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III N° 2. III
SUSPICION AND SIMPLICITY.



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Suspicion and Simplicity.

SENSATIONAL COMEDY SKETCH.

BY SAUL SERTREW.

CHARACTERS.

LADY.

GENT.

SCENE—*A drawing room. Window in flat with blinds to open and shut. Table L. 2d E., with books, newspaper and vase for flowers; chairs R. and L.; door L. 3d E. Enter LADY 2d E. L. with bouquet of flowers in her hand; places flowers in vase on table, and arranges books.*

LADY—Well, I am sure I have nothing to complain of so far in my married life; my husband is a dear, kind, good-natured fellow, and I *do* love him so. Now I think of it, he is a trifle jealous at times—but then I suppose all men are more or less so. I do everything I can to please him, and I do think he is the charmingest little fellow in the whole world. He said he should be home early, so I shall look out of the window and watch for him. (Goes to window and looks out.) There he is coming down the street; I'll wave my handkerchief to attract his attention. I'll throw him a kiss, too. He is coming up-stairs. (Waves handkerchief.)

Enter GENT.

GENT (aside)—I thought as much; my own eyes couldn't be deceived. I have caught her in the very act itself. Oh, that we should call these fair creatures ours and not their appetites'.

LADY—What is that, my dear; did you say you had a good appetite?

GENT—Woman! what were you doing at that window when I entered? Don't deny it. I saw you winking and

throwing kisses at that ugly old curmudgeon opposite ; I saw you with these eyes, madam !

LADY—Now, my dear, be calm ; I was only waving my handkerchief to you, that's all.

GENT—Madam, you're a falsehood ; I mean *that's* a falsehood ! Why should deceit dwell in such a fair form ?

LADY—You ought to be ashamed of yourself to accuse your own wedded wife of such a thing. I'll go back to my mother this very hour, there. (Cries.) I'll go to Indiana ; I'll—I'll go to Salt Lake ; I'll go now, I will. (Preparing to go.)

GENT—Madam, this is a scheme, a plot ! You are going to meet the fellow across the way. (Strides up and down.) I'll have his blood, blood ! Iago, blood !

LADY—I shan't go ! I'll stay here if that will please you. Come, don't be angry with me ; I have done nothing to make you jealous. Let me ring and have our supper brought in here, and we will have such a cozy nice evening together. Won't you, my dear ? (Caresses him.)

GENT—Ah, my darling, who can be angry with you long ? (They embrace.)

LADY—Now sit down, dear, and we'll have such a nice time.

GENT (takes chair)—Now, I won't quarrel any more, my dear. I'll be a good boy, and we'll be so happy.

LADY—Yes, my duck ; won't we get along nicely now ? I'll just close the blinds and then we'll have supper, and everything will be so nice. (Closes blinds.)

GENT (jumps up)—Ah, what is the meaning of that ? By the dogs, it is a signal ! There is some ill brewing against my rest. Woman, come here ! Don't deny it ! I'm convinced, whatever you may say to the contrary, that your closing those blinds was only a signal, madam ! (Walks furiously up and down.) Yes, madam !

LADY—Oh dear, you wrong me ; indeed you do. I am

innocent. Why can't I ever close a window or look out of one but I must be suspected?

GENT—Madam, I believe that you have a plot against my life. But I'll prevent its execution. There, ma'm, there! (overturns chairs) there!

LADY—Sir, you accuse me wrongfully! I am innocent! I shall leave your house immediately! (Going.)

GENT—Stay! (Aside—After all, I may have been too rash.) Darling, forgive me; the fact is, I am almost out of my head. Come, sit down. There, let's make it all up. (They sit.)

LADY—Now, dear, I'm so glad you've got over your tantrums.

GENT—Darling, get me the *Herald* from the table, won't you?

LADY—(gives paper)—Certainly, my pet.

GENT (reading)—Let me see—Marriages, Divorces, Dogs Lost and Found, Stocks, Babies for Adoption, Criminal Intelligence, Personals—Ah, what do I see? Now, by heaven; I would not thus believe but for the sensible avouch of mine own eyesight!

LADY—What is it, dear?

GENT—False woman! Hark! (Reads.) “Lady in blue, meet me to-night; don't forget. ‘Barkis is willin’;’ you know how it is yourself.”

LADY—Well, my love, I see nothing in that to cause you uneasiness.

GENT—Madam, you dress in blue!

LADY—I do.

GENT (draws her mysteriously to the footlights)—Madam, I suspect you! I'd rather be a dog than live in this torment! On horror's head horrors accumulate.

LADY—Let me be!

GENT—Swear you are true to your Adolphus!

LADY—I do! I am like the snow!

GENT—Oh, torment! shall I forgive her? I shall; I think

I am a trifle too suspicious ; and she is so innocent and confiding, I can't believe her untrue. Are there not more blue dresses than one in the world ?

LADY—You ought to be ashamed to put any faith in those naughty “ Personals.”

GENT—Come to my heart, this once, and we shall never have one word in anger again. There ! I promise to be the best of husbands.

LADY—Won't you ever be jealous again ?

GENT—Never ! I swear.

LADY (offering her lips)—Now kiss the book, and I'll believe you.

GENT (kissing)—I'm the happiest fellow alive !

LADY—I hate suspicion. (A duet, or the song “ Kiss and Make Up,” can be introduced here.)

GENT—Now, my dear, we have made it all up, and I think the best thing to do is to have a nice little supper and a pleasant *tête a tête*. I'll go and order supper. We won't disturb the servants, it's so late. At the same time I'll get a bottle of wine to revive my drooping spirits.

LADY—Very well, my sweet ; I'll content myself till your return.

GENT—*Au revoir !*

[Exit.

LADY—What a foolish fellow ! But I think he's good-hearted and means well ! Oh, if I could only cure him of this jealousy ! I have it ! I'll go and get his cloak and personate the old curmudgeon across the way, and find out really if he is jealous or not ! (She goes outside and sings in a changed voice the following song, as if under the window some one is serenading her) :

Come, oh, come with me,
The moon is beaming ;
All around the house
The cats are screaming.
Hasten, darling one,
My sweetest dove,
Moonlight hours are made for love.

Enter GENT, with basket of refreshments. Goes to table and places basket thereon.

GENT—Now, my love, I've brought a nice supper. (Hears singing outside. Listens.) I wonder what and who that is! (Goes to window, listens, and returns.) Ah, by heavens! Now I am satisfied! (Looks at basket.) Avaunt and quit my sight! There is no speculation in those eyes! (Throws basket aside.) Woman, thou art a falsehood! (Goes to window.) Who is that serenading her right under my very nose? (Turns from window, as if to address some one.) Where is the handkerchief I gave you? (Discovers she has gone.) No one here! (Looks about.) Ah, she's gone to meet that old curmudgeon across the street! (Walks up and down.) Now, by St. Paul, the work goes bravely on! I'll cross the destroyer of my peace though Hades itself should gape. Yes, it's that old curmudgeon serenading her beneath my very nose. Oh, would that he were here! I'd tear him all to pieces. (Strides up and down) as

Enter LADY, disguised as a man. Wears a large cloak over her dress and slouch hat. Has a cane in her hand, and strikes the floor with cane as she enters.

LADY—I am here (walks dignifiedly), and you are the very man I've been longing to see. I'll have you understand, sir you shall not call me an old curmudgeon, and I want satisfaction, sir; satisfaction, sir! (Walks up and down as if in a rage, and strikes floor with cane.) Pistols or broad swords! Choose your weapons!

GENT (alarmed)—But, sir, I never shot a pistol off in my life, and my wife would die if she knew I was going to fight a duel!

LADY—Your wife, sir, has departed this life ere this—perhaps now is food for the fishes!

GENT (horrified)—My wife departed this life! What do you mean, sir? I don't understand you!

LADY—You have driven her to desperation by your incessant jealousy ; and, full of grief and despair, she has ended her misery by throwing herself into the river !

GENT (amazed)—My wife destroyed herself? Impossible !

LADY (hands note)—Read for yourself. This note was found pinned to her shawl, which was picked up by a boatman on the beach.

GENT (reads note nervously)—Yes, this is the handwriting of my wife. (Starts.) And what is this I read ! (Reads aloud.) “Your conduct toward me has been unbearable. I could not endure it any longer. Your incessant jealousy has driven me to desperation, and to end my misery I have thrown myself”— (Drops note and staggers to a chair.) Oh, I can read no further ! My eyes fail me, my head swims around, and I feel as if I should go mad : And I have been the cause of her committing this rash act ! Yes, I have driven her from me by my horrible jealousy ! I have killed her ! I have murdered her : Oh I shall go mad ! (Bows his head in his hand.)

LADY—Ah, there are some men in this world that never appreciate the worth of a good and loving wife until she has gone.

GENT (appealingly)—Oh, sir, do you think she has really thrown herself in the river ? Oh, give me one spark of hope ! Is there no possibility that there may be some mistake, and she has not committed this rash act ? Oh, I do love her so ! I could not live without her !

LADY—There is no doubt, sir, but that she has consigned herself to a watery grave.

GENT—And perhaps now her body may be floating out with the tide—far, far out to sea, and I shall never see her again ! Oh, if she were only here once more sitting in her little chair and her sweet face beaming on me, I'd never say an angry word to her, or ever be jealous again !

LADY (aside)—Oh, I can't stand this much longer. I'll

have to make myself known. I never knew he loved me so much.

GENT (strides up and down)—Oh, why do I stop here when I should be in search of her! Yes, I will go in search of my darling, and if I should not find her I will throw myself into the river and join her in that watery grave! (Going off.)

LADY (aside and alarmed—Oh mercy, he will do something desperate; I must make myself known. No, not yet, he is too much excited, he might kill me for this deception.) Stay, rash man; it is useless to go in search of her; she is far beyond your reach. Be calm and compose yourself; do not mourn for a woman that would so cruelly desert her husband and disgrace her family name by committing that unpardonable act called suicide. There are other women in this world far better than she. Come, calm yourself; cheer up, let her go; she is not worth all this grief.

GENT (angry)—What, do you mean to insult me, sir, by speaking so light of my wife. I love her better than my own life, and I will not take a word against her from any man. Come, sir, I refused to fight when you entered, I now insist upon it. Come, where are your pistols?

LADY—I have none.

GENT (going off)—Then I will procure them.

[Exit hurriedly.]

LADY (alarmed)—Oh mercy, I will be murdered if I do not make myself known to him, and perhaps if I should he may kill me for this deception. Oh, I am satisfied that he loves me. I must, I will make myself known at all hazard. I hear his footsteps, he is coming. (Throws her disguise aside, takes book from table and sits in chair, facing audience, as if reading.)

Enter GENT, brandishing pistols.

GENT—I have procured the pistols; now I will lock the doors and prevent all intrusion. (Goes to doors as if locking them.)

LADY (very much alarmed)—Oh, I wonder if the pistols are loaded? Oh, mercy, what shall I do? I will be murdered in cold blood!

GENT (comes forward quickly, holding out pistols)—Now, sir, I am ready, and here are the pistols; choose for yourself. (Stops suddenly and looks astonished.) Gone, not here! and oh, horror, what is this, what do I see before me? In place of a man I behold a woman, and she—my wife! No, (trembling all over) it's a ghost! (drops pistols) It's a ghost, it's her ghost, come to rebuke me for my cruelty. Oh, horrors, I shall go mad! this apparition will drive me insane! I will end my misery at once; I will blow my brains out now. (Suddenly picks up pistol and points it at his head. She screams. He drops pistol and stands amazed.) Oh, what do I hear, the voice of my wife! (She drops book and faints; he runs to her.) Yes it is, my darling wife, and alive to me once more! (Falls on his knees.) Oh, speak to me, speak to me, my darling wife! Oh, forgive me; forgive me; I will never be jealous or cause you sorrow again! Oh, say that you will forgive me? let me hear thy sweet voice once more! (Feels of her hand; starts suddenly.) Oh, heavens, her hand is cold as ice; oh, she is dead!

LADY (jumps up suddenly)—No, I am alive and kicking!

GENT (delighted)—Oh, my wife; my darling wife! (They embrace.) Oh, is this a dream, or what does it mean?

LADY—Yes, it's a dream, and I'll tell you all about it in my song. (Both sing duet.)

“DON'T BE JEALOUS, DARLING.”

AIR: “Don't Get Weary.”

CURTAIN.

1. Jenny Hughes' Dolly Varden.
2. Squeeze Me, Joe.
3. Johnny Wild's Dat Settles Dat.
4. Jennie Engle's Grand Parade.
5. Sheridan & Mack's Character.
6. Harrigan & Hart's Mulcahy Twins.
7. Johnny Roach's Greatest.
8. Kiss Behind the Door.
9. Delehanty & Hengler's Songs, &c.
10. Miles Morris' Irish Gems.
11. Foy Sisters Songster.
12. McKee & Rogers' Rebecca Jane.
13. Jennie Engle's Serio Comie.
14. The Fielding's Songster.
15. Wayne & Lovely's Acrobatic.
16. Johnny Roach's Emerald.
17. I want to go Home to Mama.
18. Luke Schoolcraft's Shine on.
19. Billy Cotton's Old Black Joe.
20. Delehanty & Hengler's Love, &c.
21. Billie & Maggie Ray's Old Log Cabin.
22. McAndrew's Water Melon Man.
23. Johnny Roach's Its Funny when you Feel, &c.
24. Harrigan & Hart's Mulligan Guards.
25. Walters and Morton's My Gal.
26. Billy Carter's Great Banjo Solo.
27. Johnson & Power's Little Moke.
28. Jennie Engle's Favorite Songs.
29. Shoot the Hat.
30. Freeman Sisters' On Board the Mary Jane.
31. Jennie Hughes' I Should Like To.
32. Woman's Temperance.
33. Gus Williams' Belle of the Ball.
34. The Fieldings' Tipperary Couple.
35. Harrigan & Hart's Tom Collins.
36. Wild & Bradley's Big Fat Nance.
37. Larry Tooley's Bouncing Dutchman.
38. Harrigan & Hart's Regular Army.
39. Ain't you Awful.
40. Harrigan & Hart's Patrolek's Day Parade.
41. Arnold Brothers' Jig, Song and Dance.
42. Diamond & Ryan's Irish Hod Carriers.
43. Harrigan & Hart's Mulligan Grds (2d An. Prde)
44. Sandford & Wilson's Musical Mokes.
45. Harrigan & Hart's Skidmore Guards.
46. Billy Courtwright's Flewly, Flewly, Flewly Sngstr
47. Harper & Stansill's One Legged Songster.
48. Fielding's Irish Domestic Songster.
49. Tony Pastor's Traveling Songster.
50. Jenny Morgan's Kiss Songster.
51. Foy Sisters Mr. and Mrs. Thompson.
52. Wild & Bradley Theatre Comique.
53. Alice Harrison's Olympic.
54. Billy Carter's Champion Banjo.
55. Cool Burgess' Nleodemus Johnson.
56. Alice Bennett's Laughing Eyes.
57. Richmond Sister's Challenge Song and Dance.
58. Harrigan & Hart's Day we Celebrate.
59. Dr. J. L. Thayer's Laugh and Grow Fat, &c.
60. Sheridan & Mack's Knocking on de Outside, &c.
61. Harrigan & Hart's Gallant 69th.
62. T. M. Hengler's Fun in the Kitchen.
63. Delehanty & Cummings' Sunset in the South.
64. Rollin Howard's Dramatic.
65. C. L. Davls' Dutch Song and Dance.
66. Johnson & Bruno's Mania Monia Nigs.
67. Sam Devere's Caricature Song.
68. Miles Morris' Roger O'Malley.
69. Harrigan & Hart's Blue and Gray.
70. Harper & Stansill's Sweet June Rose.
71. Ada Richmond's Wait Till Moonlight Falls, &c.
72. Pat Rooney's O'Reilly You're N. G.
73. La Verd Sisters Sailing on the Lake.
74. Ella Weimer's King of Trumps.
75. T. M. Hengler's Sweet Aleen.
76. Harrigan & Hart's Hildebrand Montrose.
77. Jolly Nash's Our Boys.
78. Tierney & Cronin's Ashnnee Rerarrts.
79. Big Four, Lester, Allen, Smith & Waldron.
80. The Murray's Drops of Blarney.
81. Western & Walling's Just as You See us Now.
82. Am. Tann, Wayne, Lovely, Cotton & Birdie.
83. Jakey Woodhigstein.
84. Larry Tooley's Turn Down Your Collar
85. Bennett & Kernell's Across the Raging Waters.
86. Foster & Dudley's Irish Chlg. Song and Dance.
87. The Braham's Vocal Character
88. Harry Montague's Popular Song
89. The Fielding's New York.
90. Winnett's Love in Broken Gerd
91. Sam Martin's One Leg Soldier
92. Jennie Lindsay's Style of the
93. Virginia Stiekney's Parisian V
94. Harrigan & Hart's Theatre C
95. Sam Devere's Combination.
96. J. O'Neill's Candidate for Al
97. Frank Lewis' Hurrah for the
98. Will You Love Me When I'm
99. John Reilly's The Way I Ma
100. Billy Pastor's Star Traveling
101. H. Osborne's & F. Wentworth
102. Johnson & Bruno's Just from
103. Scanlon & Cronin's Irishmen
104. Foy Sisters' Branigan Band.
105. Harrigan & Hart's S. O. T.
106. Niles & Evans' Two Love Le
107. Arnold Brothers' Triple Clog.
108. Kirk & Drew's Mischievous Gumpung.
109. Sam Devere's A Lean Banana.
110. Harry Braham's Silly Bill and Father.
111. Scanlon & Cronin's Poor, but a Gentleman Still.
112. Harrigan & Hart's Slavery Days.
113. Dick Sands' Irish Character
114. Bryant & Williams' Slender Nigs.
115. Lizzie Braham's Sweet Bye and Bye.
116. Delehanty & Hengler's Re-united Serenaders.
117. Murray's Old and Young.
118. Frank Lewis' Motto Songster.
119. Harrigan & Hart's Gliding Down the Stream.
120. Harrigan & Hart, Walking for dat Cake.
121. Jeppe and Fanny Delano's Love at First Sight.
122. Clarn Moore's Character and Descriptive.
123. Will Morton's Behind the Scenes.
124. Kelly & Ryan's Bards of Tara.
125. Bran New Big Four.
126. Cool Burgess Don't Get Weary.
127. Scanlon & Cronin, Dumdreary O'Dannell.
128. James D. Roomes' Fashionable Bents
129. Lydia Thompson's On the Strict Q. T.
130. The Pensleys' O'Riellies' Raffle.
131. Girard Brothers' Dancing in the Sunlight.
132. Harrigan & Hart's Sunday Night when, &c.
133. Chas. Konollman's New York Variety.
134. Sheehan & Jones' Man of Education.
135. Chas. Diamond's Milanese Minstrels.
136. The Murdoch's Don't You Do It.
137. Will. H. Trimble's Specialty.
138. The Bennett's Kitchen Domestic.
139. F. Lewis's Remember you have Children, &c.
140. Larry Tooley's Mutton Pie.
141. Harry Woodson's Gwine Back to Dixie.
142. Harrigan & Hart's Front Stoop.
143. The McKee's Dancing in the Bar.
144. Worden & Mack's Little Ruby
145. Ben Dodge's Don't take any Notice.
146. Collyer & Kelly's Buck Gont.
147. Delehanty & Hengler's Strawberries and Cream.
148. Fields & Hoey Musical Songster.
149. Whoa Emma
150. Harry Montague's At it Again.
151. Harry Bennett's Charley Flynn.
152. Tim Roger's Ain't he a Baby.
153. Harrigan & Hart's Isle de Blackwell.
154. Bobby Newcomb's Sweet Forget me Not.
155. H. Osborne & F. Wentworth's Irish Comedian.
156. Duncan Sisters' Down in the Meadows.
157. Andy and Annie Hughes Happy Irish Couple.
158. Robert McKay's Since der Band was Broken up.
159. Will H. Morton's America's Comique.
160. J. K. Emmet's Lullaby.
161. Pat Rooney's Day I Played Base Ball
162. Seamon & Sommers' Hsp. Lit. Chil. from the Sea.
163. Queen & West's Popular Songster.
164. Bennett's Combination.
165. Pat Rooney's Day I Walked O'Leary.
166. Barlow Brothers' Cabin Floor
167. Harrigan & Hart's Such an Education, &c.
168. Delehanty & Hengler's Laugh and Be Merry.
169. Jennie Hughes' Cash, Cash Songster.
170. Goss & Fox Jubilee Songster.
171. Flora Moore's Just Over Songster.
172. Foley & Sheffer's Big Pound Cake Songster

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