**BOX.** Instantly remove that hatter!

**COX.** Immediately turn out that printer!

**BOUN.** Well — but gentlemen —

**COX.** Explain! (pulling him round)

BOX. Explain! (pulling him round) Whose room is this!

**COX.** Yes — whose room is this?

BOX. Doesn't it belong to me?

BOUN. No!

**COX.** There! You hear, sir — it belongs to me.

**BOUN.** No — it belongs to both of you!

**COX & BOX.** (together) Both of us?

**BOUN.** Oh, yes! Gents, don't be angry — but you see, this gentleman — (pointing to **BOX**) — only being at home in the daytime, and that gentleman — (pointing to **COX**) — at night, I thought I might venture — until my little back second-floor room was ready—

**COX & BOX.** (together, eagerly) When will your little back second-floor room be ready?

**BOUN.** Why, to-morrow—

COX. I'll take it!

BOX. So will I!

**BOUN.** Excuse me — but if you both take it, you may just as well stop where you are.

COX & BOX. (together) True.

**COX.** I spoke first, sir!

**BOX.** With all my heart, sir! The little back second-floor room is yours, sir — now go!

**COX.** Go? Pooh — pooh —!

**BOUN.** Now don't quarrel, gentlemen. You see, there used to be a partition here —

COX & BOX. (together) Then put it up!

**BOUN.** Nay, I'll see if I can't get the other room ready this very day. Now, gents and officers, don't fight; but keep your tempers.(*Exit* L.C.D.)

**COX.** What a disgusting position! (walking rapidly round the stage)

**BOX.** (sitting down on chair, at one side of table, and following **COX'S** movements) Will you allow me to observe, if you have not had any exercise to-day, you'd better go out and take it?

**COX.** I shall not do anything of the sort, sir. (seating himself at the table opposite **BOX**.)

**BOX.** Very well, sir.

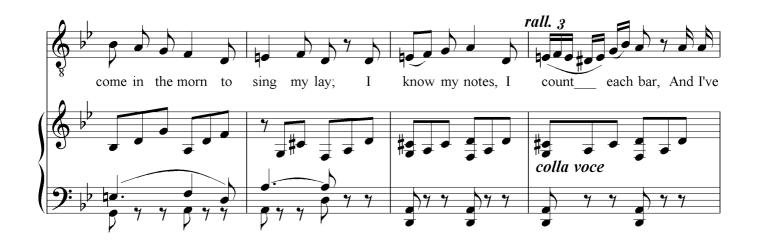
**COX.** Very well, sir! However, don't let me prevent you from going out.

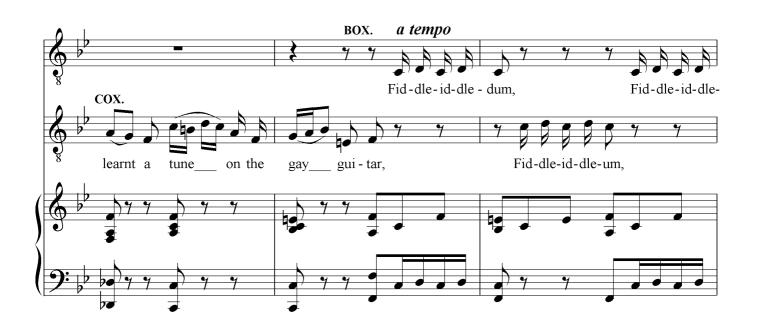
- **BOX.** Don't flatter yourself, sir. (**COX** is about to break a piece of roll off.) Halloa! that's my roll, sir. (snatches it away puts a pipe in his mouth and lights it with a piece of tinder puffs smoke across the table towards **COX**.)
  - COX. Holloa! What are you about, sir?
  - **BOX.** What am I about? I'm about to smoke.
  - **COX.** Wheugh! (goes to the window at **BOX'S** back, and flings it open)
  - **BOX.** Halloa! (turning round) Put down that window, sir!
  - **COX.** Then put your pipe out, sir!
  - **BOX.** There! (puts pipe on the table)
  - **COX.** There! (slams down window and re-seats himself)
- **BOX.** I shall retire to my pillow. (gets up, takes off his jacket, then goes towards bed and sits upon it, L.C.)
- **COX.** (Jumps up, goes to bed and sits down on R. of **BOX**.) I beg your pardon, sir I cannot allow any one to rumple my bed. (both rising)
  - **BOX.** Your bed? Hark ye, sir can you fight?
  - COX. No, Sir.
  - **BOX.** No? Then come on. (sparring at **COX**.)
  - **COX.** Sit down, sir or I'll instantly vociferate "Police!"
  - **BOX.** (seats himself, **COX** does the same) I say, sir —
  - COX. Well, sir?
- **BOX.** Although we are doomed to occupy the same room for a few hours longer, I don't see any necessity for our cutting each other's throat, sir.
  - **COX.** Not at all. It's an operation that I should decidedly object to.
  - **BOX.** And, after all, I've no violent animosity against you, sir.
  - **COX.** Nor have I any rooted antipathy to you, sir.
  - **BOX.** Besides, it was all Bouncer's fault, sir.
  - **COX.** Entirely, sir. (gradually approaching chair)
  - **BOX.** Very well, sir!
  - **COX.** Very well, sir! (pause)
  - **BOX.** Take a bit of roll, sir?
  - **COX.** Thank ye, sir. (breaking a bit off pause)
  - **BOX.** Do you sing, sir?
  - **COX.** I sometimes dabble in a serenade.
  - **BOX.** Then dabble away.

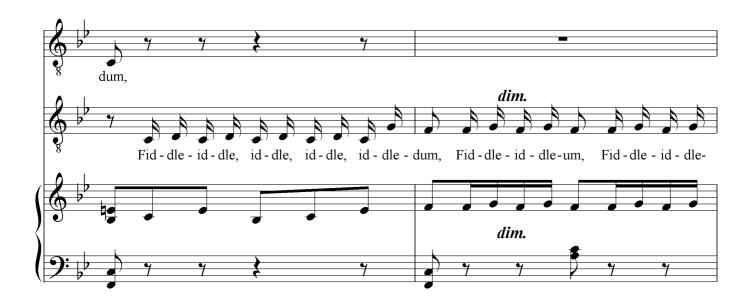
## No. 7. The Buttercup (DUET SERENADE)



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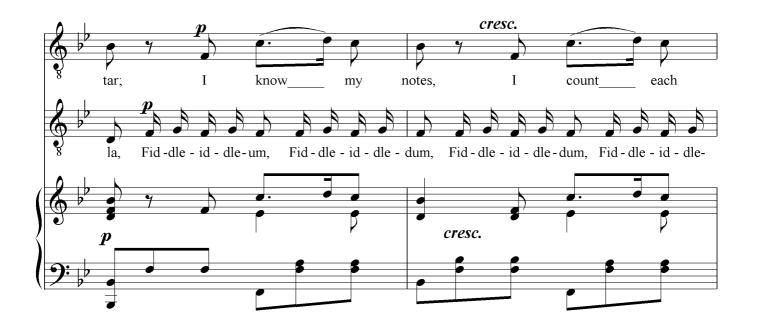


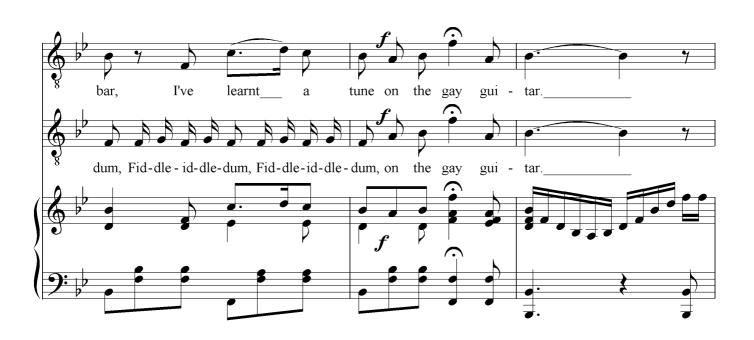


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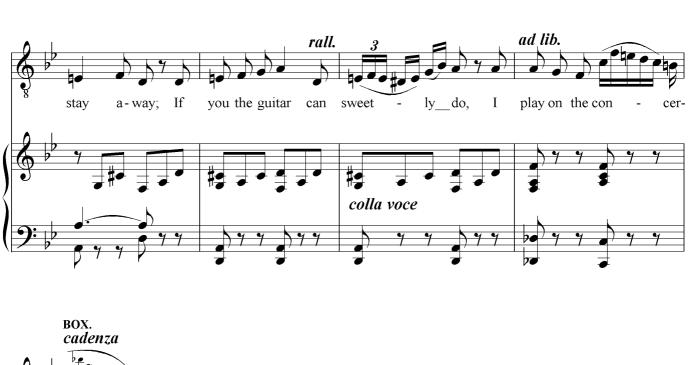


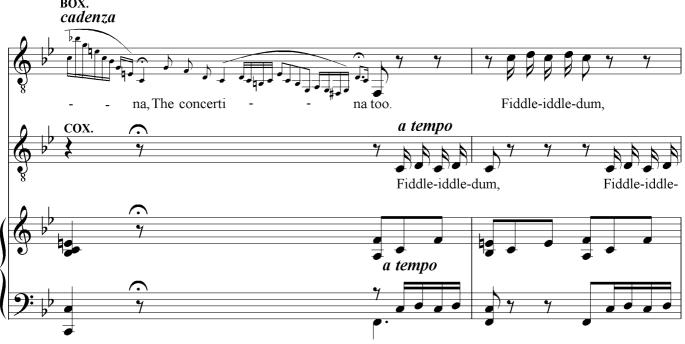


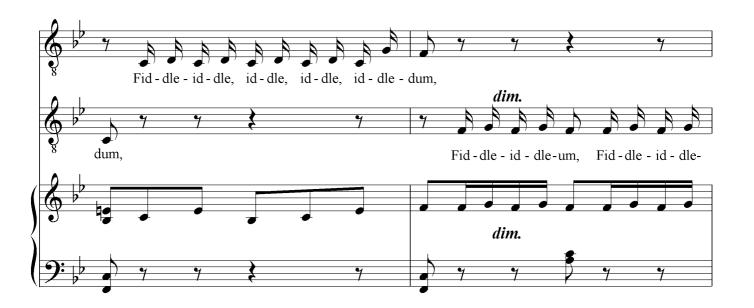




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(COX plays on the gridiron like a guitar. BOX takes an opera hat and imitates a concertina.)

- **BOX.** Have you read this month's Bradshaw, sir?
- COX. No, sir, my wife wouldn't let me.
- BOX. Your wife!
- **COX.** That is my *intended* wife.
- **BOX.** Well, that's the same thing! I congratulate you. (*shaking hands*)
- **COX.** (with a deep sigh) Thank ye. (seeing **BOX** about to get up) You needn't disturb yourself, sir, she won't come here.
- **BOX.** Oh! I understand. You've got a snug little establishment of your own *here* on the sly cunning dog. (*nudging* **COX**)
- **COX.** (*drawing himself up*) No such thing, sir —I repeat, sir, no such thing, sir; but my wife I mean my *intended* wife, happens to be the proprietor of a considerable number of bathing machines
  - **BOX.** (suddenly) Ha! Where! (grasping **COX'S** arm)
  - **COX.** At a favourite watering place. How curious you are!
  - **BOX.** Not at all. Well?
- **COX.** Consequently, in the bathing season which luckily is rather a long one we see but little of each other; but as that is now over, I am daily indulging in the expectation of being blessed with the sight of *my* beloved. (*very seriously*) Are *you* married?
  - **BOX.** Me? Why not exactly!
  - **COX.** Ah a happy bachelor?
  - **BOX.** Why not precisely!
  - **COX.** Oh! a widower?
  - **BOX.** No not absolutely.
- **COX.** You'll excuse me, sir but, at present, I don't understand how you can help being one of the three.
  - **BOX.** Not help it?
  - **COX.** No, sir— not you, nor any other man alive!
  - **BOX.** Ah, that may be but I'm not alive!
- **COX.** (pushing back his chair) You'll excuse me, sir but I don't like joking upon such subjects.
  - **BOX.** But I am perfectly serious, sir; I've been defunct for the last three years!
  - **COX.** (*shouting*) Will you be quiet, sir?
- **BOX.** If you won't believe me, I'll refer you to a to a very large, numerous, and respectable circle of disconsolate friends.
- **COX.** My very dear sir my *very* dear sir if there does exist any ingenious contrivance whereby a man on the eve of committing matrimony can leave this world, and yet stop in it, I shouldn't be sorry to know it.
  - **BOX.** Then there's nothing more easy. Do as I did.
  - **COX.** (eagerly) I will! What is it?
  - BOX. Drown yourself!
  - **COX.** (*shouting again*) Will you be quiet, sir?
  - **BOX.** Listen —

## No. 8. Not Long Ago (ROMANCE)



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- **COX**. Dear me! I think I begin to have some slight perception of your meaning. Ingenious creature! You disappeared the suit of clothes was found —
- **BOX.** Exactly and in one of the pockets of the coat, or the waistcoat, or the pantaloons I forget which there was also found a piece of paper, with these affecting farewell words:— "This is thy work, oh, Penelope Ann!"
- **COX**. Penelope Ann! (*starts up, takes* **BOX** *by the arm and leads him slowly to front of stage*) Penelope Ann?
  - BOX. Penelope Ann!
  - **COX**. Originally widow of William Wiggins?
  - **BOX.** Widow of William Wiggins!
  - **COX**. Proprietor of bathing machines?
  - **BOX.** Proprietor of bathing machines!
  - **COX**. At Margate?
  - BOX. Ramsgate!
- **COX**. It must be she! And you, sir you are Box the lamented, long lost Box?
  - BOX. I am!
  - **COX**. And I was about to marry the interesting creature you so cruelly deceived.
  - **BOX.** Ah! then you are Cox!
  - COX. I am!
- **BOX.** I heard of it. I congratulate you I give you joy! and now I think I'll go and take a stroll. (*going*)
- **COX**. No you don't! (*stopping him*) I'll not lose sight of you till I've restored you to the arms of your intended.
  - **BOX.** My intended? You mean your intended.
  - **COX**. No, sir yours!
  - **BOX.** How can she be my intended, now that I am drowned?
- **COX**. You're no such thing, sir! and I prefer presenting you to Penelope Ann. Permit me, then, to follow the generous impulse of my nature I give her up to you.
- **BOX.** Benevolent being! I wouldn't rob you for the world. (*going*) Good morning, sir!
  - **COX**. (seizing him) Stop!
  - **BOX.** Unhand me, hatter! or I shall cast off the lamb and assume the lion!
  - **COX**. Pooh! (snapping his fingers in **BOX'S** face)
- **BOX.** An insult! to my very face under my very nose! (*rubbing it*) You know the consequences, sir instant satisfaction, sir!
- **COX**. With all my heart, sir! (they go to fireplace R., and begin ringing bells violently, and pull down bell pulls)
  - **BOTH.** Bouncer! Bouncer!
    - (**BOUN.** runs in, D.L.C., all three sing "Rataplan" and stop in the middle.)

**BOUN.** What is it. gentlemen?

**BOX.** Pistols for two!

**BOUN.** Yes, sir. (going)

**COX**. Stop! You don't mean to say, thoughtless and misguided militiaman, that you keep loaded firearms in the house.

**BOUN.** Oh, no — they're not loaded.

**COX**. Then produce the murderous weapons instantly. (Exit **BOUN.** L.C.)

BOX. I say, sir!

COX. Well, sir!

**BOX.** What's your opinion of duelling, sir?

**COX**. I think it's a barbarous practice, sir.

**BOX.** So do I, sir. To be sure, I don't so much object to it when the pistols are not loaded.

**COX**. No; I dare say that does make some difference.

**BOX.** And yet, sir — on the other hand — doesn't it strike you as rather a waste of time, for two people to keep firing pistols at one another, with nothing in 'em.

**COX**. No, sir — no more than any other harmless recreation.

**BOX.** Hark ye! Why do you object to marry Penelope Ann?

**COX**. Because, as I've already observed, I can't abide her. You'll be happy with her.

**BOX.** Happy? me? With the consciousness that I have deprived you of such a treasure? No, no, Cox!

**COX**. Don't think of me, Box — I shall be sufficiently rewarded by the knowledge of my Box's happiness.

**BOX.** Don't be absurd, sir.

**COX**. Then don't you be ridiculous, sir.

**BOX.** I won't have her!

COX. No more will I!

**BOX.** I have it! Suppose we draw lots for the lady — eh, Mr. Cox?

**COX**. That's fair enough, Mr. Box.

**BOX.** Or, what say you to dice?

**COX**. With all my heart! Dice by all means. (eagerly)

**BOX.** (aside) That's lucky! Bouncer's nephew left a pair here yesterday. He sometimes persuades me to have a throw for a trifle, and as he always throws sixes, I suspect they are good ones. (goes to cupboard at R., and brings out dice-box)

**COX**. (aside) I've no objection at all to dice. I lost one pound seventeen and sixpence at last Barnet Races, to a very gentlemanly looking man, who had a most peculiar knack of throwing sixes. I suspected they were loaded, so I gave him another half-crown and he gave me the dice. (takes dice out of his pocket — uses lucifer box as substitute for dice-box, which is on the table)

**BOX.** Now then, sir!

**COX**. I'm ready, sir! (they seat themselves at opposite sides of the table) Will you lead off, sir?

**BOX.** As you please, sir. The lowest throw, of course, wins Penelope Ann?

COX. Of course, sir!

BOX. Very well, sir!

**COX**. Very well, sir! (**BOX** rattling dice and throwing.)

No. 9. Sixes! (GAMBLING DUET)



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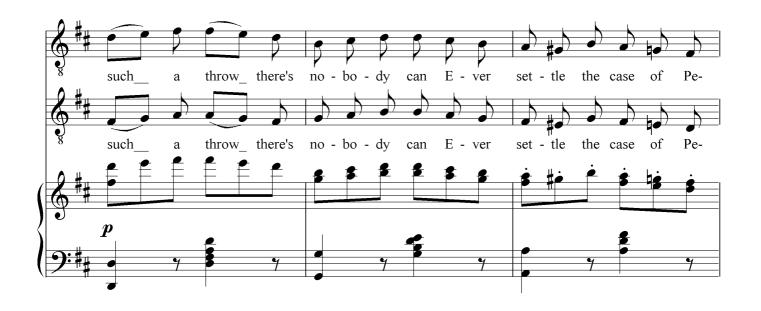


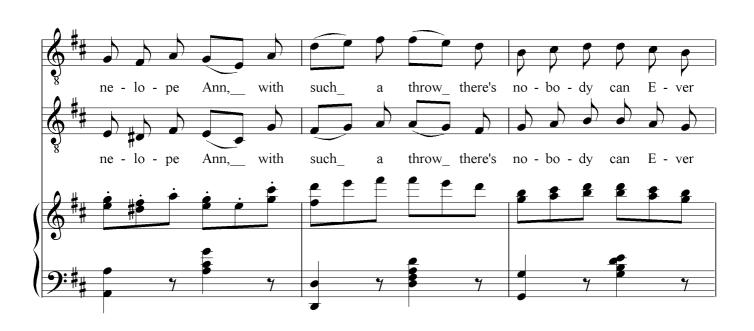
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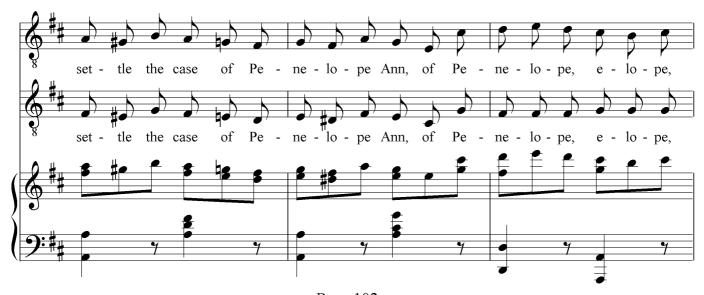




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**BOX.** It's perfectly absurd your going on throwing sixes in this sort of way.

COX. I shall go on till my luck changes.

**BOX.** I have it — suppose we toss for the lady.

COX. With all my heart.





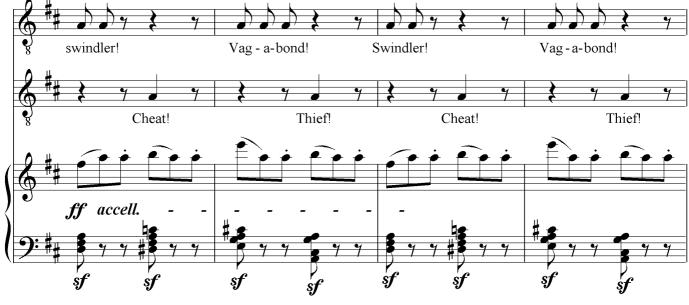
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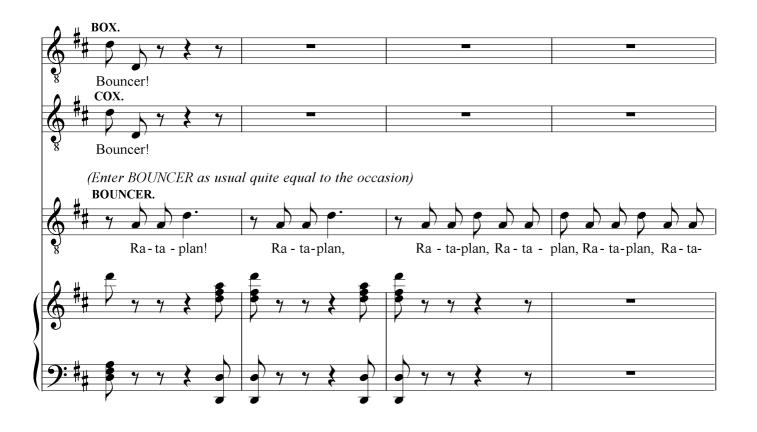


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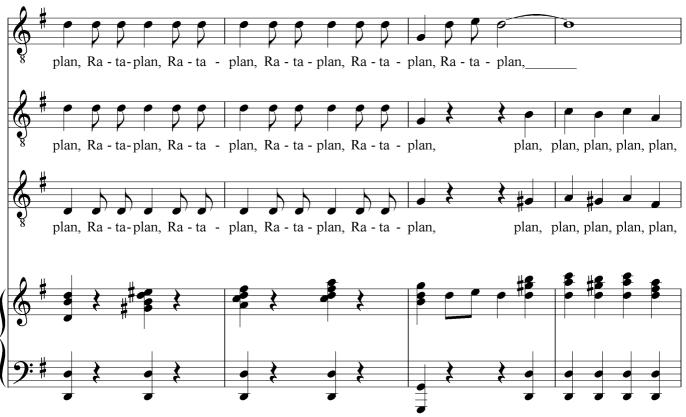














- **BOX & COX.** (together) Is the little back second-floor room ready?
- **BOUN.** Not quite, gentlemen. I can't find the pistols, but I have brought you a letter it came by the General Post, yesterday. I am sure I don't know how I came to forget it, for I put it carefully in my pocket.
  - **COX.** And you've kept it carefully in your pocket ever since?
- **BOUN.** Yes, sir. I hope you'll forgive me, sir. (*going*) By-the-bye, I paid twopence for it.
- **COX.** Did you ? Then I *do* forgive you. (*Exit* **BOUN.**, D.L.C.) (*looking at letter*) "Margate!" The postmark decidedly says "Margate."
  - **BOX.** Oh, doubtless a tender epistle from Penelope Ann.
  - **COX.** Then read it, sir. (handing letter to **BOX**)
  - BOX. Me, sir?
- **COX.** Of course. You don't suppose I'm going to read a letter from your intended.
  - **BOX.** My intended? Pooh! It's addressed to you C O X.
  - **COX.** Do you think that's a C? It looks to me like a B.
  - BOX. Nonsense! fracture the seal.
  - **COX.** (opens letter starts) Goodness gracious!
  - **BOX.** (*snatching letter starts*) Gracious goodness!
- **COX.** (taking letter again) "Margate, May the 4th. Sir, I hasten to convey to you the intelligence of a melancholy accident, which has bereft you of your intended wife." He means *your* intended.
  - BOX. No, yours! However, it's perfectly immaterial; go on!
- **COX.** (*resuming letter*) "Poor Mrs. Wiggins went for a short excursion in a sailing boat a sudden and violent squall soon after took place, which, it is supposed, upset her, as she was found, two days afterwards, keel upwards."
  - **BOX.** Poor woman!
- **COX.** The boat, sir! (reading) "As her man of business, I immediately proceeded to examine her papers, amongst which I soon discovered her will, the following extract from which will, I have no doubt, be satisfactory to you: 'I hereby bequeath my entire property to my intended husband'". Excellent, but unhappy creature. (affected)
  - **BOX.** Generous, ill-fated being. (affected)
  - COX. And to think that I tossed up for such a woman.
  - **BOX.** When I remember that I staked such a treasure on the hazard of a die.
  - **COX.** I'm sure, Mr. Box, I can't sufficiently thank you for your sympathy.
- **BOX.** And I'm sure, Mr. Cox, you couldn't feel more, if she had been your own intended.
  - **COX.** *If* she'd been *my own* intended! She *was* my own intended.
- **BOX.** *Your* intended? Come, I like that! Didn't you very properly observe just now, sir, that I proposed to her first?

- **COX.** To which you very sensibly replied that you'd come to an untimely end.
- BOX. I deny it.
- COX. I say you have!
- BOX. The fortune's mine!
- COX. Mine!
- **BOX.** I'll have it!
- COX. So will I!
- BOX. I'll go to law!
- COX. So will I!
- **BOX.** Stop a thought strikes me. Instead of going to law about the property, suppose we divide it.
  - **COX.** Equally?
  - **BOX.** Equally. I'll take two thirds.
  - **COX.** That's fair enough and I'll take three fourths.
  - BOX. That won't do. Half and half.
  - **COX.** Agreed! There's my hand upon it —
- **BOX.** And mine (about to shake hands a postman's knock heard at street door without)
  - **COX.** Holloa! Postman again?
  - **BOX.** Postman yesterday postman to-day —

## (Enter **BOUN.**, D.L.C.)

- **BOUN.** Another letter, Colonel Cox twopence more!
- **COX.** I forgive you again! (taking letter) Another trifle from Margate. (opens letter, starts) Goodness gracious!
  - **BOX.** (snatching letter, starts) Gracious goodness!
  - **COX.** (snatching letter again reads) "Happy to inform you, false alarm."
- **BOX.** (overlooking) "Sudden squall boat upset Mrs. Wiggins, your intended —"
  - **COX.** "Picked up by steamboat —"
  - **BOX.** "Carried into Boulogne —"
  - **COX.** "Returned here this morning—"
  - **BOX.** "Will start by early train to-morrow—"
- **COX.** "And be with you at ten o'clock exact." (Both simultaneously pull out their watches.)
  - **BOX.** Cox, I congratulate you —
  - **COX.** Box, I give you joy!
- **BOX.** I'm sorry that most important business at the Colonial Office will prevent my witnessing the truly happy meeting between you and your intended! Good morning! (going)

**COX.** (*stopping him*) It's obviously for me to retire. Not for worlds would I disturb the rapturous meeting between you and your intended. Good morning! (*going*)

**BOX.** You'll excuse me, sir — but our last arrangement was that she was *your* intended.

COX. No, yours!

BOX. Yours!

**BOTH.** Yours! (Ten o'clock strikes — noise of an omnibus.)

**BOX.** Ha! What's that! A cab's drawn up at the door! (*running to window*) No, it's a twopenny omnibus!

**COX.** (leaning over Box's shoulder) A lady's got out —

**BOX.** There's no mistaking that majestic person — it's Penelope Ann!

**COX.** Your intended!

BOX. Yours!

**COX.** Yours! (Both run to door, L.C., and eagerly listen.)

**BOX.** Hark — she's coming up stairs!

**COX.** Shut the door! (They slam the door, and both lean against it with their backs.)

BOUN. (without, and knocking.) Colonel!

**COX.** (shouting) I've just stepped out!

BOX. So have I!

**BOUN.** (without) Mr. Cox! (pushing at the door — **COX** and **BOX** redouble their efforts to keep the door shut) Open the door! It's only me — Sergeant Bouncer!

**COX.** Only you? Then where's the lady?

BOUN. Gone!

**COX.** Upon your honour?

**BOX.** As a Militiaman?

**BOUN.** Yes: and she's left a note for Brigadier Cox.

**COX.** Give it to me.

**BOUN.** Then open the door!

**COX.** Put it under! (A letter is put under the door, **COX** picks up the letter and opens it.) Goodness gracious!

**BOX.** (snatching letter) Gracious goodness! (**COX** snatches the letter, and runs forward, followed by **BOX.**)

**COX.** (reading) "Dear Mr. Cox — pardon my candour —"

**BOX.** (*looking over, and reading*) "But being convinced that our feelings, like our ages, do not reciprocate —"

**COX.** I hasten to apprize you of my immediate union —"

BOX. "With Mr. Knox."

COX. Huzza!

**BOX.** Three cheers for Knox. Ha, ha, ha! (tosses the letter in the air, and begins dancing, **COX** does the same)

**BOUN.** (putting his head in at door) The little second floor back room is quite ready!

COX. I don't want it!

BOX. No more do I!

**COX.** What shall part us?

**BOX.** What shall tear us asunder?

COX. Box!

**BOX.** Cox! (About to embrace — **BOX** stops, seizes **COX'S** hand, and looks eagerly in his face.) You'll excuse the apparent insanity of the remark, but the more I gaze on your features, the more I'm convinced that you're my long lost brother.

**COX.** The very observation I was going to make to you!

**BOX.** Ah — tell me — in mercy tell me — have you such a thing as a strawberry mark on your left arm?

COX. No!

**BOX.** Then it is he! (*They rush into each other's arms.*)

**COX.** Of course we stop where we are?

BOX. Of course!

**COX.** For, between you and me, I'm rather partial to this house.

**BOX.** So am I — I begin to feel quite at home in it.

**COX.** Everything so clean and comfortable

**BOX.** And I'm sure the master of it, from what I have seen of him, is very anxious to please.

**COX.** So he is — and I vote, Box, that we stick by him!

**BOX.** Agreed!

## No. 10. My Hand Upon It (FINALE)



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## Appendix: Original Version of No. 4.





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