起一個主義！——你說查理士不認識普利美恩先生麼？

摩西。絕不認識。

彼得勳爵。那末，奧力佛勳爵，你本來想用一種

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opportunity of satisfying yourself than by an old romancing tale of a poor relation : go with my friend Moses, and represent Premium, and then, I'll answer for it, you'll see your nephew in all his glory.

SIR OLIV. Egad, I like this idea better than the other, and I may visit Joseph afterwards as old Stanley.

SIR PET. True — so you may.

ROW. Well, this is taking Charles rather at a disadvantage, to be sure. However, Moses, you understand Sir Peter, and will be faithful ?

MOS. You may depend upon me. — [*Looks at his watch.*] This is near the time I was to have gone.

SIR OLIV. I'll accompany you as soon as you please, Moses — But hold ! I have forgot one thing — how the plague shall I be able to pass for a Jew ?

MOS. There's no need — the principal is Christian.

SIR OLIV. Is he ? I'm very sorry to hear it. But, then again, an't I rather too smartly dressed to look like a money lender ?

SIR PET. Not at all ; 'twould not be out of character, if you went in your own carriage — would it, Moses ?

MOS. Not in the least.

SIR OLIV. Well, but how must I talk ; there's certainly some cant of usury and mode of treating that I ought to know.

SIR PET. Oh, there's not much to learn. The great point, as I take it, is to be exorbitant enough in your demands. Hey, Moses ?

MOS. Yes, that's a very great point.

SIR OLIV. I'll answer for't I'll not be wanting in that. I'll ask him eight or ten per cent on the loan, at least.

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舊的浪漫的窮親戚的喬裝去探得真相，現在可以有了比牠還好的機會了：請和我的朋友摩西一同去，假扮作普利美恩，然後我相信你定然可以看見你的姪兒的光榮哩。

奧勳爵。天呀，我喜歡這個主意比那個主意更甚，我以後可扮作老的施旦立去看約瑟夫的。

彼得勳爵。真的——你可以這樣。

牢萊。啊，這乃是乘着查理士的不備了，那是無疑的。然而，摩西，你懂得彼得勳爵的意思，肯誠實的做去麼？

摩西。你可以信任我。——（看他的錶。）這差不多是我該去的時候了。

奧勳爵。你一經要我伴你去我便伴你去，摩西——但是停一步！我忘記一件事情了——我怎樣能夠裝做一個猶太人呢？

摩西。這也不必——那主人是個耶穌教徒。

奧勳爵。他是麼？我聽了很為難過。但是，還有，我不是有些着得太漂亮，不像一個守錢虜吧？

彼得勳爵。不嫌漂亮的，就使你坐着你自己的車子去，也不至於不合情理——不至於吧，摩西？

摩西。萬不至於。

奧勳爵。是，但我該怎樣措辭呢？這其間定有一種盤利的慣語和對待的方法，為我所應該知道的。

彼得勳爵。啊，沒有多大的門徑。那要緊的一點，據我看，只是你該要求極重的利息罷了。嗨，摩西？

摩西。是，這是很要緊的一點。

奧勳爵。我可以保證我不至於缺乏這一點。我在那借款上至少要向他討八釐或是一分的利息。

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MOS. If you ask him no more than that, you'll be discovered immediately.

SIR OLIV. Hey! what, the plague! how much then?

MOS. That depends upon the circumstances. If he appears not very anxious for the supply, you should require only forty or fifty per cent; but if you find him in great distress, and want the moneys very bad, you may ask double.

SIR PET. A good honest trade you're learning, Sir Oliver!

SIR OLIV. Truly, I think so — and not unprofitable.

MOS. Then, you know, you haven't the moneys yourself, but are forced to borrow them for him of a friend.

SIR OLIV. Oh! I borrow it of a friend, do I?

MOS. And your friend is an unconscionable dog: but you can't help that.

SIR OLIV. My friend an unconscionable dog, is he?

MOS. Yes, and he himself has not the moneys by him, but is forced to sell stock at a great loss.

SIR OLIV. He is forced to sell stock at a great loss, is he? Well, that's very kind of him.

SIR PET. I' faith, Sir Oliver — Mr. Premium, I mean — you'll soon be master of the trade. But, Moses! would not you have him run out a little against the Annuity Bill? That would be in character, I should think.

MOS. Very much.

ROW. And lament that a young man now must be at years of discretion before he is suffered to ruin himself?

MOS. Ay, great pity!

SIR PET. And abuse the public for allowing merit to an act whose only object is to snatch misfortune and imprudence

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摩西。假使你只討這一些，你便立刻被他看出了。

奧勳爵。噯！什麼，天罰的！那末該討多少呢？

摩西。那是看光景纔能斷定的。假使他的樣子並不急急的要那款子，你該只討四五分的利息；但假使你看他非常窮迫，拼命的想借那幾筆錢，你就可以討加倍的利息。

彼得勳爵。你在學習着一種良好的誠實的營業哩，奧力佛勳爵！

奧勳爵。真的，我也這般的想——而且這營業不

至於沒有利益的。
摩西。而且，你知道，你自己也沒有那幾筆款子，所以不得不替他向別的朋友去借一借。

奧勳爵。啊！我向別的朋友去借，真的麼？

摩西。並且你的朋友是一個不循情理的惡奴：可是你也沒有法子。

奧勳爵。我的朋友是個不循情理的惡奴，真的麼？

摩西。是，他自己也沒有那幾筆款子，所以不得不很虧本地賣掉他的存產。

奧勳爵。他不得不很虧本地賣掉他的存產，真的麼？那末，這是他的深仁厚誼了。

彼得勳爵。真是，奧力佛勳爵——普利美恩先生，我是說——你不久便做這營業的老手了。可

是，摩西！你不要叫他稍稍反對那年金律麼？這是在乎規矩之中的，據我看來。

摩西。很在規矩的。

牢萊。而且叫他痛恨現在的少年必須等到懂得好夕的年齡纔能夠自由地敗壞他自己的身分麼？

摩西。唉，大恨事！

彼得勳爵。而且叫他責罵社會上的公衆，因為他們贊成一種法律案，這法律案唯一的目的是

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from the rapacious gripe of usury, and give the minor a chance of inheriting his estate without being undone by coming into possession.

SIR OLIV. So, so — Moses shall give me further instructions as we go together.

SIR PET. You will not have much time, for your nephew lives hard by.

SIR OLIV. Oh, never fear! my tutor appears so able, that though Charles lived in the next street, it must be my own fault if I am not a complete rogue before I turn the corner. [Exit with MOSES.]

SIR PET. So, now, I think Sir Oliver will be convinced: you are partial, Rowley, and would have prepared Charles for the other plot.

Row. No, upon my word, Sir Peter.

SIR PET. Well, go bring me this Snake, and I'll hear what he has to say presently. I see Maria, and want to speak with her. — [Exit ROWLEY.] I should be glad to be convinced my suspicions of Lady Teazle and Charles were unjust. I have never yet opened my mind on this subject to my friend Joseph — I am determined I will do it — he will give me his opinion sincerely.

Enter MARIA

So, child, has Mr. Surface returned with you?

MAR. No, sir; he was engaged.

SIR PET. Well, Maria, do you not reflect, the more you converse with that amiable young man, what return his partiality for you deserves?

MAR. Indeed, Sir Peter, your frequent importunity on this subject distresses me extremely — you compel me to

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脫貪利者於災難和鹵莽而在未成
財產之先便給他一這種造產的機
奧動爵。這這樣——摩西須得給
吩咐，當我們同行的時候，
彼得動爵。你沒有許多閒暇了，因為你的姪兒

住在這裏很近。
奧動爵。啊，切勿擔憂！我的教師的樣子很是精幹，所以即使查理士住在鄰街，假如在沒有轉灣以前，我不能夠成功一個頂括括的惡奴，那便是我自己的不好。（和摩西下。）

彼得動爵。那末，現在，我想奧力佛動爵將要深信無疑了：你是很偏私的，牢萊；你定要叫查理士準備着，若是我們行那另一種計策。
牢萊。絕不，我誓言，彼得動爵。

彼得動爵。是，去把這司耐克帶到我跟前，我要聽他說些什麼。我看見馬利亞了，我要和她講話哩。——（牢萊下。）我很要確實的知道我那對於提茲爾太太和查理士的疑猜是不正當的。我還沒有將這個問題坦白地告訴我的朋友約瑟夫——我決定要告訴他——他便要把他的意見老老實實的告訴我。

馬利亞上。

那末，孩子，守發斯先生和你一起回來了麼？

馬利。不，先生；他正在有事哩。

彼得動爵。喂，馬利亞，你常常和那可愛的少年講話，難道想不着他的對於你的偏私該值得怎樣的酬報麼？

馬利。真的，彼得動爵，你的對於這件事的瑣瀆叫我煩惱得非常啊——你使我不得不聲明這句

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declare that I know no man who has ever paid me a particular attention whom I would not prefer to Mr. Surface.

SIR PET. So—here's perverseness! No, no, Maria, 'tis Charles only whom you would prefer. 'Tis evident his vices and follies have won your heart.

MAR. This is unkind, sir. You know I have obeyed you in neither seeing nor corresponding with him: I have heard enough to convince me that he is unworthy my regard. Yet I cannot think it culpable, if, while my understanding severely condemns his vices, my heart suggests some pity for his distresses.

SIR PET. Well, well, pity him as much as you please; but give your heart and hand to a worthier object.

MAR. Never to his brother!

SIR PET. Go, perverse and obstinate! But take care, madam; you have never yet known what the authority of a guardian is: don't compel me to inform you of it.

MAR. I can only say, you shall not have just reason. 'Tis true, by my father's will, I am for a short period bound to regard you as his substitute; but must cease to think you so, when you would compel me to be miserable. [Exit.]

SIR PET. Was ever man so crossed as I am, everything conspiring to fret me! I had not been involved in matrimony a fortnight, before her father, a hale and hearty man, died, on purpose, I believe, for the pleasure of plaguing me with the care of his daughter. — [LADY TEAZLE *sings without.*] But here comes my helpmate! She appears in great good humor. How happy I should be if I could tease her into loving me, though but a little!

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話，就是說在那些愛慕我的男子們裏面我所最不傾心的乃是守發斯先生。

彼得勳爵，那末——他真是胡說了！不，不，馬利亞，查理士乃是你所傾心的唯一的男子。他的惡事和愚行已經博得你的情愛了，這是很明白的。

馬利，這是苛刻的話，先生。你知道我已經聽從你的規勸，不去看他又不和他通信；我已經聽得不少的傳說，所以相信他是不值得我的垂青的。然而，假使我的意識嚴重地責備他的罪惡，我的情感却稍微憐恤他的苦惱，我想這也不算過失吧。

彼得勳爵，是，是，你儘可盡力的憐恤他；可是你總該把你的終身許給一個較有價值的男子。

馬利，萬不給他的哥哥！

彼得勳爵，去，執拗而又頑梗的！可是你該小心些，小姐；你還沒有知道監護人的權力是怎樣；別強迫我把我的權力告訴你。

馬利，我只能夠說，你絕沒有正當的理由。不錯，遵照我父親的遺囑，我在一個短的時期裏須得把你當作他的代替人；可是當你逼我到不幸的田地時候，我便不把當作那樣了。（下）

彼得勳爵，世界上有像我這般遭殃的人麼，件事都聚攏來煩惱我！我結婚還不會有兩個禮拜之久，她把那強壯的父親的居重擔壓在我的肩膊上；他特地把那死去的，——（提茲爾太太在外面唱着。）

可是這裏來了我的內助了！她現着很和氣，樣微子。我將怎樣的快活，假使我能夠煩惱她，叫她愛我！

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Enter LADY TEAZLE

LADY TEAZ. Lud! Sir Peter, I hope you haven't been quarreling with Maria? It is not using me well to be ill-humored when I am not by.

SIR PET. Ah, Lady Teazle, you might have the power to make me good-humored at all times.

LADY TEAZ. I am sure I wish I had; for I want you to be in a charming sweet temper at this moment. Do be good-humored now, and let me have two hundred pounds, will you?

SIR PET. Two hundred pounds; what, an't I to be in a good humor without paying for it! But speak to me thus, and i' faith there's nothing I could refuse you. You shall have it; but seal me a bond for the repayment.

LADY TEAZ. Oh, no — there — my note of hand will do as well. *[Offering her hand.]*

SIR PET. And you shall no longer reproach me with not giving you an independent settlement. I mean shortly to surprise you: but shall we always live thus, hey?

LADY TEAZ. If you please. I'm sure I don't care how soon we leave off quarreling, provided you'll own you were tired first.

SIR PET. Well — then let our future contest be, who shall be most obliging.

LADY TEAZ. I assure you, Sir Peter, good nature becomes you. You look now as you did before we were married, when you used to walk with me under the elms, and tell me stories of what a gallant you were in your youth, and chuck me under the chin, you would; and asked me if I thought I

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提茲爾太太上。

提太太。天啊，彼得勳爵，我希望你不曾和馬利亞爭吵吧？離了我你便發着壞脾氣，這並不是待遇我的正道。

彼得勳爵。啊，提茲爾太太，你也許有那叫我脾氣常好的力量。

提太太。我實在很情願我有這種力量，因為我願你在這時候顯出一種動人的甜密的脾氣。現在在務要發好脾氣，而且給我二百鎊錢，你肯麼？

彼得勳爵。二百鎊？什麼，難道我定要出錢才能算有好脾氣麼？可是對我這樣的講，實在什麼東西我都是不能夠拒絕你。我定然給你這款子，可是你須得和我訂一個償還的契約。

提太太。啊，不——這裏——我的手票也就行了。（伸出她的手。）

彼得勳爵。以後你再不可以責備我不給你一種單獨的財產了。我本來想歇一會兒就這樣做活去麼？

提太太。只要你喜歡這般便是了。我相信我不管什麼時候都可以停止爭吵，只要你承認你先不覺得疲倦。

彼得勳爵。好——那末讓我們將來競爭誰是最客氣便了。

提太太。我確實的告訴你，彼得勳爵，好脾氣是和你相宜的。你現在的相貌彷彿和你未婚以前的一樣，那時候你和我在樹林下同行着，告訴我那少年拍一下你的額底，輕拍一下，你又問我是否能夠愛一個老

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could love an old fellow, who would deny me nothing — didn't you?

SIR PET. Yes, yes, and you were as kind and attentive —

LADY TEAZ. Ay, so I was, and would always take your part, when my acquaintance used to abuse you, and turn you into ridicule.

SIR PET. Indeed!

LADY TEAZ. Ay, and when my cousin Sophy has called you a stiff, peevish old bachelor, and laughed at me for thinking of marrying one who might be my father, I have always defended you, and said, I didn't think you so ugly by any means.

SIR PET. Thank you.

LADY TEAZ. And I dared say you'd make a very good sort of a husband.

SIR PET. And you prophesied right; and we shall now be the happiest couple —

LADY TEAZ. And never differ again?

SIR PET. No, never! — though at the same time, indeed, my dear Lady Teazle, you must watch your temper very seriously; for in all our little quarrels, my dear, if you recollect, my love, you always began first.

LADY TEAZ. I beg your pardon, my dear Sir Peter: indeed, you always gave the provocation.

SIR PET. Now see, my angel! Take care — contradicting isn't the way to keep friends.

LADY TEAZ. Then don't you begin it, my love!

SIR PET. There, now! you — you are going on. You don't perceive, my life, that you are just doing the very thing which you know always makes me angry.

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人，樣樣不拂我意的那個人——你不會問麼？
彼得勳爵，是，是，而且你也是很和善很傾心的

提太太，是，我是這樣，並且當我的熟人常常罵你嘲你的時候，我常常的袒護你。

彼得勳爵，真的！

提太太，是，當我的堂姊妹索非叫你做頑固乖戾的老鰥夫，並且笑我有意嫁給一個可以做我父親的人的時候，我總是袒護着你，我說，我絲毫不把你當作那樣的醜陋。

彼得勳爵，多謝你。

提太太，而且我敢說你要做一個良好的夫婿。

彼得勳爵，你的預言真是很準；我們現在要做最快樂的配偶——

提太太，永遠沒有歧異麼？

彼得勳爵，不，永遠沒有！——但是同時你真的須得很嚴重地防制你的脾氣，我親愛的提茲爾太太；因為在攏總我們的小爭吵裏面，我愛，假使你記得，我愛，總是你先起禍啊。

提太太，我求你的饒恕，我親愛的彼得勳爵；真的，總是你惹人動氣啊。

彼得勳爵，聽呀，我的安琪兒！注意呀——彼此反駁並不是交友的方法啊。

提太太，那末你不要開始反駁吧，我愛！

彼得勳爵，喂，現在！你——你在反駁着哩。你不知道，我愛，你現在正做着那常常叫我動怒的事情。

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LADY TEAZ. Nay, you know, if you will be angry without any reason, my dear —

SIR PET. There ! now you want to quarrel again.

LADY TEAZ. No, I'm sure I don't : but, if you will be so peevish —

SIR PET. There now ! who begins first ?

LADY TEAZ. Why, you, to be sure. I said nothing — but there's no bearing your temper.

SIR PET. No, no, madam : the fault's in your own temper.

LADY TEAZ. Ay, you are just what my cousin Sophy said you would be.

SIR PET. Your cousin Sophy is a forward, impertinent gypsy.

LADY TEAZ. You are a great bear, I'm sure, to abuse my relations.

SIR PET. Now may all the plagues of marriage be doubled on me, if ever I try to be friends with you any more

LADY TEAZ. So much the better.

SIR PET. No, no, madam : 'tis evident you never cared a pin for me, and I was a madman to marry you — a pert, rural coquette, that had refused half the honest squires in the neighborhood !

LADY TEAZ. And I am sure I was a fool to marry you — an old dangling bachelor, who was single at fifty, only because he never could meet with any one who would have him.

SIR PET. Ay, ay, madam ; but you were pleased enough to listen to me : you never had such an offer before.

LADY TEAZ. No ! didn't I refuse Sir Tivy Terrier, who

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提太太。啊，你知道，假使你無故的要動怒起來，我親愛的——

彼得勳爵。喂！現在你又要爭吵了。

提太太。不，我相信我絕不可是，假使你要這般的乖戾——

彼得勳爵。喂！誰開始爭吵呢？

提太太。啊，是你，那不消說。我不會講什麼——可是你的脾氣委實叫人耐不住。

彼得勳爵。不，不，太太總怪你自己的脾氣不好。

提太太。唉，你恰真像我的堂姊妹索非所預料你的那種樣子了。

彼得勳爵。你的堂姊妹乃是一個鹵莽唐突的村婦。

提太太。我相信你是一個極粗野的惡人，所以侮辱我的親戚。

彼得勳爵。假使我再想和你友好，願婚姻的災禍都加倍集在我身上！

提太太。這樣更好。

彼得勳爵。不，不，太太：你分明的絲毫不會愛我，所以我娶你真是一個狂人——娶一個唐突的粗野的風騷女，她已經把鄰近的誠實的公子拒絕了一半！

提太太。我也相信我嫁給你真是一個傻子——嫁給一個年老龍鍾的鰥夫，他到了五十歲還是獨身，只因為他不能夠遇着一個傾心於他的女子。

彼得勳爵。是，是，太太，可是你很喜欢承認我的求婚：你向來不會得着這種的請求。

提太太。不！我難道不會拒絕那替維忒立歐勳

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everybody said would have been a better match? for his estate is just as good as yours, and he has broken his neck since we have been married.

SIR PET. I have done with you, madam! You are an unfeeling, ungrateful — but there's an end of everything. I believe you capable of everything that is bad. Yes, madam, I now believe the reports relative to you and Charles, madam. Yes, madam, you and Charles are, not without grounds —

LADY TEAZ. Take care, Sir Peter! you had better not insinuate any such thing! I'll not be suspected without cause, I promise you.

SIR PET. Very well, madam! very well! A separate maintenance as soon as you please. Yes, madam, or a divorce! I'll make an example of myself for the benefit of all old bachelors. Let us separate, madam.

LADY TEAZ. Agreed! agreed! And now, my dear Sir Peter, we are of a mind once more, we may be the happiest couple, and never differ again, you know: ha! ha! ha! Well, you are going to be in a passion, I see, and I shall only interrupt you — so, bye! bye! [Exit.]

SIR PET. Plagues and tortures! can't I make her angry either! Oh, I am the most miserable fellow! But I'll not bear her presuming to keep her temper: no! she may break my heart, but she shan't keep her temper. [Exit.]

SCENE II

A Room in CHARLES SURFACE'S House

Enter TRIP, MOSES, and SIR OLIVER SURFACE

TRIP. Here, Master Moses! if you'll stay a moment I'll try whether — what's the gentleman's name?

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爵麼？人人都說他比你好，因為他的財產和你一樣，可是自從我們結婚以後，他便斷頸而死了。

彼得勳爵，我已經和你斷絕關係了，太太！你是一個無情感的，無報恩心的——可是什麼事都完了。我相信無論什麼壞事你都能做。是，太太，我現在相信那關於你和查理士的謠傳了，太太，是，太太，你和查理士是，未嘗沒有理由——

提太太，小心些，彼得勳爵！你最好不要諷示這種的事情！我是不甘受那無故的猜疑的，我告訴你。

彼得勳爵，很好，太太！很好！分居的贍養，你喜歡什麼時候就是什麼時候。是，太太，或者是離婚！我要罰我自己給普天下的老鰥夫做個榜樣。讓我們分居吧，太太。

提太太，贊成！贊成！現在，我親愛的彼得勳爵，我們又是同心同意了，我們也許做一個最快樂的配偶，絕不再有歧異了，你該知道哈哈！哈哈！是，你將要大大的動怒了，我看得出，所以我只好攔阻你一下——那末，再會！再會！（下。）

彼得勳爵，天罰！難道我不能夠叫她也動怒麼！啊，我是一個最苦惱的人！可是我不能容忍絕她敢這樣的平心靜氣；不！她儘可傷却我的心，她絕不耐着她的脾氣。（下。）

第二幕

查理士守發斯家裏的一個房間。

屈烈勃，摩西，和奧力佛守發斯勳爵上。

屈烈勃，這裏，摩西！假使你肯駐足片刻，我將試一試是否——那位先生的名字叫什麼？

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SIR OLIV. [*Aside to MOSES.*] Mr. Moses, what is my name ?

MOS. Mr. Premium.

TRIP. Premium — very well. [*Exit, taking snuff.*]

SIR OLIV. To judge by the servants, one wouldn't believe the master was ruined. But what! — sure, this was my brother's house ?

MOS. Yes, sir ; Mr. Charles bought it of Mr. Joseph, with the furniture, pictures, etc., just as the old gentleman left it. Sir Peter thought it a piece of extravagance in him.

SIR OLIV. In my mind, the other's economy in selling it to him was more reprehensible by half.

Reënter TRIP

TRIP. My master says you must wait, gentlemen : he has company, and can't speak with you yet.

SIR OLIV. If he knew who it was wanted to see him, perhaps he would not send such a message.

TRIP. Yes, yes, sir ; he knows you are here — I did not forget little Premium : no, no, no.

SIR OLIV. Very well ; and I pray, sir, what may be your name ?

TRIP. Trip, sir ; my name is Trip, at your service.

SIR OLIV. Well, then, Mr. Trip, you have a pleasant sort of place here, I guess ?

TRIP. Why, yes — here are three or four of us pass our time agreeably enough ; but then our wages are sometimes a little in arrear — and not very great either — but fifty pounds a year, and find our own bags and bouquets.

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奧勳爵向摩西側語：摩西先生，我的名字叫什麼？

摩西。普利美恩先生。

屈烈勃。普利美恩——很好。（下，吸着鼻煙。）

奧勳爵。照他的僕人們看起來，人總不相信那主人是破產的。但什麼！——真的，這是我哥哥的房子吧？

摩西。是，先生；查理士先生從約瑟夫先生那裏把牠買來的，連着傢具圖書等等，牠的情形正像令兄老先生臨終時候一樣的。彼得勳爵以為這是他的一種奢侈啊。

奧勳爵。據我看來，那賣牠的人的擲節是加倍可以譴責的。

屈烈勃又上。

屈烈勃。我的主人說你們須等候一下，諸位先生：他現在招待別的朋友，所以還不能和你們談話。

奧勳爵。假使他知道要看他的是誰，或者他不肯給這樣的消息。

屈烈勃。是，是，先生；他知道你在這裏——我不會忘記了小普利美恩：不，不，不。

奧勳爵。很好；我請問，先生，你的名字叫做什麼？

屈烈勃。屈烈勃，先生；我的名字叫屈烈勃，聽你的吩咐。

奧勳爵。是，那末，屈烈勃先生，你在這裏有很好的位置，我想？

屈烈勃。啊，是——這裏我們有三四個人可算是過活得很好；可是我們的薪俸有時候稍稍積欠——而且薪俸不很大——每年只不過五十鎊，我們的髮袋和花毯還要自備哩。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Bags and bouquets! halters and bastinadoes.

TRIP. And apropos, Moses, have you been able to get me that little bill discounted?

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Wants to raise money too!—mercy on me! Has his distresses too, I warrant, like a lord, and affects creditors and duns.

Mos. 'Twas not to be done, indeed, Mr. Trip.

TRIP. Good lack, you surprise me! My friend Brush has indorsed it, and I thought when he put his name at the back of a bill 'twas the same as cash.

Mos. No, 'twouldn't do.

TRIP. A small sum—but twenty pounds. Hark'ee, Moses, do you think you couldn't get it me by way of annuity?

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] An annuity! ha! ha! a footman raise money by way of annuity! Well done, luxury, egad!

Mos. Well, but you must insure your place.

TRIP. Oh, with all my heart! I'll insure my place, and my life too, if you please.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] It's more than I would your neck.

Mos. But is there nothing you could deposit?

TRIP. Why, nothing capital of my master's wardrobe has dropped lately; but I could give you a mortgage on some of his winter clothes, with equity of redemption before November—or you shall have the reversion of the French velvet, or a post-obit on the blue and silver;—these, I should think, Moses, with a few pair of point ruffles, as a collateral security—hey, my little fellow?

Mos. Well, well.

[*Bell rings.*]

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奧勳爵(側語)。髮袋和花毬! 絞索和笞杖!

屈烈勃。有句話要問你,摩西,你能夠借給我那折扣的小期票麼?

奧勳爵(側語)。他也要借款!——哎呀! 他也有他的苦惱,我相信,好像一個貴人似的,他也愛慕債主和強討的人們。摩西。這件事真的辦不到,屈烈勃先生。

屈烈勃。唉,你使我詫異! 我的朋友布刺須已經簽字保證牠,我想他一經把他的名字簽在期票的背面,那就如同現錢一樣了。摩西。不,那是不能行的。

屈烈勃。一筆小款子——只不過二十鎊。請注意,摩西,你以為你不能夠用年金方法把牠借給我麼?

奧勳爵(側語)。年金! 哈哈! 一個僕人居然用年金借款! 好極了,奢侈啊,天啊!摩西。好,可是你總得將你的位置保險。

屈烈勃。啊,極贊成! 我願保我的位置的險,並且保我的生命的險,假使你要這樣。

奧勳爵(側語)。這樣比我要替你的頸項保險更加周到了。

摩西。可是你難道沒有東西抵押麼?

屈烈勃。啊,我的主人的衣櫥裏新近沒有重要的拋棄;可是我可以拿他的幾件冬天的衣裳給你做着抵押品,限十一月以前取贖——或者你可以得着那法蘭絨的享有權,或者得着那藍色和銀白色的衣服的死後支付券;——這些,我以為,摩西,再加上幾對針繡的花邊,做一種附屬抵押品——噯,我的朋友?

摩西。好,好。(鈴響着。)

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TRIP. Egad, I heard the bell! I believe, gentlemen, I can now introduce you. Don't forget the annuity, little Moses! This way, gentlemen, I'll insure my place, you know.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] If the man be a shadow of the master, this is the temple of dissipation indeed! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III

Another Room in the Same

CHARLES SURFACE, SIR HARRY BUMPER, CARELESS, and GENTLEMEN, *discovered drinking.*

CHAS. SURF. 'Fore heaven, 'tis true! — there's the great degeneracy of the age. Many of our acquaintance have taste, spirit, and politeness, but, plague on't, they won't drink.

CARE. It is so, indeed, Charles! they give into all the substantial luxuries of the table, and abstain from nothing but wine and wit. Oh, certainly society suffers by it intolerably! for now, instead of the social spirit of raillery that used to mantle over a glass of bright Burgundy, their conversation is become just like the Spawater they drink, which has all the pertness and flatulency of champagne, without its spirit or flavor.

I GENT. But what are they to do who love play better than wine?

CARE. True! there's Sir Harry diets himself for gaming, and is now under a hazard regimen.

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屈烈勃。天啊，我聽得鈴響了！我相信，諸位先生，我現在可以介紹你們了。不要忘却那年金摩西！這面來，先生們，我將保我的位置的險，你知道。

奧勳爵(側語)。假使這僕人是他的主人的小影，這真是放僻邪侈的淵藪了。(同下。)

第三幕

查理士家裏的另一個房間。

查理士守發斯(簡稱查理)，哈立班別(簡稱哈)
勳爵，開耳勒斯(簡稱開耳)，和幾位紳士在吃酒。

查理。天呀，這是真的！——現代的絕大的墮落就是這樣。我們許多的朋友也有風趣，豪興和慇懃；可是他們不會吃酒，該遭天罰。

開耳。真的是這樣，查理士！他們狂啖那筵席上的豐富的肴饌，只不過戒酒和滑稽罷了。啊，交際場中定然大大的受窘！因為從前飲着勃良第酒的當兒總是興高采烈的嘲弄着，現在却不是這樣，他們的談話正像他們所吃的那斯巴汽水，有那香檳酒的孟浪和浮躁，却没有牠的精氣和香味。

紳士甲。可是那些好賭甚於好酒的人又怎樣自處呢？

開耳。真的！哈立勳爵爲着賭博而節制飲食，現在正處於孤注一擲的統治權的底下哩。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

CHAS. SURF. Then he'll have the worst of it. What! you wouldn't train a horse for the course by keeping him from corn? For my part, egad, I am never so successful as when I am a little merry: let me throw on a bottle of champagne, and I never lose.

ALL. Hey, what?

CARE. At least I never feel my losses, which is exactly the same thing.

2 GENT. Ay, that I believe.

CHAS. SURF. And then, what man can pretend to be a believer in love, who is an abjurer of wine? 'Tis the test by which the lover knows his own heart. Fill a dozen bumpers to a dozen beauties, and she that floats at the top is the maid that has bewitched you.

CARE. Now then, Charles, be honest, and give us your real favorite.

CHAS. SURF. Why, I have withheld her only in compassion to you. If I toast her, you must give a round of her peers, which is impossible — on earth.

CARE. Oh! then we'll find some canonized vestals or heathen goddesses that will do, I warrant!

CHAS. SURF. Here then, bumpers, you rogues! bumpers! Maria! Maria! —

SIR HAR. Maria who?

CHAS. SURF. Oh, damn the surname! — 'tis too formal to be registered in Love's calendar — Maria!

ALL. Maria!

CHAS. SURF. But now, Sir Harry, beware, we must have beauty superlative.

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查理。那末他將要失敗了。什麼！你總不肯
訓練一天呀，我帶着一些醉意的時候，就是頂頂子，我
的利話，時候讓我在飲着一瓶香檳的當兒擲骰子，我
總不會輸的。
大衆。漚，什麼？

開耳。至少我不會覺得我的輸失的，那便和不
輸一樣了。
紳士乙。是，我相信這句話。

查理。而且，一個戒酒的人又怎能夠自命爲戀
愛的信徒呢？酒乃是情人測驗自己的情愛的東
西。斟十來個滿杯兒給十來個美女，那浮在頂上
的女子就是那迷惑你的尤物。
開耳。那末，查理，請老老實實的，把你的真正
的意中人指示給我們。

查理。啊，我只因爲可憐你纔不提她。假使
我舉杯祝她，你須得指出和她同列的一班人來，這
是做不到的——在這世界上。
開耳。啊！那末我相信我們可尋得若干神聖
的貞女或是異教的女神來充數的！

查理。那末，滿杯，你們這些僮奴！滿杯！馬利
亞！馬利亞！——

哈勳爵。馬利亞誰呢？

查理。啊，天罰這個姓兒！——牠是太正式了，所
以不能夠記在愛神的日歷上——馬利亞！

大衆。馬利亞！

查理。可是現在，哈立勳爵，請注意，我們須得有
絕世的美人。

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CARE. Nay, never study, Sir Harry : we'll stand to the toast, though your mistress should want an eye, and you know you have a song will excuse you.

SIR HAR. Egad, so I have ! and I'll give him the song instead of the lady. [*Sings.*]

Here's to the maiden of bashful fifteen ;
Here's to the widow of fifty ;
Here's to the flaunting extravagant quean,
And here's to the housewife that's thrifty.

Chorus. Let the toast pass, —
Drink to the lass,
I'll warrant she'll prove an excuse for the glass.
Here's to the charmer whose dimples we prize ;
Now to the maid who has none, sir :
Here's to the girl with a pair of blue eyes,
And here's to the nymph with but one, sir.

Chorus. Let the toast pass, etc.
Here's to the maid with a bosom of snow :
Now to her that's as brown as a berry :
Here's to the wife with a face full of woe,
And now to the damsel that's merry.

Chorus. Let the toast pass, etc.
For let 'em be clumsy, or let 'em be slim,
Young or ancient, I care not a feather ;
So fill a pint bumper quite up to the brim,
So fill up your glasses, nay, fill to the brim,
And let us e'en toast them together.

Chorus. Let the toast pass, etc.

ALL. Bravo ! bravo !

Enter TRIP, and whispers CHARLES SURFACE

CHAS. SURF. Gentlemen, you must excuse me a little. — Careless, take the chair, will you ?

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開耳，不，不要研究，哈立勳爵：我們定須要祝飲，縱使你的意中人瞎掉一隻眼睛，並且你知道你有一首歌兒可以補你的缺憾的。

哈立勳爵，天呀，我真有哩！那末我便不把女子而把那首歌兒給他吧。（唱。）

謹祝妙齡十年五之女郎；
更祝高欲奢修五之孤孀；
謹祝縱欲持家節儉之妖姬，賢妻，
（合唱）吾儕且祝且飲酒，——
美舉杯在香腮有睂無之紅顏；
謹祝更祝雙眼孤且祝且飲酒，等等。
（合唱）吾胸如雪棕而黑之伊人；
更祝愁容歡天喜地之主之小姑，
（合唱）吾儕亦可瘦，幼；
樹不一巨觥兒直到口，
樹汝杯兒同時祝飲酒，
（合唱）吾儕且祝且飲酒，等等。

大衆，極妙！極妙！

屈烈勃上，和查理士低語。

查理，諸位先生，請原諒我離開這裏一刻兒。
開耳勒斯，你肯坐這椅子麼？

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CARE. Nay, pr'ythee, Charles, what now? This is one of your peerless beauties, I suppose, has dropped in by chance?

CHAS. SURF. No, faith! To tell you the truth, 'tis a Jew and a broker, who are come by appointment.

CARE. Oh, damn it! let's have the Jew in.

1 GENT. Ay, and the broker too, by all means.

2 GENT. Yes, yes, the Jew and the broker.

CHAS. SURF. Egad, with all my heart! — Trip, bid the gentlemen walk in. — [*Exit TRIP.*] Though there's one of them a stranger, I can tell you.

CARE. Charles, let us give them some generous Burgundy, and perhaps they'll grow conscientious.

CHAS. SURF. Oh, hang 'em, no! wine does but draw forth a man's natural qualities; and to make them drink would only be to whet their knavery.

Reënter TRIP, with SIR OLIVER SURFACE and MOSES

CHAS. SURF. So, honest Moses; walk in, pray, Mr. Premium — that's the gentleman's name, isn't it, Moses?

MOS. Yes, sir.

CHAS. SURF. Set chairs, Trip. — Sit down, Mr. Premium. — Glasses, Trip. — [*TRIP gives chairs and glasses, and exit.*] Sit down, Moses. — Come, Mr. Premium, I'll give you a sentiment; here's *Success to usury!* — Moses, fill the gentleman a bumper.

MOS. Success to usury! [*Drinks.*]

CARE. Right, Moses — usury is prudence and industry, and deserves to succeed.

SIR OLIV. Then here's — All the success it deserves!

[*Drinks.*]

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開耳。喂，請問查理士，現在是什麼事？這是你的一位標緻無比的意中人偶爾來訪吧，我想？

查理。真不是！老實的告訴你，這乃是一個猶太人和一個捐客，他們都是約會着來的。

開耳。啊，天罰牠！我們且讓那猶太人進來。

紳士甲。是，並且也讓那捐客進來。

紳士乙。是，是，那猶太人和那捐客。

查理。天呀，我極贊成！——屈烈勃，請兩位先生進來。——（屈烈勃下。）雖則有一位是個生客，我告訴你。

開耳。查理士，讓我們給他們一些強烈的勃良第酒，也許他們會漸漸的發現天良啊。

查理。啊，天罰他們，不會的！酒只不過發現一個人的天性罷了；所以叫他們吃酒倒要激勵他們的惡行的。

屈烈勃又上，帶着奧力佛勳爵和摩西。

查理。啊，誠實的摩西；請走進來，普利美恩先生——這是不是這位先生的名字，摩西？

摩西。是，先生。

查理。擺好椅子，屈烈勃。——請坐，普利美恩先生。——酒杯兒，屈烈勃。——（屈烈勃擺了椅子和杯子便下。）請坐，摩西。——來，普利美恩先生，我要給你一個祝語：謹祝盤剝的勝利！——摩西，給這位先生斟滿一大杯。

摩西。盤剝的勝利！（吃酒。）

開耳。正是，摩西——盤剝乃是謹慎勤勉的結果，所以牠應該勝利。

奧勳爵。那末祝——牠得應該有的勝利。（吃酒。）

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CARE. No, no, that won't do! Mr. Premium, you have demurred at the toast, and must drink it in a pint bumper.

1 GENT. A pint bumper, at least.

MOS. Oh, pray, sir, consider — Mr. Premium's a gentleman.

CARE. And therefore loves good wine.

2 GENT. Give Moses a quart glass — this is mutiny, and a high contempt for the chair.

CARE. Here, now for't! I'll see justice done to the last drop of my bottle.

SIR OLIV. Nay, pray, gentlemen — I did not expect this usage.

CHAS. SURF. No, hang it, you shan't; Mr. Premium's a stranger.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Odd! I wish I was well out of their company.

CARE. Plague on 'em then! if they won't drink, we'll not sit down with them. Come, Harry, the dice are in the next room. — Charles, you'll join us when you have finished your business with the gentlemen?

CHAS. SURF. I will! I will! — [*Exeunt* SIR HARRY BUMPER and GENTLEMEN; CARELESS *following.*] Careless!

CARE. [*Returning.*] Well!

CHAS. SURF. Perhaps I may want you.

CARE. Oh, you know I am always ready: word, note, or bond, 'tis all the same to me. [*Exit.*]

MOS. Sir, this is Mr. Premium, a gentleman of the strictest honor and secrecy; and always performs what he undertakes. Mr. Premium, this is —

CHAS. SURF. Psha! have done. Sir, my friend Moses is

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開耳。不，不，這是不行的！普利美恩先生，你已
耽擱了祝飲了，須得吃那一品脫的大杯。
紳士甲。至少要吃一品脫。

摩西。啊，先生，請斟酌一下——普利美恩先生
乃是一位紳士。
開耳。所以他喜歡吃好酒。

紳士乙。給摩西那一夸脫的杯兒——這是一
種反叛，並且是對於主席的很大的藐視。

開耳。這裏遵命！我要盡這瓶裏的酒來主持
公道。

奧勳爵。啊，諸位先生——我不曾指望着這般
的待遇。

查理。不，我說不能如此；普利美恩先生乃是一
位生客。

奧勳爵（側語）。奇怪！我已不得離開了他們。

開耳。天罰他們！假使他們不肯吃酒，我們便
不和他們坐在一起。喂，哈立，骰子在隔壁房間裏，
——查理士，你和那兩位先生接洽完畢之後便來
同我們玩罷。

查理。我准來！我准來！——（哈立班別勳爵和
紳士們同下；開耳勒斯跟隨着。）開耳勒斯！

開耳回來。是！

查理。我也許要你幫助哩。

開耳。啊，你知道我是無不效勞的話呀，信呀，票
據呀，在我看起來都是一樣。（下。）

摩西。先生，這是普利美恩先生，一位極有榮譽
極守祕密的紳士；而且他常常把他所擔任的事情
做了成功。普利美恩先生，這是——。

查理。呸！別再講了。先生，我的朋友摩西是

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a very honest fellow, but a little slow at expression : he'll be an hour giving us our titles. Mr. Premium, the plain state of the matter is this : I am an extravagant young fellow who wants to borrow money ; you I take to be a prudent old fellow, who have got money to lend. I am blockhead enough to give fifty per cent sooner than not have it ; and you, I presume, are rogue enough to take a hundred if you can get it. Now, sir, you see we are acquainted at once, and may proceed to business without further ceremony.

SIR OLIV. Exceeding frank, upon my word. I see, sir, you are not a man of many compliments.

CHAS. SURF. Oh, no, sir ! plain dealing in business I always think best.

SIR OLIV. Sir, I like you the better for it. However, you are mistaken in one thing ; I have no money to lend, but I believe I could procure some of a friend ; but then he's an unconscionable dog. Isn't he, Moses ? And must sell stock to accommodate you. Mustn't he, Moses ?

MOS. Yes, indeed ! You know I always speak the truth, and scorn to tell a lie !

CHAS. SURF. Right. People that speak truth generally do. But these are trifles, Mr. Premium. What ! I know money isn't to be bought without paying for't !

SIR OLIV. Well, but what security could you give ? You have no land, I suppose ?

CHAS. SURF. Not a mole-hill, nor a twig, but what's in the boughpots out of the window !

SIR OLIV. Nor any stock, I presume ?

CHAS. SURF. Nothing but live stock — and that's only

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個很誠實的人，可是他說話有些遲鈍；他稱一稱我，
們的名號也要費一個鐘頭，有些王夫哩，普利美恩的
先生，這件事大概是這樣：我是一個要向人借錢的
浪費的少，我看你是個小心謹慎的老年人，是五就便
有錢放債的，我出；我肯取，是現，在，辦，我，們，的，正，經，
分利息也，必客套，便，可，以，辦，我，們，的，正，經，
相熟了，不必客套，便，可，以，辦，我，們，的，正，經，

奧勳爵，真是十分的爽直。我看，先生，你並不是
個繁文縟禮的人啊。

查理，啊，不，先生！我最喜歡坦坦白白的做事
情。

奧勳爵，先生，因為這樣我加倍的喜歡你。然
而，你却有一點弄錯了；我並沒有銀錢放債，只是我
相信能夠向一個朋友轉借得到；可是他，乃是個不賣
循情理的惡奴。他，不是麼，麼西？並且他須得賣
掉他的存產纔可以接濟你。他不須得麼，麼西？

麼西，是，真的！你知道我總是說實話而恥於
說謊話的！

查理，是。說實話的人往往是這樣。可是這
些是不足重輕的事情，普利美恩先生，什麼！我
知道銀錢沒有不用利息而可以借得的。

奧勳爵，是，但你可以給什麼抵押品呢？你沒
有田地了吧，我想？

查理，一個土墩也沒有，連一個樹枝兒也沒有，
只窗外樹枝盆裏有些罷了！

奧勳爵，也沒什麼存貨吧。我敢說？

查理，除牲口外沒有存貨——也只是幾個獵

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a few pointers and ponies. But pray, Mr. Premium, are you acquainted at all with any of my connections ?

SIR OLIV. Why, to say truth, I am.

CHAS. SURF. Then you must know that I have a devilish rich uncle in the East Indies, Sir Oliver Surface, from whom I have the greatest expectations.

SIR OLIV. That you have a wealthy uncle, I have heard ; but how your expectations will turn out is more, I believe, than you can tell.

CHAS. SURF. Oh, no ! — there can be no doubt. They tell me I'm a prodigious favorite, and that he talks of leaving me everything.

SIR OLIV. Indeed ! This is the first I've heard of it.

CHAS. SURF. Yes, yes, 'tis just so. Moses knows 'tis true ; don't you, Moses ?

Mos. Oh, yes ! I'll swear to't.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside*] Egad, they'll persuade me presently I'm at Bengal.

CHAS. SURF. Now I propose, Mr. Premium, if it's agreeable to you, a post-obit on Sir Oliver's life : though at the same time the old fellow has been so liberal to me, that I give you my word, I should be very sorry to hear that anything had happened to him.

SIR OLIV. Not more than I should, I assure you. But the bond you mention happens to be just the worst security you could offer me—for I might live to a hundred and never see the principal.

CHAS. SURF. Oh, yes, you would ! the moment Sir Oliver dies, you know, you would come on me for the money.

SIR OLIV. Then I believe I should be the most unwelcome dun you ever had in your life.

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狗和小馬罷了。但請問，普利美恩先生，你可認識我的親戚麼？

奧勳爵。啊，老實講，我認識的。

查理。那末你定然知道我有一個極富的叔父住在東印度，就是奧力佛守發斯勳爵，對於他我有極大的希望哩。

奧勳爵。你有一個殷富的叔父，這是我曾聽得的；可是，我相信，你不能夠知道你的希望的結果是怎樣。

查理。啊，不！——那是沒有疑惑的。他們說我是第一個寵人，並且說他預備把他的財產樣樣都遺給我。

奧勳爵。真的麼！我纔第一遭聽見這句話哩。

查理。是，是，絲毫不差的。摩西知道這是實情，不是麼，摩西？

摩西。啊，是！我能賭咒來證明牠。

奧勳爵（側語）。天呀，他們一會兒便要確切的說我是在孟加拉了。

查理。普利美恩先生，假使你贊成，現在我願提議一種奧力佛勳爵的死後支付券：雖則這老人家對我很是慷慨，我實在不忍聽說他有什麼變故。

奧勳爵。我也是不忍聽的，老實的告訴你。可是你所提議的借券恰正是最壞不過的抵押品——是因爲我也許活到一百歲還不見我的本錢呢。

查理。啊，是，你看得見！奧力佛勳爵一經死了的時候，你就可以向我索款了，你該知道。奧勳爵。那時候我相信我是最叫你討厭的索債人了。

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CHAS. SURE. What! I suppose you're afraid that Sir Oliver is too good a life?

SIR OLIV. No, indeed I am not; though I have heard he is as hale and healthy as any man of his years in Christendom.

CHAS. SURE. There again, now, you are misinformed. No, no, the climate has hurt him considerably, poor uncle Oliver. Yes, yes, he breaks apace, I'm told—and is so much altered lately that his nearest relations would not know him.

SIR OLIV. No! Ha! ha! ha! so much altered lately that his nearest relations would not know him! Ha! ha! ha! egad—ha! ha! ha!

CHAS. SURE. Ha! ha!—you're glad to hear that, little Premium?

SIR OLIV. No, no, I'm not.

CHAS. SURE. Yes, yes, you are—ha! ha! ha!—you know that mends your chance.

SIR OLIV. But I'm told Sir Oliver is coming over; nay, some say he is actually arrived.

CHAS. SURE. Psha! sure I must know better than you whether he's come or not. No, no, rely on't he's at this moment at Calcutta. Isn't he, Moses?

Mos. Oh, yes, certainly.

SIR OLIV. Very true, as you say, you must know better than I, though I have it from pretty good authority. Haven't I, Moses?

Mos. Yes, most undoubted!

SIR OLIV. But, sir, as I understand you want a few hundreds immediately, is there nothing you could dispose of?

CHAS. SURE. How do you mean?

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查理。什麼！我想你恐怕奧力佛勳爵長生不老吧？

奧勳爵。不，我真不怕；雖則我聽說基督教徒裏和他年紀彷彿的人沒有比他更強健的。

查理。現在，你又聽錯了。不，不，那裏的氣候已經使他衰弱不堪了，可憐的叔父奧力佛。是，是，他的身子壞得很快，我聽說——並且他的容貌近來大為改變，因此他的骨肉至親也未必認識他了。

奧勳爵。不！哈哈！哈哈！他的容貌近來大為改變，因此他的骨肉至親也未必認識他了！哈哈！哈哈！

查理。哈哈！——你聽着這消息很是快活吧，我的普利美恩？

奧勳爵。不，不，我並不是。

查理。是，是，你真是——哈哈！哈哈！——你知道這消息是你的好機會啊。

奧勳爵。可是我聽說奧力佛勳爵旅行回來了；不，有人說他實在已經到家了。

查理。呸！他的回來不回來，我當然比你知道得確切。不，不，他刻下實在是在加爾各答哩。他不是麼，摩西？

摩西。啊，一定是。

奧勳爵。不錯，像你所說，你當然比我知道得確切，但是我的消息也是從很有根據的地方探得來的。不是麼，摩西？

摩西。是，的確！

奧勳爵。可是，先生，我知道你既然立刻兒要挪幾百鎊錢，難道你沒有什麼東西可以變賣麼？

查理。你的意思怎樣？

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SIR OLIV. For instance, now, I have heard that your father left behind him a great quantity of massy old plate.

CHAS. SURF. O Lud! that's gone long ago. Moses can tell you how better than I can.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Good lack! all the family race-cups and corporation-bowls!—[*Aloud.*] Then it was also supposed that his library was one of the most valuable and compact.

CHAS. SURF. Yes, yes, so it was—vastly too much so for a private gentleman. For my part, I was always of a communicative disposition, so I thought it a shame to keep so much knowledge to myself.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Mercy upon me! learning that had run in the family like an heir-loom!—[*Aloud.*] Pray, what are become of the books?

CHAS. SURF. You must inquire of the auctioneer, Master Premium, for I don't believe even Moses can direct you.

MOS. I know nothing of books.

SIR OLIV. So, so, nothing of the family property left, I suppose?

CHAS. SURF. Not much, indeed; unless you have a mind to the family pictures. I have got a room full of ancestors above; and if you have a taste for old paintings, egad, you shall have 'em a bargain!

SIR OLIV. Hey! What the devil! sure, you wouldn't sell your forefathers, would you?

CHAS. SURF. Every man of them, to the best bidder.

SIR OLIV. What! your great-uncles and aunts?

CHAS. SURF. Ay, and my great-grandfathers and grandmothers too.

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奧勳爵。比方現在，我聽說你的父親遺給你許多又大又古的金銀器皿。

查理。啊上帝！那些東西久已沒有了。摩西能夠把詳情告訴你，比我還要講得好。

奧勳爵(側語)。哎呀！攏總家庭的賽跑杯和團體的盆碗！——(朗語。) 還有人說他的藏書是極名貴極完備的。

查理。是，是，是這樣——私人實在用不了。至於我却生來喜歡社交，所以把這般多的智識獨自藏着，我以爲是一件羞恥。

奧勳爵(側語)。哎呀！那家庭裏世代的書香！——(朗語。) 請問，那些書籍怎麼樣了？

查理。你該去問那拍賣的人，普利美恩，因爲我想摩西也不能夠告訴你。

摩西。我絕不知道那些書籍的下落。

奧勳爵。那末，那末，你家傳的遺產一點都沒有了吧，我猜想？

查理。沒有多少了，真的；除非你有意於那些家人的畫像。我有一個房間，上面擺滿了祖先的小像；假使你喜歡古畫，你真的可以買得一批便宜貨！

奧勳爵。噲！什麼！你當然不肯賣掉你的祖先，你肯麼？

查理。把他們個個都賣給那還價最多的人。

奧勳爵。什麼！連你的叔祖父叔祖母都在內麼？

查理。是，並且我的曾祖父曾祖母也要賣的。

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SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Now I give him up!—[*Aloud.*] What the plague, have you no bowels for your own kindred? Odds life! do you take me for Shylock in the play, that you would raise money of me on your own flesh and blood?

CHAS. SURF. Nay, my little broker, don't be angry: what need you care, if you have your money's worth?

SIR OLIV. Well, I'll be the purchaser: I think I can dispose of the family canvas.—[*Aside.*] Oh, I'll never forgive him this! never!

Reënter CARELESS

CARE. Come, Charles, what keeps you?

CHAS. SURF. I can't come yet. I faith, we are going to have a sale above stairs; here's little Premium will buy all my ancestors!

CARE. Oh, burn your ancestors!

CHAS. SURF. No, he may do that afterwards, if he pleases. Stay, Careless, we want you: egad, you shall be auctioneer—so come along with us.

CARE. Oh, have with you, if that's the case. I can handle a hammer as well as a dice-box! Going! going!

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Oh, the profligates!

CHAS. SURF. Come, Moses, you shall be appraiser, if we want one. Gad's life, little Premium, you don't seem to like the business?

SIR OLIV. Oh, yes, I do, vastly! Ha! ha! ha! yes, yes, I think it a rare joke to sell one's family by auction—ha! ha!—[*Aside.*] Oh, the prodigal!

CHAS. SURF. To be sure! when a man wants money,

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奧勳爵 (側語)。現在我棄掉他了!——(朗語。)難道你對於你的親屬沒有慈悲心麼? 好奇怪! 你把我當作戲劇裏的歇洛克,拿你自己的血肉做擔保來向我挪債麼?

查理。喂,我的捐客,請別動怒:若是你的銀錢不是枉費,別的事你又何必關心呢?

奧勳爵。是,我情願做個買主:我想我能處置這些畫幕。——(側語。)啊,我絕不饒恕他這件罪惡! 絕不!

開耳勒斯又上。

開耳。來,查理士,什麼事耽擱了你?

查理。我還不能來哩。實在,我們要在樓上做一起買賣;這裏的朋友普利美恩要買去我的攏總的祖先哩!

開耳。啊,燒掉你的祖先罷!

查理。不,他以後可以這樣做,假使他喜歡。留在這裏,開耳勒斯,我們要你幫助呢:真的,你做那拍賣人——你來伴着我們呀。

開耳。啊,便來伴着你們,既是這樣。我能指揮那拍賣槌兒和那骰子匣兒一樣! 來!來!

奧勳爵 (側語)。啊,放僻的人們!

查理。來,摩西,你做個評價的人,假使我們要一個。天呀,朋友普利美恩,你好像不喜歡這種交易吧?

奧勳爵。啊,我非常的喜歡! 哈哈!哈哈! 是,是,我想那拍賣家人是一種很難得的滑稽——哈哈!——(側語。)啊,這個浪子!

查理。自然! 一個人急需銀錢的當兒,假如他

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where the plague should he get assistance, if he can't make free with his own relations! [Exeunt.]

SIR OLIV. I'll never forgive him ; never ! never !

ACT IV

SCENE I

A Picture Room in CHARLES SURFACE'S House

*Enter CHARLES SURFACE, SIR OLIVER SURFACE, MOSES,
and CARELESS*

CHAS. SURF. Walk in, gentlemen, pray walk in ; — here they are, the family of the Surfaces, up to the Conquest.

SIR OLIV. And, in my opinion, a goodly collection.

CHAS. SURF. Ay, ay, these are done in the true spirit of portrait painting ; no *volontière grace* or expression. Not like the works of your modern Raphaels, who give you the strongest resemblance, yet contrive to make your portrait independent of you ; so that you may sink the original and not hurt the picture. No, no ; the merit of these is the inveterate likeness — all stiff and awkward as the originals, and like nothing in human nature besides.

SIR OLIV. Ah ! we shall never see such figures of men again.

CHAS. SURF. I hope not. Well, you see, Master Premium, what a domestic character I am ; here I sit of an evening surrounded by my family. But come, get to your pulpit, Mr. Auctioneer ; here's an old gouty chair of my grandfather's will answer the purpose.

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不能夠自由地操縱他的親屬，他還到什麼地方去求幫助呢！（同下。）

奧勳爵。我絕不饒恕他；絕不！絕不！

第 四 齣 第 一 幕

查理士守發斯家裏的畫像室。

查理士守發斯，奧力佛守發斯勳爵，摩西，和

開耳勒斯上。

查理。走進來，諸位先生，請走進來；——他們在這裏，守發斯的家族，直到那征服英國的時代。

奧勳爵。據我看來，一個美備的收藏。

查理。是，是，他們確是畫像的真派，沒有什麼頑固的風度和表現。不像你們那新的拉斐爾派的作品，這一派雖則給你最強的相似，但極力的叫你的肖像和你自己不相干涉；所以你可以毀掉那原樣而那畫却完全無恙哩。不，不；這些畫像的價值就在於那根深蒂固的酷肖——倔強和笨拙都和那原樣一色，絕不像生人的性質。

奧勳爵。啊！我們將不得再見這些人像了。

查理。我想不得再見了。喂，你看，普利美恩，我是怎樣戀家的一個人；我晚上總是坐在這裏被我的家族圍繞着。但來啊，到你的台上去，拍賣先生這裏有我的祖父的一張老的發痛風的椅子可以做你的座位的。

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CARE. Ay, ay, this will do. But, Charles, I haven't a hammer; and what's an auctioneer without his hammer?

CHAS. SURE. Egad, that's true. What parchment have we here? Oh, our genealogy in full. [*Taking pedigree down.*] Here, Careless, you shall have no common bit of mahogany, here's the family tree for you, you rogue! This shall be your hammer, and now you may knock down my ancestors with their own pedigree.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] What an unnatural rogue!—an *ex post facto* parricide!

CARE. Yes, yes, here's a list of your generation indeed;—faith, Charles, this is the most convenient thing you could have found for the business, for 'twill not only serve as a hammer, but a catalogue into the bargain. Come, begin—A-going, a-going, a-going!

CHAS. SURE. Bravo, Careless! Well, here's my great-uncle, Sir Richard Raveline, a marvelous good general in his day, I assure you. He served in all the Duke of Marlborough's wars, and got that cut over his eye at the battle of Malplaquet. What say you, Mr. Premium? look at him—there's a hero! not cut out of his feathers, as your modern clipped captains are, but enveloped in wig and regimentals, as a general should be. What do you bid?

SIR OLIV. [*Aside to MOSES.*] Bid him speak.

MOS. Mr. Premium would have you speak.

CHAS. SURE. Why, then, he shall have him for ten pounds, and I'm sure that's not dear for a staff officer.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Heaven deliver me! his famous uncle Richard for ten pounds!—[*Aloud.*] Very well, sir, I take him at that.

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開耳。是，是，這便可以。可是，查理士，我沒有一柄槌子；沒有槌子還算得一個拍賣人麼？

查理。天啊，這倒不錯。我們這裏有什麼羊皮書呢？啊，我們完完全全的家譜。（把家譜取下。）這裏開耳勒斯，這不是尋常的桃花心木料，這裏給你那家族的樹，你這偷奴！這就是你的槌子，現在你可以用我的祖先的譜牒把他們敲下了。奧勳爵（側語）。大逆不道的惡奴！——追溯既往

的弑親！

開耳。是，是，這裏真的是你的家世的譜系；——實在，查理士，這是你所尋着的一件最便交易的東西，因為牠不但可以做槌子，並且還可以做目錄。

喂，起頭吧——要停了，要停了，要停了！

查理。妙極，開耳勒斯！喂，這是我的叔祖父理查累汾林勳爵，一個當年非常英武的將軍，我告訴你。他參預馬爾巴羅公爵的攏總的戰爭，馬爾普拉揆之戰，他眼睛上便得着那個傷。你以為怎樣，普利美恩先生？請瞧着他——他是一個英雄！他的羽毛不會剪掉，像你們的新的剪去羽翼的戰將似的，他却帶着假髮和聯隊的軍服，像將軍應該裝飾的光景。你出多少價錢呢？

奧勳爵向摩西側語，叫他說。

摩西。普利美恩先生要你自己說。

查理。啊，那末，他出十鎊錢就可以買他了，我相信拿這樣的代價去買得一個參謀部員算是不貴的。

奧勳爵（側語）。上帝啊！他的鼎鼎大名的叔祖父理查的代價只不過十鎊！——（朗語。）很好，先生，我照這價錢買他。

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CHAS. SURF. Careless, knock down my uncle Richard.— Here, now, is a maiden sister of his, my great-aunt Deborah, done by Kneller, in his best manner, and esteemed a very formidable likeness. There she is, you see, a shepherdess feeding her flock. You shall have her for five pounds ten — the sheep are worth the money.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Ah! poor Deborah! a woman who set such a value on herself! — [*Aloud.*] Five pounds ten — she's mine.

CHAS. SURF. Knock down my aunt Deborah! Here, now, are two that were a sort of cousins of theirs. — You see, Moses, these pictures were done some time ago, when beaux wore wigs, and the ladies their own hair.

SIR OLIV. Yes, truly, headdresses appear to have been a little lower in those days.

CHAS. SURF. Well, take that couple for the same.

MOS. 'Tis a good bargain.

CHAS. SURF. Careless! — This, now, is a grandfather of my mother's, a learned judge, well known on the western circuit. — What do you rate him at, Moses?

MOS. Four guineas.

CHAS. SURF. Four guineas! Gad's life, you don't bid me the price of his wig. — Mr. Premium, you have more respect for the woollack; do let us knock his lordship down at fifteen.

SIR OLIV. By all means.

CARE. Gone!

CHAS. SURF. And there are two brothers of his, William and Walter Blunt, Esquires, both members of Parliament, and noted speakers; and, what's very extraordinary, I

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查理。開耳勒斯，把我的叔祖父理查敲下了。現在這裏是他的未出嫁的妹子，我的姑祖母底波拉是諾勒最得意的作品，大家都說是像的了不得。她在那裏，你看，一個喂養羊羣的牧女。你出五鎊十先令就可以買得她——單單羊兒們便值得這個價錢了。

奧勳爵（側語）。啊！可憐的底波拉！一個自高聲價的婦人！——（朗語。）五鎊十先令——她是我的買得品。

查理。敲下了我的姑祖母底波拉！現在，這裏彷彿是他們的堂姊妹兩個。——你看，摩西，這畫像是從前某時候的作品，那時候花花公子都戴假髮，太太們都戴自己的頭髮。

奧勳爵。是，真的，那時候的髻兒好像比現在稍低一些。

查理。是，出同樣的價錢把這兩個都買去罷。

摩西。這是一件便宜的交易。

查理。開耳勒斯！——現在，這是我母親的祖父，一個博學的裁判官，在西部的巡行區很著名的。——你估他多少價錢呢，摩西？

摩西。四基尼。

查理。四基尼麼！天啊，你不曾替我討着他的假髮的代價。——普利美恩先生，你很敬重裁判官的，讓我們得着十五鎊纔賣去這位法官罷。

奧勳爵。就是。

開耳。賣了！

查理。還有他的兩個弟兄，威廉和瓦爾忒布瀾特兩位紳士，都是國會裏的議員，著名的演說家；很

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believe, this is the first time they were ever bought or sold.

SIR OLIV. That is very extraordinary, indeed! I'll take them at your own price, for the honor of Parliament.

CARE. Well said, little Premium! I'll knock them down at forty.

CHAS. SURF. Here's a jolly fellow — I don't know what relation, but he was mayor of Norwich: take him at eight pounds.

SIR OLIV. No, no; six will do for the mayor.

CHAS. SURF. Come, make it guineas, and I'll throw you the two aldermen there into the bargain.

SIR OLIV. They're mine.

CHAS. SURF. Careless, knock down the mayor and aldermen. But, plague on't! we shall be all day retailing in this manner; do let us deal wholesale: what say you, little Premium? Give me three hundred pounds for the rest of the family in the lump.

CARE. Ay, ay, that will be the best way.

SIR OLIV. Well, well, anything to accommodate you; they are mine. But there is one portrait which you have always passed over.

CARE. What, that ill-looking little fellow over the settee.

SIR OLIV. Yes, sir, I mean that; though I don't think him so ill-looking a little fellow, by any means.

CHAS. SURF. What, that? Oh; that's my uncle Oliver! 'twas done before he went to India.

CARE. Your uncle Oliver! Gad, then you'll never be friends, Charles. That, now, to me, is as stern a looking rogue as ever I saw; an unforgiving eye, and a damned

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奇怪的，我相信，這就是他們被人買賣的第一遭。
奧勳爵，這真是很奇怪的！爲尊重國會起見，我願意照你的價目買了他們。

開耳，說得好，我的普利美恩！我要四十鎊把他們拍賣掉。

查理，這裏是一個快活人——我不知道和我是什麼班輩，只知道他是挪利支的市長：你且出八鎊錢買了他罷。

奧勳爵，不，不，六鎊錢可以買得市長了。

查理，喂，請改作六基尼，那末我便另外送給你兩位鄉紳罷。

奧勳爵，我買了他們就是了。

查理，開耳勒斯，把那市長和鄉紳敲下了。可是，天罰牠！我們一天到晚的將要這樣零賣了；讓我們做批發罷：你以爲怎樣，我的普利美恩？給我三百鎊把我的其餘的家族都買去罷。

開耳，是，是，這是最好的方法。

奧勳爵，好，好，悉聽尊便；我照價買了他們就是了。可是這裏還有一幅畫像，你却常行把牠丟掉。
開耳，什麼，可不是那睡椅上面的醜陋的矮漢。

奧勳爵，是，先生，我說的是那個；雖則我不以爲他是很醜陋的一個矮漢，無論怎樣。

查理，什麼，那個麼？啊；那是我的叔父奧力佛！是在他不曾到印度以前畫成的。

開耳，你的叔父奧力佛！天啊，那末你們倆不會做朋友的，查理士。據我看來，他乃是我生平所僅見的一個兇很很的惡奴；一副險毒的眼睛，一副

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disinheriting countenance ! an inveterate knave, depend on't. Don't you think so, little Premium ?

SIR OLIV. Upon my soul, sir, I do not ; I think it is as honest a looking face as any in the room, dead or alive. But I suppose uncle Oliver goes with the rest of the lumber ?

CHAS. SURF. No, hang it ! I'll not part with poor Noll. The old fellow has been very good to me, and, egad, I'll keep his picture while I've a room to put it in.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] The rogue's my nephew after all ! — [*Aloud.*] But, sir, I have somehow taken a fancy to that picture.

CHAS. SURF. I'm sorry for't, for you certainly will not have it. Oons, haven't you got enough of them ?

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] I forgive him everything ! — [*Aloud.*] But, sir, when I take a whim in my head, I don't value money. I'll give you as much for that as for all the rest.

CHAS. SURF. Don't tease me, master broker ; I tell you I'll not part with it, and there's an end of it.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] How like his father the dog is ! — [*Aloud.*] Well, well, I have done. — [*Aside.*] I did not perceive it before, but I think I never saw such a striking resemblance. — [*Aloud.*] Here is a draft for your sum.

CHAS. SURF. Why, 'tis for eight hundred pounds !

SIR OLIV. You will not let Sir Oliver go ?

CHAS. SURF. Zounds ! no ! I tell you, once more.

SIR OLIV. Then never mind the difference, we'll balance that another time. But give me your hand on the bargain ; you are an honest fellow, Charles — I beg pardon, sir, for being so free. — Come, Moses.

CHAS. SURF. Egad, this is a whimsical old fellow ! — But

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絕嗣的面的孔!一個習慣不改的惡漢。你不以為是這樣麼,我的普利美恩?

奧勳爵, 先生,我絕不以為是這樣;我以為這個面的孔和這房間裏一切死的或活的人的面孔是一樣的誠實。可是我想叔父奧力佛和別的那些廢物一同賣去罷?

查理, 不,天罰!我絕不肯捨掉可憐的諾爾。這老人家待我很好,所以,天啊,我總要保留他的畫像,若是我有一個房間可以收藏牠的時候。奧勳爵(側語)。這僮奴到底是我的姪兒!——(朗語。)

可是,先生,我很有些喜歡那張畫像哩。查理, 我很抱歉,因為你一定不能買得牠。天啊,你難道有了那些還不夠麼?

奧勳爵(側語)。我樣樣都饒恕他!——(朗語。)

可是,先生,當我心裏喜愛一件東西的時候,我並不惜銀像。我情願出其餘攏總的價錢來買這一張畫像。

查理, 別煩擾我,捐客老板;我告訴你我不肯捨掉牠,那就完了。

奧勳爵(側語)。這狗才怎樣像他的父親!——(朗語。)

好,好,我停止了。——(側語。)

我從前不曾留意,可是現在,我以為我絕不會看見過這種奇怪的酷肖。——(朗語。)

這裏是你的賬款的支票。

查理, 啊,這是八百鎊呢!

奧勳爵, 你不肯賣去奧力佛勳爵麼?

查理, 天啊!不!我再告訴你一次。

奧勳爵, 那末請別介意那找頭,我們下回算清罷。可是請你和我為這次買賣握一握手;你是個誠實的人,查理士——求你饒恕,先生,我這樣的放肆。——來,摩西。

查理, 天啊,這是一位怪僻的老年人!——可是

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hark'ee, Premium, you'll prepare lodgings for these gentlemen.

SIR OLIV. Yes, yes, I'll send for them in a day or two.

CHAS. SURF. But hold ; do now send a genteel conveyance for them, for, I assure you, they were most of them used to ride in their own carriages.

SIR OLIV. I will, I will — for all but Oliver.

CHAS. SURF. Ay, all but the little nabob.

SIR OLIV. You're fixed on that ?

CHAS. SURF. Peremptorily.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] A dear extravagant rogue! — [*Aloud.*] Good day! — Come, Moses. — [*Aside.*] Let me hear now who dares call him profligate. [*Exit with MOSES.*]

CARE. Why, this is the oddest genius of the sort I ever met with!

CHAS. SURF. Egad, he's the prince of brokers, I think. I wonder how the devil Moses got acquainted with so honest a fellow. — Ha! here's Rowley. — Do, Careless, say I'll join the company in a few moments.

CARE. I will — but don't let that old blockhead persuade you to squander any of that money on old musty debts, or any such nonsense ; for tradesmen, Charles, are the most exorbitant fellows.

CHAS. SURF. Very true, and paying them is only encouraging them.

CARE. Nothing else.

CHAS. SURF. Ay, ay, never fear. — [*Exit CARELESS.*] So! this was an odd old fellow, indeed. Let me see, two thirds of these five hundred and thirty odd pounds are mine by right. 'Fore heaven! I find one's ancestors are more

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聽啊，普利美恩，你須得替這些紳士們預備住所啊。

奧勳爵。是，是，我在一兩日內將要打發人來請他們哩。

查理。好，可是現在你得打發一輛華貴的車兒來接他們，因為我確實的告訴你，他們大半是慣於坐自己的車子的。

奧勳爵。我情願，我情願——來接他們，只除掉奧力佛。

查理。是，只除掉那矮財主。

奧勳爵。你真決意這樣麼？

查理。那是斷然的。

奧勳爵（側語。）一個怪奢侈的惡奴！——（朗語。）再會！——來，摩西。——（側語。）讓我現在聽一聽誰敢目他為浪子啊。（和摩西下。）

開耳。唉，這是我生平所僅見的奇才！

查理。天啊，他是捐客裏的大王，我想。我不解摩西怎樣能夠和這樣誠實的一個人相熟的——哈！牢萊到了。——開耳勒斯，務對他們說一會兒我便加入座中了。

開耳。我遵命——可是你切勿讓那老僮勸誘你把這筆款子用在那陳霍的債務或是無謂的開支上去；因為，查理士，商人是頂頂不知饜足的。

查理。真正不錯，還他們的錢只是鼓勵他們罷了。

開耳。只是這樣。

查理。是，是，不要害怕。——（開耳勒斯下。）這樣他真的是——一個奇怪的老人。讓我看一看，這五百三十多鎊錢的三分之二應該是我的。天啊！我

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valuable relations than I took them for! — Ladies and gentlemen, your most obedient and very grateful servant.

[*Bows ceremoniously to the pictures.*]

Enter ROWLEY

Ha! old Rowley! egad, you are just come in time to take leave of your old acquaintance.

Row. Yes, I heard they were a-going. But I wonder you can have such spirits under so many distresses.

CHAS. SURF. Why, there's the point! my distresses are so many that I can't afford to part with my spirits; but I shall be rich and splenetic, all in good time. However, I suppose you are surprised that I am not more sorrowful at parting with so many near relations; to be sure, 'tis very affecting, but you see they never move a muscle, so why should I?

Row. There's no making you serious a moment.

CHAS. SURF. Yes, faith, I am so now. Here, my honest Rowley, here, get me this changed directly, and take a hundred pounds of it immediately to old Stanley.

Row. A hundred pounds! Consider only —

CHAS. SURF. Gad's life, don't talk about it! poor Stanley's wants are pressing, and, if you don't make haste, we shall have some one call that has a better right to the money.

Row. Ah! there's the point! I never will cease dunning you with the old proverb —

CHAS. SURF. *Be just before you're generous.* — Why, so I would if I could; but Justice is an old, hobbling beldame, and I can't get her to keep pace with Generosity, for the soul of me.

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現在纔知道人們的祖宗是極有價值的親屬!——
太太們和先生們,你的最恭敬很感激的僕人

(向畫像恭恭敬敬的鞠躬。)

牢萊上。

哈! 老牢萊! 天啊,你來得正好和你的舊相識們
作別啊。

牢萊。是,我聽說他們要去了。可是我很詫異,
你在這麼多的困難之中還能夠有這樣的興致。

查理。什麼,正是這個道理! 因為我的困難這
麼多,所以我再不能失掉我的興致了;可是我不久
便要富貴的。然而,我想你看見我和這麼多的親
屬作別並沒有十分的傷感,是要很奇怪的;這誠然
是叫人很難堪的,可是你看他們絕不會稍動聲色,
那末我為什麼要悲傷呢?

牢萊。你沒有一刻兒能夠莊重的。

查理。是,真的,我現在是這樣。這裏,牢萊,這裏。
即刻替我把這張票兒兌一兌,便馬上送一百鎊給
老施旦立。

牢萊。一百鎊! 祇想想——

查理。天啊,不要談那句話! 可憐的施旦立真
是窘迫,假使你不趕快的去,就有一個債主來討我的
錢了。

牢萊。唉! 正是這個道理! 我老要將那句古
話來煩惱你——

查理。“先公正而後慷慨”——啊,我很願這樣,假
使我能夠;可是公正是一個龍鍾蹣跚的老嫗,我絕
對不能叫她趕上慷慨啊。

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Row. Yet, Charles, believe me, one hour's reflection —

CHAS. SURF. Ay, ay, it's very true; but, hark'ee, Rowley, while I have, by Heaven I'll give; so, damn your economy! and now for hazard. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II

Another room in the same

Enter SIR OLIVER SURFACE *and* MOSES

MOS. Well, sir, I think, as Sir Peter said, you have seen Mr. Charles in high glory; 'tis great pity he's so extravagant.

SIR OLIV. True, but he would not sell my picture.

MOS. And loves wine and women so much.

SIR OLIV. But he would not sell my picture.

MOS. And games so deep.

SIR OLIV. But he would not sell my picture. Oh, here's Rowley.

Enter ROWLEY

Row. So, Sir Oliver, I find you have made a purchase —

SIR OLIV. Yes, yes, our young rake has parted with his ancestors like old tapestry.

Row. And here has he commissioned me to redeliver you part of the purchase money — I mean, though, in your necessitous character of old Stanley.

MOS. Ah! there is the pity of all; he is so damned charitable.

Row. And I left a hosier and two tailors in the hall, who, I'm sure, won't be paid, and this hundred would satisfy them.

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牢萊。然而，查理士，相信我，一小時的細想——

查理。是，是，這是很對；可是，聽啊，牢萊，我有錢的當兒，我誓必要施捨的；所以，天罰你的經濟！現在我要去賭錢了。（同下。）

第二幕

那屋裏的另一個房間。

奧力佛、守發、斯勳、爵和摩西上。

摩西。先生，我想，像彼得勳爵所說，你已看見查理士先生的光榮了；很可惜他是這樣的浪費啊。

奧勳爵。真的，但是他不肯賣掉我的畫像。

摩西。而且他很愛酒和婦人。

奧勳爵。但是他不肯賣掉我的畫像。

摩西。而且他賭得很厲害。

奧勳爵。但是他不肯賣掉我的畫像。啊，牢萊來了。

牢萊上。

牢萊。奧力佛、勳爵，我看你已經買了一種物品

奧勳爵。是，是，我們的少年浪子已經賣掉他的祖宗像舊的帷幕似的。

牢萊。現在他打發我來把那買價的一部分轉給於你——然而，我是說，是給那假充窮困的老施旦立的你。

摩西。唉！這是一件恨事；他不幸是這般的慈善。

牢萊。我曾把一個襪商和兩個成衣匠耽擱在客室裏，我相信他們的賬款不會被付，而這一百鎊却可以叫他們滿意了。

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SIR OLIV. Well, well, I'll pay his debts, and his benevolence too. But now I am no more a broker, and you shall introduce me to the elder brother as old Stanley.

Row. Not yet awhile ; Sir Peter, I know, means to call there about this time.

Enter TRIP

TRIP. Oh, gentlemen, I beg pardon for not showing you out ; this way — Moses, a word. [*Exit with MOSES.*]

SIR OLIV. There's a fellow for you ! Would you believe it, that puppy intercepted the Jew on our coming, and wanted to raise money before he got to his master !

Row. Indeed !

SIR OLIV. Yes, they are now planning an annuity business. Ah, Master Rowley, in my days servants were content with the follies of their masters, when they were worn a little threadbare ; but now they have their vices, like their birthday clothes, with the gloss on. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III

A Library in JOSEPH SURFACE'S House

Enter JOSEPH SURFACE and SERVANT

JOS. SURF. No letter from Lady Teazle ?

SER. No, sir.

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] I am surprised she has not sent, if she is prevented from coming. Sir Peter certainly does not suspect me. Yet I wish I may not lose the heiress, through the scrape I have drawn myself into with the wife ; how-

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奧勳爵。是是，我願償還他的債務，並且他的慈善。可是現在我不是一個捐客了，請你將我當作老施旦立介紹給他的哥哥去罷！

牢萊。還未到那時候哩；彼得勳爵，我知道，差不多這時候也在那裏呢。

屈烈勃上。

屈烈勃。啊，諸位先生，恕我不送；這裏來——摩西，和你講一句話。（和摩西下。）

奧勳爵。這正是一個人物！你相信麼，那狗才在我們來到這裏的當兒居然把那猶太人攔截着，要在沒有會他主人以前替他挪債！

牢萊。真的麼！

奧勳爵。是，他們在籌劃着一種年金的交易哩。唉，牢萊，在我少年的時候，僕人們祇效尤主人的陳舊的惡習；可是現在他們襲取主人的罪惡也和主人的生日衣服一樣，都是簇新的呢。（同下。）

第三幕

約瑟夫守發斯家裏的藏書室。

約瑟夫守發斯和僕人上。

約瑟。沒有收到提茲爾太太的信麼？

僕。沒有，先生。

約瑟（側語）。她既不能來，連一封信也不寄，我很詫異的。彼得勳爵定然不會疑心我的。但是我却不願因為我和那婦人的勾當便失掉那個承繼

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ever, Charles's imprudence and bad character are great points in my favor. [Knocking without.]

SER. Sir, I believe that must be Lady Teazle.

JOS. SURF. Hold! See whether it is or not, before you go to the door: I have a particular message for you if it should be my brother.

SER. 'Tis her ladyship, sir; she always leaves her chair at the milliner's in the next street.

JOS. SURF. Stay, stay; draw that screen before the window — that will do; — my opposite neighbor is a maiden lady of so curious a temper. — [SERVANT *draws the screen, and exit.*] I have a difficult hand to play in this affair. Lady Teazle has lately suspected my views on Maria; but she must by no means be let into that secret, — at least, till I have her more in my power.

Enter LADY TEAZLE

LADY TEAZ. What, sentiment in soliloquy now? Have you been very impatient? O Lud! don't pretend to look grave. I vow I couldn't come before.

JOS. SURF. O madam, punctuality is a species of constancy very unfashionable in a lady of quality.

[*Places chairs, and sits after* LADY TEAZLE *is seated.*]

LADY TEAZ. Upon my word, you ought to pity me. Do you know Sir Peter is grown so ill-natured to me of late, and so jealous of Charles too — that's the best of the story, isn't it?

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] I am glad my scandalous friends keep that up.

LADY TEAZ. I am sure I wish he would let Maria marry

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家產的女子；然而，查理士的鹵莽和卑劣却是大有利於我的。（外邊有敲門聲。）

僕 先生，我相信這定然是提茲爾太太。

約瑟。別再講！且看看究竟是她不是她，然後再到門前去：我有一種特別的囑咐給你，假使那打門的是我的兄弟。

僕。委實是那太太，先生；她總是將她的轎子停在鄰街的女帽店裏的。

約瑟。且站住，且站住；把那窗幕兒拉下——那就好了；——我的對過的鄰人是一個很好奇的老處女。——（僕拉幕下，退。）這件事我很是棘手。提茲爾太太近來疑心我那對於馬利亞的意見；可是這個祕密絕不可讓她探得，——至少要等到我更能夠駕馭她些纔好。

提茲爾太太上。

提太太。什麼，自箇兒在談着感情麼？你等候得不耐煩了麼？天啊！別裝作沉重的樣子。我誓言我不能夠早來。

約瑟。啊太太，守時的習慣在上等婦人的眼裏算是很陳腐的守信了。

（擺好兩隻椅子，等提茲爾太太坐下自己纔坐。）

提太太。真的，你該可憐我。你可知道彼得勳爵近來對我很發脾氣，而且又很妬忌查理士——這是最好的消息，不是麼？

約瑟（側語）。我很喜歡我的毀謗的朋友們能夠維持那種情形。

提太太。我真的情願他讓馬利亞嫁給他，那末

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him, and then perhaps he would be convinced ; don't you, Mr. Surface ?

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] Indeed I do not. — [*Aloud.*] Oh, certainly I do ! for then my dear Lady Teazle would also be convinced how wrong her suspicions were of my having any design on the silly girl.

LADY TEAZ. Well, well, I'm inclined to believe you. But isn't it provoking, to have the most ill-natured things said of one ? And there's my friend Lady Sneerwell has circulated I don't know how many scandalous tales of me, and all without any foundation too ; that's what vexes me.

JOS. SURF. Ay, madam, to be sure, that is the provoking circumstance — without foundation ; yes, yes, there's the mortification, indeed ; for when a scandalous story is believed against one, there certainly is no comfort like the consciousness of having deserved it.

LADY TEAZ. No, to be sure, then I'd forgive their malice ; but to attack me, who am really so innocent, and who never say an ill-natured thing of anybody — that is, of any friend ; and then Sir Peter, too, to have him so peevish, and so suspicious, when I know the integrity of my own heart — indeed 'tis monstrous !

JOS. SURF. But, my dear Lady Teazle, 'tis your own fault if you suffer it. When a husband entertains a groundless suspicion of his wife, and withdraws his confidence from her, the original compact is broken, and she owes it to the honor of her sex to endeavor to outwit him.

LADY TEAZ. Indeed ! So that, if he suspects me without cause, it follows, that the best way of curing his jealousy is to give him reason for't ?

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他也許可以相信；你不情願麼，守發斯先生？

約瑟（側語）。實在我不情願——（朗語。）啊，當然我很情願！因為那時候我親愛的提茲爾太太也可以相信她自己疑心我屬意於那傻女子是怎樣的錯誤了。

提太太。是，是，我很相信你的話。可是被別人家談論很不堪的話，不是很叫人生氣麼？我的朋友司尼雅威爾太太給我傳佈了不知道究竟多少的醜史，而且全都沒有根據的；這就是我所煩惱的事情。

約瑟。是，太太，這真是叫人生氣的境況——沒有根據；是，是，誠然是一種痛苦；因為當大衆相信某人的之外更沒有較好的安慰了。

提太太。當然沒有，要是那樣我倒可寬恕他們了；可是他們竟攻訐這真無罪而又向來不說別心——就是朋友——的壞話的；我加之我自問心地很是純潔，而彼得勳爵竟這般的乖戾疑忌——這誠然是太可惡了。

約瑟。可是，我親愛的提茲爾太太，假使你爲着這件事傷心，那還是你自己的不好。當一個丈夫無故的疑心他的妻子，並不相信她的時候，那本來的誓約已經破了，爲婦人們的榮譽起見，她就應該努力的去愚弄他。

提太太。真的麼！那末他既然無故的疑心我，那醫治他的妬性的最妙的法子便是給他一種妬的理由嗎？

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JOS. SURF. Undoubtedly — for your husband should never be deceived in you : and in that case it becomes you to be frail in compliment to his discernment.

LADY TEAZ. To be sure, what you say is very reasonable, and when the consciousness of my innocence —

JOS. SURF. Ah, my dear madam, there is the great mistake ! 'tis this very conscious innocence that is of the greatest prejudice to you. What is it makes you negligent of forms, and careless of the world's opinion? Why, the consciousness of your own innocence. What makes you thoughtless in your conduct, and apt to run into a thousand little imprudences? Why, the consciousness of your own innocence. What makes you impatient of Sir Peter's temper, and outrageous at his suspicions? Why, the consciousness of your innocence.

LADY TEAZ. 'Tis very true !

JOS. SURF. Now, my dear Lady Teazle, if you would but once make a trifling *faux pas*, you can't conceive how cautious you would grow, and how ready to humor and agree with your husband.

LADY TEAZ. Do you think so ?

JOS. SURF. Oh, I am sure on't ; and then you would find all scandal would cease at once, for — in short, your character at present is like a person in a plethora, absolutely dying from too much health.

LADY TEAZ. So, so ; then I perceive your prescription is, that I must sin in my own defense, and part with my virtue to preserve my reputation ?

JOS. SURF. Exactly so, upon my credit, ma'am.

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約瑟。那是無疑的——因為你的丈夫不該誤認了你：既然這樣，你便該學浮蕩以酬答他的鑑別力啊。

提太太。誠然，你的話是極有道理，並且當我感覺着我的無罪——

約瑟。唉，我的太太，這是大大的錯誤！你的最大的弱點便是這自覺的無罪。什麼東西使你脫略禮貌而又不顧輿論呢？啊，你的無罪的自覺。什麼東西使你行爲孟浪而又容易陷入許多的過失呢？啊，你的無罪的自覺。什麼東西使你不耐彼得勳爵的脾氣而又忿怒他的疑忌呢？啊，你的無罪的自覺。

提太太。真正不錯！

約瑟。現在，我的提茲爾太太，假使你只犯一次小小的失足，你想不到你將怎樣的小心謹慎，怎樣的能夠和你的丈夫和睦相處。

提太太。你以爲是這樣麼？

約瑟。啊，我很相信是這樣；那末你將見攏總的毀謗立刻都歸消滅，因為——總而言之，你的現在的品行彷彿是一個患多血症的人，他的死正由於身體太好啊。

提太太。是，是；那末我知道你的診治法是，我必須借犯罪以自衛，拋却我的道德以保護我的名譽麼？

約瑟。正是，我誓言，太太。

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LADY TEAZ. Well, certainly this is the oddest doctrine, and the newest receipt for avoiding calumny!

JOS. SURF. An infallible one, believe me. Prudence, like experience, must be paid for.

LADY TEAZ. Why, if my understanding were once convinced —

JOS. SURF. Oh, certainly, madam, your understanding should be convinced. Yes, yes — Heaven forbid I should persuade you to do anything you thought wrong. No, no, I have too much honor to desire it.

LADY TEAZ. Don't you think we may as well leave honor out of the argument? [Rises.]

JOS. SURF. Ah, the ill effects of your country education, I see, still remain with you.

LADY TEAZ. I doubt they do indeed; and I will fairly own to you, that if I could be persuaded to do wrong, it would be by Sir Peter's ill usage sooner than your honorable logic, after all.

JOS. SURF. Then, by this hand, which he is unworthy of — [Taking her hand.]

Reënter SERVANT

'Sdeath, you blockhead — what do you want?

SER. I beg your pardon, sir, but I thought you would not choose Sir Peter to come up without announcing him.

JOS. SURF. Sir Peter! — Oons — the devil!

LADY TEAZ. Sir Peter! O Lud! I'm ruined! I'm ruined!

SER. Sir, 'twasn't I let him in.

LADY TEAZ. Oh! I'm quite undone! What will become

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提太太。是，這當然是最奇怪的主義，最新穎的避毀謗的方法！

約瑟。一個百靈百驗的方子，請相信我。謹慎如同經驗，沒有不付價而得着的。

提太太。啊，假使我能相信——

約瑟。啊，太太，你一定要相信的。是，是——天不許我勸你去做壞事。不，不，我很有榮譽，絕不想這樣做。

提太太。你不是以為我們大可以把榮譽置之不論麼？（起身。）

約瑟。唉，你的鄉村教育的惡影響，我看起來，還附在你身上哩。

提太太。我恐怕牠們真還附着；我要坦白的對你說，假使人能夠勸我去做壞事，那末勸我的是彼得勳爵的虐待，並不是你的有榮譽的理論。

約瑟。那末，讓我憑這他所無福消受的手——
（握她的手。）

僕人又上。

天罰的，你這傻子——你要什麼？

僕。求你的饒恕，先生，可是我想你總不喜歡彼得勳爵不經通報便進來吧。

約瑟。彼得勳爵！——天呀——魔鬼啊！

提太太。彼得勳爵！天呀！我完了！我完了！

僕。先生，並不是我讓他進來的。

提太太。啊！我真完了！我將要到什麼地步

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of me? Now, Mr. Logic — Oh! mercy, sir, he's on the stairs — I'll get behind here — and if ever I'm so imprudent again — *[Goes behind the screen.]*

JOS. SURF. Give me that book.

[Sits down. SERVANT pretends to adjust his chair.]

Enter SIR PETER TEAZLE

SIR PET. Ay, ever improving himself — Mr. Surface, Mr. Surface — *[Pats JOSEPH on the shoulder.]*

JOS. SURF. Oh, my dear Sir Peter, I beg your pardon. — *[Gaping, throws away the book.]* I have been dozing over a stupid book. Well, I am much obliged to you for this call. You haven't been here, I believe, since I fitted up this room. Books, you know, are the only things I am a coxcomb in.

SIR PET. 'Tis very neat indeed. Well, well, that's proper; and you can make even your screen a source of knowledge — hung, I perceive, with maps.

JOS. SURF. Oh, yes, I find great use in that screen.

SIR PET. I dare say you must, certainly, when you want to find anything in a hurry.

JOS. SURF. *[Aside.]* Ay, or to hide anything in a hurry either.

SIR PET. Well, I have a little private business —

JOS. SURF. *[To SERVANT.]* You need not stay.

SER. No, sir. *[Exit.]*

JOS. SURF. Here's a chair, Sir Peter — I beg —

SIR PET. Well, now we are alone, there is a subject, my dear friend, on which I wish to unburden my mind to you — a point of the greatest moment to my peace; in short, my

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呢？現在，邏輯先生——唉！哎呀，先生，他上樓來哩——我要躲在這裏——假使以後我再這般的孟浪——（躲向屏風後面。）

約瑟。將那本書給我。

（坐下。僕人假作安排他的椅子。）

彼得勳爵上。

彼得勳爵。啊，他老是用功自修呢——守發斯先生，守發斯先生——（拍拍約瑟夫的肩膊。）

約瑟。啊，我親愛的彼得勳爵，求你的饒恕。——（打呵欠，把那本書拋開。）我讀着一本無趣的書打盹好久了。好，我很感謝你這次的訪候。自從我把這房間收拾好之後，我相信你不會到這裏來過。書籍乃是我唯一的奢侈品，你該知道。

彼得勳爵。這裏誠然是很整潔的，好好，這是正當的；並且你還能夠把你的屏風做一個智識的淵源——我看牠上面掛着許多地圖。

約瑟。啊，是，我很利用那個屏風。

彼得勳爵。我敢說你一定利用了牠，當你要在倉猝中尋得一箇地名的時候。

約瑟（側語）。是，或是在倉猝中藏起一樣東西。

彼得勳爵。喂，我有一些私事——

約瑟（向僕人）。你不必留在這裏。

僕。是，先生。（下。）

約瑟。這裏有一張椅子，彼得勳爵——我請——

彼得勳爵。現在沒有外人了，我的好朋友，我有一個問題要告訴你——頂頂叫我心裏不安的一

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good friend, Lady Teazle's conduct of late has made me very unhappy.

JOS. SURF. Indeed! I am very sorry to hear it.

SIR PET. 'Tis but too plain she has not the least regard for me; but, what's worse, I have pretty good authority to suppose she has formed an attachment to another.

JOS. SURF. Indeed! you astonish me!

SIR PET. Yes! and, between ourselves, I think I've discovered the person.

JOS. SURF. How! you alarm me exceedingly.

SIR PET. Ay, my dear friend, I knew you would sympathize with me!

JOS. SURF. Yes, believe me, Sir Peter, such a discovery would hurt me just as much as it would you.

SIR PET. I am convinced of it. Ah! it is a happiness to have a friend whom we can trust even with one's family secrets. But have you no guess who I mean?

JOS. SURF. I haven't the most distant idea. It can't be Sir Benjamin Backbite!

SIR PET. Oh, no! What say you to Charles?

JOS. SURF. My brother! impossible!

SIR PET. Oh, my dear friend, the goodness of your own heart misleads you. You judge of others by yourself.

JOS. SURF. Certainly, Sir Peter, the heart that is conscious of its own integrity is ever slow to credit another's treachery.

SIR PET. True; but your brother has no sentiment — you never hear him talk so.

JOS. SURF. Yet I can't but think Lady Teazle herself has too much principle.

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點;總而言之,我的好朋友,提茲爾太太近來的行爲弄得我很不快活。

約瑟, 真的麼! 聽了這句話我很難過。

彼得勳爵, 她分明是對我不有一毫的愛意;而尤其壞的,就是我很合理的疑心她已經愛上了別人。

約瑟, 真的麼! 你驚嚇了我!

彼得勳爵, 是! 而且,別對外人講,我想我已偵得那個人了。

約瑟, 怎樣! 你嚇我一大跳。

彼得勳爵, 是,我的好朋友,我知道你要和我同情的!

約瑟, 是,請相信我,彼得勳爵,這樣的偵實使我如同你一樣的難受。

彼得勳爵, 我相信的。唉! 我們有一個可以把家庭祕密告訴他的朋友,真是快事。可是你難道猜不出我所指的是誰?

約瑟, 我絲毫都想不着。不會是本甲明拔克把脫勳爵吧!

彼得勳爵, 啊,不是! 你看是不是查理士?

約瑟, 我的兄弟麼! 不會的!

彼得勳爵, 啊,我的好朋友,你自己的好心却欺騙了你,你總是照你自己去判斷別人啊。

約瑟, 當然,彼得勳爵,那曉得自己正直的心兒總不肯輕於相信別人的狡詐的。

彼得勳爵, 真的;可是你的兄弟沒有高尚的情緒——你向來不會聽得他這樣的講。

約瑟, 然而我總以為提茲爾太太是很有道德的。

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SIR PET. Ay ; but what is principle against the flattery of a handsome, lively young fellow ?

JOS. SURF. That's very true.

SIR PET. And then, you know, the difference of our ages makes it very improbable that she should have any great affection for me ; and if she were to be frail, and I were to make it public, why the town would only laugh at me, the foolish old bachelor, who had married a girl.

JOS. SURF. That's true, to be sure — they would laugh.

SIR PET. Laugh ! ay, and make ballads, and paragraphs, and the devil knows what of me.

JOS. SURF. No, you must never make it public.

SIR PET. But then again—that the nephew of my old friend, Sir Oliver, should be the person to attempt such a wrong, hurts me more nearly.

JOS. SURF. Ay, there's the point. When ingratitude bars the dart of injury, the wound has double danger in it.

SIR PET. Ay—I, that was, in a manner, left his guardian ; in whose house he had been so often entertained ; who never in my life denied him — my advice !

JOS. SURF. Oh, 'tis not to be credited ! There may be a man capable of such baseness, to be sure ; but, for my part, till you can give me positive proofs, I cannot but doubt it. However, if it should be proved on him, he is no longer a brother of mine — I disclaim kindred with him : for the man who can break the laws of hospitality, and tempt the wife of his friend, deserves to be branded as the pest of society.

SIR PET. What a difference there is between you ! What noble sentiments !

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彼得勳爵。是；可是道德能夠抵抗得一個美麗活潑的少年的諛媚麼？

約瑟。那是很對。

彼得勳爵。還有，你知道，我倆年紀相差，所以她不能夠對我發生多大的情愛；假使我將她的習染老不浮蕩宣布出去，那末市上人只有笑我這蠢笨的老女婿，却娶了一個年輕的女子。

約瑟。那是真正不錯——他們要笑的。

彼得勳爵。笑啊！是，而且要把我編成小曲，寫成短篇，做成其他種種的資料。

約瑟。不，你斷斷不可以宣布出去。

彼得勳爵。可是——我的老朋友奧力佛勳爵的姪兒居然幹出這種的不端，叫我更加氣煞了。

約瑟。是，這是真的話。損害上又加了忘恩負義，那傷痕是加倍的痛心。

彼得勳爵。唉——我差不多是他的監護人；在我家裏他常常受了慇懃的招待；向來我總不會拒絕他——我的忠告的！

約瑟。啊，這是不足信的！也許有人能夠幹出這種的醜事，那是無疑；可是在我，除非你能給我真憑實據，我却不能不懷疑。然而，假使一旦證實牠是他所做，他便不是我的兄弟了——我便不承認他和他是親屬；因為一個人既然破壞了友誼的規律去勾引他朋友的妻子，他身上就該印有「社會之蠹」的標記。

彼得勳爵。你倆真是大不相同啊！怎樣高尚的情緒！

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JOS. SURF. Yet I cannot suspect Lady Teazle's honor.

SIR PET. I am sure I wish to think well of her, and to remove all ground of quarrel between us. She has lately reproached me more than once with having made no settlement on her; and, in our last quarrel, she almost hinted that she should not break her heart if I was dead. Now, as we seem to differ in our ideas of expense, I have resolved she shall have her own way, and be her own mistress in that respect for the future; and, if I were to die, she will find I have not been inattentive to her interest while living. Here, my friend, are the drafts of two deeds, which I wish to have your opinion on. By one, she will enjoy eight hundred a year independent while I live; and, by the other, the bulk of my fortune at my death.

JOS. SURF. This conduct, Sir Peter, is indeed truly generous. — [*Aside.*] I wish it may not corrupt my pupil.

SIR PET. Yes, I am determined she shall have no cause to complain, though I would not have her acquainted with the latter instance of my affection yet awhile.

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] Nor I, if I could help it.

SIR PET. And now, my dear friend, if you please, we will talk over the situation of your hopes with Maria.

JOS. SURF. [*Softly.*] Oh, no, Sir Peter; another time, if you please.

SIR PET. I am sensibly chagrined at the little progress you seem to make in her affections.

JOS. SURF. [*Softly.*] I beg you will not mention it. What are my disappointments when your happiness is in debate! — [*Aside.*] 'Sdeath, I shall be ruined every way!

SIR PET. And though you are averse to my acquainting

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約瑟。但是我總不能疑猜提茲爾太太的人格。
彼得勳爵。實在我巴不得把她當作好人，把我倆爭吵的原因都去掉了。她近來已經好幾次怪我道不分配她一些財產；上回爭吵，她現在因爲我倆對若是我死了，她也意不見大傷心。所以我的幸福，徵求你我的財用上好的財產並沒有草率的對牠們的想。徵求你我的朋友是兩張契約的効力，我活着的時候，我可以自由的享用八百鎊錢；依着乙稿，我死去的時候，她可以享用我的財產的大部分。

約瑟。這種行爲，彼得勳爵，真正可算是慷慨。——（側語。）我希望牠不至於誘壞我的生徒。

彼得勳爵。是，我決意使她沒有怨恨的理由，雖則我暫時還不情願她知道我的第二種的愛她的表示。

約瑟（側語）。我也不情願，假使我能夠阻止牠。

彼得勳爵。現在，我的好朋友，若是你肯，我們且談談你對於馬利亞的希望의 現狀。

約瑟（輕輕地）。啊，不，彼得勳爵；下回再談吧，請你。

彼得勳爵。你對於她的戀愛上沒有多大的進步，我覺得非常的煩悶。

約瑟（慢慢地）。我央求你不要提起牠來。你的幸福在搖動的時候那裏還管得我的失望呢！（側語。）天呀，我各方面都要失敗了！

彼得勳爵。你雖然不喜歡我將你的戀愛告訴

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Lady Teazle with your passion, I'm sure she's not your enemy in the affair.

JOS. SURF. Pray, Sir Peter, now oblige me. I am really too much affected by the subject we have been speaking of to bestow a thought on my own concerns. The man who is intrusted with his friend's distresses can never —

Reënter SERVANT

Well, sir ?

SER. Your brother, sir, is speaking to a gentleman in the street, and says he knows you are within.

JOS. SURF. 'Sdeath, blockhead, I'm not within — I'm out for the day.

SIR PET. Stay — hold — a thought has struck me :— you shall be at home.

JOS. SURF. Well, well, let him come up. [*Exit* SERVANT.] [*Aside.*] He'll interrupt Sir Peter, however.

SIR PET. Now, my good friend, oblige me, I entreat you. Before Charles comes, let me conceal myself somewhere, then do you tax him on the point we have been talking, and his answer may satisfy me at once.

JOS. SURF. Oh, fie, Sir Peter ! would you have me join in so mean a trick ? — to trepan my brother too ?

SIR PET. Nay, you tell me you are sure he is innocent ; if so, you do him the greatest service by giving him an opportunity to clear himself, and you will set my heart at rest. Come, you shall not refuse me : [*Going up.*] here, behind the screen will be — Hey ! what the devil ! there seems to be one listener here already — I'll swear I saw a petticoat !

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提茲爾太太，我却相信她並不反對那件事。

約瑟，彼得勳爵，請不要講了。我實在很受了剛纔談及的問題的刺激，所以不能夠想一想我自己的事情。凡是聽得朋友的患難的人絕不能夠

——
僕人又上。

喂，先生？

僕，先生，你的兄弟在街上和一位先生講着話，他說他知道你在家裏。

約瑟，天呀，笨伯，你該說我不在家裏——我出門有事了。

彼得勳爵，停着——且慢——我想得一個主意：——你就在家裏罷。

約瑟，好好，讓他上來。——（僕人下。）（側語。）但是，他倒可以打斷彼得勳爵的話頭。

彼得勳爵，現在，我的好朋友，求你幫助我。在查理士未來之前，讓我躲在什麼地方，然後請你盤問他那剛纔談及的一點，他的回答便可以立刻使我滿意了。

約瑟，啊，呸，彼得勳爵！你要我參加這種卑鄙的勾當麼？——要我陷害我的兄弟麼？

彼得勳爵，不，你對我說你相信他是無罪的，既是這樣，你給他一個自辯的機會，便頂頂於他有益，而且你也可以叫我放心了。喂，你不可以拒絕我：（站起。）這裏，躲在屏風的背後罷——噯！什麼！這裏好像已經有了一個竊聽的人了——我誓言我看見一條裙子呢！

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JOS. SURF. Ha! ha! ha! Well, this is ridiculous enough!. I'll tell you, Sir Peter, though I hold a man of intrigue to be a most despicable character, yet, you know, it does not follow that one is to be an absolute Joseph either! Hark'ee, 'tis a little French milliner, a silly rogue that plagues me; and having some character to lose, on your coming, sir, she ran behind the screen.

SIR PET. Ah, Joseph! Joseph! Did I ever think that you — But, egad, she has overheard all I have been saying of my wife.

JOS. SURF. Oh, 'twill never go any farther, you may depend upon it!

SIR PET. No! then, faith, let her hear it out. — Here's a closet will do as well.

JOS. SURF. Well, go in there.

SIR PET. Sly rogue! sly rogue! [*Goes into the closet.*]

JOS. SURF. A narrow escape, indeed! and a curious situation I'm in, to part man and wife in this manner.

LADY TEAZ. [*Peeping.*] Couldn't I steal off?

JOS. SURF. Keep close, my angel!

SIR PET. [*Peeping.*] Joseph, tax him home.

JOS. SURF. Back, my dear friend!

LADY TEAZ. [*Peeping.*] Couldn't you lock Sir Peter in?

JOS. SURF. Be still, my life!

SIR PET. [*Peeping.*] You're sure the little milliner won't blab?

JOS. SURF. In, in, my dear Sir Peter! — 'Fore Gad, I wish I had a key to the door.

Enter CHARLES SURFACE

CHAS. SURF. Holla! brother, what has been the matter? Your fellow would not let me up at first. What! have you had a Jew or a wench with you?

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約瑟。哈哈!哈哈! 唉,這真是好笑。我告訴你,彼得勳爵,雖則我以詭譎的人爲最可鄙,然而,你知道,一個人也不能純粹的做一個約瑟夫的! 聽呀,這是一位法國的小女帽店主,一個煩惱我的冤家;因爲有些怕丟臉,所以你進來的當兒,先生,她便躲到屏風的背後去了。

彼得勳爵。啊,約瑟夫! 約瑟夫! 我那能想到你居然——可是,天呀,她已竊聽得我所講我妻子的攏總的話了。

約瑟。啊,不至於傳到別人耳朵裏,你可以相信這句話!

彼得勳爵。不至於! 那末,真的,且讓她聽完了吧。——這裏有一間小室也好藏身的。

約瑟。好,躲進去。

彼得勳爵。狡棍! 狡棍! (走進小室去。)

約瑟。好險啊,真的! 我是處着一個很奇怪的地位,這樣的隔離人家的夫婦。

提太太(窺探)。我不能溜走麼?

約瑟。牢躲着,我的安琪兒!

彼得勳爵(窺探)。約瑟夫,盤問他一個道地。

約瑟。縮進去,我的好朋友!

提太太(窺探)。你不能將彼得勳爵鎖起來麼?

約瑟。別作聲,我的寶貝!

彼得勳爵(窺探)。你相信這小女帽店主不會多嘴麼?

約瑟。進去,進去,我親愛的彼得勳爵!——天呀,我巴不得能鎖起那門兒。

查理士守發斯上。

查理。喂,哥哥,究竟有什麼事故? 你的僕人其初不肯讓我上來。什麼! 你難道有一個猶太人或是一個蕩婦伴着你麼?

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JOS. SURF. Neither, brother, I assure you.

CHAS. SURF. But what has made Sir Peter steal off? I thought he had been with you.

JOS. SURF. He was, brother; but, hearing you were coming, he did not choose to stay.

CHAS. SURF. What! was the old gentleman afraid I wanted to borrow money of him?

JOS. SURF. No, sir; but I am sorry to find, Charles, you have lately given that worthy man grounds for great uneasiness.

CHAS. SURF. Yes, they tell me I do that to a great many worthy men. But how so, pray?

JOS. SURF. To be plain with you, brother, he thinks you are endeavoring to gain Lady Teazle's affections from him.

CHAS. SURF. Who, I? O Lud! not I, upon my word. — Ha! ha! ha! so the old fellow has found out that he has got a young wife, has he? — or, what is worse, Lady Teazle has found out she has an old husband?

JOS. SURF. This is no subject to jest on, brother. He who can laugh —

CHAS. SURF. True, true, as you were going to say — then, seriously, I never had the least idea of what you charge me with, upon my honor.

JOS. SURF. [*Raising his voice.*] Well, it will give Sir Peter great satisfaction to hear this.

CHAS. SURF. To be sure, I once thought the lady seemed to have taken a fancy to me; but, upon my soul, I never gave her the least encouragement. Besides, you know my attachment to Maria.

JOS. SURF. But sure, brother, even if Lady Teazle had betrayed the fondest partiality for you —

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約瑟。都不是，兄弟，我確實的告訴你。

查理。可是彼得勳爵爲什麼溜走呢？我想他是和你在一起的。
約瑟。他是的，兄弟；但是聽得你要來了，他便不肯留在這裏。

查理。什麼！這位老先生怕我向他借錢麼？

約瑟。不，先生；可是，查理士，我看你近來叫這位先生很不安，我很難過。

查理。不是，他們說我對許多先生們都是這樣。

可是爲什麼呢，請問？

約瑟。老實對你講，兄弟，他以爲你正盡力的把提茲爾太太對於他的愛情移到你身上去哩。

查理。誰，我麼？天呀！並不是我，我誓言。——哈哈！哈哈！那末這老頭兒已經覺得他娶了一個年輕的妻子，不是麼？——或者，尤其壞的，提茲爾太太已經覺得她有一個年老的丈夫麼？

約瑟。這並不是一件好笑的事情，兄弟。一個人能笑——

查理。真的，真的，正像你所要說的話——那末，講正經話，我絲毫都不知道你所責備我的是什麼，這是實在。

約瑟（提高他的聲音）。好，彼得勳爵聽得這句話要非常的滿意啊。

查理。真的，有一次我以爲這位太太好像愛上我似的；可是，我誓言，我絕不會給她一些的鼓勵。而且你知道我是屬意於馬利亞的。

約瑟。可是真的，兄弟，就使提茲爾太太對你表現着最熱烈的偏愛——

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CHAS. SURF. Why, look'ee, Joseph, I hope I shall never deliberately do a dishonorable action ; but if a pretty woman was purposely to throw herself in my way — and that pretty woman married to a man old enough to be her father —

JOS. SURF. Well !

CHAS. SURF. Why, I believe I should be obliged to —

JOS. SURF. What ?

CHAS. SURF. To borrow a little of your morality, that's all. But, brother, do you know now that you surprise me exceedingly, by naming me with Lady Teazle ; for i' faith, I always understood you were her favorite.

JOS. SURF. Oh, for shame, Charles ! This retort is foolish.

CHAS. SURF. Nay, I swear I have seen you exchange such significant glances —

JOS. SURF. Nay, nay, sir, this is no jest.

CHAS. SURF. Egad, I'm serious ! Don't you remember one day, when I called here —

JOS. SURF. Nay, pr'ythee, Charles —

CHAS. SURF. And found you together —

JOS. SURF. Zounds, sir, I insist —

CHAS. SURF. And another time when your servant —

JOS. SURF. Brother, brother, a word with you !—*[Aside.]* Gad, I must stop him.

CHAS. SURF. Informed, I say, that —

JOS. SURF. Hush ! I beg your pardon, but Sir Peter has overheard all we have been saying. I knew you would clear yourself, or I should not have consented.

CHAS. SURF. How, Sir Peter ! Where is he ?

JOS. SURF. Softly, there ! *[Points to the closet.]*

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查理。啊，注意，約瑟夫，我希望我絕不會故意的
做出一件不名譽的事情；可是假使一個美婦人有
意的來勾引我——並且那美婦人嫁給一個年紀
像她父親那般大的男子——

約瑟。好！

查理。那末，我相信我也祇好——

約瑟。怎樣？

查理。借用你的一些道德了，就是。可是，哥哥，
你現在可知道你將我和提茲爾太太一同談起，叫
我十分詫異；因為，我實在常常覺得你是她的意中
人。

約瑟。啊，胡說，查理士！這種反駁是愚笨的。

查理。不，我誓言我曾看見你們交換了那種傳
情的眼色——

約瑟。不，不，先生，這不是可以鬧頑笑的。

查理。天呀，我講的正經話！你難道不記得我
有一天到這裏來訪候——

約瑟。不，央求你，查理士——

查理。看見你們在一起——

約瑟。天呀，先生，我說——

查理。還有一次，你的僕人——

約瑟。兄弟，兄弟，和你講一句話！——（側語。）天
呀，我定要擋住他。

查理。報告說——

約瑟。靜！我求你的饒恕，但是彼得勳爵已經
聽得我們攏總的話了。我知道你能自己辯白得
清楚，否則我也不會准他。

查理。怎麼，彼得勳爵！他在那裏？

約瑟。輕些，那裏！（指着小室。）

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CHAS. SURF. Oh, 'fore Heaven, I'll have him out. Sir Peter, come forth!

JOS. SURF. No, no —

CHAS. SURF. I say, Sir Peter, come into court. — [*Pulls in* SIR PETER.] What! my old guardian! — What! turn inquisitor, and take evidence incog.? Oh, fie! Oh, fie!

SIR PET. Give me your hand, Charles — I believe I have suspected you wrongfully; but you mustn't be angry with Joseph — 'twas my plan!

CHAS. SURF. Indeed!

SIR PET. But I acquit you. I promise you I don't think near so ill of you as I did: what I have heard has given me great satisfaction.

CHAS. SURF. Egad, then, 'twas lucky you didn't hear any more. Wasn't it, Joseph?

SIR PET. Ah! you would have retorted on him.

CHAS. SURF. Ah, ay, that was a joke.

SIR PET. Yes, yes, I know his honor too well.

CHAS. SURF. But you might as well have suspected him as me in this matter, for all that. Mightn't he, Joseph?

SIR PET. Well, well, I believe you.

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] Would they were both out of the room!

SIR PET. And in future, perhaps, we may not be such strangers.

Reënter SERVANT *and whispers* JOSEPH SURFACE

SER. Lady Sneerwell is below, and says she will come up.

JOS. SURF. Lady Sneerwell! Gad's life! she must not come here. (*Exit* SERVANT.) Gentlemen, I beg pardon — I

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查理. 啊,天呀,我要將他拖出來,彼得勳爵,出來!

約瑟. 不,不——

查理. 我說,彼得勳爵,到庭中來。——(將彼得勳爵拖進來。)什麼! 我的老監護人——什麼! 變做了私訪密探的訊審官麼? 啊,呸! 啊,呸!

彼得勳爵. 把你的手給我,查理士——我相信我已經錯疑了你;可是你不要恨約瑟夫——這都是我的主意。

查理. 真的麼!

彼得勳爵. 可是我免掉你的罪了。確實的告訴你,我現在不像從前那樣把你當作壞人了:我所聽見的叫我不非常的滿意。

查理. 天呀,那末,幸虧你沒有聽着別的話。不是麼,約瑟夫?

彼得勳爵. 唉! 你一定要反駁着他。

查理. 是,是,那是一種笑話。

彼得勳爵. 是,是,我很知道他的人格。

查理. 可是,實在的講來,你對於這件事要猜疑我也可以猜疑他。他不可以麼,約瑟夫?

彼得勳爵. 是,是,我相信你。

約瑟(側語). 情願他們倆都離開這裏!

彼得勳爵. 將來我們也許不至於這樣的不好相識了。

僕人又上,和約瑟夫守發斯耳語。

僕. 司尼雅威爾太太在底下哩,她說她要上來約瑟. 司尼雅威爾太太! 天呀! 她不可以到這裏來。(僕人下。)先生們,我求饒恕——我須在

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must wait on you downstairs : here is a person come on particular business.

CHAS. SURF. Well, you can see him in another room. Sir Peter and I have not met a long time, and I have something to say to him.

JOS. SURF. [*Aside.*] They must not be left together. — [*Aloud.*] I'll send Lady Sneerwell away, and return directly. — [*Aside to SIR PETER.*] Sir Peter, not a word of the French milliner.

SIR PET. [*Aside to JOSEPH SURFACE.*] I! not for the world! — (*Exit JOSEPH SURFACE.*) Ah, Charles, if you associated more with your brother, one might indeed hope for your reformation. He is a man of sentiment. Well, there is nothing in the world so noble as a man of sentiment.

CHAS. SURF. Psha! he is too moral by half; and so apprehensive of his good name, as he calls it, that I suppose he would as soon let a priest into his house as a wench.

SIR PET. No, no, — come, come, — you wrong him. No, no! Joseph is no rake, but he is no such saint either, in that respect. — [*Aside.*] I have a great mind to tell him — we should have such a laugh at Joseph.

CHAS. SURF. Oh, hang him! he's a very anchorite, a young hermit!

SIR PET. Hark'ee — you must not abuse him: he may chance to hear of it again, I promise you.

CHAS. SURF. Why, you won't tell him?

SIR PET. No — but — this way. — [*Aside.*] Egad, I'll tell him. — [*Aloud.*] Hark'ee — have you a mind to have a good laugh at Joseph?

CHAS. SURF. I should like it of all things.

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樓下侍候你們：這裏有一個客人是爲着特別事務而來的。

查理。喂，你可以在別的房间裏接見他。彼得勳爵和我好久沒有相見，我有些話要和他講哩。

約瑟(側語)。不可把他們丟在一起。——(朗語。)
我要把司尼雅威爾太太打發走了，馬上就回來。——(向彼得勳爵側語。)彼得勳爵，萬勿提及那法國的女帽店主啊。

彼得勳爵(向約瑟夫守發斯側語)。我！萬不至於！——(約瑟夫守發斯下。)查理，假使你常常和你哥哥在一起，別人便真的可以希望你改過遷善了。他是一個有高尙情緒的人，是一個有高尙情緒的人在世界上可算是最高貴的。

查理。啐！他是太道學了；而且他生怕損壞了他的好名譽，像他所自稱的，所以我想他寧可讓一個牧師而決不肯讓一個蕩婦跑進他的屋裏。
彼得勳爵。不，不，——喂，喂，——你冤枉了他。

不，不！約瑟夫雖不是一個浪子，但對於這一點而論，他也不是那樣的一個聖人。——(側語。)查理，我很想告訴他——我們可以這樣的笑着約瑟夫啊。

查理。啊，天罰他！他是一個真正的避世者，一個青年的隱士！

彼得勳爵。聽呀——你不該辱罵他：他也許重行聽得這句話，我確實的告訴你。

查理。什麼，你不至於告訴他吧？

彼得勳爵。不——但是——這裏來。——(側語。)
天呀，我定要告訴他。——(朗語。)查理，聽呀——你可要對約瑟夫大笑特笑麼？

查理。我很喜歡這樣。

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SIR PET. Then, i'faith, we will! I'll be quit with him for discovering me. [*Whispers.*] He had a girl with him when I called.

CHAS. SURF. What! Joseph? you jest.

SIR PET. Hush! — a little French milliner — and the best of the jest is — she's in the room now.

CHAS. SURF. The devil she is!

SIR PET. Hush! I tell you. [*Points to the screen.*]

CHAS. SURF. Behind the screen! 'Slife, let's unveil her!

SIR PET. No, no, he's coming: — you sha'n't, indeed!

CHAS. SURF. Oh, egad, we'll have a peep at the little milliner!

SIR PET. Not for the world! — Joseph will never forgive me.

CHAS. SURF. I'll stand by you —

SIR PET. Odds, here he is!

[CHARLES SURFACE *throws down the screen.*]

Reënter JOSEPH SURFACE

CHAS. SURF. Lady Teazle, by all that's wonderful.

SIR PET. Lady Teazle, by all that's damnable!

CHAS. SURF. Sir Peter, this is one of the smartest French milliners I ever saw. Egad, you seem all to have been diverting yourselves here at hide and seek, and I don't see who is out of the secret. Shall I beg your ladyship to inform me? Not a world! — Brother, will you be pleased to explain this matter? What! is Morality dumb too? — Sir Peter, though I found you in the dark, perhaps you are not so now! All mute! — Well — though I can make nothing of

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彼得勳爵。那末，我們就要笑他了！這樣我也
可以報復他的泄漏我的隱藏了。（細語。）他曾和
一個女子在一起，當我來訪的時候。

查理。什麼！約瑟夫麼？你講笑話了。

彼得勳爵。低聲！——一個法國的小女帽店主
——而尤其妙的就是——她現在還在這個房間裏
呢。

查理。她真的在麼！

彼得勳爵。低聲！我告訴你。（指着屏風。）

查理。在屏風的背後！天呀，讓我們來揭露她！

彼得勳爵。不，不，他要來了：——你真的萬不可以！

查理。啊，天呀，我們且窺一下這小女帽店主！

彼得勳爵。萬萬不可！——約瑟夫不會饒恕我的。

查理。我會幫着你——

彼得勳爵。哎呀，他來了！

（查理士守發斯將屏風推倒。）

約瑟夫守發斯又上。

查理。提茲爾太太，真奇怪。

彼得勳爵。提茲爾太太，真該死！

查理。彼得勳爵，這是我生平所僅見最漂亮的一
個法國女帽店主了。天呀，你們好像都在這裏
做着捉迷藏的遊戲，我不知道在黑幕之外的是誰。
我該求你太太告訴我吧？一句話沒有！——哥
哥，你肯說明這件事情麼？什麼！難道道德也啞了
麼？——彼得勳爵，雖則我在黑暗裏尋着你，現在也
許你不在黑暗中摸索了！大家都不響！——好——

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the affair, I suppose you perfectly understand one another ; so I'll leave you to yourselves.—[*Going.*] Brother, I'm sorry to find you have given that worthy man grounds for so much uneasiness.—Sir Peter ! There's nothing in the world so noble as a man of sentiment ! [*Exit.*]

JOS. SURF. Sir Peter—notwithstanding—I confess—that appearances are against me—if you will afford me your patience—I make no doubt—but I shall explain everything to your satisfaction.

SIR PET. If you please, sir.

JOS. SURF. The fact is, sir, that Lady Teazle, knowing my pretensions to your ward Maria—I say, sir, Lady Teazle, being apprehensive of the jealousy of your temper—and knowing my friendship to the family—she, sir, I say—called here—in order that—I might explain these pretensions—but on your coming—being apprehensive—as I said—of your jealousy—she withdrew—and this, you may depend on it, is the whole truth of the matter.

SIR PET. A very clear account, upon my word ; and I dare swear the lady will vouch for every article of it.

LADY TEAZ. For not one word of it, Sir Peter !

SIR PET. How ! don't you think it worth while to agree in the lie ?

LADY TEAZ. There is not one syllable of truth in what that gentleman has told you.

SIR PET. I believe you, upon my soul, ma'am !

JOS. SURF. [*Aside to LADY TEAZLE.*] 'Sdeath, madam, will you betray me ?

LADY TEAZ. Good Mr. Hypocrite, by your leave, I'll speak for myself.

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雖則我不明白這件事的真相，我想你們自己一定彼此明白的；所以我且離開你們。——（將去。）哥哥，我看你叫這位先生很不安，我很難過。——彼得勳爵！一個有高尙情緒的人是世界上最高貴的了！

（下）

約瑟。彼得勳爵——雖則——我承認——在表面上我很受嫌疑——假使你肯忍耐些——我很相信——我將要把一切說明得叫你滿意。

彼得勳爵。請你說，先生。

約瑟。那實在的事情，先生，就是提茲爾太太知道我那對於你的被保護人馬利亞的希望——我說，先生，提茲爾太太知道你的妬性——並且曉得我對於你家的交情——她，先生，我說——到這裏來我訪——使得——我可以說明這種希望——可是當你的進來的時候——她知道——像我剛纔說過——你的妬性——她便退避了——這樣，你可以相信便是這件事情的真相。

彼得勳爵。真是一個很明白的說明；我敢誓言這位太太必定能將這話句句證實。

提太太。一句話也不能夠證實，彼得勳爵。

彼得勳爵。怎樣！你不以為你該贊同那謊話麼？

提太太。這位先生所告訴你的沒有一句是真話。

彼得勳爵。我真相信你，太太！

約瑟（向提茲爾太太側語）。天呀，太太，你要賣我麼？

提太太。好的喜波克立忒先生，對不住，我要替我自己說。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR PET. Ay, let her alone, sir ; you'll find she'll make out a better story than you, without prompting.

LADY TEAZ. Hear me, Sir Peter ! — I came here on no matter relating to your ward, and even ignorant of this gentleman's pretensions to her. But I came, seduced by his insidious arguments, at least to listen to his pretended passion, if not to sacrifice your honor to his baseness.

SIR PET. Now, I believe, the truth is coming, indeed !

JOS. SURF. The woman's mad !

LADY TEAZ. No, sir ; she has recovered her senses, and your own arts have furnished her with the means. — Sir Peter, I do not expect you to credit me — but the tenderness you expressed for me, when I am sure you could not think I was a witness to it, has so penetrated to my heart, that had I left the place without the shame of this discovery, my future life should have spoken the sincerity of my gratitude. As for that smooth-tongued hypocrite, who would have seduced the wife of his too credulous friend, while he affected honorable addresses to his ward — I behold him now in a light so truly despicable, that I shall never again respect myself for having listened to him. [Exit.]

JOS. SURF. Notwithstanding all this, Sir Peter, Heaven knows —

SIR PET. That you are a villain ! and so I leave you to your conscience.

JOS. SURF. You are too rash, Sir Peter ; you shall hear me. The man who shuts out conviction by refusing to —

SIR PET. Oh, damn your sentiments !

[*Exeunt* SIR PETER and JOSEPH SURFACE *talking.*]

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彼得勳爵。唉，別干涉她，先生；你可以看出她將要說出比你還好的故事，並不需別人的指導。

提太太。聽我講，彼得勳爵！——我到這裏並不是爲着你的被保護人的事情，並且連這位先生對她的希望也不知。可是我被他狡狴的言詞爲的，是她的勾引，來到這裏，縱然不是至於和他的有卑鄙的行爲的，犧牲你的名譽，却至少是聽從他的假情假意來。

彼得勳爵。現在，我相信，那眞事實眞要說出來了！

約瑟。這婦人瘋了！

提太太。不，先生；她已經恢復了她的神智，並且是你自己的伎倆幫着她的。——彼得勳爵，我並不是希望你的相信我——可是在你確乎不知道我暗中的竊聽的當兒，你是對於我表示的穿而得脫離這裏，我至竊肺腑的，所以要我也不要表示我的感恩的懇切。我至輕信於那巧言利舌的假道學，他幾乎勾上了他的保護人作別人的朋友，當他假裝對他的被保護人視他，而且因爲我會聽從他的話，所以連我自己也將永遠的看不起。（下）

約瑟。雖則這樣說，彼得勳爵，天知道——

彼得勳爵。你是個惡棍！所以我且讓你的良心責備你。

約瑟。你也太鹵莽了，彼得勳爵；你該聽我講。一個人拒絕勸解不肯去——

彼得勳爵。啊，天罰你的情緒！

（彼得勳爵和約瑟夫守發斯同下，講着。）

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

ACT FIFTH

SCENE I

The Library in JOSEPH SURFACE'S House

Enter JOSEPH SURFACE and SERVANT

JOS. SURF. Mr. Stanley! and why should you think I would see him? you must know he comes to ask something.

SER. Sir, I should not have let him in, but that Mr. Rowley came to the door with him.

JOS. SURF. Psha! blockhead! to suppose that I should now be in a temper to receive visits from poor relations! — Well, why don't you show the fellow up?

SER. I will, sir. — Why, sir, it was not my fault that Sir Peter discovered my lady —

JOS. SURF. Go, fool! — [*Exit SERVANT.*] Sure Fortune never played a man of my policy such a trick before! My character with Sir Peter, my hopes with Maria, destroyed in a moment! I'm in a rare humor to listen to other people's distresses! I sha'n't be able to bestow even a benevolent sentiment on Stanley — So! here he comes, and Rowley with him. I must try to recover myself, and put a little charity into my face, however. [*Exit.*]

Enter SIR OLIVER SURFACE and ROWLEY

SIR OLIV. What! does he avoid us? That was he, was it not?

Row. It was, sir. But I doubt you are come a little too abruptly. His nerves are so weak, that the sight of a poor relation may be too much for him. I should have gone first to break it to him.

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第五齣 第一幕

約瑟夫守發斯家裏的圖書室。

約瑟夫守發斯和僕人上。

約瑟。施旦立先生！你怎知道我肯見他呢？
你該知道他來有所要求的。

僕。先生，我定然不准他進來，若不是牢萊先生和他一塊到門口。

約瑟。呸！笨伯！你想現在我還有心腸去接見那來探訪的窮親戚！——喂，你爲什麼不把那個人領上樓來？

僕。遵命，先生。——唉，先生，彼得勳爵撞着我的太太，這並不是我的罪過——

約瑟。去，傻子！——（僕人下。）對於像我這樣老謀深算的人，命運之神誠然沒有做過這般的惡作劇！我和彼得勳爵的交情，我對於馬利亞的希望，頃刻間都破壞了！我還願意聽別人的困苦！我連賜給施旦立一種慈善的情感也不能——啊！他來了，牢萊和他在一起。我須得勉力鎮靜我自己，然而，並且面子上裝着一些慈善的樣子。（下。）

奧力佛守發斯勳爵和牢萊上。

奧勳爵。什麼！他躲避我們麼？那分明是他，不是麼？

牢萊。是的，先生。可是我恐怕你來得有一些冒失吧。他的神經是很弱，所以是耐不住看見窮親戚的。我該先進來通報於他。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR OLIV. Oh, plague of his nerves! Yet this is he whom Sir Peter extols as a man of the most benevolent way of thinking!

Row. As to his way of thinking, I cannot pretend to decide; for, to do him justice, he appears to have as much speculative benevolence as any private gentleman in the kingdom, though he is seldom so sensual as to indulge himself in the exercise of it.

SIR OLIV. Yet he has a string of charitable sentiments at his fingers' ends.

Row. Or, rather, at his tongue's end, Sir Oliver; for I believe there is no sentiment he has such faith in as that *Charity begins at home*.

SIR OLIV. And his, I presume, is of that domestic sort which never stirs abroad at all.

Row. I doubt you'll find it so; but he's coming. I mustn't seem to interrupt you; and you know, immediately as you leave him, I come in to announce your arrival in your real character.

SIR OLIV. True; and afterwards you'll meet me at Sir Peter's.

Row. Without losing a moment. [Exit.]

SIR OLIV. I don't like the complaisance of his features.

Reënter JOSEPH SURFACE

JOS. SURF. Sir, I beg you ten thousand pardons for keeping you a moment waiting. — Mr. Stanley, I presume.

SIR OLIV. At your service.

JOS. SURF. Sir, I beg you will do me the honor to sit down — I entreat you, sir.

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奧勳爵。啊，天罰他的神經！然而他就是彼得勳爵誇獎作最有慈善思想的一個人！

牢萊。至於他的思想，我却不敢武斷；因為，平心而論，他的空想的慈善固不讓於國中任何的紳士，雖則他對於這種慈善却不肯自由以實行。

奧勳爵。然而他却有一串的慈善的意見在他的掌握裏。

牢萊。應該說在他的舌尖上，奧力佛勳爵；因為我相信他所頂頂信仰的意見，就是「慈善始於家庭」。

奧勳爵。而且他的慈善，我敢說，是那不出門一步的家庭的性質。

牢萊。我恐怕你要看出這般的光景；可是他來了。我不好再攔着你了；你須知道，等你一經離別了他，我便進來報告說奧力佛勳爵到了。

奧勳爵。正是；以後你須在彼得勳爵的家裏遇我。

牢萊。一下也不停留。（下。）

奧勳爵。我不喜歡他面上慫慫的樣子。

約瑟夫守發斯又上。

約瑟。勞候一會，求你千萬的饒恕。——施旦立先生，我敢說。

奧勳爵。侍候着你。

約瑟。先生，敬求屈駕暫坐——我央求你，先生。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR OLIV. Dear sir — there's no occasion. — [*Aside.*]
Too civil by half!

JOS. SURF. I have not the pleasure of knowing you, Mr. Stanley; but I am extremely happy to see you look so well. You were nearly related to my mother, I think, Mr. Stanley?

SIR OLIV. I was, sir; so nearly that my present poverty, I fear, may do discredit to her wealthy children, else I should not have presumed to trouble you.

JOS. SURF. Dear sir, there needs no apology; — he that is in distress, though a stranger, has a right to claim kindred with the wealthy. I am sure I wish I was one of that class, and had it in my power to offer you even a small relief.

SIR OLIV. If your uncle, Sir Oliver, were here, I should have a friend.

JOS. SURF. I wish he was, sir, with my heart: you should not want an advocate with him, believe me, sir.

SIR OLIV. I should not need one — my distresses would recommend me. But I imagined his bounty would enable you to become the agent of his charity.

JOS. SURF. My dear sir, you were strangely misinformed. Sir Oliver is a worthy man, a very worthy man; but avarice, Mr. Stanley, is the vice of age. I will tell you, my good sir, in confidence, what he has done for me has been a mere nothing; though people, I know, have thought otherwise, and for my part, I never chose to contradict the report.

SIR OLIV. What! has he never transmitted you bullion — rupees — pagodas?

JOS. SURF. Oh, dear sir, nothing of the kind! No, no; a few presents now and then — china, shawls, congo tea, amadavats, and Indian crackers — little more, believe me.

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奧勳爵。我的先生——這是不必的——(側語。)

太客氣了。

約瑟。我慚愧不認識你，施旦立先生；可是看見你的丰采很好，我是極其快樂。你和我的母親是至戚吧，我想，施旦立先生？

奧勳爵。我是先生；和她確是至戚，所以我恐怕我的現在的窮困，也許玷辱她的富足的孩子們，否則我不會敢來驚擾你。

約瑟。我的先生，這是無庸客氣的；——凡是受困難的人，雖則是個陌生客，他也可以和富翁們認親的。我確乎巴不得我是一個富翁，能夠給你甚至於極小的幫助。

奧勳爵。假使你的叔父奧力佛勳爵是在這裏，我定然有一個朋友。

約瑟。我巴不得他在這裏，先生，實心實意的話：你將不會缺少一個替你向他說話的人，請相信我，先生。

奧勳爵。我不必要——我的困苦便足以引薦我了。可是我想他的餽贈可以使你能夠做他的慈善的代理人了。

約瑟。我親愛的先生，我很奇怪你竟誤聽了。奧力佛勳爵是一個有價值的人，一個很有價值的人；可是，施旦立先生，貪吝却是現代的通病啊。

我願祕密的告訴你，我的好先生，他所幫助我的是極微極微；雖則我知道別人家以為不是這樣，而我又絕不肯否認這種傳言。

奧勳爵。什麼！他向來沒有寄給你金銀塊兒——羅布——塔幣麼？

約瑟。唉，我的先生，沒有這回事！不，不；有時或寄我一些禮物罷了——磁器，肩巾，紅茶，小歌雀，和印度爆竹——沒有別的，請相信我。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Here's gratitude for twelve thousand pounds! — Amadavats and Indian crackers!

JOS. SURF. Then, my dear sir, you have heard, I doubt not, of the extravagance of my brother: there are very few would credit what I have done for that unfortunate young man.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Not I, for one!

JOS. SURF. The sums I have lent him! Indeed I have been exceedingly to blame; it was an amiable weakness; however, I don't pretend to defend it — and now I feel it doubly culpable, since it has deprived me of the pleasure of serving you, Mr. Stanley, as my heart dictates.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Dissembler! — [*Aloud.*] Then, sir, you can't assist me?

JOS. SURF. At present, it grieves me to say, I cannot; but, whenever I have the ability, you may depend upon hearing from me.

SIR OLIV. I am extremely sorry —

JOS. SURF. Not more than I, believe me; to pity, without the power to relieve, is still more painful than to ask and be denied.

SIR OLIV. Kind sir, your most obedient humble servant.

JOS. SURF. You leave me deeply affected, Mr. Stanley.— [*Calls to SERVANT.*] William, be ready to open the door.

SIR OLIV. Oh, dear sir, no ceremony.

JOS. SURF. Your very obedient.

SIR OLIV. Your most obsequious.

JOS. SURF. You may depend upon hearing from me, whenever I can be of service.

SIR OLIV. Sweet sir, you are too good!

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奧勳爵(側語)。這便是對於我一萬二千鎊的感謝!——小歌雀和印度爆竹!

約瑟。那末,我親愛的先生,我相信你已經知道我弟弟的奢侈了:我替這不幸的少年所幫的忙,人家大概不相信的。

奧勳爵(側語)。我也不相信!

約瑟。我所借給他的錢!誠然是我自己不好;這原是一種可恕的弱點;然而我却不肯給牠辯護——而且現在我覺得牠格外該受責備,因為牠使我不能夠幫助你,施旦立先生,像我心裏所要的。

奧勳爵(側語)。偽君子!——(朗語。)那末,先生,你不能夠幫助我麼?

約瑟。現在,說出來很難過,我不能夠;可是,一旦我能夠,你定然得着我的信息。

奧勳爵。我是非常的失望——

約瑟。我也同你一樣,請相信我;愛莫能助,比諸請求不得是尤其痛心哩。

奧勳爵。好先生,你的最恭順的僕人。

約瑟。你去了叫我極其難過,施旦立先生——(喚僕人。)威廉,預備開門啊。

奧勳爵。啊,好先生,別客套了。

約瑟。你的很恭順的。

奧勳爵。你的最卑賤的。

約瑟。你定然得着我的信息,一旦我有以報命。

奧勳爵。好先生,你是太好了!

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

JOS. SURF. In the meantime I wish you health and spirits.

SIR OLIV. Your ever grateful and perpetual humble servant.

JOS. SURF. Sir, yours as sincerely.

SIR OLIV. [*Aside.*] Now I am satisfied. [*Exit.*]

JOS. SURF. This is one bad effect of a good character ; it invites application from the unfortunate, and there needs no small degree of address to gain the reputation of benevolence without incurring the expense. The silver ore of pure charity is an expensive article in the catalogue of a man's good qualities ; whereas the sentimental French plate I use instead of it makes just as good a show, and pays no tax.

Reënter ROWLEY

Row. Mr. Surface, your servant : I was apprehensive of interrupting you, though my business demands immediate attention, as this note will inform you.

JOS. SURF. Always happy to see Mr. Rowley, — [*Aside.*] a rascal. — [*Reads the letter.*] Sir Oliver Surface! — My uncle arrived !

Row. He is, indeed : we have just parted — quite well, after a speedy voyage, and impatient to embrace his worthy nephew.

JOS. SURF. I am astonished ! — [*Calls to SERVANT.*] William ! stop Mr. Stanley, if he's not gone.

Row. Oh ! he's out of reach, I believe.

JOS. SURF. Why did you not let me know this when you came in together ?

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約瑟。現在我敬願你的健康和快樂。

奧勳爵。你的終身感激的永久的僕人。

約瑟。先生，和你一樣誠懇的僕人。

奧勳爵(側語)，現在我滿意了。(下。)

約瑟。這乃是善人的一種惡結果；牠惹得不幸的人們的請求，必須有無量的花言巧語，纔可以不費本錢而享着慈善的名譽。在一個人的好性質的總目錄裏，那純粹慈善的銀皿算是最昂貴的一件貨物；可是我所用來代替牠的那個假情的法國盤子，也是一樣的美觀，而又不付捐稅。

牢萊又上。

牢萊。守發斯先生，你的僕人：我生怕來驚擾你，但是我的事務是不能延擱的，這短信將要通知你。

約瑟。常常喜歡看見牢萊先生——(側語。)一個無賴漢。——(讀那封信。) 奧力佛守發斯勳爵！——我的叔父回來了！

牢萊。他真的回來了：我們剛纔分手的——經了一個快速的行程之後，他的身子很好，只是急急的要抱一抱他的賢姪兒。

約瑟。驚嚇了我！——(喚僕人。) 威廉！留住施旦立先生，倘使他還不會去。

牢萊。啊！他已走得很遠了，我相信。

約瑟。當你們一起進來的時候，你爲什麼不把這件事告訴我？

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

Row. I thought you had particular business. But I must be gone to inform your brother, and appoint him here to meet your uncle. He will be with you in a quarter of an hour.

JOS. SURF. So he says. Well, I am strangely overjoyed at his coming. — [*Aside.*] Never, to be sure, was anything so damned unlucky!

Row. You will be delighted to see how well he looks.

JOS. SURF. Ch! I'm overjoyed to hear it. — [*Aside.*] Just at this time!

Row. I'll tell him how impatiently you expect him.

JOS. SURF. Do, do; pray give my best duty and affection. Indeed, I cannot express the sensations I feel at the thought of seeing him. — [*Exit ROWLEY.*] Certainly his coming just at this time is the cruelest piece of ill fortune.

[*Exit.*]

SCENE II

A Room in SIR PETER TEAZLE'S House

Enter MRS. CANDOUR and MAID

MAID. Indeed, ma'am, my lady will see nobody at present.

MRS. CAN. Did you tell her it was her friend Mrs. Candour?

MAID. Yes, ma'am; but she begs you will excuse her.

MRS. CAN. Do go again; I shall be glad to see her, if it be only for a moment, for I am sure she must be in great distress. — [*Exit MAID.*] Dear heart, how provoking! I'm not mistress of half the circumstances! We shall have the whole affair in the newspapers, with the names of the parties at length, before I have dropped the story a dozen houses.

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牢萊。我以爲你有特別的事務。可是我該去通知你的兄弟，約他到這裏來會晤你們的叔父。一刻鐘後他便和你在一起了。

約瑟。他這樣說是，我非常喜歡他的回來。——
(側語。) 誠然，向來沒有這樣的壞運氣!

牢萊。看見他的丰采怎樣的好，你要很快活的。

約瑟。啊!聽着這句話我是歡喜的了不得。——
(側語。) 偏偏在這個時候!

牢萊。我要去告訴他你怎樣急急的要見他。

約瑟。去，去;請你給我請安和致意。誠然，我不能夠說出我想到將要看見他的時候所引起的情感。——(牢萊下。) 他偏偏在這個時候回來，真是不幸中之大不幸。(下)

第二幕

彼得提茲爾勳爵家裏的一個房間。

坎多爾夫人和婢女上。

婢。真的，夫人，我的太太現在什麼客都不見。

坎夫人。你會告訴她是她的朋友坎多爾夫人麼?

婢。是，夫人;可是她請你寬恕她。

坎夫人。務請再去一趟;我很喜歡看一看她，即使只不過片刻的工夫，因為我相信她定然受着大困難哩。——(婢女下。) 我的心兒，怎樣的叫人煩惱!我對於這事還不會知道一半呢!在我還不會把這件醜史通報了十幾家的時候，我們將要在各種報紙上讀着完全的消息，兩方面的名字都要詳細的寫出啊。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

Enter SIR BENJAMIN BACKBITE

Oh, dear Sir Benjamin! you have heard, I suppose —

SIR BEN. Of Lady Teazle and Mr. Surface —

MRS. CAN. And Sir Peter's discovery —

SIR BEN. Oh, the strangest piece of business, to be sure!

MRS. CAN. Well, I never was so surprised in my life. I am so sorry for all parties, indeed.

SIR BEN. Now, I don't pity Sir Peter at all: he was so extravagantly partial to Mr. Surface.

MRS. CAN. Mr. Surface! Why, 'twas with Charles Lady Teazle was detected.

SIR BEN. No, no, I tell you: Mr. Surface is the gallant.

MRS. CAN. No such thing! Charles is the man. 'Twas Mr. Surface brought Sir Peter on purpose to discover them.

SIR BEN. I tell you I had it from one —

MRS. CAN. And I have it from one —

SIR BEN. Who had it from one, who had it —

MRS. CAN. From one immediately. But here comes Lady Sneerwell; perhaps she knows the whole affair.

Enter LADY SNEERWELL

LADY SNEER. So, my dear Mrs. Candour, here's a sad affair of our friend Lady Teazle!

MRS. CAN. Ay, my dear friend, who would have thought —

LADY SNEER. Well, there is no trusting appearances; though, indeed, she was always too lively for me.

MRS. CAN. To be sure, her manners were a little too free; but then she was so young!

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本甲明拔克巴脫勳爵上。

啊，親愛的本甲明勳爵！你已經聽得，我想——

本勳爵。提茲爾太太和守發斯先生的消息。

坎夫人。還有那彼得勳爵的發見——

本勳爵。啊，真是最奇怪的事情！

坎夫人。是，我從來不會像這般的詫異。我替

兩方面都覺得難過，真的。

本勳爵。現在，我絕不可憐彼得勳爵：他對於守發斯先生偏私得太過了。

坎夫人。守發斯先生！喂，提茲爾太太被人看破，是和查理士在一起的。

本勳爵。不，不，我告訴你：守發斯先生是那情人啊。

坎夫人。沒有這回事！查理士是那情人。叫彼得勳爵特來偵探他們的却是守發斯先生。

本勳爵。我告訴你，我得着這消息是從一個人——

坎夫人。我得着這消息也是從一個人——

本勳爵。那個人得着這消息是從另一個人，這另一个人得着這消息——

坎夫人。是從一個直接有關係的人。可是這裏司尼雅威爾太太來了；也許她知道攏總的事情。

司尼雅威爾太太上。

司太太。我親愛的坎多爾夫人，這是我們的朋友提茲爾太太的一件傷心的事情。

坎夫人。是，我親愛的朋友，誰料得——

司太太。喂，面子上是靠不住的；雖則我總是嫌她太活潑了。

坎夫人。真的，她的態度有一些太自由了；然而她是這樣的年輕啊！

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

LADY SNEER. And had, indeed, some good qualities.

MRS. CAN. So she had, indeed. But have you heard the particulars?

LADY SNEER. No; but everybody says that Mr. Surface —

SIR BEN. Ay, there; I told you Mr. Surface was the man.

MRS. CAN. No, no: indeed the assignation was with Charles.

LADY SNEER. With Charles! You alarm me, Mrs. Candour!

MRS. CAN. Yes, yes; he was the lover. Mr. Surface, to do him justice, was only the informer.

SIR BEN. Well, I'll not dispute with you, Mrs. Candour; but, be it which it may, I hope that Sir Peter's wound will not —

MRS. CAN. Sir Peter's wound! Oh, mercy! I didn't hear a word of their fighting.

LADY SNEER. Nor I, a syllable.

SIR BEN. No! what, no mention of the duel?

MRS. CAN. Not a word.

SIR BEN. Oh, yes; they fought before they left the room.

LADY SNEER. Pray, let us hear.

MRS. CAN. Ay, do oblige us with the duel.

SIR BEN. *Sir*, says Sir Peter, immediately after the discovery, *you are a most ungrateful fellow.*

MRS. CAN. Ay, to Charles —

SIR BEN. No, no — to Mr. Surface — *a most ungrateful fellow; and old as I am, sir, says he, I insist on immediate satisfaction.*

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司太太。而且她誠然有幾種好性質。

坎夫人。她誠然有。可是你會聽得詳情麼？

司太太。不會；可是個個人都說守發斯先生——

本勳爵。是，得了；我告訴你守發斯先生是那情人。

坎夫人。不，不實在她是和查理士約會的。

司太太。和查理士！你嚇我一跳，坎多爾夫人！

坎夫人。是，是；他是那情人。守發斯先生，平心而論，只不過是那告發者罷了。

本勳爵。好，我不願和你爭辯了，坎多爾夫人；可是，不管那情人是誰，我想彼得勳爵的傷不會——

坎夫人。彼得勳爵的傷！哎呀！我沒有聽着他們的打鬧呢。

司太太。我也沒有聽着半句。

本勳爵。沒有！什麼，沒有提起決鬪麼？

坎夫人。不會提起一字。

本勳爵。啊，是：他們在不曾離開房間以前已經打過了。

司太太。請告訴我們。

坎夫人。是，謝你，請把決鬪的情形告訴我們。

本勳爵。“先生，”彼得勳爵一經發見了以後便說，“你是一個頂頂忘恩負義的人。”

坎夫人。是，對查理士說——

本勳爵。不，不——對守發斯先生說——“一個頂頂忘恩負義的人；雖則我年紀老了，先生，”他說，“我定要立刻兒洩我心頭之恨哩。”

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

MRS. CAN. Ay, that must have been to Charles ; for 'tis very unlikely Mr. Surface should fight in his own home.

SIR BEN. Gad's life, ma'am, not at all — *giving me immediate satisfaction.* — On this, ma'am, Lady Teazle, seeing Sir Peter in such danger, ran out of the room in strong hysterics, and Charles after her, calling out for hartshorn and water ; then, madam ; they began to fight with swords —

Enter CRABTREE

CRAB. With pistols, nephew, pistols ! I have it from undoubted authority.

MRS. CAN. Oh, Mr. Crabtree, then it is all true !

CRAB. Too true, indeed, madam, and Sir Peter is dangerously wounded —

SIR BEN. By a thrust in seagoon quite through his left side —

CRAB. By a bullet lodged in the thorax.

MRS. CAN. Mercy on me ! Poor Sir Peter !

CRAB. Yes, madam ; though Charles would have avoided the matter, if he could.

MRS. CAN. I told you who it was ; I knew Charles was the person.

SIR BEN. My uncle, I see, knows nothing of the matter.

CRAB. But Sir Peter taxed him with the basest ingratitude —

SIR BEN. That I told you, you know —

CRAB. Do, nephew, let me speak ! — and insisted on immediate —

SIR BEN. Just as I said —

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坎夫人。啊，這種話必定是對查理士說的；因為守發斯先生萬不至於在他自己的家裏角鬪。

本勳爵。天啊，夫人，決不是——“讓我立刻兒洩一洩心頭之恨。”——在這個當兒，夫人，提茲爾太太看見彼得勳爵這般的危險，她便神經大亂似的跑出了室外，查理士追跟着她，喊人快拿鹿角精和水兒來；於是，夫人，他們開始動刀相打了——
克刺布屈里上。

克刺布。用手鎗，姪兒，用手鎗！我從確實的地方得着這個消息的。

坎夫人。啊，克刺布屈里先生，那末這話是絲毫不錯了！

克刺布。真的絲毫不錯，夫人，彼得勳爵的傷勢很是危險——

本勳爵。被那拳擊式的一戳穿透了他的左腰

克刺布。被一顆子彈鑽進了他的胸膛。

坎夫人。哎呀，天呀！可憐的彼得勳爵！

克刺布。是，夫人；可是查理士很想免掉這樁慘事，假使他能夠。

坎夫人。我會告訴你那情人是誰；我知道查理士便是那人！

本勳爵。據我看來，我的叔父是不知道這件事情的。

克刺布。可是彼得勳爵却極責其忘恩負義——

本勳爵。這話我曾告訴過你，你知道——

克刺布。姪兒，請讓我講！——而且板要立刻兒——

本勳爵。正像我曾說——

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

CRAB. Odds life, nephew, allow others to know something too! A pair of pistols lay on the bureau (for Mr. Surface, it seems, had come home the night before late from Salthill, where he had been to see the Montem with a friend, who has a son at Eton), so, unluckily, the pistols were left charged.

SIR BEN. I heard nothing of this.

CRAB. Sir Peter forced Charles to take one, and they fired, it seems, pretty nearly together. Charles's shot took effect, as I tell you, and Sir Peter's missed; but, what is very extraordinary, the ball struck against a little bronze Shakespeare that stood over the fireplace, grazed out of the window at a right angle, and wounded the postman, who was just coming to the door with a double letter from Northamptonshire.

SIR BEN. My uncle's account is more circumstantial, I confess; but I believe mine is the true one, for all that.

LADY SNEER. [*Aside.*] I am more interested in this affair than they imagine, and must have better information.

[*Exit.*]

SIR BEN. Ah! Lady Sneerwell's alarm is very easily accounted for.

CRAB. Yes, yes, they certainly do say — but that's neither here nor there.

MRS. CAN. But, pray, where is Sir Peter at present?

CRAB. Oh! they brought him home, and he is now in the house, though the servants are ordered to deny him.

MRS. CAN. I believe so, and Lady Teazle, I suppose, attending him.

CRAB. Yes, yes; and I saw one of the faculty enter just before me.

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克刺布。天啊，姪兒，請讓別人也知道一些情節！
兩枝手鎗擺在那衣櫥上面（因為守發斯先生好像
在前一天的晚上從薩爾攝爾回家得很遲，在那裏
他曾和一個朋友看那復活節後山上募捐的大會，
因為這個朋友有一個兒子在伊吞），所以那兩枝手
鎗便不幸是裝着了子彈。
本勳爵。我沒有聽着這句話。

克刺布。彼得勳爵強逼查理士拿着一枝手鎗，
於是他們開了火，好像是很相接近的。查理士的
彈兒打中了，像我剛纔告訴你，可是彼得勳爵的彈
兒不會打中；而尤其奇怪的，那子彈撞着那站在火
爐上面的一個莎士比亞的小銅像，從直角裏穿出了
窗外，打傷了那剛到門口帶着從諾爾桑波敦
寄來一封加倍重的信的郵差。

本勳爵。我的叔父的敘述是較為詳細，我承認；
可是我相信我的敘述却是真確。
司太太（側語）。我對這件事極其注意，是他們所
想不到的，所以我定要探得較確的消息。（下。）

本勳爵。唉！司尼雅威爾太太的驚詫的理由
是很容易知道的。

克刺布。是，是，他們誠然說及——可是這件事
却是不對題的。

坎夫人。可是，請問，彼得勳爵現在那裏呢？

克刺布。啊！他們把他抬到家裏，他現在住在家
裏，但是他却吩咐僕人們說他不在家裏。

坎夫人。我相信這句話，並且提茲爾太太，我猜
想，是正在服侍着他哩。

克刺布。是，是；我看見一個醫生剛在我以前進
來的。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR BEN. Hey! who comes here?

CRAB. Oh, this is he: the physician, depend on 't.

MRS. CAN. Oh, certainly! it must be the physician; and now we shall know.

Enter SIR OLIVER SURFACE

CRAB. Well, doctor, what hopes?

MRS. CAN. Ay, doctor, how's your patient?

SIR BEN. Now, doctor, isn't it a wound with a smallsword?

CRAB. A bullet lodged in the thorax, for a hundred!

SIR OLIV. Doctor! a wound with a smallsword! and a bullet in the thorax! — Oons! are you mad, good people?

SIR BEN. Perhaps, sir, you are not a doctor?

SIR OLIV. Truly, I am to thank you for my degree, if I am.

CRAB. Only a friend of Sir Peter's, then, I presume. But, sir, you must have heard of his accident?

SIR OLIV. Not a word!

CRAB. Not of his being dangerously wounded?

SIR OLIV. The devil he is!

SIR BEN. Run through the body —

CRAB. Shot in the breast —

SIR BEN. By one Mr. Surface —

CRAB. Ay, the younger.

SIR OLIV. Hey! what the plague! You seem to differ strangely in your accounts: however, you agree that Sir Peter is dangerously wounded.

SIR BEN. Oh, yes, we agree in that.

CRAB. Yes, yes, I believe there can be no doubt of that.

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本勳爵. 喂! 誰到這裏來?

克刺布. 啊,這便是他:那位醫士,確然是.

坎夫人. 啊,誠然這一定是那位醫士;現在我們
就可以知道了.

奧力佛守發斯勳爵上.

克刺布. 喂,醫士,有什麼希望?

坎夫人. 是,醫士,你的病人是怎樣?

本勳爵. 醫士,那不是一個小刀的創傷麼?

克刺布. 一顆鑽進胸膛的子彈,的確是!

奧勳爵. 醫士!一個小刀的創傷!和一顆胸膛裏
的子彈!——天啊!難道你們瘋了,好朋友?

本勳爵. 或者,先生,你不是個醫士吧?

奧勳爵. 真的,假使我是個醫士,我要為我的榮

位感謝你.

克刺布. 只不過彼得勳爵的一個朋友,那末,我

猜想. 可是,先生,你該已經聽得他的事變了?

奧勳爵. 一個字也沒有聽得!

克刺布. 沒有聽得他的危險的傷勢麼?

奧勳爵. 胡說!

本勳爵. 戳穿了身子——

克刺布. 鎗打了胸膛——

本勳爵. 被一位守發斯先生戮傷——

克刺布. 是,那一位年紀小的.

奧勳爵. 喂!什麼呀! 你們的話兒真是參差得
奇怪. 然而,你們却一致的以為彼得勳爵的傷勢很
奇是危險.

本勳爵. 啊,是,我們對於這一點却是一致.

克刺布. 是,是,我相信這一點是絲毫無疑的.

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SIR OLIV. Then, upon my word, for a person in that situation, he is the most imprudent man alive ; for here he comes, walking as if nothing at all was the matter.

Enter SIR PETER TEAZLE

Odds heart, Sir Peter ! you are come in good time, I promise you ; for we had just given you over !

SIR BEN. [*Aside to CRABTREE.*] Egad, uncle, this is the most sudden recovery !

SIR OLIV. Why, man ! what do you out of bed with a smallsword through your body, and a bullet lodged in your thorax ?

SIR PET. A smallsword and a bullet !

SIR OLIV. Ay ; these gentlemen would have killed you without law or physic, and wanted to dub me a doctor, to make me an accomplice.

SIR PET. Why, what is all this ?

SIR BEN. We rejoice, Sir Peter, that the story of the duel is not true, and are sincerely sorry for your other misfortune.

SIR PET. [*Aside.*] So, so ; all over the town already !

CRAB. Though, Sir Peter, you were certainly vastly to blame to marry at your years.

SIR PET. Sir, what business is that of yours ?

MRS. CAN. Though, indeed, as Sir Peter made so good a husband, he's very much to be pitied.

SIR PET. Plague on your pity, ma'am ! I desire none of it.

SIR BEN. However, Sir Peter, you must not mind the laughing and jests you will meet with on the occasion.

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奧勳爵。那末，確然，既然處着這樣的地位，他真算是世界上頂頂孟浪的人了；因為他現在到這裏來了，好像沒有什麼要緊似的走着。

彼得提茲爾勳爵上。

天啊，彼得勳爵！你來得正好，我確實的告訴你；因為我們剛纔已經以為你死了！

本勳爵（向克利布屈里側語）。天啊，叔父，這是頂頂快速的復原！

奧勳爵。什麼，朋友！一個小刀戳穿了你的身子，一顆子彈鑽進了你的胸膛，你為什麼偏從牀上爬起來呢？

彼得勳爵。一個小刀和一顆子彈！

奧勳爵。是，這幾位先生差不多要把你殺掉，不用法律也不用藥品，又把我喚做醫士，派我做一個同犯。

彼得勳爵。喂，這攏總說的是什麼？

本勳爵。彼得勳爵，我們很喜歡那決鬪的消息是不確，而為着你另外的一種不幸也很難受。
彼得勳爵（側語）。這樣，這樣，全城都知道了！

克利布。然而，彼得勳爵，你這樣的年紀還要娶妻，其過當然大大的在你。

彼得勳爵。先生，這關你什麼事？

坎夫人。然而，真的，彼得勳爵既做了一個很好的丈夫，他是很值得憐憫的。

彼得勳爵。天罰你的憐憫，夫人！我不要你的憐憫。

本勳爵。然而，彼得勳爵，你不該介意這件事所惹起的嘲笑。

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SIR PET. Sir, sir ! I desire to be master in my own house.

CRAB. 'Tis no uncommon case, that's one comfort.

SIR PET. I insist on being left to myself : without ceremony, I insist on your leaving my house directly !

MRS. CAN. Well, well, we are going ; and depend on't, we'll make the best report of it we can. *[Exit.]*

SIR PET. Leave my house !

CRAB. And tell how hardly you've been treated. *[Exit.]*

SIR PET. Leave my house !

SIR BEN. And how patiently you bear it. *[Exit.]*

SIR PET. Fiends ! vipers ! furies ! Oh ! that their own venom would choke them !

SIR OLIV. They are very provoking indeed, Sir Peter.

Enter ROWLEY

ROW. I heard high words : what has ruffled you, sir ?

SIR PET. Psha ! what signifies asking ? Do I ever pass a day without my vexations ?

ROW. Well, I'm not inquisitive.

SIR OLIV. Well, Sir Peter, I have seen both my nephews in the manner we proposed.

SIR PET. A precious couple they are !

ROW. Yes, and Sir Oliver is convinced that your judgment was right, Sir Peter.

SIR OLIV. Yes, I find Joseph is indeed the man, after all.

ROW. Ay, as Sir Peter says, he is a man of sentiment.

SIR OLIV. And acts up to the sentiments he professes.

ROW. It certainly is edification to hear him talk.

SIR OLIV. Oh, he's a model for the young men of the age !—but how's this, Sir Peter ? you don't join us in your friend Joseph's praise, as I expected.

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彼得勳爵。先生，先生！我不許別人干涉我的家事。

克刺布。這不是一件不普通的事情，這是一種可以自慰的話。

彼得勳爵。我要自己一人在這裏；不客氣，我要請你們立刻離開我的家裏！

坎夫人。好好，我們便去了；確然，我們要把這件事作一種最好的報告。（下）

彼得勳爵。離開我的家裏！

克刺布。而且報告你怎樣被人虐待。（下）

彼得勳爵。離開我的家裏！

本勳爵。而且你怎樣的忍耐牠。（下）

彼得勳爵。魔鬼！毒蛇！兇神！啊！願他們自己的毒汁悶殺了他們！

奧勳爵。他們真的很叫人生氣，彼得勳爵。

牢萊上。

牢萊。我聽得爭吵的話：什麼事惱怒了你，先生？

彼得勳爵。呸！問牠幹麼？我有一天不煩惱麼？

牢萊。是，我不再追問了。

奧勳爵。喂，彼得勳爵，我已經照我們所計劃的樣子看見過我的兩個姪兒了。

彼得勳爵。他們是很寶貴的弟兄倆！

牢萊。是，奧力佛勳爵相信你的判斷是不錯的，

彼得勳爵。〔底說來。

奧勳爵。是，我看約瑟夫誠然是個中式的人，到

牢萊。是，像彼得勳爵所說，他是個有情緒的人。

奧勳爵。並且他按照他所自認的情緒做去。

牢萊。聽他講話誠然是一種教訓。

奧勳爵。啊，他是現代青年的模範！——可是這爲什麼，彼得勳爵？你並不附和我們對於你的朋友約瑟夫的誇獎，像我所希望的。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR PET. Sir Oliver, we live in a damned wicked world, and the fewer we praise the better.

ROW. What! do you say so, Sir Peter, who were never mistaken in your life?

SIR PET. Psha! plague on you both! I see by your sneering you have heard the whole affair. I shall go mad among you!

ROW. Then, to fret you no longer, Sir Peter, we are indeed acquainted with it all. I met Lady Teazle coming from Mr. Surface's so humbled, that she deigned to request me to be her advocate with you.

SIR PET. And does Sir Oliver know all this?

SIR OLIV. Every circumstance.

SIR PET. What, of the closet and the screen, hey?

SIR OLIV. Yes, yes, and the little French milliner. Oh, I have been vastly diverted with the story! ha! ha! ha!

SIR PET. 'Twas very pleasant.

SIR OLIV. I never laughed more in my life, I assure you: ah! ah! ah!

SIR PET. Oh, vastly diverting! ha! ha! ha!

ROW. To be sure, Joseph with his sentiments! ha! ha! ha!

SIR PET. Yes, yes, his sentiments! ha! ha! ha! Hypocritical villain!

SIR OLIV. Ay, and that rogue Charles to pull Sir Peter out of the closet: ha! ha! ha!

SIR PET. Ha! ha! 'twas devilish entertaining, to be sure!

SIR OLIV. Ha! ha! ha! Egad, Sir Peter, I should like to have seen your face when the screen was thrown down: ha! ha!

造 謠 學 校

彼得勳爵，奧力佛勳爵，我們生在一個該死的惡世界裏，所以誇獎別人越少越妙。
牢萊，什麼！你居然這樣的說，彼得勳爵，向來不會弄錯了的你？

彼得勳爵，呸！天罰你們倆！我從你們的譏笑裏看出你們已聽得攏總的消息了。我在你們中間要發瘋了。
牢萊，那末，不再煩惱你，彼得勳爵，我們真的熟悉了一切。我遇着提茲爾太太從守發斯先生家裏出來，她很是低首下心，竟屈駕請求我在你面前給她說情。

彼得勳爵，奧力佛勳爵知道這些話麼？

奧勳爵，樣樣情節都知道。

彼得勳爵，什麼，知道密室和屏風麼？

奧勳爵，是，是，並且那法國的小女帽店主。啊，我對於這件事非常的開心！哈哈！哈哈！

彼得勳爵，這是很愜意的。

奧勳爵，我生平向來沒有笑得這樣的厲害，我告訴你：呵！呵！呵！

彼得勳爵，啊，非常的快活！哈哈！哈哈！

牢萊，當然，約瑟夫和他的情緒！哈哈！哈哈！

彼得勳爵，是，是，他的情緒！哈哈！哈哈！假道學的惡漢！

奧勳爵，是，而且那個無賴漢查理士把彼得勳爵拖出那個密室：哈哈！哈哈！

彼得勳爵，哈哈！這是十分的有趣，確然！

奧勳爵，哈哈！哈哈！天啊，彼得勳爵，我很願當那屏風攪倒的時候看一看你的臉色：哈哈！

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR PET. Yes, yes, my face when the screen was thrown down : ha ! ha ! ha ! Oh, I must never show my head again !

SIR OLIV. But come, come, it isn't fair to laugh at you neither, my old friend ; though, upon my soul, I can't help it.

SIR PET. Oh, pray don't restrain your mirth on my account : it does not hurt me at all ! I laugh at the whole affair myself. Yes, yes, I think being a standing jest for all one's acquaintance a very happy situation. Oh, yes, and then of a morning to read the paragraphs about Mr. S——, Lady T——, and Sir P——, will be so entertaining !

Row. Without affectation, Sir Peter, you may despise the ridicule of fools. But I see Lady Teazle going towards the next room ; I am sure you must desire a reconciliation as earnestly as she does.

SIR OLIV. Perhaps my being here prevents her coming to you. Well, I'll leave honest Rowley to mediate between you ; but he must bring you all presently to Mr. Surface's, where I am now returning, if not to reclaim a libertine, at least to expose hypocrisy.

SIR PET. Ah, I'll be present at your discovering yourself there with all my heart ; though 'tis a vile unlucky place for discoveries.

Row. We'll follow. [Exit SIR OLIVER SURFACE.]

SIR PET. She is not coming here, you see, Rowley.

Row. No, but she has left the door of that room open, you perceive. See, she is in tears.

SIR PET. Certainly a little mortification appears very becoming in a wife. Don't you think it will do her good to let her pine a little ?

Row. Oh, this is ungenerous in you !

造 謠 學 校

彼得勳爵。是，是，當那屏風攆倒的時候我的臉色哈哈！哈哈！啊，我定然是不能再露面了！

奧勳爵。喂，喂，可是譏笑你也是不公平的，我的老朋友；然而，我確乎不能不這樣。

彼得勳爵。啊，請不要為我的原故抑制了你的歡樂；這種歡樂叫我毫不難過！我自己也嘲笑這總的事情。是，是，我以為一個人做他的朋友們的笑柄真是很有趣的。啊，是，並且有一天早晨在報紙上讀着守——先生，提——太太和彼——勳爵的

消息，將使人非常的有興啊！

牢萊。不說假話，彼得勳爵，你可以不理那些傻子們的嘲笑。可是我看見提茲爾太太走向鄰室去了；我相信你一定很急急的想要和好，正和她一樣。

奧勳爵。也許我在這裏使她不便到你跟前來。好，我要留這老實人牢萊做你們的和事老，可是他要不久將你們倆帶到守發斯先生那裏，現在我也回到那裏去，縱不對那浪子加以匡正，却要把那假道學的面具揭穿牠。

彼得勳爵。唉，你在那裏發見你自己，我是極願意到場的；雖則那裏是一個發見的不幸的地方。

牢萊。我們就要跟着你來。

(奧力佛守發斯勳爵下。)

彼得勳爵。她不到這裏來，你看，牢萊。

牢萊。不來，可是她已經讓那房間的門兒開着，你可看見。看，她在淌眼淚呢。

彼得勳爵。一個妻子帶着三分苦惱，誠然是很相宜的。你不以為叫她消瘦一點倒反於她好麼？

牢萊。啊，你這是不大量了！

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SIR PET. Well, I know not what to think. You remember the letter I found of hers evidently intended for Charles?

ROW. A mere forgery, Sir Peter! laid in your way on purpose. This is one of the points which I intend Snake shall give you conviction of.

SIR PET. I wish I were once satisfied of that. She looks this way. What a remarkably elegant turn of the head she has! Rowley, I'll go to her.

ROW. Certainly.

SIR PET. Though, when it is known that we are reconciled, people will laugh at me ten times more.

ROW. Let them laugh, and retort their malice only by showing them you are happy in spite of it.

SIR PET. I' faith, so I will! and, if I'm not mistaken, we may yet be the happiest couple in the country.

ROW. Nay, Sir Peter, he who once lays aside suspicion —

SIR PET. Hold, Master Rowley! if you have any regard for me, never let me hear you utter anything like a sentiment: I have had enough of them to serve me the rest of my life. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III

The Library in JOSEPH SURFACE'S House

Enter JOSEPH SURFACE and LADY SNEERWELL

LADY SNEER. Impossible! Will not Sir Peter immediately be reconciled to Charles, and of course no longer oppose his union with Maria? The thought is distraction to me.

JOS. SURF. Can passion furnish a remedy?

LADY SNEER. No, nor cunning either. Oh, I was a fool, an idiot, to league with such a blunderer!

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彼得勳爵。是，我不知道怎樣是好了。你記得我所尋着的她的一封信分明是要寄給查理士的吧？

牢萊。祇是一封假信，彼得勳爵！故意兒擺在你的路口裏罷了。這便是我要叫司耐克來使你相信的一點。

彼得勳爵。我巴不得能夠滿意於這點。她向這裏看呢。她的頭頸的姿勢何等的好！牢萊，我要到她跟前去。
牢萊。當然。

彼得勳爵。然而，別人家知道我們和好起來，便要十倍的嘲笑我了。

牢萊。且任他們笑着，你只表示你對於他們的惡意倒反快樂，便足以抵制牠了。

彼得勳爵。實在，我要這樣！假使我不會弄錯，我想我們還可以做全國裏一對最快樂的配偶哩。
牢萊。還有，彼得勳爵，凡是一旦丟掉疑心的人

彼得勳爵。別再說，牢萊！假使你稍爲看得起我，請萬勿對我說什麼格言：這些格言我已終身用之不盡了。（同下。）

第三幕 約瑟夫守發斯家裏的藏書室。

約瑟夫守發斯和司尼雅威爾太太上。

司太太。不可以！彼得勳爵難道不會立刻同查理士和好，再不反對他和馬利亞結婚麼？想到這裏我便發昏了。

約瑟。熱情能供給一種救濟的方法麼？

司太太。不，聰明也不能夠。啊，我是一個傻子，一個癡漢，居然和這樣荒謬的人聯了盟約？

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

JOS. SURF. Sure, Lady Sneerwell, I am the greatest sufferer ; yet you see I bear the accident with calmness.

LADY SNEER. Because the disappointment doesn't reach your heart ; your interest only attached you to Maria. Had you felt for her what I have for that ungrateful libertine, neither your temper nor hypocrisy could prevent your showing the sharpness of your vexation.

JOS. SURF. But why should your reproaches fall on me for this disappointment ?

LADY SNEER. Are you not the cause of it ? Had you not a sufficient field for your roguery in imposing upon Sir Peter, and supplanting your brother. but you must endeavor to seduce his wife ? I hate such an avarice of crimes ; 'tis an unfair monopoly, and never prospers.

JOS. SURF. Well, I admit I have been to blame. I confess I deviated from the direct road of wrong, but I don't think we're so totally defeated neither.

LADY SNEER. No !

JOS. SURF. You tell me you have made a trial of Snake since we met, and that you still believe him faithful to us ?

LADY SNEER. I do believe so.

JOS. SURF. And that he has undertaken, should it be necessary, to swear and prove, that Charles is at this time contracted by vows and honor to your ladyship, which some of his former letters to you will serve to support ?

LADY SNEER. This, indeed, might have assisted.

JOS. SURF. Come, come ; it is not too late yet.—[*Knocking at the door.*] But hark ! this is probably my uncle, Sir Oliver : retire to that room ; we'll consult farther when he is gone.

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約瑟。真的，司尼雅威爾太太，我是遭着最大的磨難的人；然而你瞧我却冷靜地耐着這意外之變啊；司太太，這乃是因為那種失望並不關你的心；你不過因利害關係而注意於馬利亞罷了。假使你像我的鍾情於那忘恩負義的浪子似的鍾情於她，你那末你的好的脾氣和假道學都不能夠叫你不出現出十分的煩惱的。約瑟，可是爲什麼你該把這種失望的罪過加在我身上呢？

司太太。你不是那種失望的原因麼？你欺騙了彼得勳爵，排擠了你的兄弟，難道你還以這等無賴爲不夠，必須要盡力地勾引他的妻子麼？我很絕不願憎會發達的。

約瑟。是我承認這是我的罪過。我承認我離了那錯誤的正路，可是我却不以爲我們便這樣完全失敗了。

司太太。不！

約瑟。你告訴我自從我們相會之後你已經試驗了司耐克一番，並且說你還相信他很忠心於我們吧？

司太太。我真相信。

約瑟。你說他願發誓，假使必要的話，證明查理士這時候因爲盟誓和榮譽的關係不能不忠心於你太太，並且有他從前所給你的信可以證明？

司太太。這誠然有些用處。

約瑟。來，來；現在還可以補救哩。（敲門聲。）但聽呀！這或者是我的叔父，奧力佛勳爵；退到那個房間裏去；等他走了我們再談吧。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL.

LADY SNEER. Well, but if he should find you out too?

JOS. SURF. Oh, I have no fear of that. Sir Peter will hold his tongue for his own credit's sake — and you may depend on it I shall soon discover Sir Oliver's weak side!

LADY SNEER. I have no diffidence of your abilities: only be constant to one roguery at a time.

JOS. SURF. I will, I will! — [*Exit LADY SNEERWELL.*] So! 'tis confounded hard, after such bad fortune, to be baited by one's confederate in evil. Well, at all events, my character is so much better than Charles's that I certainly — hey! — what — this is not Sir Oliver, but old Stanley again. Plague on't that he should return to tease me just now! I shall have Sir Oliver come and find him here — and —

Enter SIR OLIVER SURFACE

Gad's life, Mr. Stanley, why have you come back to plague me at this time? You must not stay now, upon my word.

SIR OLIV. Sir, I hear your uncle Oliver is expected here, and though he has been so penurious to you, I'll try what he'll do for me.

JOS. SURF. Sir, 'tis impossible for you to stay now, so I must beg — Come any other time, and I promise you, you shall be assisted.

SIR OLIV. No: Sir Oliver and I must be acquainted.

JOS. SURF. Zounds, sir! then I insist on your quitting the room directly.

SIR OLIV. Nay, sir —

JOS. SURF. Sir, I insist on't! — Here, William! show this gentleman out. Since you compel me, sir, not one moment — this is such insolence. [*Going to push him out.*]

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司太太。好，可是假如他也把你看穿了便又怎樣？

約瑟。啊，這個我倒不怕，彼得勳爵要爲着他自己的名譽守着祕密——你可以相信我不久便要發見了奧力佛勳爵的弱點。

司太太。你的能力我並不懷疑：只是你須得每一回堅持着一種詐僞。

約瑟。我要，我要！——（司尼雅威爾太太下。）這
樣埋怨，真是叫人難受。但是，不管怎樣，我的名譽總
比查理士的好得許多，所以我一定——嘍！——什麼
——這並不是奧力佛勳爵，還是老施旦立。天罰
的，他現在居然又回來煩惱我！我將要叫奧力佛
勳爵到這裏來遇着他——而且——

奧力佛守發斯勳爵上。

天啊，施旦立先生，爲什麼你在這時候又來煩惱我？
你現在定然不可以留在這裏。

奧勳爵。先生，我聽說你的叔父奧力佛勳爵要
到這裏來，雖則他對於你很是吝嗇，我却要試一試
他將怎樣的幫助我。

約瑟。先生，你現在不可以留在這裏，所以我要
央求——請你隨便什麼時候再來，我准許我一定
幫助你。

奧勳爵。不，奧力佛勳爵和我一定要認識認識。

約瑟。天啊，先生！那末我定要你立刻離開這裏。

奧勳爵。不，先生——

約瑟。先生，我定要這樣！——這裏威廉！送這
位先生出去。因爲你強迫我，先生，一刻不容停留
——這樣的無禮。（將要拖他出去。）

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

Enter CHARLES SURFACE

CHAS. SURF. Heyday! what's the matter now? What the devil, have you got hold of my little broker here? Zounds, brother, don't hurt little Premium. What's the matter, my little fellow?

JOS. SURF. So! he has been with you too, has he?

CHAS. SURF. To be sure, he has. Why, he's as honest a little — But sure, Joseph, you have not been borrowing money too, have you?

JOS. SURF. Borrowing! no! But, brother, you know we expect Sir Oliver here every —

CHAS. SURF. O Gad, that's true! Noll mustn't find the little broker here, to be sure.

JOS. SURF. Yet Mr. Stanley insists —

CHAS. SURF. Stanley! why, his name's Premium.

JOS. SURF. No, sir, Stanley.

CHAS. SURF. No, no, Premium.

JOS. SURF. Well, no matter which — but —

CHAS. SURF. Ay, ay, Stanley or Premium, 'tis the same thing, as you say; for I suppose he goes by half a hundred names, besides A. B. at the coffeeshouse. *[Knocking.]*

JOS. SURF. 'Sdeath! here's Sir Oliver at the door.—Now I beg, Mr. Stanley —

CHAS. SURF. Ay, ay, and I beg, Mr. Premium —

SIR OLIV. Gentlemen —

JOS. SURF. Sir, by Heaven you shall go!

CHAS. SURF. Ay, out with him, certainly!

SIR OLIV. This violence —

JOS. SURF. Sir, 'tis your own fault.

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查理士守發斯上。

查理。哈哈！這爲什麼？什麼，你在這裏抓住了我的小捐客麼？天啊，哥哥，別傷了我的普利美恩。這爲什麼，我的小朋友？

約瑟。這樣！他已經和你會過了，不是麼？

查理士。當然，他已經。啊，他是一個很誠實的小——可是，約瑟夫，你一定沒有借錢，你可會借麼？

約瑟。借錢！沒有！可是，兄弟，你知道我們時時刻刻盼望奧力佛勳爵到這裏來——

查理。天啊，那是不錯！諾爾不可以在這裏看見這小捐客的，誠然。

約瑟。然而施旦立先生定要——

查理。施旦立！他的名字乃叫做普利美恩。

約瑟。不，先生，施旦立。

查理。不，不，普利美恩。

約瑟。是，不管是那個——可是——

查理。是，是，施旦立或是普利美恩，總歸是一樣，像咖啡店裏纔說；因爲我想他有半百個名字，除了那在（敲門。）

約瑟。天啊！奧力佛勳爵來到這裏的門口。——現在我央求，施旦立先生——

查理。是，是，我央求，普利美恩先生——

奧勳爵。先生們——

約瑟。先生，我誓言你定須走開！

查理。是，趕他開去，定然！

奧勳爵。這樣的強暴——

約瑟。先生，這是你自己的不好。

SHERIDAN'S THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

CHAS. SURF. Out with him, to be sure.

[*Both forcing SIR OLIVER out.*]

Enter SIR PETER and LADY TEAZLE, MARIA, and ROWLEY

SIR PET. My old friend, Sir Oliver — hey! What in the name of wonder — here are dutiful nephews — assault their uncle at a first visit!

LADY TEAZ. Indeed, Sir Oliver, 'twas well we came in to rescue you.

ROW. Truly it was; for I perceive, Sir Oliver, the character of old Stanley was no protection to you.

SIR OLIV. Nor of Premium, either: the necessities of the former could not extort a shilling from that benevolent gentleman; and with the other I stood a chance of faring worse than my ancestors, and being knocked down without being bid for.

JOS. SURF. Charles!

CHAS. SURF. Joseph!

JOS. SURF. 'Tis now complete!

CHAS. SURF. Very.

SIR OLIV. Sir Peter, my friend, and Rowley too — look on that elder nephew of mine. You know what he has already received from my bounty; and you also know how gladly I would have regarded half my fortune as held in trust for him: judge then my disappointment in discovering him to be destitute of truth, charity, and gratitude!

SIR PET. Sir Oliver, I should be more surprised at this declaration, if I had not myself found him to be mean, treacherous, and hypocritical.

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查理。趕他開去，定然。

(兩人逼着奧力佛勳爵出去。)

彼得勳爵，提茲爾太太，馬利亞，牢萊上。

彼得勳爵。我的老朋友，奧力佛勳爵——嗨什麼，很奇怪——這裏是孝順的姪兒們——在初見面的時候便攻擊他們的叔父!

提太太。真的，奧力佛勳爵，我們來救你，來得正好。

牢萊。真的正好；因為我看出，奧力佛勳爵，那老施旦立的身分不能夠保護你。

奧勳爵。普利美恩也不能夠：施旦立的窮困，固不能叫那位慈善的先生拿出一個先令；而裝做普利美恩，我又受着比我祖先更壞的磨難，幾乎沒有給價便被打倒了。

約瑟。查理士!

查理。約瑟夫!

約瑟。現在是完了!

查理。正是。

奧勳爵。彼得勳爵，我的朋友，還有牢萊——看看我的大姪兒。你知道他所已經得着的我的施贈；你也知道我很情願把我一半的家私預備給他；那末看見他沒有真誠慈善和感謝，試想一想我何等等的失望!

彼得勳爵。奧力佛勳爵，我對於這種話要更加詫異，假使我不曾親自曉得他是卑污奸險和假道學。

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LADY TEAZ. And if the gentleman pleads not guilty to these, pray let him call me to his character.

SIR PET. Then, I believe, we need add no more : if he knows himself, he will consider it as the most perfect punishment, that he is known to the world.

CHAS. SURF. [*Aside.*] If they talk this way to Honesty, what will they say to me, by and by ?

[SIR PETER, LADY TEAZLE, and MARIA retire.]

SIR OLIV. As for that prodigal, his brother, there—

CHAS. SURF. [*Aside.*] Ay, now comes my turn : the damned family pictures will ruin me !

JOS. SURF. Sir Oliver — uncle, will you honor me with a hearing ?

CHAS. SURF. [*Aside.*] Now, if Joseph would make one of his long speeches, I might recollect myself a little.

SIR OLIV. [*To* JOSEPH SURFACE.] I suppose you would undertake to justify yourself ?

JOS. SURF. I trust I could.

SIR OLIV. [*To* CHARLES SURFACE.] Well, sir ! — and you could justify yourself too, I suppose ?

CHAS. SURF. Not that I know of, Sir Oliver.

SIR OLIV. What ! — Little Premium has been let too much into the secret, I suppose ?

CHAS. SURF. True, sir ; but they were family secrets, and should not be mentioned again, you know.

ROW. Come, Sir Oliver, I know you cannot speak of Charles's follies with anger.

SIR OLIV. Odd's heart, no more I can ; nor with gravity, either. Sir Peter, do you know the rogue bargained with me for all his ancestors ; sold me judges and generals by the foot, and maiden aunts as cheap as broken china.

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提太太。假使這位先生辯護自己說沒有這些罪惡，請讓他叫我來證明他的品格。
彼得勳爵。那末，我相信，我們無庸多說了：假使他知道他自己，那末世界上都曉得他的爲人，便是他頂頂完全的刑罰了。
查理(側語)。假使他們對誠實人是這樣的說，他們對我又將怎樣說呢？

(彼得勳爵，提茲爾太太，和馬利亞退往台後。)

奧勳爵。至於那個浪子，他的兄弟，——

查理(側語)。是，現在輪到我了：那些勞什子的家人畫像要坑害了我！

約瑟。奧力佛勳爵——叔父，請賜我以尊聽。

查理(側語)。現在，假使約瑟夫作了他的長篇的演說，我還可以稍微預備得好些。

奧勳爵(向約瑟)。我想你要證明你自己是不錯吧？

約瑟。我相信我能夠。

奧勳爵(向查理)。喂，先生！——你也能够證明你自己是不錯吧，我想？

查理。我不知道，奧力佛勳爵。

奧勳爵。什麼！——不該讓我的普利美恩知道這樣多的祕密吧，我想？

查理。真的，先生；可是牠們乃是家庭的祕密，不該從新提及的，你該知道。

牢萊。喂，奧力佛勳爵，我知道你不能夠氣憤憤的說及查理士的愚笨的行爲。

奧勳爵。天啊，我再不能夠了；並且我也不能夠嚴重的說。彼得勳爵，你可知道這個浪子拿他的攏總的祖先和我交易；把裁判官和將軍們量着尺數賣給我，把守貞的姑母們當作破碎磁器似的賤賣掉。

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CHAS. SURF. To be sure, Sir Oliver, I did make a little free with the family canvas, that's the truth on't. My ancestors may rise in judgment against me, there's no denying it; but believe me sincere when I tell you — and upon my soul I would not say so if I was not — that if I do not appear mortified at the exposure of my follies, it is because I feel at this moment the warmest satisfaction in seeing you, my liberal benefactor.

SIR OLIV. Charles, I believe you. Give me your hand again: the ill-looking little fellow over the settee has made your peace.

CHAS. SURF. Then, sir, my gratitude to the original is still increased.

LADY TEAZ. [*Advancing.*] Yet, I believe, Sir Oliver, here is one whom Charles is still more anxious to be reconciled to.

[*Pointing to MARIA.*]

SIR OLIV. Oh, I have heard of his attachment there; and, with the young lady's pardon, if I construe right — that blush —

SIR PET. Well, child, speak your sentiments!

MAR. Sir, I have little to say, but that I shall rejoice to hear that he is happy; for me, whatever claim I had to his attention, I willingly resign to one who has a better title.

CHAS. SURF. How, Maria!

SIR PET. Heyday! what's the mystery now? While he appeared an incorrigible rake, you would give your hand to no one else; and now that he is likely to reform I'll warrant you won't have him!

MAR. His own heart and Lady Sneerwell know the cause.

CHAS. SURF. Lady Sneerwell!

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查理。誠然，奧力佛勳爵，我對於家人畫像有一些太放肆了，這是一句真話。我的祖先們在裁判假使我的兒也許當我告訴你說我——我的愚行的見，這乃是我這時候看見的，這不堪，這乃是其快樂。

奧勳爵。查理士，我相信你。再把你的手給我一握：那睡椅上面的醜矮漢已經替你講了和了。

查理。那末，先生，我對於那像的主人還要加倍的感謝哩。

提太太（向前走來）。然而，我相信，奧力佛勳爵，這裏是查理士更加急急的要同她和好的一個人。

（指着馬利亞。）

奧勳爵。啊，我已經聽得他鍾情於她了；請這位小姐饒恕，假使我猜得不錯——那羞澀的樣子——

彼得勳爵。是，孩子，說出你的真情！

馬利。先生，我沒有多話講，可是聽得他快樂，我將很為歡喜；至於我，不論我從前該得他怎樣的看顧，我現在都願意把牠讓給一個更合格的人了。

查理。怎樣，馬利亞！

彼得勳爵。哈哈！這是什麼神祕呢？當他好像是一個不可救藥的浪子的時候，你偏不願意嫁給別的人；現在他大概可以回頭了，我相信你却不肯跟他！

馬利。他自己的心兒和司尼雅威爾太太知道其中的緣故。

查理。司尼雅威爾太太！

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JOS. SURF. Brother, it is with great concern I am obliged to speak on this point, but my regard to justice compels me, and Lady Sneerwell's injuries can no longer be concealed.

[*Opens the door.*]

Enter LADY SNEERWELL

SIR PET. So! another French milliner! Egad, he has one in every room in the house, I suppose!

LADY SNEER. Ungrateful Charles! Well may you be surprised, and feel for the indelicate situation your perfidy has forced me into.

CHAS. SURF. Pray, uncle, is this another plot of yours? For, as I have life, I don't understand it.

JOS. SURF. I believe, sir, there is but the evidence of one person more necessary to make it extremely clear.

SIR PET. And that person, I imagine, is Mr. Snake.—Rowley, you were perfectly right to bring him with us, and pray let him appear.

Row. Walk in, Mr. Snake.

Enter SNAKE

I thought his testimony might be wanted: however, it happens, unluckily, that he comes to confront Lady Sneerwell, not to support her.

LADY SNEER. A villain! Treacherous to me at last! Speak, fellow, have you, too, conspired against me?

SNAKE. I beg your ladyship ten thousand pardons: you paid me extremely liberally for the lie in question; but I unfortunately have been offered double to speak the truth.

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約瑟。兄弟，我很不情願講到這一點，可是我爲尊重公道起見却不得不講，而且司尼雅威爾太太的傷害也不能再瞞住了。（開門。）

司尼雅威爾太太上。

彼得勳爵。這樣！又是一個法國女帽店主！天啊，我想他在這屋中的每個房間裏都藏着一個呢！

司太太。忘恩負義的查理士！你該很是詫異，該知道你的奸詐叫我所處的困境。

查理。請問，叔父，這是你的另一個計策麼？因爲我實在不懂得牠。

約瑟。我相信，先生，祇要再得一個人的見證便可以使牠十分明白了。

彼得勳爵。那個人，我幻想，就是司耐克先生。牢萊，你帶他同來是極其正當，請叫他出來吧。

牢萊。走進來，司耐克先生。

司耐克上。

我想他的見證也許是必要的；然而，不幸得很，他來到這裏是反抗司尼雅威爾太太的，並不是來袒護她。

司太太。一個惡漢！到底來叛我了！說，朋友，你也同謀來反抗我麼！

司耐克。我求你太太千萬的饒恕：你爲那句謊言賄我真是極其慷慨了；可是不幸人家情願給我兩倍的錢叫我說句真話。

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SIR PET. Plot and counterplot, egad! I wish your ladyship joy of your negotiation.

LADY SNEER. The torments of shame and disappointment on you all! [Going.]

LADY TEAZ. Hold, Lady Sneerwell — before you go, let me thank you for the trouble you and that gentleman have taken, in writing letters from me to Charles, and answering them yourself; and let me also request you to make my respects to the scandalous college, of which you are president, and inform them, that Lady Teazle, licentiate, begs leave to return the diploma they granted her, as she leaves off practice, and kills characters no longer.

LADY SNEER. You, too, madam! — provoking — insolent! May your husband live these fifty years! [Exit.]

SIR PET. Oons! what a fury!

LADY TEAZ. A malicious creature, indeed!

SIR PET. What! not for her last wish?

LADY TEAZ. Oh, no!

SIR OLIV. Well, sir, and what have you to say now?

JOS. SURF. Sir, I am so confounded, to find that Lady Sneerwell could be guilty of suborning Mr. Snake in this manner, to impose on us all, that I know not what to say: however, lest her revengeful spirit should prompt her to injure my brother, I had certainly better follow her directly. For the man who attempts to — [Exit.]

SIR PET. Moral to the last!

SIR OLIV. Ay, and marry her, Joseph, if you can. Oil and vinegar! — egad, you'll do very well together.

ROW. I believe we have no more occasion for Mr. Snake at present?

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彼得勳爵。棋逢敵手了，天啊！謹祝你太太交涉的有幸。

司太太。我盼望你們也有一日覺得羞恥和失望的痛苦！（將去。）

提太太。且住，司尼雅威爾太太——在你未去之先，讓我謝謝你和那位先生的麻煩，就是替我寫了許多給查理士的信，又親自寫了許多答覆牠們的信；還讓我請求你致意於那毀謗專門學校，你便是該校的校長，請你對他們說，該校畢業生提茲爾太太願繳還他們給她的文憑，因為她現在改業，不再傷害別人的品格了。

司太太。你也這樣，太太！——令人生氣——很無禮的！願你的丈夫再過五十年！（下。）

彼得勳爵。天啊！何等的悍潑！

提太太。真是一個毒物！

彼得勳爵。什麼！不管她最後的願望麼？

提太太。啊，不！

奧勳爵。好，先生，現在你要講什麼話？

約瑟。我知道司尼雅威爾太太竟會這樣賄誘司耐克先生，欺騙我們攏總的人，便昏亂得不曉得說怎樣的話；然而，恐怕她的報復的心腸要鼓動她去傷害我的弟弟，我當然最好是立刻兒去跟著她，因為一個人要想法——（下。）

彼得勳爵。還要裝着那道學樣兒！

奧勳爵。是，並且娶了她，約瑟夫，假使你能夠。油兒和醋兒！——天啊，你們在一起要很和合的。

牢萊。我相信我們現在並不需要司耐克先生了吧？

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SNAKE. Before I go, I beg pardon once for all, for whatever uneasiness I have been the humble instrument of causing to the parties present.

SIR PET. Well, well, you have made atonement by a good deed at last.

SNAKE. But I must request of the company, that it shall never be known.

SIR PET. Hey! what the plague! are you ashamed of having done a right thing once in your life?

SNAKE. Ah, sir, consider — I live by the badness of my character; and, if it were once known that I had been betrayed into an honest action, I should lose every friend I have in the world.

SIR OLIV. Well, well — we'll not traduce you by saying anything in your praise, never fear. [Exit SNAKE.]

SIR PET. There's a precious rogue!

LADY TEAZ. See, Sir Oliver, there needs no persuasion now to reconcile your nephew and Maria.

SIR OLIV. Ay, ay, that's as it should be, and, egad, we'll have the wedding to-morrow morning.

CHAS. SURF. Thank you, dear uncle.

SIR PET. What, you rogue! don't you ask the girl's consent first?

CHAS. SURF. Oh, I have done that a long time — a minute ago — and she has looked yes.

MAR. For shame, Charles! — I protest, Sir Peter, there has not been a word —

SIR OLIV. Well, then, the fewer the better; may your love for each other never know abatement.

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司耐克。在我臨去之前，我還要求饒恕一次，因為我曾經被人利用叫諸位受了困難。

彼得勳爵。好好，你到底做一件好事贖了你的罪過了。

司耐克。可是我要請諸位不要把這件事宣揚出去。

彼得勳爵。嗨！什麼！你終身只做了一件好事難道還覺得羞恥麼？

司耐克。啊，先生，想一想——我向來靠我的不好的品格以生活；倘使別人知道我被引誘竟會做了一樁誠實的事情，我便要失掉我在世界上所有的權總的朋友了。

奧勳爵。好好——我們絕不以誇獎反而害你，請別擔心。（司耐克下。）

彼得勳爵。好一個寶貨！

提太太。看，奧力佛勳爵，現在不須勸說你的姪兒和馬利亞便要和好了。

奧勳爵。是，是，這是應該的，天啊，我們明天早上便舉行婚禮罷。

查理。多謝你，親愛的叔父。

彼得勳爵。什麼，你這浪子！你不先求那姑娘的允許麼？

查理。啊，我久已求過了——一分鐘以前——而且她眼裏已經允許了。

馬利。無恥呀，查理！——我確言，彼得勳爵，不會有一句話——

奧勳爵。好，那末，話愈少愈妙；願你們倆的愛情永不減少。

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SIR PET. And may you live as happily together as Lady Teazle and I intend to do !

CHAS. SURF. Rowley, my old friend, I am sure you congratulate me ; and I suspect that I owe you much.

SIR OLIV. You do, indeed, Charles.

SIR PET. Ay, honest Rowley always said you would reform.

CHAS. SURF. Why, as to reforming, Sir Peter, I'll make no promises, and that I take to be a proof that I intend to set about it. But here shall be my monitor — my gentle guide. — Ah ! can I leave the virtuous path those eyes illumine ?

Though thou, dear maid, shouldst waive thy beauty's sway,
Thou still must rule, because I will obey :
An humble fugitive from Folly view,
No sanctuary near but Love and you : [*To the audience.*]
You can, indeed, each anxious fear remove,
For even Scandal dies, if you approve. [*Exeunt omnes.*]

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彼得勳爵。願你們倆像提茲爾太太和我所希望似的同居快樂!

查理。牢萊，我的老朋友，我相信你一定要賀我；而且我想我承你的幫助不少。

奧勳爵。你真承他的幫助，查理士。

彼得勳爵。是誠實的牢萊常常說你要改過的。

查理。唉，講到改過，彼得勳爵，我不肯輕於答應，我想這正是我要改過的證據吧。可是這裏乃是我的班長——我的溫柔的指導員——唉！我能夠離去那兩隻秋波所映照的正路麼？

小姐啊，即使你失掉了美貌的威風，

你仍舊宰制一切，因為我甘願服從：

我是一個逃避愚笨的逃亡人，

除掉愛情和你便無地以藏身：（向聽衆）

君等戚戚之憂兮大可已，

君心若贊許，毀謗會須死。 （衆皆下）

