No. 20. When the night wind howls Song and Chorus

Sir Roderic and Ancestors





Attacca





















Sir Rod: Whose cheque?

Robin: Old Adam's

Sir Rod: But old Adam hasn't a banker,

Robin: I didn't say I forged his banker - I said I forged his cheque. On Saturday I dis-

inherited my only son.

Sir Rod: But you haven't got a son.

Robin: No- not yet. I disinherited him in advance, to save time. You see - by this arrange-

ment - he'll be born already disinherited.

Sir Rod: I see. But I don't think you can do that.

Robin: My good sir, If I can't disinherit my own unborn son, whose unborn son can I

disinherit?

Sir Rod: Humph! These arguments sound very well, but I can't help thinking that, if they

were reduced to syllogistic form, they wouldn't hold water. Now quite understand us. We are foggy, but we don't permit our fogginess to be presumed upon. Unless you undertake to—well, suppose we say, carry off a lady? (addressing Ghosts) Those who are in favour of his carrying off a lady? (All hold up their hands except a Bishop.) Those of a contrary opinion? (Bishop holds up both hands.) Oh, you're never satisfied! Yes, unless you undertake to carry off a lady at once—I don't

care what lady- you perish in inconceivable agonies.

Robin: Carry off a lady? Certainly not, on any account. I've the greatest respect for ladies, and I wouldn't do anything of the kind for worlds! No, no. I'm not that kind

of baronet, I assure you! If that's all you've got to say, you'd better go back to

your frames.

Sir Rod: Very good- then let the agonies commence.

(Ghosts make passes, Robin begins to writhe in agony.)*

Robin: Oh! Oh! Don't do that! I can't stand it!

Sir Rod: Painful, isn't it? It gets worse by degrees.

Robin: Oh! Oh! Stop a bit! Stop it, will you? I want to speak.

(Sir Roderic makes signs to the Ghosts, who resume their positions.)

Sir Rod: Better?

Robin: Yes, better now! Whew!

Sir Rod: Well, do you consent?

Robin: But it's such an ungentlemanly thing to do!

Sir Rod: As you please. (to Ghosts) Carry on!

- Jour Process, (so assesse) Curry on:

Robin: Stop- I can't stand it! I agree! I promise! It shall be done!

Sir Rod: Today?

Robin: Today!

Sir Rod: At once?

Robin: At once! I retract! I apologize! I had no idea it was anything like that!







^{*}This is the printed stage direction. The original and very effective staging was as follows: The Ghosts are in an arc across the stage, Roderic being in front, center, Robin has walked to center as he ends his last speech. The Ghosts, taking their cue from Roderic, all raise their right arms, then throwing all their weight onto a step forward, bring down their arms with all forefingers pointing at Robin, who promptly falls to the ground on his "Oh! Oh!" They resume their position, and repeat the gesture. Robin says "Don't do that!" They do it again, and he says "I can't stand it!" Roderic speaks, and they repeat their gestures once more, and then drop their arms at a sign from Roderic. When he says "Carry on!" they again repeat this gesture, holding it until Robin says "At once!" Then they relax, and laugh as they go into their Chorus.)

No. 24. My eyes are fully open Trio

Robin, Despard, and Margaret











and













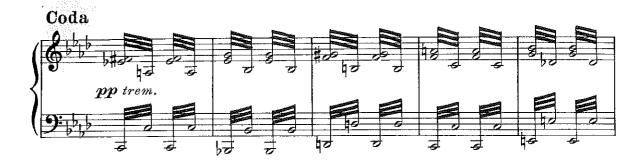


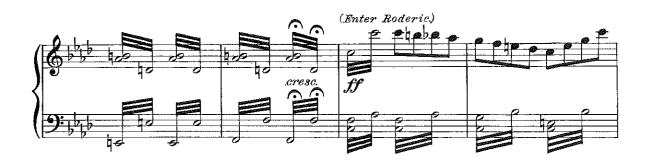














(Adam introduces Dame Hannah, very much excited, and exits, R.)

Robin: Dame Hannah! This is- this is not what I expected.

Hannah: Well, sir, and what would you with me? Oh, you have begun bravely-bravely indeed! Unappalled by the calm dignity of blameless womanhood, your minion has torn me from my spotless home, and dragged me, blindfold and shricking, through hedges, over stiles, and across a very difficult country, and left me, helpless and trembling, at your mercy! Yet not helpless, coward sir, for approach one step-nay, but the twentieth part of one poor inch- and this poniard (Produces a very small dagger) shall teach ye what it is to lay unholy hands on old Stephen Trusty's daughter!

Robin: Madam, I am extremely sorry for this. It is not at all what I intended— anything more correct— more deeply respectful than my intentions towards you, it would be impossible for anyone— however particular— to desire.

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Hannah:

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Sir Rod: Robin: Sir Rod: Hannah:

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Hannah:

Bah, I am not to be tricked by smooth words, hypocrite! But be warned in time. for there are, without, a hundred gallant hearts whose trusty blades would hack him limb from limb who dared to lay unholy hands on old Stephen Trusty's daughter!

Robin:

And this is what it is to embark upon a career of unlicensed pleasure!

(Hannah, who has taken a formidable dagger from one of the armed figures, throws her small dagger to Robin.)

Hannah:

Harkye, miscreant, you have secured me, and I am your poor prisoner; but if you think I cannot take care of myself you are very much mistaken. Now then it's one to one, and let the best man win! (making for him)

Robin:

(in an agony of terror) Don't! don't look at me like that! I can't bear it! chases him around the stage. He falls down before the curtain that hides Sir Roderic's picture.) Roderic! Uncle! Save me! (Sir Roderic enters, from his picture. He comes down-stage.)

Sir Rod:

What is the matter? Have you carried her off?

Robin:

I have - she is there - look at her - she terrifies me!

Sir Rod:

(looking at Hannah) Little Nannikin!

Hannah:

(amazed) Roddy - doddy!

Sir Rod:

My own old love! Why, how came you here?

Hannah:

This brute- he carried me off! Bodily! But I'll show him! (about to rush at Robin)

Sir Rod:

Stop! (to Robin) What do you mean by carrying off this lady? Are you aware that once upon a time she was engaged to be married to me? I'm very angry-

very angry indeed.

Robin:

Now I hope this will be a lesson to you in future not to-

Sir Rod:

Hold your tongue, sir.

Robin:

Yes, uncle.

Sir Rod:

Have you given him any encouragement?

Hannah:

(to Robin) Have I given you any encouragement? Frankly now, have I?

Robin:

No. Frankly, you have not. Anything more scrupulously correct than your conduct,

it would be impossible to desire.

Sir Rod:

You go away.

Robin:

Yes, uncle. (Exit Robin, R.)

Sir Rod:

(They come down-stage.) This is a strange meeting after so many years!

Hannah:

Very. I thought you were dead.

Sir Rod:

I am. I died ten years ago.

Hannah:

And are you pretty comfortable?

Sir Rod:

Pretty well- that is- yes, pretty well.

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Hannah:

You don't deserve to be, for I loved you all the while, dear; and it made me dreadfully unhappy to hear of all your goings-on, you bad, bad boy!

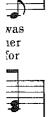
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No. 26. There grew a little flower Ballad

Hannah with Sir Roderic

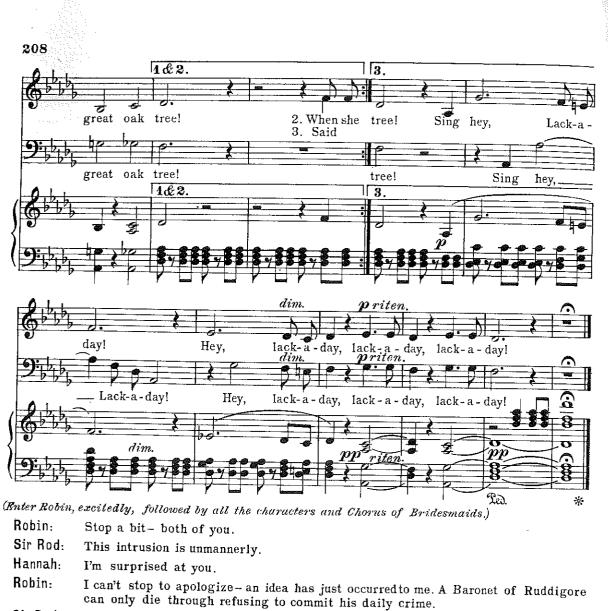






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Sir Rod: No doubt.

Robin: Therefore, to refuse to commit a daily crime is tantamount to suicide!

Sir Rod: It would seem so.

Robin: But suicide is, itself, a crime- and so, by your own showing, you ought never to have died at all!

Sir Rod: I see- I understand! Then I am practically alive!

Robin: Undoubtedly! (Sir Roderic embraces Hannah.) Rose, when you believed that I was a simple farmer, I believe you loved me?

Rose: Madly, passionately!

Robin: But if I should turn out not to be a bad baronet after all, how would you love me

then?

Rose: Passionately, madly!

Robin: As before?

Rose: Why, of course!

Robin: My darling! (They embrace.)

Richard: Here, I say, belay!

Rose: Oh sir, belay, if it's absolutely necessary!

Robin: Belay? Certainly not! No.





