

No. 1.B

{Enter Notary Tanhauser.}

Notary       Hallo! Surely I'm not late? {All chatter unintelligibly in reply.} But, dear me, you're all at breakfast! Has the wedding taken place? {All chatter unintelligibly in reply.} My good girls, one at a time, I beg. Let me understand the situation. As solicitor to the conspiracy to dethrone the Grand Duke — a conspiracy in which the members of this company are deeply involved — I am invited to the marriage of two of its members. I present myself in due course, and I find, not only that the ceremony has taken place — which is not of the least consequence — but the wedding breakfast is half eaten — which is a consideration of the most serious importance.

{Ludwig and Lisa come down.}

Ludwig       But the ceremony has not taken place. We can't get a parson!

Notary       Can't get a parson! Why, how's that?

Ludwig       Oh, it's the old story — the Grand Duke!

All           Ugh!

Ludwig       It seems that the little imp has selected this, our wedding day, for a convocation of all the clergy in the town to settle the details of his approaching marriage with the enormously wealthy Baroness von Krakenfeldt, and there won't be a parson to be had for love or money until six o'clock this evening!

Lisa          And as we produce our magnificent classical revival of Troilus and Cressida tonight at seven, we have no alternative but to eat our wedding-breakfast before we've earned it. So sit down, and make the best of it.

Olga          Well, we shall soon be freed from his tyranny. Tomorrow the Despot is to be dethroned!

Ludwig       Hush, rash girl! Know ye not that in alluding to our conspiracy without having first given and received the secret sign, you are violating a fundamental principle of our Association?

No. 2.A

- Martha Oh, bother the secret sign! I've eaten it until I'm quite uncomfortable!
- Ludwig This is rank treason to the cause. I suffer as much as any of you — but I'm a conscientious conspirator, and if you won't give the sign I will. {Eats sausage roll with an effort.}
- Lisa Poor martyr! He's always at it, and it's a wonder where he puts it!
- Notary Well, now, about your production of Troilus and Cressida.
- Ludwig Well, the piece will be produced upon a scale of unexampled magnificence. I endeavoured to persuade Ernest Dummkopf, our manager, to lend us the classical dresses for our marriage. Think of the effect of a real Athenian wedding procession cavorting through the streets. It would have been tremendous!
- Notary And he declined?
- Ludwig He did, on the prosaic ground that it might rain, and the ancient Greeks didn't carry umbrellas! If, as is confidently expected, Ernest Dummkopf is elected to succeed the dethroned one, mark my words, he will make a mess of it.
- {He strolls up and off with Lisa.}
- Olga He's sure to be elected. His entire company has promised to plump for him on the understanding that all the places about the Court are filled by members of his troupe, according to professional precedence.
- Bertha {looking off}. Here comes Ernest Dummkopf. Now we shall know all about it!
- {Ernest enters in great excitement.}
- Martha Well — what's the news?
- Gretchen How is the election going?
- Ernest Oh, it's a certainty — a practical certainty! So, if you keep your promises, and vote solid, I'm cocksure of election!
- Olga Trust to us. But you remember the conditions?
- Ernest Yes — all of you shall be provided for, for life. Every man shall be ennobled — every lady shall have unlimited credit at the Court Milliner's, and all salaries shall be paid weekly in advance!
- Gretchen Oh, it's quite clear he knows how to rule a Grand Duchy!
- Ernest Rule a Grand Duchy? Why, my good girl, for ten years I've ruled a theatrical company! A man who can do that can rule anything.

No. 3.A

{Exeunt all but Ernest.}

Ernest Elected by my fellow conspirators to be Grand Duke of Pfennig Halbpennig as soon as the contemptible occupant of the throne is deposed — here is promotion indeed! Why, instead of playing Troilus for a month, I shall play Grand Duke for a lifetime! Yet am I happy? No — far from happy! The lovely English comedienne — the beautiful Julia — that rare and radiant being treats my respectful advances with disdain unutterable! And yet, who knows? She is haughty and ambitious, and it may be that the splendid change in my fortunes may work a corresponding change in her feelings towards me!

{Enter Julia Jellicoe.}

Julia Herr Dummkopf, a word with you, if you please.

Ernest Beautiful English Maiden —

Julia No compliments, I beg. I desire to speak with you on a purely professional matter, so we will, if you please, dispense with allusions to my personal appearance.

Ernest {aside}. My hopes shattered! The haughty Londoner still despises me! {Aloud.} It shall be as you will.

Julia I understand that the conspiracy in which we are all concerned is to develop tomorrow, and that the company is likely to elect you to the throne on the understanding that the posts about the court are to be filled by members of your theatrical troupe, according to their professional importance.

Ernest That is so.

Julia Then all I can say is that it places me in an extremely awkward position.

Ernest {very depressed}. I don't see how it concerns you.

Julia Why, bless my heart, don't you see that, as your leading lady, I am bound under a serious penalty to play the leading part in all your productions?

Ernest Well?

Julia Why, of course, the leading part in this production will be the Grand Duchess!

Ernest My wife?

Julia That is another way of expressing the same idea.

Ernest {aside — delighted}. I scarcely dared even to hope for this!

Julia Of course, as your leading lady, you'll be mean enough to hold me to the terms of my agreement. Oh, that's so like a man! Well, I suppose there's no help for it — I shall have to do it!

Ernest {aside}. She's mine! {Aloud.} But — do you really think you would care to play that part? {Taking her hand.}

Julia {withdrawing it}. Care to play it? Certainly not — but what am I to do?

Ernest        It's for a long run, mind — a run that may last many, many years, no understudy...

Julia         Business is business, and I am bound by the terms of my agreement.

Ernest        {keeping up a show of reluctance}. But, considering your strong personal dislike for me and your persistent rejection of my repeated offers, won't you find it difficult to throw yourself into the part with all the impassioned enthusiasm that the character seems to demand? Remember, it's a strongly emotional part, involving long and repeated scenes of rapture, tenderness, adoration, devotion...

Julia         My good sir, you may be quite sure that (however distasteful the part may be) if I undertake it, I shall consider myself professionally bound to throw myself into it with all the ardour at my command.

Ernest        {aside — with effusion}. I'm the happiest fellow alive! {Aloud.} Now — would you have any objection — to give me some idea — if it's only a mere sketch — as to how you might play it? It would be really interesting — to me — to know your conception of — the part of my wife.

Julia         How would I play it? Now, let me see. {Considering.} Ah, I have it!

No. 5.A

{Exeunt Chorus. Manent Ludwig, Lisa, Ernest, Julia, and Notary.}

Julia Well a nice mess you've got us into! There's an end of our precious plot!

Ludwig Yes, but — ha! ha! — fancy my choosing the Grand Duke's private detective, of all men, to make a confidant of! When you come to think of it, it's really devilish funny.

Ernest {angrily}. When you come to think of it, it's extremely injudicious to admit into a conspiracy every pudding-headed baboon who presents himself!

Lisa Ludwig is far from being a baboon. Poor boy, he could not help giving us away — it's his trusting nature — he was deceived.

Julia {furiously}. His trusting nature! {To Ludwig.} Oh, I should like to talk to you in my own language for five minutes. I know some good, strong, energetic English remarks — only you wouldn't understand them!

Ludwig Here we perceive one of the disadvantages of a neglected education!

Ernest {to Julia}. And I suppose you'll never be my Grand Duchess, now!

Julia Grand Duchess? My good friend, if you don't produce the piece how can I play the part?

Ernest True. {To Ludwig.} You see what you've done.

Ludwig But, my dear sir, you don't seem to understand that the man ate three sausage-rolls. Keep that steadily before you. Three large sausage-rolls.

Julia Bah! — Lots of people eat sausage-rolls who are not conspirators.

Ludwig Then they shouldn't. It's bad form.

Notary It is always amusing to the legal mind to see a parcel of laymen bothering themselves about a matter which to a trained lawyer presents no difficulty whatever.

All No difficulty!

Notary None whatever! The way out of it is quite simple.

All Simple?

Notary Certainly! Now attend. In the first place, you two men fight a Statutory Duel.

Ernest A Statutory Duel?

Ludwig Never heard of such a thing.

Notary It is true that the practice has fallen into abeyance through disuse. But all the laws of Pfennig Halbpennig run for a hundred years, when they die a natural death, unless, in the meantime, they have been revived for another century. The Act that institutes the Statutory Duel was passed a hundred years ago, and as it has never been revived, it expires tomorrow at three o'clock. So you're just in time.

Julia But what is the use of talking to us about Statutory Duels when we none of us know what a Statutory Duel is?

Notary Don't you? Then I'll explain.

No. 6.A

Ludwig

I see. The man who draws the lowest card —

Notary

Dies, ipso facto, a social death. His identity disappears and the winner takes his place, whatever it may be, discharges all his functions and adopts all his responsibilities.

Ernest

This is all very well, as far as it goes, but it only protects one of us. What's to become of the survivor?

Ludwig

Yes, that's an interesting point, because I might be the survivor.

Notary

The survivor goes at once to the Grand Duke, and, in a burst of remorse, denounces the dead man as the moving spirit of the plot. He is accepted as King's evidence, and, as a matter of course, receives a free pardon. Tomorrow, when the law expires, the dead man will, ipso facto, come to life again and resume all his obligations as though nothing unusual had happened.

Julia

When he will be at once arrested, tried, and executed on the evidence of the informer! Candidly, my friend, I don't think much of your plot!

Notary

Dear, dear, dear, the ignorance of the laity! My good young lady, it is a maxim of our glorious Constitution that a man can only die once. Death expunges crime, and when he comes to life again, it will be with a clean slate.

Ernest

It's really very ingenious.

Ludwig

{to Notary}. My dear sir, we owe you our lives! {To Ernest} Well, miscreant, are you prepared to meet me on the field of honor?

Ernest

At once. By Jove, what a couple of fire eaters we are!

Lisa

Ludwig doesn't know what fear is.

Notary

Altogether it is a great improvement on the old method of giving satisfaction.

No. 9.B

{March. Enter the six Chamberlains of the Grand Duke Rudolph.}

Rudolph My Lord Chamberlain, as you are aware, my marriage with the wealthy Baroness von Krakenfeldt will take place tomorrow, and you will be good enough to see that the rejoicings are on a scale of unusual liberality. The day will begin with a Wedding Breakfast. The leading pastry-cooks of the town will be invited to compete, and the winner will not only enjoy the satisfaction of seeing his breakfast devoured by the Grand Ducal pair, but he will also be entitled to have the Arms of Pfennig Halbpennig tattoo'd between his shoulder-blades. The Vice-Chamberlain will see to this. All the public fountains will run with Gingerbierheim at the public expense. The Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will see to this. Wedding presents (which, on this occasion, should be on a scale of extraordinary magnificence) will be received at the Palace at any hour, and the Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain will sit up all night for this purpose. The entire population will be commanded to enjoy themselves, and with this view the Acting-Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlains will sing comic songs in the Market Place from noon to nightfall. Finally, we have composed a Wedding Anthem, which the entire population are required to obtain from our Grand Ducal publishers, and all the Chamberlains will be expected to push the sale. {Chamberlains bow and exeunt.} I hope I'm not doing a foolish thing in getting married. After all, it's a poor heart that never rejoices, and this wedding of mine is the first little treat I've allowed myself since my christening. Besides, Caroline's income is very considerable, and as her ideas of economy are quite on a par with mine, it ought to turn out well. {Enter Baroness von Krakenfeldt.} Oh, here she is. {Approaching to embrace Baroness.} My little Gum Drop!

Baroness Rudolph, don't! What in the world are you thinking of?

Rudolph I was thinking of embracing you, my sugarplum.

Baroness What, here? In public? Really you appear to have no sense of delicacy.

Rudolph No sense of delicacy, Bon-bon!

Baroness No. I can't make you out. When you courted me, all your courting was done publicly in the Market Place. When you proposed to me, you proposed in the Market Place. And now that we're engaged you seem to desire that our first tete-a-tete shall occur in the Market Place! Surely you've a room in your Palace — with blinds — that would do?

Rudolph But, my own, — I'm bound by my own decree.

Baroness Your own decree?

Rudolph Yes. You see, all the houses that give on the Market Place belong to me, and, with a view of increasing the value of the property, I decreed that all love-episodes between affectionate couples should take place, in public, on this spot, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, when the band doesn't play.

Baroness Bless me, what a happy idea! So moral too! Has it worked?

Rudolph        The rents have gone up fifty per cent., and the sale of opera glasses (which is a Grand Ducal monopoly) has received an extraordinary stimulus! So, under the circumstances, would you allow me to put my arm round your waist? As a source of income. Just once!

Baroness        But it's so embarrassing. Think of the opera glasses!

Rudolph        My good girl, that's just what I am thinking of. Hang it all, we must give them something for their money! What's that?

Baroness        {Unfolding paper, which contains a large letter, which she hands to him}. It's a letter which your detective asked me to hand to you. I've concealed it in yesterday's paper. {Begins to read paper.}

Rudolph        Oh, it's only his report! That'll keep.

Baroness        Why — dear me — here's your biography! "Our Detested Despot!"

Rudolph        Yes — I fancy that refers to me.

Baroness        Why, it says that although you're going to marry me tomorrow, you were betrothed in infancy to the Princess of Monte Carlo!

Rudolph        Oh yes — that's quite right. Didn't I mention it?

Baroness        Mention it! You never said a word about it!

Rudolph        Well, it doesn't matter, because, you see, it's practically off.

Baroness        Practically off?

Rudolph        Yes. By the terms of the contract the betrothal is void unless the Princess marries before she is of age. Now, her father, the Prince, is stony-broke, and hasn't left his house for years for fear of arrest. Over and over again he has implored me to come to him to be married or to advance him the money to enable the Princess to come to me — but in vain. As the Princess comes of age at three tomorrow, at three tomorrow I'm a free man, so I appointed that hour for our wedding, as I shall like to have as much marriage as I can get for my money.

Baroness        My thoughtful darling! Oh, Rudolph, we ought to be very happy!

Rudolph        If I'm not, it'll be my first bad investment.

Baroness        I often picture us in the long, cold, dark December evenings, sitting close to each other and singing impassioned duets to keep us warm, and thinking of all the lovely things we could afford to buy if we chose and, at the same time, planning out our lives in a spirit of the most rigid and exacting economy!

Rudolph        It's a most beautiful and touching picture of connubial bliss in its highest and most rarefied development!



{Exit Baroness }

No. 10.A

Rudolph Oh, now for my detective's report. {Opens letter.} What's this! A conspiracy to depose me! And my private detective was so convulsed with laughter at the notion of a conspirator selecting him for a confidant that he was physically unable to arrest the malefactor! This comes of engaging a detective with a keen sense of the ridiculous! And the plot is to explode tomorrow! My wedding day! Oh, Caroline, Caroline! {Weeps.} This is perfectly frightful!

No.11

The entire number is deleted. Delete pages 62 through 65.

No. 11.A

{Enter Ludwig }

Ludwig Now for my confession and full pardon. They told me the Grand Duke was dancing duets in the Market Place, but I don't see him. {Sees Rudolph.} Hallo! Who's this. {Aside} Why, it is the Grand Duke!

Rudolph {sobbing}. Who are you sir, who presume to address me in person? If you've anything to communicate, you must fling yourself at the feet of my Acting-Temporary Sub-Deputy Assistant Vice-Chamberlain, who will fling himself at the feet of his immediate superior, and so on, with successive foot-flings through the various grades — your communication will, in course of time, come to my august knowledge.

Ludwig Your Highness, in me you see the most unhappy, the most unfortunate, the most completely miserable man in your whole dominion —

Rudolph {still sobbing}. You the most miserable man in my whole dominion! How can you have the face to stand there and say such a thing? Why, look at me! Look at me! {Bursts into tears.}

Ludwig Well, I wouldn't be a cry-baby.

Rudolph A cry-baby? If you had just been told that you were going to be deposed tomorrow, and perhaps blown up with dynamite for all I know, wouldn't you be a cry-baby? I do declare, if I could only hit upon some cheap and painless method of putting an end to an existence which has become insupportable, I would unhesitatingly adopt it!

Ludwig You would? {Aside.} I see a magnificent way out of this! By Jupiter, I'll try it! {Aloud.} If you are really in earnest — if you really desire to escape scot free from this impending, unspeakably horrible catastrophe — without trouble, danger, pain or expense — why not resort to a Statutory Duel?

Rudolph A Statutory Duel?

Ludwig Yes. The Act is still in force, but it will expire tomorrow afternoon. You fight — you lose — you are dead for a day. Tomorrow, when the Act expires, you come to life again and resume your Grand Duchy as though nothing had happened. In the meantime, the explosion will have taken place and the survivor will have had to bear the brunt of it.

Rudolph Yes, that's all very well, but who'll be fool enough to be the survivor?

Ludwig {kneeling}. Actuated by an overwhelming sense of attachment to your Grand Ducal person, I unhesitatingly offer myself as the victim of your subjects' fury.

Rudolph You do? Well, really that's very handsome. But suppose I were to win?

Ludwig Oh, that's easily arranged. {Producing cards.} I'll put an Ace up my sleeve — you'll put a King up yours. When the drawing takes place, I shall seem to draw the higher card and you the lower. And there you are!

Rudolph Oh, but that's cheating.

Ludwig So it is. I never thought of that {going}.

Rudolph {hastily}. Not that I mind. But I say — you won't take an unfair advantage of your day of office? You won't go tipping people, or squandering my little savings in fireworks, or any nonsense of that sort?

Ludwig I am hurt — really hurt — by the suggestion.

Rudolph You — you wouldn't like to put down a deposit, perhaps?

Ludwig No. I don't think I should like to put down a deposit.

Rudolph Very well, I suppose you must have it your own way.

Ludwig Good. I say — we must have a devil of a quarrel!

Rudolph Oh, a devil of a quarrel!

Ludwig Just to give colour to the thing. Shall I give you a sound thrashing before all the people? Say the word — It's no trouble.

Rudolph No, I think not, though it would be very convincing and it's extremely good and thoughtful of you to suggest it. Still, a devil of a quarrel!

Ludwig Oh, a devil of a quarrel! Now the question is, how shall we summon the people?

Rudolph Oh, there's no difficulty about that. Bless your heart, they've been staring at us through those windows for the last half hour!

No. 14

Shorten by deleting the second verse and using the following as the first verse. The original third verse will then become our second verse.

Ludwig's first verse on page 104, third system, fifth measure through page 106, third system is replaced with the following:

At the outset I may mention it's my sovereign intention  
    To revive the classic memories of Athens at its best,  
For the company possesses all the necessary dresses  
    And a course of quiet cramming will supply us with the rest.  
This return to classic ages is considered in their wages,  
    Which are always calculated by the day or by the week —  
And I'll pay 'em (if they'll back me) all in oboloi and drachmae,  
    With a dithyrambic lecture on the merits of the Greek.  
In the period Socratic every dining room was Attic  
    (Which suggests an architecture of a topsy-turvy kind),  
But they mixed their wine with water — which I'm sure they didn't oughter —  
    And we modern Saxons may be somewhat differently inclined!

No. 15

The entire number is deleted. Delete pages 110 through 111.

No. 15.A

{Exeunt Chorus and Lisa. Manent Ludwig and Julia.}

Julia And now that everybody has gone, and we're happily and comfortably married, I want to have a few words with my new-born husband.

Ludwig {aside}. Yes, I expect you'll often have a few words with your new-born husband!  
{Aloud.} Well, what is it?

Julia Why, I've been thinking that as you and I have to play our parts for life, it is most essential that we should come to a definite understanding as to how they shall be rendered. Now, I've been considering how I can make the most of the Grand Duchess.

Ludwig Have you? Well, if you'll take my advice, I shouldn't make it one of your hoity-toity vixenish viragos.

Julia You think not?

Ludwig Oh, I'm quite clear about that. I should make her a tender, gentle, submissive, affectionate (but not too affectionate) child-wife — timidly anxious to coil herself into her husband's heart, but kept in check by an awestruck reverence for his exalted intellectual qualities and his majestic personal appearance.

Julia Oh, that is your idea of a good part?

Ludwig Yes — a wife who regards her husband's slightest wish as an inflexible law. A crushed, despairing violet, whose blighted existence would culminate (all too soon) in a lonely and pathetic death-scene! A fine part, my dear.

Julia Yes. There's a good deal to be said for your view of it. Now there are some actresses whom it would fit like a glove.

Ludwig {aside}. I wish I'd married one of 'em

Julia But, you see I must consider my temperament. For instance, my temperament would demand some strong scenes of justifiable jealousy.

Ludwig Oh, there's no difficulty about that. You shall have them.

Julia With a lovely but detested rival —

Ludwig Oh, I'll provide the rival.

Julia Whom I should stab — stab — stab!

Ludwig Oh, I wouldn't stab her. It's been done to death. I should treat her with a silent and contemptuous disdain, and delicately withdraw from a position which, to one of your sensitive nature, would be absolutely untenable. Dear me, I can see you delicately withdrawing, up centre and off!

Julia

Can you?

Ludwig

Yes. It's a fine situation — and in your hands, full of quiet pathos!

No. 17.A

Baroness {Aside}. But what in the world am I to do? I was to have married him today!  
{Aloud.} Is this Court Mourning or a Fancy Ball?

Ludwig Well, it's a delicate combination of both effects. It is intended to express  
inconsolable grief for the decease of the late Duke and ebullient joy at the accession  
of his successor. I am his successor. Permit me to present you to my Grand Duchess.  
{Indicating Julia.}

Baroness Your Grand Duchess?

Ludwig We were married only half-an-hour ago.

Baroness Exactly. I thought she seemed new to the position.

Julia Ma'am, I don't know who you are, but I flatter myself I can do justice to any part  
on the very shortest notice.

Baroness My dear, under the circumstances you are doing admirably. It's so difficult to be  
a lady when one isn't born to it.

Julia {in a rage, to Ludwig}. Am I to stand this?

Baroness {Ignoring her}. And now tell me all about this distressing circumstance. How did  
the Grand Duke die?

Ludwig He perished nobly — in a Statutory Duel.

Baroness In a Statutory Duel? But that's only a civil death! — and the Act expires today,  
and then he will come to life again!

Ludwig Well, no. Anxious to inaugurate my reign by conferring some inestimable boon on  
my people, I signalized this occasion by reviving the law for another hundred years.

Baroness For another hundred years! Then set the merry joy-bells ringing! And let us rejoice  
today, if we never rejoice again!

Ludwig But I don't think I quite understand. We have already rejoiced a good deal.

Baroness Happy man, you little know the good things you are in for. When you killed Rudolph  
you adopted all his overwhelming responsibilities. Know then that I, Caroline von  
Krakenfeldt, am the most overwhelming of them all!

Ludwig But stop, stop — I've just been married to somebody else!

Julia Yes, ma'am, to somebody else, ma'am! Do you understand, ma'am? To somebody  
else!

Baroness Do keep this young woman quiet!

Julia Do you suppose I intend to give up a magnificent part without a struggle?

Ludwig My good girl, she has the law on her side. Let us both bear this calamity with  
resignation. If you must struggle, go away and struggle in the seclusion of your  
chamber.

No. 19.A

{Exit Julia}

{Enter Ernest}

Ernest       It's of no use — I can't wait any longer. I must know what is going on. {Looking off.} Why, what's that? A wedding procession winding down the hill, dressed in my Troilus and Cressida costumes! That's Ludwig's doing! I see how it is — he found the time hang heavy on his hands, and is amusing himself by getting married to Lisa. No — it can't be to Lisa, for here she is!

{Enter Lisa}

Lisa           {not seeing him}. I really cannot stand seeing my Ludwig married twice in one day to somebody else!

Ernest       Lisa! {Lisa sees him, and stands as if transfixed with horror.}

Ernest       Come here — don't be a little fool — I want you. {Lisa suddenly turns and bolts off.}

Ernest       Why, what's the matter with the little donkey? One would think she saw a ghost! But if he's not marrying Lisa, whom is he marrying? {Suddenly.} Julia! {Much overcome.} I see it all! The scoundrel! He had to adopt all my responsibilities, and he's shabbily taken advantage of the situation to marry the girl I'm engaged to! But no, it can't be Julia, for here she is!

{Enter Julia.}

Julia          {not seeing him}. I've made up my mind. I won't stand it! I'll send in my notice at once!

Ernest       Julia! Oh, what a relief!

{Julia gazes at him as if transfixed.}

Ernest       Then you've not married Ludwig? You are still true to me?

{Julia turns and bolts in grotesque horror. Ernest follows and stops her.}

Ernest       Don't run away! Listen to me. Are you all crazy?

Julia          {in affected terror}. What would you with me, spectre? Oh, ain't his eyes sepulchral! And ain't his voice hollow! What are you doing out of your tomb at this time of day — apparition?

Ernest       I do wish I could make you girls understand that I'm only technically dead, and that physically I'm as much alive as ever I was in my life!

Julia          Oh, but it's an awful thing to be haunted by a technical bogie!

Ernest       You won't be haunted much longer. In a few hours I shall come to life again, and claim my darling as my blushing bride!

Julia          Oh — then you haven't heard?

Ernest       My love, I've heard nothing.

Julia           Why, Ludwig challenged Rudolph and won, and now he's Grand Duke, and he's revived the law for another century!

Ernest         What! But you're not serious — you're only joking!

Julia           My good sir, I'm a light-hearted girl, but I don't chaff bogies.

Ernest         Well, that's the meanest dodge I ever heard of!

Julia           Shabby trick, I call it. I really can't afford to wait until your time is up. You know, I've always set my face against these long engagements.

Ernest         Then defy the law and marry me now.

Julia           No. The legal technicalities cannot be defied. Situated as you are, you have no power to make me your wife. At best you could only make me your widow.

Ernest         Then be my widow — my little, dainty, winning, winsome widow!

Julia           Now what would be the good of that? Why, you goose. I should marry again within a month!



No. 24

Add the following notation after the first measure on page 146.

{Reprise of March. Exit Herald. Ludwig beckons his Court}

Ludwig

I have a plan — I'll tell you all the plot of it —  
He wants formality — he shall have a lot of it!

{Whispers to them, through symphony.}

Conceal yourselves, and when I give the cue,  
Spring out on him — you all know what to do!

{All conceal themselves behind the draperies that enclose the stage.}

No. 25.A

- Prince Well, my dear, here we are at last — just in time to compel Duke Rudolph to fulfil the terms of his marriage contract. Another hour and we should have been too late.
- Princess Yes, papa, and if you hadn't discovered a means of making an income, we should never have come here at all.
- Prince True. Confined for the last two years within the precincts of my palace by an obdurate bootmaker who held a warrant for my arrest, I devoted my enforced leisure to a study of the doctrine of chances — mainly with the view of ascertaining whether there was the remotest chance of my ever going out for a walk again — and this led to the discovery of a singularly fascinating little round game which I have called Roulette, and by which, in one sitting, I won no less than five thousand francs! My first act was to pay my bootmaker — my second, to engage a good useful working set of second-hand nobles — and my third, to hurry you off to Pfennig Halbpennig as fast as a train de luxe could carry us!
- Princess Yes, and a pretty job-lot of second-hand nobles you've scraped together!
- Prince {doubtfully}. No, they are not wholly satisfactory. There is a certain air of unreality about them — they are not convincing.
- Costumier But, my good friend, {referring to the costumes} what can you expect for eighteenpence a day!
- Prince Now take this Peer, for instance. What the deuce do you call him?
- Costumier Him? He's the Duke of Riviera.
- Prince Oh, he's a duke, is he? Well, that's no reason why he should look so confoundedly haughty. {To Noble.} Be affable, sir! {Noble takes attitude of affability.} That's better. {Passing to another.} Now, who's this with his moustache coming off?
- Costumier Why, you're Viscount Mentone, aren't you?
- Noble Blest if I know. {Turning up sword belt.} It's wrote here — yes, Viscount Mentone.
- Costumier Then why don't you say so? Hold yourself up — you're not carrying sandwich boards now. {Adjusts his moustache and hat — a handkerchief falls out.}
- Prince And we may be permitted to hint to the Noble Viscount, in the most delicate manner imaginable, that it is not the practice among the higher nobility to carry their handkerchiefs in their hats.
- Noble I ain't got no pockets.
- Prince Then tuck it in here. {Tucking it in his breast.}
- Princess But, papa, where in the world is the Court? There is no one here to receive us! I can't help feeling that Rudolph wants to get out of it because he thinks we are poor. He's a miserly little wretch — that's what he is.

- Prince Well, I shouldn't go so far as to say that. I should rather describe him as an enthusiastic collector of coins — of the realm.
- Princess Papa, I'm sure there's someone over there.
- Prince Then no doubt they are coming. Now mind, you Peers — haughty affability combined with a sense of what is due to your exalted ranks, or I'll fine you half a franc each — upon my soul I will!

No. 26.

Gong. The curtains fly back and the Court are discovered. They give a wild yell and rush on to the stage dancing wildly, with Prince, Princess and the Nobles, who are taken by surprise at first, but eventually join in a reckless dance. At the end of the dance all fall down exhausted.

No. 26.A

Ludwig        There, what do you think of that? That's our official ceremonial for the reception of visitors of the very highest distinction.

Prince         {puzzled}. It's very quaint — very curious indeed. Prettily footed, too. Prettily footed.

Ludwig        Would you like to see how we say "good-bye" to visitors of distinction? That ceremony is also performed with the foot.

Prince         Really, this tone — ah, but perhaps you have not completely grasped the situation?

Ludwig        Not altogether.

Prince         {significantly}. I am the father of the Princess of Monte Carlo. Doesn't that convey any idea to the Grand Ducal mind?

Ludwig        {stolidly}. Nothing definite.

Prince         This is the daughter of the Prince of Monte Carlo. Do you comprehend?

Ludwig        {still puzzled}. No — not yet.

Prince         {with sly significance}. Twenty years ago! Little doddle doddle! Happy fathers. Proud mothers! Now you understand!

Ludwig        Nothing is more annoying than to feel that you're not equal to the intellectual pressure of the conversation.

Prince         You didn't expect me?

Ludwig        {jumping at it}. No, no. I grasp that. No, I did not expect you!

Prince         I thought not. But ha! ha! at last I have escaped from my enforced restraint. {General movement of alarm.} {To crowd, who are stealing off.} No, no — you misunderstand me. I mean I've paid my debts! And how d'you think I did it? Through the medium of Roulette!

All             Roulette?

Ludwig        Now you're getting obscure again.

Prince         I'll explain. It's an invention of my own. I'll tell you about it.  
{Nobles bring forward a double Roulette table which they unfold.}

No. 27.A

{Prince gathers in the stakes, Nobles fold up table and take it away.}

Ludwig A capital game.

Princess {taking Ludwig by the arm}. Yes, it's such fun!

Baroness Why, you forward little hussy, how dare you? {Takes her away from Ludwig.}

Ludwig You mustn't do that, my dear — never in the presence of the Grand Duchess, I beg!

Princess Oh, papa, he's got a Grand Duchess!

Ludwig A Grand Duchess! My good girl, I've got three Grand Duchesses!

Princess Three Grand Duchesses! Papa, let's go away — this is not a respectable Court.

Prince All these Grand Dukes have their little fancies, my love. This Potentate appears to be collecting wives. It's a pretty hobby — I should like to collect a few myself. This {admiring Baroness} is a charming specimen — an antique, I should say, and here's another {alluding to Julia}, and {alluding to Lisa} a little one thrown in. {To Ludwig.} Have you such a thing as a catalogue of the Museum?

Princess But I cannot permit Rudolph to keep a museum.

Ludwig Rudolph? I'm not Rudolph! {Pretending to weep.} Rudolph — died yesterday!

Prince and Princess What?

Ludwig Quite suddenly — of — of — a cardiac affection.

Prince and Princess Of a cardiac affection?

Ludwig Yes, a pack-of-cardiac affection. He fought a Statutory Duel with me and lost, and I took over all his engagements — including this imperfectly preserved old lady, to whom he has been engaged for the last three weeks.

Princess Three weeks! But I've been engaged to him for the last twenty years!

Baroness, Lisa, and Julia Twenty years!

Prince {aside}. It's all right, my love — they can't get over that. {Aloud.} He's yours — take him and hold him as tight as you can!

Princess My own! {Embracing Ludwig.}

Ludwig Here's another! — the fourth in four-and-twenty hours! Would anybody else like to marry me? You, ma'am — or you — anybody! I'm getting used to it!

{ Baroness But let me tell you, ma'am —  
{ Julia Why, you impudent little hussy —  
{ Lisa Oh, here's another — here's another! {Weeping.}

Princess Poor ladies, I'm very sorry for you all; but, you see, I've a prior claim. Come, away we go — there's not a moment to be lost!

No. 28.A

Shorten by singing two verses instead of three. For the chorus the words are the same as the first and third verses in the score.

Verse 1. {Furiously.}

Rudolph

Well, you're a pretty kind of fellow, thus my life to shatter, O!  
My dainty bride — my bride elect — you wheedle and you flatter, O!  
You fascinate her tough old heart with vain and vulgar patter, O!  
And eat my food and drink my wine — especially the latter, O!

All

The latter, O! The latter, O! Especially the latter O!  
The latter, O! The latter, O! Especially the latter O!

Rudolph

But when compared with other crimes, for which your head I'll batter, O!  
This flibberty gibberty Kind of a liberty Scarcely seems to matter, O!

All

But when compared with other crimes, for which our heads will batter, O!  
This flibberty gibberty Kind of a liberty Scarcely seems to matter, O!

Verse 2. {Still furious.}

Rudolph

For O, you vulgar vagabond, you fount of idle chatter, O!  
You've done a deed on which I vow you won't get any fatter, O!  
You fancy you've revived the Law — mere empty brag and clatter, O!  
You can't — you shan't — you don't — you won't — you thing of rag and tatter, O!

All

Of tatter O! Of Tatter O! You thing of rag and tatter, O!  
Of tatter O! Of Tatter O! You thing of rag and tatter, O!

Rudolph

For this you'll suffer agonies like rat in clutch of ratter, O! This flibberty gibberty Kind of a liberty  
's quite another matter, O!

All

For this will suffer agonies like rat in clutch of ratter, O! This flibberty gibberty Kind of a liberty  
's quite another matter, O!

No. 28.B

Ludwig My good sir, it's no use your saying that I can't revive the Law, in face of the fact that I have revived it.

Rudolph You couldn't revive it! You are an imposter, sir!

Ludwig That's absurd. I fought the Grand Duke. He drew a King, and I drew an Ace. He perished in inconceivable agonies on the spot. Now, as that's settled, we'll go on with the wedding.

Rudolph It isn't settled. You can't. {To Notary.} Tell him!

Notary Well, the fact is, there's been a little mistake here. On reference to the Act that regulates Statutory Duels, I find it is expressly laid down that Ace shall count invariably as lowest!

All Lowest!

Rudolph {breathlessly}. As lowest — lowest — lowest! So you're the ghoest — ghoest — ghoest!

Princess And am I to understand that I was on the point of marrying a dead man without knowing it? Oh, my goodness, what a narrow escape I've had. {Turns to look at Rudolph.} Or did I speak too soon?

Rudolph So you are the Princess of Monte Carlo. {Looking at her closely.} Rather an expensive taste in clothes.

Princess I am dressed as becomes a Grand Duke's betrothed!

Notary Remember, you're only offically betrothed till 3:00.

{ Princess Well, if I don't suit you, then perhaps we should...  
{ Rudolph You know, I don't intend to squander money on fancy clothes for you.

{Clock strikes three.}

Princess My Lord, I no longer hold you to your pledge.

Rudolph And I happily release you from yours.

Prince {to Princess}. Well, my dear, it seems that you and I have come all this way for nothing.

Princess Not for nothing, Papa, with all this new interest in roulette that can be turned to good account. {They retire up together.}

Lisa {crying softly}. What's to become of me? I cannot marry a dead man.

Ludwig But I'm no such thing! At the stroke of three, when the Act went out of existence, I came back into it! {They retire up together.}

Ernest Well, Julia, it seems that I am no longer a spectre appalling.

Julia Very well, I am yours, but only if you promise to give me some strong scenes of justifiable jealousy!

Ernest           Justifiable jealousy! My love, I couldn't do it!

Julia             Then I won't play.

Ernest           Well, well, I'll do my best! {They retire up together.}

Rudolph         {to the Baroness}. My dearest, I am delighted to be restored to one who shares my tastes in frugality.

Baroness        We shall live out our lives together in blissfully Parsimonious Matrimony!

Rudolph         In blissfully Matrimonial Parsimony!

Baroness        And to celebrate our wedding, you and I, my own, will provide all these good people with as much as they can eat of my very favorite delicacy. {Rudolph looks worried}.

Ludwig          {coming forward with Lisa}. Caviar?

Baroness        Oh, no!

Ernest           {coming forward with Julia}. Roast pheasant?

Baroness        Dear me, no. We shall have delicious, savory, melt-in-the-mouth — and reasonably priced — Sausage Rolls! {Rudolph is greatly relieved. Everyone else is aggrieved}.

Ludwig          You're too kind, madam. But before we face — that is enjoy — our wedding feast, let us bring back the parson, and we'll all be married directly!

All              Hurrah!