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A COMEDIETTA, INOINEACM.

## By JOHN MADDISON MORTON,

## AUTHOR OF

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"Atchi," " W7rich of the Tino," "The Midnight Wutch," "Slaslier and Ci"rsher," etc., etc.
together with
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42. Bad Whiskey, Irish sketch, 1 scene. 2
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40. Big Mistake, sketch, 1 scene........ 4
6. Black Chap from Whitechapel, Negro piece

4
10. Black Chemist, sketch, 1 scene .... 3
11. Black-Ey'd William, sketch, 2 scenes 4
146. Black Forrest (The), Ethiopian farce, 1 act...............................
110. Black Magician (De),Ethiopian comicality..

21
126. Black Statue (The), Negro farce ........ 4
127. Bliuks and Jiuks, Ethiopian sketch. 3
128. Bobolino, the Black Bandit, Ethiopian musical farce, 1.act........... 2
120. Body Snatchers (The), Negro sketeh, 2 scenes.
78. Bugns Indian, sketch, 4 scenes..... 5
89. Bogns Talking Machine (The), farce, 1 scene.

4
24. Bruised aud curei, sketch, 1 scene. 2 108. Charge of the Hash Brigade, comic Irish musical sketch..

22
148. Christmas Eve in the South, Ethiopian farce, 1 act
35. Coal Heaver's Revenge, Negro sketch, 1 scene.
112. Coming Man (The), Ethiopian sketch, 2 scenes...............................
41. Cremation, sketch, 2 scenes......... 8
144. Crowded Hotel (The), sketch, 1 sc.. 4
140. Cupid's Frolics, sketch, 1 scene.... 5

12 Daguerreotypes, sketch, 1 scene.... 3
53. Damon and Pythias, burlesque, 2 sc, 5
63. Darkey's Stratagem, sketch, 1 scene 3 131. Darkey Sleep Walker (The), Ethio--pian sketch, 1 scene.

31
124. Deaf as a Post, Ethiopian sketch. M. 111. Deeds of Darkness, Ethiopiau extravaganza, 1 act. .

61
139. Desperate Situation (A), farce, 1 sc. 5
50. Draft (The), sketch, 2 sceues....... 6

Ct. Dutchman's Ghost, 1 scene........ 4
95. Dutch Justice, laughable skietch,

1 sceue............................. 11
67. Editor's Troubles, farce, 1 scene.... 6
4. Eh ? What is it ? sketcl............. 4
136. Election Day, Ethiopian farce, 2 sc. 6
93. Elopement (The), farce, 2 scenes... 4
52. Excise Trials, sketch, 1 scene....... 10

2J. Fellow that Looks like Me, interlude, 1 scene

21
88. First Night (The), Dutch farce, 1 act 4
51. Fishernan's Luck, sketch, 1 scene. 2
152. Fuu in a Cooper's Shop, Ethiopian sketch.

6
106. Gambrinus, King of Lager Beer, Ethiopian burlesque, 2 scenes.... 8
83. German Emigrant (The),sketch.1sc. 277. Getting Square on the Call Boy,sketch, 1 scene...................... 3
17. Ghost (The). Sketch, 1 act............ 2
38. Ghost in a Pawn Shop, sketch. 1 sc. 4
31. Glycerine Oil, sketch, 2 scenes..... 3
20. Going for the Cup, interlude....... 4
82. Good Night's Rest, sketch, 1 scere. 3
130. Go and get Tight, Ethiopian sketch, 1 scene.

6
86. Gripsack, sketch, 1 scene............ 3
70. Guide to the Stage, sketch.......... 3
61. Happy Couple, 1 scene.............. 2
142. Happy Uncle Rufus, Ethiopian musical sketch, 1 scene..

11
23. Hard Times, extravaganiza, 1 sceue. 5
118. Helen's Funny Babies, burlesque. 1 act.

6
3. Hemmed In, sketch................... 3
48. High Jack, the Heeler, sketch, 1 sc. 6
68. Hippotheatron, sketch.............. ${ }^{9}$
150. How to Pay the Rent, farce, 1 scene 6
71. In and Out, sketch, 1 scene........ 2

123 Intelligence Office (The), Ethiopian sketch, 1 scene.

A COMEDIETTA,

IN ONE ACT.

By JOHN MADDISON MORTON, Esq.,
AUTHOR OF
"Betsy Baker," "Box and Cox," "Woodcock's Litlle Game," "Atchi," "Which of the Twos" "The Midnight Watch," "Slasher and Crasher," etc., etc.

TOGETHER WITH

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COSTUMES-CAST OF THE CHARACTERS—ENTRANCES AND EXITS-RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE PERFORMGRS ON THE STAGE, AND THE WHOLE OF THE STAGE BUSLNESS.


DE WITT, PUBLISHER, No. 33 Rose Street.

## CHARACTERS.



Harry Barton, a rising young lawyer.
Basil Royston, willing to please Brother Jonathan. Colonel Challenger, uncle by courtesy.
Mrs. Templeton, a widow with a will of her own.
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Julia, } \\ \text { Josephine, }\end{array}\right\}$ Mrs. Templeton's nieces.

TIME IN PLAYING-ONE HOUR AND A QUARTER,

## SCENERY.

Mrs. Tempeton's Villa at Roehampton. Handsomely-furnished apartments; large French window at c., looking on a garden; doors r. and L.; at r. c. a table on which is an open album; at $L$. c. another table, covered with papers, etc.; fable, sofas, chairs, etc.

## COSTUMES. -Of the present time.

## PROPERTIES.

RoIl of papers and lawyer's blue bag for Barton; small casket in which is a miniature for Josephine; album containing water colors for table n. c.; papers, etc., for table L. c.

## STAGE DIRECTIONS.

R. means Right of Stage, facing the Audience; L. Left; C. Centre; R. C. Right of Centre; L. C. Left of Centre; D. F. Door in the Flat, or Scene running across the back of the Stage; C. D. F. Centre Door in the Flat; R. D. F. Hight Door in the Flat; L. D. F. Left Door in the Flat; R. D. Right Door; L. D. Left Door; 1 E. First Entrance; 2 E. Second Entrance; U. E. Upper Entrance; 1, 2 or 3 G. First, Second or Third Groove.
R.
R. C.
C.
L. C.
U.

脇 The reader is supposed to be upon the stage facing the audience.

## FIIST COMIE, FILST SERVED.

SCENE.--Mrs. Templeton's Villa at Roehampton. Hfandsomelyfurnished apartments; lurge Frencle window at c., looking on a garden ; cloors r. and L. : at R. C. "t telle on which is an opien album; ut L. c. another table, covered with papers, etc.; table, sofa, chairs, etc.

## Enter Mrs. Templeton at c., folvowed by Colonel Cifallenger.

Colonel. Cousin Martha, you are wrong, wrong, wrong! a thonsand times wrong !

Mrs. Templeton. Cousin Simmel, I am right, right, right! ten thousanl times right!

Col. (aside). Olustinate old woman!
Mrs. 'T'. (aside). Pig-headed old m:m!
Com. What possible reason can you have fou setting your face aginst Josephine's getting married? It's downright tyramy: Call yourself an aunt, indeed!

Mas. T. My reason is a very simple one. Her ehder sister, Julia, must find a hashand first.

Col. First come, first served, eh? Really, my dear Martha. I must say that, for a sensible woman, you are by many degrees the most prejudiced, the most self-willed. the most-

Mrs. 'I. Of course I an. But you know very well that when I once do make up my mind to anything-

Col. You stick to it like ia fy to a "catch-'em-alive-oh."
Mrs. T. I don't choose that Julia should suffer what I did. I had a sister, Dorothy Tane, four yeurs my junior, who married before I did.

- Do you think that was pleasant? who supplied me with a sprinking of nephews and nieces before I had a hasband. Do yon think that was pleasant? who gave garden parties, balls, concerts, to which all the world flocked, and surrounded her with flattery, adulation, whilst I was nerlected, extinguished, regularly snuffed out. Do yon think that was pleasant? Well, it is this hmmiliation that I am determined to spare Julia.

Col. Well, you didn't lose much ly waiting. I'm sure Tom Templeton was as good a creature as ever breathed-diln't live long, poor fellow, but cut up remarkably well, considering.

Mas. T. Leaving his two nieces, his brother's children, to my charge, with ten thousand pounds each.

CoL. As a wedding portion, which, I mmst say, yon don't seem in a hurry to part with.

Mrs. 'I. You know my conditions. You have only to find a husband for Julia.

Col. I! when she has refused half the grood-looking fellows within ten mikes romid? If she does mean to mary, she takes her time about it, that I will say; it never seems to occur to her that she's keeping her poor sister out in the cold.

Mrs. T. You may be mistaken, consin. I spoke to Julia only yesterday, and she expressed herself in terms which convinced me that, were she to receive a suitable offer-

CoL. She'd accept it? Well, I'm "glad she's coming to her senses at last; and I shall go away all the more comfortable in my mind.

Mrs. 'I'. Going away?
Col. Yes; I'm off back again to Cheltenham. Touch of cout-liver queer; besides, my work here is done. Your husband's affials, which I confess appeared to ine at first sight to be in a state of hopeless confusion, are now clearly and satisfactorily arranged, thanks to my young colleague, Harry Barton, who, I must say, worked like a nigger over them. By-the-bye, he's another victim to Miss Julia's caprice and fistidionsness - she actually smubbed the poor fellow before she'd time even to look at him, much less know him.

Mrs. T. (sativically). Well, you'll confess he bears his disappointment with hecoming resignation.

Col. Yes; he's getting used to it, like the eels. He doesn't see the use of crying over spilt milk. By-the-bye, there's another matter of tive thonsand pounds coming to the girls out of the IIampshire property. But Barton will give you all the particulars.

Mrs. T. I'm sure, cousin, I feel deeply indebted to you.
Col. Not half as much as you ought to feel to Ilary Barton. IIasn't he been here twice a week for the last month, up to his elbows in leases, loans, mortgages, and the deuce knows what? Oh! here he comes.

Enter Ilarry Barton at c., a roll of papers under his arm, a lauyer's blue bag in his hand, which he deposit's on chair.

Barton (bowing to Mrs. T.). Your servant, madam. (to Colonel) Ah, my dear Colonel, I hope yon re well. But perlaps I onght to apologize for entering mannounced. Yon may he engiged ?

Mrt. T. Not at all. I am awire, Mir. Barton, how deeply I am in your debt; but now that the business which served as your tirst introduction here is satisfactorily conchuded, pray remember my honse is open to you as before. (Barton bous) You will kindly excuse me now-a few orders to give. (curtseys and exits L.; at the same moment door at R. slowly opens and Josephine peeps in.)

Josephine. Is the coast clear? (watching Mrs. T. as she goes out) She's gone at last! (runs in.)

Bart. (meeting her). Jo, dear Jo! (taking her hand which he is about to lisis.)

Jos. Wait a minute ! (looking afler Mrs. T.) She's quite disappeared; now you may! (holding out her hancl to Barton, who hisses it) And now (lurning to Colonel) you dear, good, kind old uncle. Uncle is it, or cousin? I never know which.

Col. Don't yon? It's simple enongh. Your mother's elder brother's second-never mind. Call me uncle.

Jos. Well, have you spoken to Ambt Martha?
Bart. Yes. Have you broken the ice?
Col. Cracked it, that's all.
Jos. Ami what was the result? Did she consent, or not?
Bart. Did she say yes, or no?

## Jos. (impatiently). Why don't you speak?

Bart. (dillo). Why don't you say something?
Col. How the dence can I when you won't let me get in a wom edzeways? Well, then, my poor youm friends, sorry I've no good news for you; the old story over agan-Miss Julia stops the way.

Bart. And yet Mrs. 'Iempleton's pressing invitation to me to visit at her house--

Col. Easily explained. She doesn't even suspect that your affiections have been tramsferred from her edder to her younger niece.

Jos. Then you shonld have told her-then there would have been an explosion.

CoL. Yes; which would have blown Master IIary clean out of the street door ! No, no-don't despair ; Juia will find a hushand-sooner or later.

Jos. Sooner or later? But what am I to do in the meamime?
Bart. Yes; what are we to do in the meantime?
Jos. I'm sure she's had plenty of oflers ; but one was too yomer, another was too old-one was too rich, another wasn't rich enough; even poor Inary here thongh he followed her abont like her shanow, ame I'm sure inale himself sufficiently ridiculons-even he wasu't gront enomin for her ladyship! It's downight ahsurd being so particular. I'm sure I wasu't.

Bart. No, dear Jo - yon took pity on me at once.
Jos. No, not quite at once. I didn't jump) at you. But what-what is to be done?

Col. Ilave patience.
Jos. Patience! Haven't I had patience for the last live weeks?
Bart. Five weeks and three days!
Jos. Five weeks and three da!s! (suddenly) Oh! such an inca! such a capital notion! Listen! Julia must tima hashand, or a hmeband must be fomed for Julia! - lhat's a settled point.
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { CoL. } \\ \text { Banr. }\end{array}\right\}($ togelher $)$. Quite so!
Jos. Well, then, as she sets her face against a yomer one-
Col. Yes; as she sets her face asainst a young one-
Jos. And turns up her nose at a handsome one--
Col. And turns up her nose at a hamdsume one-
Jos. (to Colonel). She might find you more to her haste!
 So, Miss Sancy one, tou're pokinu fun at me, wre yon? 'Then ton'll he sood emoneh to fimd amother rictim-I mean anomer almirer-for Miss Julia. Eqat, I must make haste amd pack up, or I shall lose my tain! Come akone with me, lithe one. Good-hye, Barton. Keep iu your spirits. Recollect you've still sot me!

Jos. And me, H:irry! Not yet, hut you will!
[Exeunt Colonel amd Josephine, R.
Bart. Dear Josephine! W?at a contrast to her cold. insensible, apathetic sister! I. who loved her so sincerely, so terotedly, made such a thorongh sponney of myself! mad was eren weak enongh to believe I was not quite indifferent to her! I confiss I fell hint-considerably hart-infernally hart ; but if she flatered herself I shombl he inconsolable, she was never more mistaken in her life. She litte dreamed how soon I should tind a cure for my infatuation in the chams of her angelic sister! Dear Josephine! Anil to think there's no hope of calling her mine till we find somebody to call her sister his! By-the-hye, here are a few papers I must look over. (sits at table, L. C., anid opens papers.)

Royston (heard without). Very well; take my card to Mrs. Templeton. I'll wait. I'm in no hurry.

Bart. Hey day! who have we here?

> Enter Basil Royston, c.

Rors. (coming down, sees Barton). I beg pardon, sir!
Bart. (rising). Sir--I-
Roys. Be seated, I beg.
Bart. Not till you set me the example. (pointing to chair-they seat themselves.)
Roys. Like me, sir, you are doubtless waiting to see Mrs. Templeton?
Bart. No, sir!
Roys. Oh! One of the family, perhaps? Possibly a friend?
Bart. Yes, sir, a friend. (aside) He's very inquisitive.
Roys. (looking at album). What charming water-colors-perfect gems!

Bart. They are the work of Mrs. Templeton's elder niece. Are you an artist?
Roys. No, merely an amateur. And yon?
Bart. A humble member of the legal profession.
Rors. A lawyer, eh? (aside) By Jove! here's a chance for me. I've half a mind to-he looks the very picture of good nature, and six and eightpence won't ruin me. (aloud) Might I venture, sir, on so very slight an acquantance, to solicit your professional opinion? (Barton bous) It is rather a delicate subject-a very peculiar sulject.
Bart. I'm all attention, sir-merely observing that the sooner you begin-
Roys. The sooner I shall have done. Exactly. Then I'll come to the point at once. I would ask whether, in your opinion, a promise of marriage, written under certain circumstances and under certain conditions, must necessarily be binding?
Bart. Such conditions being-

* Rors. First and foremost, that the lady shonld have her head altered!

Bart. (astomished). Have her head altered?
Rors. I mean have her hair dyed.
Bart. Which condition the lady has not complied with?
Roys. No, sir-it's as red as ever.
Bart. Then, sir, I've no hesitation in saying that the promise falls to the ground.
Roys. (seizing Barton's hand and shaking it). Thank you, sir. (aside and sighting) Poor Sophia!
Bart. (smiling). May I inquire the name of my new client?
Rors. Royston.
Bart. The Roystons of Banbury?
Rors. Yes, Banbury-where the cakes come from.
Bart. I was aware that Mrs. Templeton expected you on a matter of business--a certain sum of money, I believe?

Roys. Yes, coming to the family from some Hampshire property.
Bart. I imagined Mr. Royston was a much older person.
Roys. I see! You mean Jonathan.
Bart. Jonathan?
Roys. Yes, my brother, the head of the firm. He's twenty years my senior! But as he could not spare the time to come, he sent me.
Bart. (aside). It's worth the trial-decidedly worth it. (looking asile at Rorstox) Young, gentlemanly, sufficiently gool-looking, good family.

Here goes. (aloud) Excuse my cantor, but I guess your molive in putting the professional question you did just now. You are the writer of the promise of mariage, and you are desirons of contracting another alliathce, eh?

Rovs. I don't care about it, but Jonathan does. (aside, and sighing a!/(tiu) Poor Sophia!

Bart. Perhaps fou have some parly in view?
Rovs. No; hut I'm on the dookont.
Bart. And, no donht, anxious to succeed?
Rors. Not particularly-hut Jonathan is.
Banc. Porhips that is the oliject of your visit here?
Rors. Eh? Is there a mariageable young lady here?
Bart. Yes.
Rors. I should like to see her.
Bart. Nenhing more casy.
Rors. What age?
Bart. Twenty:
Roys. Any fortune?
Bart. Ten thonsaml!
Rors. That 'd suit Jonatham. Pretty?
Baкт. Charming!
Rors. That 'd suit me! Egral, suppose I try my luck? Tve half a mind.

Bant. Ifare a roluole one. I've a notion gou'll succeed.
Rors. But I haow uobody here.
Bart. I hey your pardon; you know me?
Roys. Ele?
Bakr. (with intention). Known me for sears?
Rors. (suddenly seeing Barton's meaning). Of course I have!
Bart. Werer siace we were children!
Roys. Badies!
Bart. We went to the same school together:
Roys. Or course we did!
Bart. At Tunbridge Wells?
Rors. Yes; at Bagnigge Wells?
Bart. And we lave heran friends ever since!
Roys. (entausiasticolly). Desoni friends! And you'lh realfy do all yon call to serve me?

Bart. Of course I will-(aside) and myself at the same time.
Roys. A thousand thanks, my dear-by-the-bye, what stadl 1 call you?
Bart. Harty. And yon?
Rovs. Basil. (grosping Bartos's homet) Sophia might scratch your eyes ont, but Jonathan will bless you!

Bart. (seeing Mrs. T. approacking). Hush!

## Mrs. Tempteeton enters, L.

Mrs. T. (to Royston). Sorry to have kept yon waiting, Mr. Royston.
Roys. I am here, madam, as my broher's representative.
Mrs. T. I am aware of it. Mr. Barton, allow me to introduce to you-

Bart. No necessity for it, madam. Basil is an old friend of mine!
Roys. Yes, madini. I little thought of meeting an schoolfellow here. (shahing Bartos's lirmal warmly) Some yeurs ago now-eh, Tom?

Bart. (aside to him). Hamy!
Ross. Harry!

Mrs. T. So you were schoolfellows, eh?
Roys. Yes, ma'am; at Bagnigge Wells.
Bart. (hastily aside to him). 'Tunbridge!
Roys. Of course--'Irmbridge!
Mrs. T. You must have had some difficnlty in recognizing each other?
Roys. I had-very considerable difficulty, I assure you.
Bart. We shond bave met earlier, no doubt, but for my friend's lengthened absence in Italy. (significantly to Royston.)

Boys. Yes. Ah! chaming country-for those who don't mind the cold! (on a sign from Barron) I mean, the heat !

Mrs. T. (aside and looking at Roxston). Really a vastly agreeable young man!

## Euter Colonel, r.

Col. So Royston has arrived, has he? (seeing Basm) Hey day! why, this is Basil, his younger brother!

Roys. At your service, Colonel.
Mrs. T. Yon are acequanted, then?
Col I was intimate with his mother's family-indeed, I may say I was the means of getting him a nomination to the Blue Coat school.

Bart. (aside). This is tleaced awkward.
Mrs. T. The Bine Coit school? I thonght yon said Tunhrilge Wells.
Roys. (recollecting). Yes; that was before-I mean after
Cols (aside und suspicionsty). I suspect these yomg fellows are phying some little game of their own; and, what's more, I can pretty weil guess what it is.

Mrs. T. (aside to Colonfl). As Mr. Royston is an entire stmmger to me, may I ask you, Cousin Samnel, what is the opinion you have formed of him?

Col Oh! a very charming young man indeet. Most respectable family; an ample income already, with great expectations from a couple of aunts and a gohmother! A little wild at present, perhaps. Dat he'l soon settle down when he's married. Ah! happy the woman who makes a conquest of such a man. (asside) There, bow Im in the conspiracy too!

Mrs. T. (to Royston). Tomr friend Mr. Barton does not leave lere till to-morrow; yon, I hope, will also defer your departhe till then.

Bart. (quickly to Royston). Of comrse yon will! (to Mrs. 'T.) Of comrse he will! (to Royston) You'll be only tuo delightell! (to Mrs. T.) Ie'll be only too dehighted!

Mrs. T. All! here's my niece. (going rep to meet Julis, who enters c.)
Roys. (seeing Josephine, who at the same moment enters r.). Look! a what charming ereature!

Bart. No, no! it isn't she! it's the other! Look there! (pointing to Julia) There's a figure-there's symmetry! Look at those finely-chiselled features !

Roys. Yes, yes ; bat still, in my opinion-(tooking atmaringly at Josephine.)

Bart. Your opinion, indeed! Pshaw! what do you know abont it?
Jos. (aside to Colonel and pointing to Royston). What! has Harry found somebody alreaty?

Mrs. T. Julia, my dear, allow me to present Mr. Royston, an old friend of Mr. Barton's. (Julia curtseys stifly to Royston.)

Bart. (to Royston). There's a curtsey ! that's what I call a curtsey !
Roys. Yes; but, as I said before, of the two I prefer-(looking at Josephine.)

Bart. You prefer, imdeed! Surely I must know better than you. (to Julia) My friend Royston-a distinguished amatenr of the fine arts, is in mpture with your sketches, Miss Julia. (Jula curtseys stifly again.)
Jos. (to Julia). Why don't you thank Mr. Royston, sister?
Rovs. (aside to Barton). Oli! she's the sister. eh?
Bart. (with preteuded indifference). Yes, a little, hammless, insignificant school-wirl.

Roys. Still, I repeat, if I had to choose between them-
Bart. Pshaw ! my dear fellow, if you mily knew what nonsense fou're talking. (aside) Zounds! I hope he isn't going to fall in love with Josephise.

Col. Sorry to interrupt, but my time is precious, and business must be attended to. Mr. Royston, will you step into the dining-room with your papers? Barton, will you come too?

Jos. (hastily aside to Barton). Immerstand it all, Harry. A very nice young man imleed, and likely to staml a trood chance. Don't you think so? Where did you pick him up so soon?

Bart. Hush! Ill explain everything another time.
[Colonel and Mas. I', exeunt r, followed by Barton and Rorston. Royston stops. turns, and maties a mofound bow to Josephine. Burton pushes him out.
Jos. (aside). I womler what she thinks of him. (uloud) A very gentlemanly young mun, Mr. Royston, don't you think so, Julia?

Julta (indifforently). I scarcely looked at him.
Jos. (aside). That's not very encomaging. (aloud) How do you m:anage to find so many almirers? I can't.

Jula (smiling). Hibherto perhaps I maty have had the lions shate of attention, homage, and professed almination; but your turn will come.

Jos. It's a lone lime ahont it! Yon are so rifficnt to please. An: poor Mr. Royston. I suppose, will he smabed like the rest.

Jula (rem.ovingly). Josephine! surely you don't imasine -
Jos. That there is some atraction for him here? Of course I do. It can't be Amut Martha-now I! I'm only a child. (with affected lumility.) Juha. Josephine, you speak as thongh you were piqued-rexal; I minht almost sity envious.

Jos. Envions? I? Of what?
Julia (sighing). Of what, indeed! Ala! dear one, the privilatres of an elder sister are not so enviable, after all. What is often her lot? To be constantly exposed to flattery-ahnhation from the lips of stramers-compelling her to assume an extreme reserve in order to morlify the exagrerated ind, at times, indelicate cheomimes of relatives ani frionds. What is the necessary result? Doibt, distrust, suspicion-may, aren prejulice, oftentimes mijust, against those who profess a desire to please. On this impulse I have acted-an impulse dictated by self-respect and a due sense of my own dignity.

Jos. (aside). What a serious tone! (aloud) But just think how cruelly, how minustly you may have acted. And I'm sure, as for Mr. Royston Julia. Mr. Royston again! Silly child!
Jos. Child!-Perhaps I cond mention a little fact that-that, but I won't. (aside) Good-hye to my secret if I did! (aloud) Good-bye !

Jula. Are yon going to leave me too?
Jos. Liaven't I got to write ont all the invitations for our ball on the 23d?

Julia. Your birthday? - trne.

Jos. Yes ; that is the professed reason-but of course it is on your account that it is given.

Julia (reproachfully). Josephine!
Jos. I know a younger sister's duty, Miss Templeton.

> [Makes a low curtsey and exit, L.

Julia. Josephine! Sister!-Did she but know how she misjulges me! How heavily I have been punished for that pride, that apparent insensibility with which she reproaches me! Oh, Harry! Harry! could you but tell how bitterly I have repented. But surely, surely the cand, wicked indillerence with which I treated his affection, his devotion, cannot have entirely destroyed them-some little spark of the old flame must still remain. Else why is he so constantly here? Why does he still seem to seek my presence! At any rate, he shall see that 1 an mo heartless coquette; and when this Mr. Royston presents himself, as I'm sure he will-(seeing Royston, who enters r.) I thought so.

Roys. (aside). She's alone! She's decidedly handsome ; yet, as I said before, there's something about the other that-that-(aloud and bouing, to Jula) Miss Templeton!

Julia (curtseying). Sir, the business matter in which you are engiged is, I presume, settled?

Rors. Yes; the signatures alone are required.
Julia. In that case perhaps I had hetter - (about to retire.)
Roys. One moment, I beer! (aside) She's decidedly very handsome! Still, I don't know how it is, but there is certamly somehing abont the other that-that-(aloul) Belore leaving this house to-morrow with my new acquantance--I mean, my ofd friend Barton-

Jula (quickty). Mr. Barton leaves to-morrow?
Roys. Yes, alas! I say "alas," becanse one day only is now left for me to admire your physical attractions, your mental accomplishments -

Julia. Oh, sir! Believe me, my sister is far more accomplished than I all.

Roys. Far he it from me to deny it. Still. from the highly enlogistic terms in which every one speaks of yon-your sister amone the tirst-

Julia. Ah, sir! Dear Josephine is so amiable, so affectionate, so goorl, so loving, so angelic-

Roys. (aside). She sticksup for her sister, that I will say. (ctout) Still. there are certain attractions which we can all juchere of by our own eyes.

Julia (quickly). And who can possess them to a orreater degree than Josephine? Such exquisite grace, such absolute perfection of form and feature-

Rovs. (aside). Her sister again! If we go on at this mate we sha'n't get on very fast. (aloud) Allow me to he very frank with yon. My brother Jonathan-but perhaps you never heard of Jonathan?-Jomathan Royston, of Banbury, where the cakes come from-well, he often reproaches me with being rather wild, and fast, and flishty-

Julia. The only fault I lind with Josephine, dear child. She is so giddy, so thoughtless, so excitable. What a capital match jou'd make. Ha, ha, ha!

Roys. (aside). That's a pretty broad hint. (aloud) And he-I mean Jonathan-says that the best thing I could do would he to get married.

Julia. The very conclusion I have come to about Josephine.
Roys. (aside). It really looks as if she wanted to turn me over to her sister. (aloud) And having receired the flattering assurance that my pretinsions to your hand might possibly not be unsuccessful-

Julia. From whom, pray? Doubtless, from my annt.
Rors. Oh no; from my dear old friend Barton.

Jula (imelimently). Mr. Barton! Me? No, no! I cambot, will not believe is!

Rons. I'm sure he will not deny it aml see, fortmately he's here!
Enter Barton, 12.
Bakt. Miss 'lompletom, your presence is required in the drawingroom.

Julat (rery coldly, amd seating herself ut table). Presently.
bater. (aside to Ruyston). Weil. What hews?
hors. (uside to Bakron). All right! At hast, if it isn't this one, it'll be the other-one of the two.

Bart. (uside to Rovston). What tho you mean by "the other"?
lioys. (aside to Bamron). The " litile hambes, insignificant schoolgin," you know!

Bart. (aside). Confomd the fellow!
Rors. (aside to Banton). Yon first put the notion of marriage into my heat, and I won't leare this house a bachelor-I'll marry somehody! I leave you together. Yon'll plead my canse, won't yon? Amp pitch it strong, won't you? I shall he all andely to know the result, because if she won't have me, I can fall back on the other. Don't yon see? (shukes Rartons humd amd rums out, e.)

Balct. (aside und looking ut Julda). To have to plead the canse of another, when, in spite of me, her presence will reall the past, painful, humiliating as it is !

Julda (with indifference). Yom friemd has left yom. Mr. Barton?
Bart. Ile has, Miss Tompleton; but he has leit an alrocate to intercete with you on his behalf.

Julia (satirically). A willing and an earnest me, no doubt, who prohahly has fomished him with a detailed catalogue of my tastes, habits, phisuits and disposition.

Bart. (aside). He's been babbing! (atour) Surely he cammot have hetrayed my contidence?

Juina (with suppressed anger). The charge of betrayal of confidences should rather be levelled at one who he his imtimac! with a family, into which he is admitted on terms of friendship, is enabled to stady the chameter of its members for the purpose of retailing the results of his ohservations to others!

Bart. I will not affect to mismblerstand your reproof. It is true that. I spoke of yon to Mr. Rosston in terms which you fully merit-that I even told him that your heart was free.

Juna. Perfecty, absolntely free! Yon molertook to be his advocate, wilh such zeal and eamestmess, one might alnost imagine you had some jersonal interest?

Bar'r. And what if I had an interest - a powerful interest?
Julia (quickly). Imdeed!
Bart. Yes. And after the somewhat harsh rejection I met with at your hands-which, no doubt, I fully merited-what greater proot can I give of the esteem in which I still hold yon than to confide my secret to yon?

Julia (startin!). Secret! (rside) What can he mean?
Bart. That, on the eve of leaving your family, I shouk feel far less regret conld I indulge in the hope of ever becoming commected with it by a closer tie.

Julia (aside amel joyfirly). Cam it he? Has he formotten? Foraiven? Can he still care for me? (alomal) Bat why this silence-this want of confidence in me?

Bart. Frankly, hecause we feared you would oppose our wishes, our hopes.
Jula (eayerly). Our hopes? We feared?
Bart. Yes; she especially.
Julia. She! Of whom are yon speaking? Iter name?
Barr. Surely I must have mentioned it. Your sister.
Julia (strutin!! firom her chair). Jusephine!
Barr. Yes; rejected by her elder sister, I songht and found solace and consolation in her groodness and sympathy.

Julsa (with increasing anger). So! Your frequent visits, your constant presence here, apparently so inconsistent with your "wounded feelings," (satiricall!/) are now explained. It was for her ! And I was to be kept in ignorance, to fincy, to believe, to hope-

Bart. (surpised). Miss Templeton!
Juhta. I now undersiand this anxiety to dispose of my hand-this crowd of admirers thrown in my way! What mattered iny feelingsmy happiness? (with increasing excilement) I was an ohstacle to be removed!

Bart. I implore you-
Julia (stamping her foot). Silence, sir !

## Enter Mrs. Templeton, hurriedly, r.

Mrs. T. What is the matter here? Julia, what means this excite-ment-this agitation! (to Barton) Perhaps yon, sir-

Bart. I am as much smprised as yourself, madam. I ventured to contide to Miss Julia my pretensions to the hand of her sister-

Mrs. T. (with a scream). What! You ham the cruelty. the barharity to make such an avowal to her elder sister? (advancing upon Barton, who retreats) to lacerate her feelings! to wound her pride!

Jula. Yes, that's it; to wound my pride.
Bart. But really-
Mrs. T. Silence, young man! I rememher what my feelings were when my younger sister was married before me. I was choking, sir! suflocating, sir! I turned positively purple-all sorts of colors, sir! And here is a little pert, forward chit, daring to follow her Annt Dorothy Jane's example! But here she comes.

## Euter Colonel, r., end Josephine, i.

So. miss, (advancing athgrity on Josepmine) a pretty accomnt I're heard of yon! To mix yourself up at your age in a silly romance-a nonsensical love-intrigue-

Cols. (interfering). But, my dear Martha-
Mrs. T. (hurning sharnly on him). Hold your tongrae, Cousin Samnel.
Jos. But, aunt, if yon'll only allow me -
Mrs. T. But I woin't allow you. (to Julia) Keep up your spirits, poor persecuted victim.

Jos. Victim! It seems to me that I'm the victim. Just as I thonght I was going to ve married and settled! (begimning to sob, Colonel tries to pacify her.)

Mrs. T. Married and settled, indeed! A child-a bahy like yon! (to Barton) After what has occurred, sir, you will see that your further presence under this roof-

Bart. (bowing). I fully understand, madam.
Mrs. T. (to Josephine). Come, miss, follow me. (Josephine about to
speak) Not a word! It is for me to sparak, as youll find I intend to dre, and to some purpose. This way. (mukiny Jusermine petss bejore her, she and Julia follow her out, R)

Col. Whew! Here's a pretty piece of business.
Bart. Not satistied with rejecting me herself, she carries her prejudice, her hate so far as to-

Col. Hate! Nonsense. (suddenly) By Jove! I have it-at least I think I have. What if she should feel a "sneaking kindness " for you after all?

Bart. Pshaw!
Col. But what abont friend Royston?
Bart. Hang friend Rorston!
Col. With all my heart; but where the deace is he?
Bart. Waiting somewhere or other to hear the result of my interview with Miss Templeton.

Col. In which you undertook to plead his cause, eh?
Bart. Yes; and forgot all about it in my anxiety to plead my own.
Col. What's that? Do you mean to say you contided to her the secret between you and Josephine?

Bart. Yes; trusting to her generous nature and her sisterly affection, I certainly did.

CoL. And a pretty mess you've made of it. Well, I must find Royston and let him know. As for yon, as yon've received orders to march, the sooner you pack up and pack off the better. (hurries out c.)

Door r. opens rencl Josepune peephs in.
Jos. Harry, are yon alone-quite alone? (hurvies formard.)
Bart. Yes. What is it?
Jos. Such a discovery! (in a very mysterious tone) She's got one! Bart. She? Who?
Jos. Julia!
Bart. Got one? Got what?
Jos. A young man shut up in a box !
Bart. In a box?
Jos. Listen. After being well scolded by Aunt Martha. I followed Julia to her room. There she was, with a little open box before her, out of which she took something, looked at it, then pressed her lips to it, and gave such a sigh ; you might have heard it here-perhaps you did.

Bart. Well?
Jos. Then aunt called her and she hurried ont of the room. leaving the box on the table; and then-then-somehow or other-here it is. ( producing a small casket) It looks as if there was a joung man inside -I mean a portrait-doesn't it?

Bart. (eager•ly). Yon've not openel it?
Jos. No; that's for Annt Martha to do.
Bart. Sarely you wouk not betray your sister's secret-perhaps her happiness?

Jos. Much she cared for mine, dirln't she? Aunt Martha must arid shall see it! (going, Barton stops her, the box falls on the stage amd opens) There, there, how clumsy yon are!

Bart. (picks up box, then suddenly starts). What do I see?
Jos. That's what I want to know. It is a portrait, isn't it?
Bart. (confused). Yes-no! a mere fincy slietch-nothing more. (taliing miniature from box and hastily concerting it in his breast
pockei) Be persmaded by me-replace the box where you found it. (gives bo.e to her:)

Jos. Mayni I take just one little peep? - not that I've an atom of curiosity:

Bart. No, no!
Jos. Well, if you insist on it.
Bart. I do not insist-I beg, I implore it.
Jos. Very well. (hurvies out r.)
Bart. (wotching her out, then tuking miniature out and looking at it). My portrait! And what is written here? (reads) "From memory." What am I to think? Can I dare to hope that her indiflerence was assmmed-that she ever loved me-that she loves me still? Can such happiness be mine? Dear Julia! But zomds! what abont Josephine? Poor litule girl! I can't marry them both. What-what is to be done? (walking $u_{i}$ ) and down) Will anyhody tell me what's to be done!

## Enter Royston, luuriedly, c.

Roys. (comin! down). Oh, here you are! I couldn't wait any longer. (following Barton up, aud down.)

Bar'r. (impatiently). Don't worry! Don't hother !
Roys. (astonished). Bother ! when I want to thank you for int rotucinge me to this chaming, amiable family, and to tell you that I don't despain of becomins one of it.

Bart. What?
Roys. In a word, I'm in love! There's no mistake about it-over head and ears in love.

Bart. What, sir-you persist in carrying on this absurd, ridiculous joke?

Roys. Joke!
Burt. Yes. sir ; and I hes to tell yon, I'll not allow, I'll not permil you to amoy poor, dear Julia-I mean Miss Tompleton-will your unwelcome aftentions, sir-your ahsurt importmities, sir.

Rovs. Miss 'Tempieton? My den fellow, she's nothing whaterer to to with it ; it's the other-the little one.

Bart. (joyfully). Josepuine?
Roys. Yes.
Bart. My dear fellow, come to my arms! (throumin! lios arms about Royston, witho stru!!!les) I congratulate yon! I sive you jow! Such a
 tenderness. Come to my arms agi in! (embracu!f liorston aguin.)

Rors. 'Then yon'll speak for me, w?
Bart. Speak for yourself-here she comes.

> Eater Josmpurne. Imorirdly, r.

Jos. (stopping on seemin! Royston). Mr. Royston!
Bart. (aside to Rorstos). Now thent, spaik ont! Don't be altaidput on a sentimental lowk.
 (aloud) Miss Josephine-I-I- (tside) It's ver? awh wast! If I only knew how to herin.

Bart. (aside to him). Go on!
Roys. Pardon my framkess, hut hut it has heen impossible for me to find myself in your charming society withont being captivated-en-chanted-by your fascinations, your -

Jos. (surprised). I thought that it was my sister who-

Rors. So it was ; but she wouldit hare me. That's why I-
Bart. (hustity aside to hime). No. that won't do!
Roys. (shoutin! ). No, that won't do!
Jos. (still more astonished). And you don't hesitate to address me in this lancmige hefore- (pointing to Banron.)

Roys. Before my friemi-m! hosom friemithat I went to school with at Bagnigge Welis? Why should I ? It is he who encourages me who tells me to "go on." (to Barton) Youtold me to "go on," didn't you?

Jos. (with intention, looling at Barton). But has it never occurred to yon that you mioht have a rival!

Rors. So much the better! I should make it my immediate business to sweep him off the face of the earth!

Jos. (to Barton, in a sarcastic tone). And you, sir, can listen with berfect calmuess and indifference! Have you nothing to say?

Rors. Yes, have you nothing-
Bart. (reside to him). Iohl your tongre! (aloul, und with affected solemnity) Ah! who can anticipate events? How little do we know what a few hours may bring forth!

Roys. Yes, how litule do we know -
Bart. (aside to him again). Mold your tomgue! (aloud) In a word. what if circumstances compel me to leave England for a considerable time?

Jos. A considerable time?
Bart. Yes; liwo years at least-possibly more?
Jos. Two or three years?
Bamt. Conld I venture to hope that you rould sulmit to such a tax on your soodness-your patience?

Jos. (very quichly). I should think not, inleed!
Bart. (aside). She doesm't love me! Huzzah! (alome) What comse is then open to me? One-only one-to sacrifice myself to the hapuiness of my friend !

Rors. (arasping his hand). Glorions creatmre!
Jos. But what abont your own happiness? It isu't likely you conhl give me up so quietly withont some other reason-some other motive.

Bart. I have another motive, which for !omr sister's salie yon will respect. In a word, that portrait--

Jos. In Julia's box! Yes. Well?
Bart. Was mine! See! (taking out prithait and showing it.)
Jos. (exclaiming). Yours? It is!
Roys. Yours? It is! (bewildered.)
Jos. Then-then you are her yomer m:m after all?
Roys. Yes; you are her young man-
Jos. Of conrse. Now I miderstand - now I see it all.
Roys. So do I. No I den't-at least, not quite.
Euter Colonel, huriedly, c.
CoL. (singing as he comes in). "See, the conquering hero comes." Victory! victory! Everything's settled; and now, my dear romner frieuds, (shaking Barton's and Josephine's luands) you can get married as soon as you like.

Jos.
Bart. \} (together $\cdot$ ). Married!
Roys.
Col. Yes. I had a devil of a firlt for it, hat I've carried the day. Aunt Martha consents; Julia consents, evrybody consents!

Roys. I beg your pardon-I don't! (shouting) I forbid the banns !

## Enter Mrs. Templeton, r., followed by Julia.

Julia (aside, as she sees Barton). Still here!
Jos. So, Aunt Martha, you have given jour consent? And youtoo, Julia?

Julia (endeavoring to conceal her emotion). Yes, Josephine, willingly, gladly. Can I be indifferent to your happiness? (smiling sadly.)

Jos. (aside). How bravely she bears herself! (aloud) And yet, just now you were so indignant, so angry with me!

Julia. A momentary caprice, an mworthy jealonsy; hut no more of that. Kiss me, (lear sister. (kisses Josephine and moves away.)

Jos. (aside). A tear! But you won't suffer long, poor dear martyr! (suddenly bursting into loud leughter) Ha, ha, ha! (aside to Colones) Laugh!

CoL. (forcing laugh). Ha, ha, ha! (aside) Laugh!
Roys. (very loud). Ha, ha, ha! ( (tside) I don't know what I'm langhing about.

Mrs. 'T. What is the matter?
Jos. (laughing again). Ha, ha, ha! You don't mean to say you've all been taken in? Did you think we were in earnest all the time? Ha, ha, ha! (aside to Colonel) Laugh!

Col. Ha, ha, ha!
Roys. (very loud). Ha, ha, ha!
Mrs. 'I'. (impatiently). Josephine, I insist on your explaning this extraordinary behaviour instantly.

Jos. Nothing so simple. (to Colonel amel Barton) 'There's no necessity for our carrying on this innocent little jest any tonger, is there?

Mrs. T. Jest?
Jos. Yes; this harmless conspiracy to make evervody haply. Julia dear, it was to test your love for me that I pretemded to be so very anxions to cet married, which I wasn't the least bit in the world. (with a s'y look at Royston) I mean, I wasn't then. My fellow-conspinator, Mr. Barton, fearing that your rejection of him might proceed from a preference for another, jomed in the phot, but very mowillingly, for it is you, Julia, you alone, that he has ever loved; you alone that he lores still!

Mrs. T. What do I hear?
Bart. The truth, madam. (lo Julia) May I hope, or must I endure a second refusal?

Julia. (tenclerly). I suffered too mnch from the first, Harry. (giving her hand to Barton.)

Roys. (aside). That's one couple ; but there's room for another. (to Mrs. T.) Madam, I have the honor to solicit the hand of your younger niece, Miss Josephine!

Mrs. T. With all my heart, Mr. Royston ; that is, unless Josephine objects.
Jos. (quickly). But she doesn'l! (fiving her hamel to Royston.)
Bart. You see, Jomathan will be satisfied after all.
Roys. Yes. But poor Sophia! (sighin!!.)
Bart. Hush! (asicle to Josepmes. and slipping the portrait into hero hand) You'll put this portrait back in its place.-

Jos. She won't care to look at it now that she's got the original.

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