(Swinging her self around & going to lemonade stand.) Oh nothing at all, only I was going to give you a piece of advice, but
(drinking lemonade.) I won't throw it away.

Paul.

Oh Nina, how could you so soon have forgotten me? There's nothing left for me to do but to die!

Pol.

(Turning.) Well you're a goose!

Paul

What did you say?

Pol.

(Going to him.) I said you are a g-o-o-e-e- Goose! Why don't you get up & seek revenge? (Throws her right hand out in front of him.)

Paul.

(Rises as he grasps her wrist with his left hand & with his right hand takes revolver from pocket, as they go up stage together.) I will! Who is he? What is he? Where is he? (Comes down dragging Polly with him.) I'll shoot him like a dog!

Pol.

(Screams.) Oh, no! no! no!

Paul.

Yes I will, where is he? I say?

Pol.

No, no, I'll tell you what to do!

Paul.

I know what to do, where is he?

Pol.

I won't tell you anything about it who he is or what he is unless you promise to do just as I want you to.

Paul.

What do you want me to do?

Pol.

I want you to flirt with me.

Paul.

Flirt with you? Why you are only a little girl!

Pol.

Little girl! didn't you promise not to call me a little girl again? didn't you? didn't you?

Paul.

Oh, well I forgot!

Pol.

I guess I am old enough to be in love & I knew how to flirt long ago!

Paul.

You in love? (laughs.)

Pol.

Yes ME in love! Don't I look as though I was in love? Can't
you I'm in love with the very one she is flirting with? Oh dear! I wish I was dead & buried long ago! What did you come here for any way?

Paul.
Partly business, partly pleasure at least I had anticipated pleasure in seeing Nina & explaining a little misunderstanding we had, but now to think she could have forgotten me so soon!

Pol.
There, there don't you feel so badly about it. I'll tell you what we'll do, we'll make 'em jealous! You see they have gone on for a boat ride together, you & I will walk along the shore & I'll look up into your face & I'll pretend to be desperately in love with you & you must pretend to be desperately in love with me! Come along!(they go up stage R. Polly looks L.) Oh hero comes Nancy, I want to speak to her, you run along down the path & I'll overtake you in a minute.

Paul
All right, hurry up!(exit R.U.)

Pol.
(Nancy enters, L.U.) Oh Nancy here's a letter I got for you at the post office this morning, & I forgot to give it to you-- You seem to be getting lots of letters, lately, don't you? -- (starts to go, stops.) Oh by the way, I met Mr. Timid a little while ago, & he told me to tell you that he had something to say to you of the greatest importance, so I thought I'd prepare you.

Nan(Takes letter, lays grab bag on lemonade stand L.) Prepare me for what?

Pol.
Oh that would be telling, but this much I'll tell you, he said something to me about your taking care of the twins!(exit R.U.)

Nan.
Oh my heart is all of a flutter! Let me read this letter, perhaps it will calm & sooth e my little palpatating heart: (reads.) "My darling, I am very anxious for tomorrow to come" This must have been written yesterday- (reads) "to come that I may have my doubts set at rest. I feel that I know who you are, though you have never given me your name, even though you should not prove to be the one I am thinking of. I feel that our hearts beat as one. Yours as ever & for ever, T.T. p.S. Don't forget the red nose!" How very eccentric he is, but I must humor the dear man,(looks L.L.) Ah, here he comes! I must retire till I become more composed & fix my nose.(Exit R.L.E)

Tim.
(Enters L. L.) Ah that this suspense was over!(sits on bench L. looks at rose which he wears on coat.) My red rose is beginning to fade! I can doubt no longer it was Nina who put that advertisement in my paper & has written me all those loving letters. She didn't say no when I proposed to her at the husking bee the other night, & here at the picnic she is the
only one I have noticed wearing a red rose. I shall have to get a housekeeper for she is too young to have the charge of 13 small children. It will be more expensive than I had thought, but what's the odds as long as you're happy (looks up.) Here comes Nancy. I'll speak to her about the housekeeping (Nancy enters R.I. keeps fan in front of her face.) Oh Nancy! I'm glad to see you (aside as he sees her nose.) I wonder what the devil's the matter with her nose? I wonder if she has joined the salvation army? (aloud.) I want to speak to you about the children.

Nan.

Dear Timothy, I'll be a mother to thy children!

Tim.

Ah! then Poll has told you all about it? And you will accept?

Nan.

(Aside.) I must be cautious, for fear he will think I am too anxious. Sit still my yearning heart, sit still!

Tim.

Come, what do you say? I should like to have it settled to day so as to have you take charge of the house as soon as possible.

Nan.

(Aside.) How impatient the dear man is!

Tim.

If you wish you can come down & try it a while & see how you like it.

Nan.

What:

Tim.

What will your answer be?

Nan.

(Aside.) I dare say the dear editor didn't mean to offend me. (Aloud.) What will my answer be? Can you doubt it? My heart is too too full for utterance! (lays her head on his shoulder.)

Tim.

What does this mean?

Nan.

How soon can the happy event take place?

Tim.

I told you, ou could come down as soon as you liked.

Nan.

Then go & seek an elder & let us be married at once

Tim.

US, married? Who said an' thing about US getting married?

Nan.

Do you mean to insult me? Do you not mean to marry me? Did you not write me this letter? Did you not bid me wear a red nose?

Tim.

Not as I knows on!
Do you deny that hand writing? (shows letter, which she takes from pocket.)

Tim.

How did you come by that?

Nan.

You sent it to me & 14 others besides, one every day since the husking bee, all addressed to "N.B.P.O."

Tim (Goes up stage, Nan. follows him.)

What have I done! What have I done?

Nan.

(Coming down stage together.) You've broken my heart, (stamps on his foot.) that's what you've done!

Tim.

(As he hobbles to bench L. & you've broken my toe, that's what you've done!

Nan.

You villain! If you don't marry me, I'll sue you for (takes his head & slams it on bench.) breach--of--promise! (lets go, & X R.) Oh, woman! woman! your path in life is hard! hard! hard! (exit R. L.)

Tim.

Thank heaven she's gone. (Polly enters R. L.) What shall I do? (sees Pol.) & you, YOU are the cause of it all

Pol.

What's the matter, uncle Tim?

Tim.

Nancy Baker!

Pol.

Well what of her?

Tim.

She's going to marry me! & it's all your fault! You told me that Nina Blossom put that advertisement in my paper & I answered it!

Pol.

No I didn't, you asked me & I said "I wouldn't say yes & I wouldn't say no" Moral--Never answer promiscuous advertisements!

Tim.

But I won't marry her! Pol.

Well I don't know that you are obliged to! (goes to swing.)

Tim.

I know what I'll do! I'll act like a sensible man! I'll commit suicide! I'll jump into the river! (runs up stage & into Nancy arms as she comes on R. S.)

Nan.

Oh, Timothy, what a coincidence! Thou wert seeking me wert thou not?

Tim.

I wert NOT! Let me go! let me go!

Nan.
(clinging to him.) Never again! never shall we part! Come, let us seek the elder at once & be bound forever more, come, love, come! (Nancy drags him off L. 4. E.)

Pol.

Poor uncle Tim. I'm afraid Nancy will pursuade him this time sure. But just to think of it! I am going to NY. & see my grand-pa & when I do see him, I am going to have lots of new dresses, & I'll have one made with a train on it 5 miles long & won't I come back here, & astonish the short dress brigade? (Paul enters R. catches Pol in swing as she swings back.) My! how you frightened me! (gets out of swing & comes down L.C. Paul R.C.) But come, tell me do you think I shall like my grand-pa? if not rather do you think he will like me?

Paul.

I see no reason why he should not like you, but that reminds me, I have not told you of the business that brought me down here. Your grand-pa sent me to escort you to NY. from there you are to go to some boarding school, where you are to remain for three years.

Pol.

What?

Paul.

Your grandfather wishes it?

Pol.

But shall I not see my grand-pa in NY?

Paul.

No, he is in Boston, & is going direct to San Francisco, from there he is going to Australia, & will not return till you have finished school.

Well I won't go now! (X to back of bench R.)

Paul.

Don't say that, Polly, for you will be obliged to go. Your grandfather is a gentleman of refinement, & you would shock him inexpressibly, if you were to enter his presence acting like a little country gawk.

Pol.

Country gawk! Indeed! whose fault is it, I'd like to know? hasn't he left me all my life amongst country gawks, as you choose to call them, uncared for & unloved, like a weed in the garden?

John.

(Without.) Come along, Nina!

Nina

(Without.) All right, John!

Paul.

Here comes John & Nina, what shall we do?

Pol.

I don't care!

Paul.

Come, we must not let them see us here.
Pol.
(As they come down stage L.) We had a lovely ride, didn't we John?

John.
Yes—Let's sit down here a while & rest.

Nina.
(Sits on bench L, pours out a glass of lemonade & drinks.) Will you get my sack for me, I left it around here somewhere.

John.
Here it is. (gives her grab-bag, from table. Pol. & Paul listen)

Why that's not it!

John.
Well that's what we call a sack in—(local gag.)

Nina.
Well I mean m' sack that I wear.

John.
Oh—(sees it on tree gets it & brings it to her, sits R of her on bench, acts as if he smells something disagreeable.)

Nina.
Isn't the moon lovely?

John.
It isn't half as lovely as you are,—Do you know I think you are the loveliest girl I ever saw

Pol.
(aside. Oh, do you indeed?)

Nina.
By the way, John do you know who that was walking with Polly a little while ago? I couldn't see his face, but his form was very familiar. (acts as if smelling something.)

John.
One of the Deacons I suppose, she is such a little fly-away they all like to talk with her.(same bus.)

Nina.
(Smelling bus.) Say John, let's sit over there. (crosses to bench R. John follows her.)

John.
Yes I guess it would be better over there. (sits, aside.)

Confound it what is it?

Nina.
(Aside.) Dear me what is its smell so? Where's my handkerchief? (Takes handkerchief from pocket puts it to her nose, throws it down C.) Horrors! (jumps on bench.)

John.
What is it?

Nina.
I don't know—It must be a dead mouse, how could it have got into my pocket?

John
John.
I'm sure I don't know. (Goes to pick it up.)

Nina.
(Screams.) Oh, don't touch it!

John.
Why not? I want to see what it is. (picks it up & opens paper. laughs.) Why it's only a piece of cheese.

Nina.
Cheese?

John.
Limberger, do you want it?

Nina.
No, no! For heaven's sake, throw it away.

John.
What's the matter with throwing it on the ground & letting it walk away? (starts to throw it I...sees pitcher of lemonade.)
I've got an idea: (takes up pitcher, drops cheese in it & shakes it up.) 50 cts. for a glass of lemonade! I'll leave that there to draw trade. (puts pitcher on stand.)

Nina.
Now John let's go for a walk! (they go up stage.)

Pol.
(Drags Paul to bench R.) Come on, it's our turn now, make love to me quick!

Paul.
I feel more like swearing!

Pol.
Quick! quick!

Paul.
Darling Polly, sit here & rest your self!

John.
(Up L.) Darling Polly! (turns.)

(Turns.) That voice!

Pol.
Oh, Paul, Paul, without your love I should die!

John.
(Aside.) It's a pity you didn't die long ago, instead of trifling with an honest heart like mine!

Pol.
Oh, Paul, many & many a time have I sat at my window, & gazed at the stars, & wondered when you would come & take me from these weary chains that are breaking my heart. (whispers.) How is that? I read it in a book.

Paul.
Good! It's sure to make them jealous.

Pol.
(A aloud) Oh, Paul, you will always love me?
John.

(Aside.) This is too much! (Aloud as he throws Paul to the L.)
Sir! (goes L.C.)

Nina.

(R.C. near Pol.) Polly!

Pol.

(Rises.) Did you speak to me, Miss?

Paul.

Did you address me, sir?

Nina.

(Crosses to L.C. John X to Pol.) Oh, Paul, this then, is your
"Dearest Polly."

Paul.

Is that you Miss Blossom? I hope you are having a pleasant

tome!

Nina.

(Half crying as she goes up stage.) Oh, VERY, thank you.

John

(Sits on bench by Pol, she has her back to him.) & you Miss
Brighton, seem to be enjoying yourself thoroughly!

Pol.

Who's got a better right I'd like to know! (Slaps his face &
goes up stage R.)

John.

(Crosses to Paul.) Who are you, sir & what are you that you
dare to address words of love to that young lady?

Paul.

Who are you & what are that you dare to address me thus?

John.

I am that young lady's friend & I will not stand by & see her
confidence abused by a stranger.

Paul.

Abused?

John.

Yes, abused abused. Do you want a dictionary to find out the
meaning of the word? or shall I give you a practical lesson?

Paul.

Sir, you insult me!

John.

Do I? I am perfectly willing to give you all the satisfaction
you want. Have you got a pistol?

Paul.

I have sir. (shows revolver.)

John (Runs R.) Well I have not.

Pol.

(Catches him by the coat.) Here, don't you run away!

John.

I ain't running away!

Pol.

I'd like to know what you call it then?
John.
I was just doing that for exercise!

Pol.
Don't be a goose.

John
I aint a goose

Pol.
Then go up to the house & get that pistol that you & I used to shoot squirrels with & bring it back here & shoot him with!

John.
(Aside.) Or get shot. (Aloud.) Polly, it aint at the house, I brought it to the picnic to shoot ducks with, & it's out there in the basket.

Pol.
Is it? Well I'll go & get it & you get ready to be killed.
(Exits R.4. Nina follows her.)

Paul.
Well sir, am I going to wait all night?

John.
You can go as soon as you like, you needn't wait any longer on my account.

Paul.
I don't intend to go until I've had m revenge!

John.
(Aside.) He'll kill me, I know he will! I'll bluff him! (aloud)
Sir! I have sent for a pistol, & am ready to fight you with guns, cannons, swords, or anything else, but it's quite evident to me, you don't understand the rules governing dueling. How are we going to fight without seconds?

Paul.
I see how it is, you wish to call in some one so as to prevent this duel! You are a coward!

John.
Coward! That name was never applied to John Adams Miller! & if you'll throw down your pistol, I'll thrash you within an inch of your life!

Paul.
I'm your man! (takes off coat, lays pistol on lemonade stand) (They fight ad lib- not too long- arrange funny fight. Pol. enters at end, R.4. Followed by Nina.)

Pol.
Here what are you doing?

John.
We're fighting, that's what we're doing!

Pol.
But I thought you were going to fight a duel?

John.
So we were, but how are we going to fight without seconds?
I was just going over our experience the other night. You know, the time we were in that little corner store, and I thought, you know, I'd never been in a corner store before. It was pretty cool. I mean, it was like a little world in itself. And the people, they were so friendly, you know. They'd always smile and say, "Hello!" It was a really special moment. And then, you know, I thought about how we've been going to this same store for years now, and it's like a tradition. I wonder if we'll ever find another store that feels like this one.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.

Well, I was just thinking about that, and then I remembered something else. You know, when we were in the corner store, the lady at the counter gave us a bunch of little candy bars. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is so nice!" It was like she knew we were there, and she wanted to make us feel special. It was such a sweet moment.

I was just thinking, you know, about how important it is to have those little moments that make us feel special. It's like we're all looking for those special moments in our lives, aren't we? And when we find them, they really stick with us, you know? It's like they become a part of our memories.
Pol.
That's so, I never thought about that, never mind, I'll tell you what you'll do, you see I couldn't find the pistol, so you'll just shake hands & make up & all have a drink with me!

Ommes

What?

Pol.

Of lemonade.

Pol.

(Goes to stand & pours out lemonade, gives some to Nan, Tim, & Paul.) Won't you have some, John? Nina? (They both refuse.)

Pol (comes C.) Oh very well! (They all drink at the same time, all except Tim spit it out.) Oh! we are all poisoned!

Ommes.

Poisoned! (Tim begins to drink his fast, Nan. tries to stop him, he even eats the peel in the glass.

John.

You are!

Ommes

What!

John

With limberger cheese!

Pol.

Oh! All right John you got even with me that time, I'll forgive you if you'll come & give me a swing. (They go to swing.)

Paul

(Crosses to Nina, R.) And, Nina I'm sure you'll forgive me when you know that letter was written to Polly, here.

Nina.

I thought so.

Paul.

But, Nina, I only wrote at the dictation of her grandfather!

Nina.

Sure? (he nods) Then I do forgive you! (they go up L.)

Nan.

(Crosses to R.) Now that your fight is over I would like to have a word with you, Polly come here, I want you to tell them what you saw. Did Mr. Timid embrace me? & didn't write me all these letters?

Umhum!

Paul.

A clear case. I am a justice of the peace as well as a lawyer & I can perform the ceremony. In my opinion you will be obliged to marry Nancy or pay the damages. (Slaps Tim on back)

Tim.

Eh! What?

Paul.

$10000

Tim.
Tim.
Take the money but spare my soul!

Pol.
Oh, come, uncle Tim, brace up! John shall be groomsman, (John comes down to Tim, L helps him up.) & Nina & I shall be bridesmaids.

Tim
Oh if I was only dead! Pol. Oh uncle Tim, there are worse things than getting married.

Tim.
I don't believe it!

Paul.

Pol.
Yes, hurry up!

Paul.
If you don't suit each other you can go to Dakota & get a divorce. Join hands. (Nan grabs Tim's hand & holds it.) Nancy Baker do you take this man Timothy Timid to be your lawful husband, & promise to be unto him a loving & obedient wife?

Nan.
(Firmly.) I DO! (Tim faints, all fan & try to bring him to John sprinkles him with lemonade, & finally takes out the piece of cheese & holds it to his nose, he rises as if by magic.)

Paul.
Timothy Timid, do you take this woman, Nancy Baker to be your wedded wife, & promise to be unto her a faithful husband as long as you both do live?

Nan.
Say yes Timothy, say yes! (John nods his head.)

Tim.
(Breaks away. NO! I'm darned if I do! (Climbs up swing. Nan. follows him up C. & grabs his foot tries to pull him down. John X to Pol & Nina X to Paul attx)

CURTAIN.
Scene represents the parlor of a hotel in New York. Everything as handsome as possible.

PROPS.

Handsome furniture.
4 chairs
High sofa
Rugs.
Table.
STATUARY
Card tray. For Sam.
Plain ring (finger) for John.
Band boxes & bundles for Tim.
Live baby. For Tim.
Scroll for John
Drape on sofa (large one.)
ACT 3rd.

John
(Enters at rise shown on by Sambo.) Tell Miss Brighton I should like to see her at once. (puts card on tray.)

Sambo.
Yes sah! (Exit either R or L. 1st nearest Polly's dressing room.)

John.
(Who is dressed up & more refined.) Just 3 yrs. ago since Polly came to N.Y. I wonder if she will know me? I'm sure I'd know her anywhere!

Pol.
(Enters either L or R.) Oh John! John! John! (stops suddenly.) I beg your pardon, but the servant handed me a card & I though by the name on it ti was an old friend of mine. I beg your pardon for the mistake. (pretends not to know him.) but can I serve you in any way?

John.
(Aside.) She don't know me. (Aloud.) Well Miss, I called to see if I could sell you a copy of my new book. It is called "The advice to a Bashful Young Man."

Pol.
Good Gracious! I should think the very name of it would kill it!

John.
Oh, no, not at all it has been accepted by the Hartford publishing Co. & my name shall yet resound from one end of the earth to the other, from--

Pol.
Hemisphere to Hemisphere!

John.
How did you know I was going to say that?

Pol.
Ah there was one, long ago who used to say those words to me, How I have longed to hear them again!

John.
Oh, Polly, Polly, don't you know me?

Pol.
Stop! it can't be--

John.
It can be!

Pol.
It must be!

John.
It is!

Pol.
John. (starts to embrace him. puts her hand out & stops him.) Are you very sure it's you?
Well if I'm not sure, who should be?

Pol.

Oh, yes, I know it is now (same bus.) Now you ain't fooling are you?

John.

Oh, Polly, how can you have forgotten me?

Pol.

I do know you how (same bus.) but I am afraid some one will see us!

John.

Little did I think to meet with a reception like this.

Pol.

(Motions to John to see if there is any one looking, they go up looking off both sides of stage meet at C. back kiss) Well there!—Oh John! I've got a train! A dress with a regular genuine train, how I wish I had it on now! (Both sit on sofa C. Pol. R. John L.) How's all the folks at home?

John.

I nearly forgot to tell you what I came for, The folks at home are all well enough, but say, Tim & Nancy, are down at the depot, waiting for me to come back & tell them if it will be agreeable for them to come here & make you a visit for a day or two?

Pol.

Be agreeable? Why of course it will! I shall be so glad to see them. by the by, I received a telegram from Paul, today saying that he & Nina would be here to day & we shall all be here together & have the loveliest time imaginable! But here I am keeping you from bringing them & I do so long to see them!

John.

All right, I'll go & bring them right away! (starts off C.)

Pol.

John, didn't you haven't you forgotten something?

John.

(Feels in his pockets.) No, I guess not, but these clothes have got so many pockets in them—

Pol.

I didn't mean anything to put in your pockets.

John.

What did you mean then?

Pol.

Oh nothing, nothing!

John.

(Aside.) Oh I see what she means now. (Kisses her.)

Pol.

Why John, I didn't mean that!

John.

Didn't you?
Pol. No-o- I ment that I had forgotten something!

John. (Leans over back of sofa.) Well you can kiss me if you want to.

Pol. Now John! You see what I was going to say was that I- I ment that you -- that is that (ad lib.) Oh I know what I was going to say. How do you like that ring? (goes to John who has gone down) him ring on her finger.)

John. Oh isn't it pretty?

Pol. Do you think so?

John. It's the prettiest ring I ever saw in all my life.

Pol. I don't think so, in fact I don't look at all.

John. Neither do I come to look at it.

Pol. I'd like it if it was plainer.

John. Yes so would I.

Pol. In fact, John, I'd like it if it was quite, quite plain.

John. You don't mean a real plain gold band to go around your third finger?

Pol. Yes I do (bus of trying to coax John to speak, he attempts to but can't) How stupid he is (X tor.) You see John, I got this ring at Tifney's this morning & I haven't time to go & get it changed, suppose you take it & get it changed for me? (offers it to him, he has gone up R.C.)

John. No Polly, you keep the ring & I'll go to Tifneys & get you a ring that you will like, myself! & now goodbye & when I come back I will have some of the most important business to transact that I ever transacted in all my life! (Exit C.D.L.)

Pol. I really believe he means to pop! I must put on my most dignified manners! I know what I'll do. I'll go & put on my train, & that will help the dog! (Exit, for quick change.)

Sambo. (Enters C.D.L. showing on Tim, & Nan, Tim carries Baby, bundle handboxes, &c.) But I tell you dat my young Missie am engaged.

Nan. (C.) What, our Polly? You don't say so?
(R.) So I guess you'd better call again!

Tim

(L.) Well glue my teeth, suppose she is engaged? That's no reason you should turn us out of doors! Do all the people in New York village turn people out of doors, when they happen to be engaged?

Sam.

(Laughs.) Well I'll take up your card & see if she will see you.

Tim.

See here young man, I'll have you to understand that we don't play cards.

Nan.

No, we don't know a John from a king!

Tim.

Jack, my love.

Nan.

I said John!

Tim.

No it's Jack, my love!

Nan.

Well how do you know anything about it any way?

Tim.

I heard a friend of mine say so,(to Sam.) See here sir, I'll have you to understand that we detest card playing.

Nan.

(To Sam.) You just go & tell Polly that we want to see her.

Sam.

Yes, but who is WE?

Nan.

You just tell her it is us.

Sam.

Am it Mr. & Mrs. Us?

Tim.

You goldarned dunce, you tell her that uncle Tim & aunt Nancy are here & want to see her.

Sam.

Yes sah!(Aside.) Queer folks, queer folks. dey must have belonged to some circus!(Xit L.t.)

Tim.

(Stumbles over rug C.) Jerusalem! how careless some folks be to leave their table covers on the fl or!

Nan.

That aint a table cover, it's a rug!

Tim.

Don't you suppose I know a table cover when I see it? I think-

Nan.

Shut up! What business have you got to think at all? I can do all the thinking that's necessary in this family! Look out for that baby, & pick up those boxes!
(Who has dropped boxes as he stumbles.) Yes my love!

Nan.

What do you mean by standing in the house with your hat on? Take it off!

Tim.

Yes my love! (tries to take off hat & drops boxes again.)

Nan.

Didn't I tell you to be careful? That's my best bonnet. Do you think I can afford to buy new ones every day? (Picks up box & gives it to him.) Now take care of it! (Sam enters R.1.E.)

Sam.

Miss Brighton said dat I was to show you to your room & as soon as she had finished her twilight she would see you.

Nan.

Well show me to my room, as soon as you can, for I am all tuckered out! (Sam exits R.3.) Timothy pick up those bundles, & come along, & mind you don't drop the baby! (exit R.3.)

Tim.

Yes my love! Yes-- (tries to pick up bundles, drops others, makes several others efforts, gets mad & begins kicking things around room.) Well glue my teeth if I can stand this. (Paul & Nina enter C.I.)

Nina.

(C) Why Mr. Timid how surprised I am to see you.

Paul.

So am I, What are you doing?

Tim.

Breaking up housekeeping. You see I couldn't hold em up & so I thought I would clear em up. But I am glad to see you.

Nina.

Thank you. (Looking at the baby.) & is this the last edition?

Tim.

Yes this is the 14th edition.

Paul.

What do you call her?

Tim

(Motions Paul to come to him. Paul X.E.) He aint a her he's a him! (Paul X back laughing.) We call him Timothy Timid Jr. But I do hope he won't be anything like me in any thing but name--ah! she's been pretty hard on me.

Nina.

There, there, Mr. Timid we must all bear our crosses as cheerfully as possible though they sometimes do seem more than we can carry. (looking at bundles.)

Tim.

Oh, it aint so much the crosses, I could stand her being cross it's the bundles that make me tired.

Nan (Without.) Timothy!

Tim.
Yes, my love, I'm coming! (to Nina.) I want to tell you something, for it will be a relief to tell someone, & I know I can depend on your sympathy.

Nina.

Certainly, Mr. Timid, go on!

Tim.

I ain't had my own way since the day she married me. She beats me right & left—she makes me mend my own pants, & I've had to live on pancakes most of the time. I've been thinking I'd try a peice of my boot leg. I know it would be as tender as them pancakes!

Paul.

And so she don't do as she said she would, meet you with a sweet smile when you come home from your work at night.

Tim.

She meets me with a broomstick mostl. She jaws & orders me about as if I was a dog. She couldn't treat me worse if I was a yellow dog. (baby cry.)

Nan.

(Without.) Timothy, what's the matter with that baby? If you don't come up stairs this minute, I'll pull every hair out of that old bald head of yours.

Tim.

Yes my love! (to Nina.) That's my wife!

Nina.

Paul, you show him the way to the blue room & run & see Polly & arrange my toilet for dinner. (Exit R.L.)

Paul.

Very well. This way Mr. Timid. (Exit R.3.)

Tim.

Je-ru-si-lam! (Exit R.3.)

John.

(Enters.) C.L. Well here I've been on a wild goose chase. I got down to the depot & found they'd got tired waiting for me & came along. (rings bell.) Wonder if they managed to get here without getting lost? (Sam enters R.3.) Ah, Sam, has a lady & gentleman called during my absence?

Sam.

Yes, sah: there was 2 ladies & 2 gentlemen.

John.

Was one couple, Mr. & Mrs. Timid?

Sam.

You mean dat fellow dat says "Yes my lobe"?

John.

(Laughing.) Yes, Ma'am. Thats the one, please go & tell him that I want to see him here immediately.

Sam.

Yes sir! (going.)
And here, give my card to Miss Brighton.

Sam.

( Takes card. ) Yes sah!(exits R.S.)

John.

( Takes M.S.S. from pocket & looks at it. ) Yes I think this will do nicely. It is quite concise. I havn't had time to study it, but I if uncle Tim will help me a little, I dare say I shall get along all right. ( Tim. enters R.S. ) So uncle Tim, you got here before I did?

Tim. ( R. )

Yes you was gone so long that we though you had forgotten us. Have you seen Polly?

John. ( L. )

It is of her that I wish to speak. I told you that I was going to propose to her--

Tim.

John, you take my advise & don't do no proposin.

John.

Now uncle Tim, you needn't think because you drew a blank in the matrimonial lottery that every one else will too.

Tim.

Blank? If you'd hear my wife talk, you'd think I drew the Capitol prize.

John.

Wel uncle Tim, I want to try my luck at drawing any way! & I want you to help me.

Tim.

Havn't you got git up & git, enough about you to do your own courtin? What do you want me to do?

John.

Well you see I've got it all written out here, & I haven't had time to study it, what I want you to do is to get down here under the sofa, & prompt me if I get stuck.

Tim.

Je-ru-si-lam! If you don't know how to talk to a girl I'll tell you what to do. Just sit down there on the sofa, put your arm around the girl, give her a squeeze & tell her you want to marry her.

John.

No, uncle Tim, that wont do now a day.

Pol.

( Without. ) Tell him I'll be there in a minute.

John.

There she comes now. Quick quick!( pushes him under or behind sofa, covers him up with sofa drap & X to L. ) Oh, dear I feel as weak as a kitten!

Tim.

( Under sofa. ) & look as sick as one.
(Enters L. L. or R. L.) Oh, John John! just look at that! Swings her train around & stands L. C. leaving John R. C. Timothy has his head to the R. as he lays on the floor.

Tim.

(Aside.) My! what a long tail our cat's got!

Pol.

What did you say?

John.

Nothing -- that is I said, "what a long train you've got" (aside to Tim.) Hush!

Pol.

What do you suppose all the folks in Thomasville would say if they could only see that train? Wouldn't they die of jealousy?

John.

You bet they would! (siding up to her.) Do you know, I think there never was a girl as nice as you are!

Pol.

Do you? (Polly sits on sofa L. motions John to sit, he sits on the arm of sofa.

Tim.

(Pushes him down.) Sit down, you garld fool sit down!

Pol.

What?

John.

Nothing! nothing!

Pol.

John do you remember what you said when you went away, just now?

John.

No what was it?

Pol.

you said that you had something important business to transact when you came back.

John.

Did I?

Pol.

Yes.

John.

Well I guess I forgot who I was talking to, because I couldn't have any business to transact with a lady. You said it was very important.

John.

Did I? oh yes I know what I meant now I was going to say well?

Pol.

(To Tim.) Give me a starter.

Miss.

John.

Tim.
Miss--

Sir.

It is not necessary for me to say--

That since childhood--

Quite true.

And we have gamboled--

And we have gamboled to--

Why John Adams Miller, we never did any thing of the kind!

Oh, I don't mean penny ante-- I mean, to skip & play!

Oh, why didn't you say so then?

We have gamboled over green dales & sunny hills, th' rough woods & dells &c. &c. &c. (to Tim) What is it?

Wait I've lost the place.

Why don't you attend to your business?

Yes yes go on--

& & (to Tim.) Hurry up! (to Pol.) & made mud pies & slid down cellar doors--

No, no! that's not it! & now after all these years--

And now after all these years of toil, I have at last succeeded in gaining fame & glory & I have come to tell you-- to tell you--

Yes, yes, to tell me what?

(To Tim.) What is it?

Wait a moment, you went so fast, I lost the place again.

Go on, go on!
To tell you— to tell you— that my new book has been accepted!

Is that all?

No! no! (to Tim.) What is it?

And I have determined—

And I have determined to offer you— to offer you—

Yes, yes to offer me?

A copy of my new book!(gives small book, which he carries in his pocket.

(Pol Threws book so as to hit Tim on the head.)

Bother take your new book!— See here John, do you mean bus-iness or not?

Certainly I do I have come here to pour into your ears words as soft & sweet, as the ever chirping— chirping— chirping—

Yes, yes, Jack for HEAVEN'S sake let her chirp!

Chirping martingale— no, no nightengale!

Nightengale— no, no martingale!

And to tell you—

And to tell you that I can no longer live alone

It's coming now sure!(aside.)

And I have resolved to ask you if you could tell me of a nice quiet— quiet—

A nice quiet girl?

A nice quiet— place where I could lay down & die!(turns away.)

Oh this is too much!(rises & starts off L. L. meets Nancy who enters L. L. aside to her.) Nancy, go sit by John, he has something to say to you...(exit L. L. Man. takes Polly's place

( To Tim.) For heaven's sake give me a line, What's next?
Don't be in a hurry, wait till I find the place. Oh, here it is, I have waited long—

John.

I have waited long for this opportunity to speak to you (does not see Nan.) & dearest to beg of you on my bended knees(kneels.) to become my wife, Oh say that you will be mine

Nan. do not refuse me, Oh if you only knew how much I loved—(looks up & sees Nan, rises.) The DEVIL!(goes R. behind chair.)

Tim.

No, no John, that isn't it! (John motions him to look at Nan sees her & sinks out of sight.) Nancy!Je-ru-si-lam!

Flattered.) My dear Johnny, why didn't you say so before? but I will get a divorcement & marry you immediately!

Tim. (Aside.) Thank heaven!

Nan. I never thought that Timothy Timid was my affinity!

Tim. (Aside.) Nor did I!

John. What do you mean?

Nan. (Goes to him Flops on knees in chair behind which John is.) That I will be your wife, Johnny dear.

John. My wife? my wife? I wasn't talking to you!

Nan. Are you mad?

John. Damn it!(coming from behind chair & driving her off,) I believe it a mad!, leave me, woman, leave me!

Nan. Oh he's mad, he's mad!he's mad!runs off C.R.)

John. (Sees Nina who enters at R. I. takes her hand & swings her around to L.)(speaks wildly.) Oh, Nina, Nina, tell me what to do!

Nina. What's the trouble now, John?

John. Answer me without hesitation, or prevarication, do you think I am going mad?

Nina. Calm your self, John, sit down & tell me what has happened?

John. (Sits on sofa R. Nina L.),speaks fast.) A moment ago Polly was here, she was sitting where you are now, I was sitting
where I am now & uncle Tim was sitting where, he is now—Nina.

By the way, how is uncle Tim?

John.

Oh he's out of sight!—Well I was telling Polly how much—that is I was telling Nina something, & when I looked up who should I see but Nancy!(on his knees to Nina.) Oh, for heaven's sake tell me what to do! If you ever loved me the least little bit in the world, tell me what to do!

Pol.

(Enters L.L.) What do I see? Oh this is too much!(X to R.) Nina & John.

(Both rise as Polly enters Nina goes L, John R.) Oh Polly!

Pol.

Don't speak to me!(going up stage.)

But Polly—

Pol.

Leave the house! I say, don't speak to me!(Exit R.3.)

John.

What shall we do?

Nina

Let's run away!(t goes up stage L John goes up R.) She will tell Paul something horrible, & such a row as there will be! Paul enters C.R.) Oh Paul it isn't true!(both grab him by an arm as they bring him down stage.) don't believe it! not a word of it! not one!

John.

No, Paul not a word of it!

Paul.

What are you talking about? & what isn't true?

Pol.

(Enters R.3.) Oh you are there are you?

Nina.

(Tries to drag him away.) Don't listen to her come away!

Pol.

Paul, it is my duty to tell you that you have been deceived by that false heartless coquette!

Paul.

What do you mean?

Pol.

I mean that I entered this room a moment ago & there was that man down on his knees to that woman & she was listening to his words of love, & as if she enjoyed them too!

Paul.

Explain madam!

Nina.

(Going up stage.) Oh, dear I wish I was dead!

Pol.

So do I. (John tries to hang himself with handkerchief R.) You'd better go & hang yourself I think!
(Putting his head out from sofa.) John, can I come out?

John

Yes come out. (Tim comes out, is covered with drape has foot in one box & is tangled in every thing around him.)

Pol.

What were you doing there?

Tim.

Prompting!

Pol.

Prompting?

Tim.

Yes, John was using me for a tellephone.

Pol.

Is that your prompt book?

Tim.

Yes, do you want it? (gives prompt book to Pol.)

John

(To Tim.) What did you want to give me away for?

Pol.

(Who is L.C. looking at book.) Oh, John I see it all now!

John.

Do you forgive me? (goes R.C.)

Pol.

Did you get that ring you went for?

John.

Yes, here it is, will you wear it? (takes it from pocket.)

Pol.

Yes, John for your sake!

John,

And you will be my wife?

Pol.

Well yes, if you are sure you mean it. (John puts ring on Polly's finger.)

Tim.

I say, John, is it all settled? (John nods.) Well I reckon you can attend to the rest without prompting, eh?

John.

Well I'll try!

Pol.

Say, John, go & ask their pardon now, (motions to audience.)

For so much nonsense I avow

They're sick & tired of, don't you see?

John.

What, tired of laughing? No, not they!

Tim.

Oh yes they are, John, come, obey!

Dont be so slow, Je-ru-si-lam!

John.

(Goes awkwardly to the front & speaks bashfully.)

Well then, I hope you will forgive,
All of our nonsense, sure's you live!

Pol.

(Aside to John.)
Oh, John, how awkward, try again!

John

I can't - I'm frightened!

Pol.

Oh, dear! dear!

Nina.

You must your self, is what I fear!

Pol.

I will. (to audience.) Your pardon I implore,
For all the nonsense you've endured;
I only hope, you, we've allured
Here, have not felt these hours a bore. A
And, if, perchance, we meet again,
I hope you'll greet us with delight,
And so good night! good night! good night!

CURTAIN.

TIM.

JOHN. POLLY

NINA & PAUL.