

Grand Scheme by
Characters &c

W. ^{dlis} Shan Old Chester	A Frothy Old Bachelor.
C. W. Sad Henry	} Nephews of Old Chester
W. Clarke Charles	
J. Sad William	} Irish Servants of Charles and Henry
W. Lamb Patrick	
J. O'Keefe Tom	Yorkshire Servant of O. Chester
R. Barlow Old Michel	Fiddler
M. Bach Mary	} Nieces of Old Chester
Susan Fair Susan	
Ellen A. Sad Ellen	} Waiting Maids of Mary and Anna
K. Sad Old Martha	
	Servant to Old Chester
	Peasants &c.

Winnstoro So. Ca - Written by
for the Thespian Corps -
January 1853 -

Grand Scheme

Characters

Old Chester		A Frosty (?) Old Bachelor
Henry	(A. W. Ladd)	Nephews of Old Chester
Charles	(W. Clarke)	
William	(G. Ladd)	Irish servants of Charles & Henry
Patrick	(McCants)	
Tom	(A. Obear)	Yorkshire servant of O. Chester
Old Michael		Fiddler
Mary	(R. Gaillard)	Nieces of Old Chester
Anna	(M. Bacot?)	
Susan	(Faucete)	Waiting maids of Mary & Anna
Ellen	(A. Ladd)	
Old Martha	(K. Ladd)	Servant to Old Chester

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Act I Scene 1

A room in Old Chester's House

O. Chester seated at table with papers & letters

Chester: Well! Young people will be young people--What a trouble--
But I have ~~it~~ it--I don't mean to be pestered with their
whims and notions--My nephews shall marry my nieces--It
was a Grand Scheme--I've kept them apart--They have not seen
each other for ten years. (Picks up a letter). Well! Here's a
letter from them. The girls don't want to come back. Humph!
Now the boys don't want to come back. Maybe they have fallen
in love. It won't do. They shall marry each other, or they
shan't have a penny. Hey Day! They set themselves up to
choose for themselves. Ain't I older and don't I know better
what is for their interest. Pshaw! It's my Grand Scheme.
I'll make them happy in spite of themselves. (calling) Tom, Tom.

Tom: Coming, I bees coming sir .

Chester: Tom, can you be a smart boy? But I think sometimes you're
more knave than fool.

Tom (bowing) Thank ye Maister.

Chester Silence, I want you to listen and not talk. Can you keep quiet?

Tom Its noa that ye'll hear me, I'll be like a bell without a clapper.

Chester Well you were recommended to me as an honest lad, so I took you
into service and another reason you are not acquainted about
the town so won't gabble and run about.

Tom Noa I bees--

Chester Silence, I want you to listen, Rascal, and not answer me
when you are not asked a question.

Tom I bees silent sure...

Chester (Passionately) Will you be silent Rascal!

Tom Yes, I bees--

(Chester Raises His Stick)

Tom O Lord y, Maister its noa I speaking

Chester Now another word & you'll feel my stick. My nephews will be here
today, so will my nieces from the country. Do you understand?

Tom Yes, I be understand it all.

Chester The two girls will stay next door at Mrs. Grant's. The young
folks have not seen each other since they were children. The
boys I've kept in Dublin, But I mean they shall marry each other.

Chester cont. It's my Grand Scheme Do you understand me?

Tom Yes, I do sure.

Chester Now I think they've on each side taken another notion and want to choose for themselves.

Tom Very loikely sur; I be doing that very often till I seed Peggy.. then I stuck to her.

Chester Listen to me sirzah, You must watch the boys. Be silent and tell me all you see and hear.

Tom (scratching his head) It's noa I can do that Maister. I can't talk and noa say a word.

Chester Fool--I mean be silent to the boys. Now go and send up the Old Woman I engaged last night to stay in Martha's place. (exit Tom). The old woman is deaf-- no prattling. Poor old Martha. It was hard to part with her, if it is for a short time. (muses) Ps. haw I'll take her back when the young folks get married. She nursed them when my sister died and would help them to rebel (seems affected and wipes his eyes). Ps haw my old eyes are getting weak. I'll make them happy. They must fall in love with each other. Its my Grand Scheme.

Enter Tom followed by old Martha with a very large bonnet on, cloak or shawl, keeping her face a little from Old Chester.

Chester You are the old woman I employed last night I suppose?

Tom Your honor, noa remembers the old woman is as dif as a door nail.

Chester Sure enough I had forgotten. (Hollers very loud) Can you be faithful and silent?

Martha (screaming) Y'r honor may depend on me

Chester Good heavens! But I suppose deaf people don't know how loud they talk. I want you to wait on two young ladies. You will stay next door at Mrs. Grant's. No letter carrying. I must know all that passes. Do you hear & understand what I say?

Martha (very loud) Y'r honor need not fear me. I'll be a very

Chester (v. loud) ^{344x?} Synx (sic). Good pay (?)

Chester (v. loud) You shall be well paid if no one sees them without my knowledge, except the ones I intend them to marry. (low tone) Tom, take the old woman to Mrs. Grants (exeunt). My scheme. its my Grand Scheme. (calling) Tom, Tom. (Tom enters). Tell the old woman, Tom, to say to the girls--I'll be there as soon as they arrive, so let me know when the coach comes in.

Tom Yes sir. but they bees cumed for I was looking at the great coach when you first called. I seed it sure and two ladies comed out.

Chester Why did you not tell me sirrah?

Tom You noa axed I.

Chester Well I am looking for the young men every moment.

Tom They be cumed too.

Chester Stupid dolt, why did you not tell me that?

Tom I noa knowed it my own self till I went to go down and I seed two fine looking folks like Lords a cuming sir. (noise without) Lordy mercy, that bees them a cuming ;up.

Old Chester gathered up his papers, puts them in his pocket
Voices without
"Where's Uncle"

Chester Run Tom show them up. (exit tom).
Oh the young dogs won't want to marry but I'll make them.
It's my grand scheme.

Enter Charles & Henry. Chester grasps each by the hand. Chas & Henry both speaking:

Glad to see you looking so well uncle.

Henry You look as well uncle as you did when I left you ten years ago.

Charles I wonder some of the girls did not fall in love with you Uncle and we find a good aunt to welcome us on our return home.

Chester (Ha ha laughing) So you thought I'd be married eh! Oh you young dogs. But I've been getting wives for you both.

Charles (aside) Devilish kind

Henry (aside) He might have saved himself the trouble

Chester Did you not get my letter boys?

Henry Did you not get ours uncle saying we preferred choosing for ourselves?

Charles Indeed uncle you would not expect..

Chester Indeed, but I do expect you to marry the girls I've chosen for you, or I'll disinherit you both. Yes. You shan't have a cent of my money nor a cent that was left to you. You don't know it was left at my disposal eh! No No. Its my "grand scheme."

Henry (aside) Deuce take the "grand Scheme"
Deuce

- Charles Would you have us marry girls we never saw? Besides,
I do not wish to marry. My cousin may be more in the humour.
- Henry. Not a whit. positively prefer staying with you uncle and
talking to my cousins Mary and Anna (aside) Ah! Poor Anna I
did love her once and if it had not been for that little
witch in Yorkshire...
- Chester What are you muttering about eh! but I'll give you my word
you shan't know anything about your cousins. I mean to make
them marry too. Its my grand scheme.
- Henry You do not surely mean to force my cousins as well as ourselves
to lead a life of misery with some disagreeable wretch.
You must surely have forgotten that you are almost our parent.
- Chester (mimicking Henry) A life of misery with some disaggreeable
wretch. (natural voice in a passion) Monstrous fine!
Dictate to your uncle. Did you ever lack for money you
extravagant scaps. Have you not been wandering in England
these three weeks when I ordered you home..say..Haven't I
always indulged you in everything & now got wives for you
so as to save you the trouble, you must make as mush fuss
as if I had read your death warrant. I'll not have my
"Grand Scheme" knocked in the head in this way by two fools
of boys. You shall marry tomorrow or I'll turn you both
out of doors. (Exit).

(P. 8 original) Charles & Henry discuss. Ten years ago they were
parted from their cousins Mary and Anna. Charles loved Mary
& Henry loved Anna. BUT during their recent visit to Yorkshire
they rescued two ladies when ^{the} their horses ran away. The
two men fell in love. They did not tell the young ladies their
true names. Henry & Charles are resolved not to marry their
uncle's choice, but they are curious to see the chosen ladies.

They are to read them at 4:00.
End Act I Scene 1

Act I Scene 2

Chester goes to Mrs. Grant's house when^r his two nieces Mary & Anna are staying. Chester has kept them in Yorkshire. His grand scheme is for the boys to fall in love with their cousins and marry.

Chester announces to the girls that he has chosen husbands for them.

Mary But I do not wish to get married uncle.

Anna Nor I uncle. We want to live at home with you.

Chester But I don't want you. I mean you shall marry tomorrow morning.

Mary Never Uncle I'll die first. I'll not marry a man I cannot love.

Anna Nor I Uncle. You may turn us into the street to starve.

Chester Hoy te toyte. Here's a to do. But I can tell you it is not so easy dying or starving as you think. You 've got to marry. Its my "Grand Scheme."

Chester threatens to disinherit the girls if they do not marry to please him. They exit in "a bad humor"

Enter Martha. with a cap on with a long frill, spectacles & shawl.

Chester Hey, what's them you've got on?

Martha (v. loud) What did you say sir?

Chester (starting) I forgot again. (very loud) What have you got them things on for & that awful bedcurtain around your cap for?

Martha (v.loud) I've weak eyes, your honor.

Chester (v.loud) Have the girls seen anyone yet--I mean any gentleman?

Martha (v.loud) No your honor they ain't seen any gentleman--they've only seen you.

Chester instructs Martha to bring the girls to his house to the parlor at 4 p.m, the girls & their maids. Martha is concerned about his plan and decides to outscheme the grand scheme.

Act II Scene 1

Garden back of Chester's house. Enter Mary and Anna followed by Susan & Ellen and Martha.

Mary Now let me see what this letter says. "My dear nieces it is my orders that you be in the parlour by 4 o'clock. The gentlemen that you are to meet are no other than your cousins Charles & Henry.

Anna Oh mercy. I did love Henry.

Mary Poor Charles. I would have married him had I never met Evelyn. I will not deceive Charles.

Anna I wonder if the foolish notions of our childhood have grown up with them. Ten years since we parted. How our little hearts did love each other. Ah! Mary if they look as they did when boys, I fear it would shake our loves for Evelyn & Montague.

Mary Our faith is pledged to them, Anna. Till I'm convinced they are false, I will not consent to marry any other even if it is my cousin.

Martha But now that you know it is the boys, God bless them, you have only to say that you don't want to marry. They would not vex your little hearts a moment, not them.

Mary points out that uncle is obstinate and that Charles & Henry might be in favor of the scheme. The girls wonder what their cousins look like now ~~and what their hearts are now~~ If they haven't changed, the boys would respect their secret. After 10 years in Ireland they girls decide to get their maids Susan & Ellen to receive the boys in their places. Anna & Mary can watch through a door.

~~Anna~~

Mary suggests a plan:

Mary let us get Ellen & Susan to receive them in our places. They can have no recollection of us. Our door opens on the parlor. We can see & hear all that passes.

Anna That will be capital fine. I would like to see them without being seen. Heigh Ho.

Mary There you are sighing. I expect they have grown up great rough Irishman. Bah!

Anna Ah! Mary if it had not been for the runaway scrape of our horses in Yorkshire we would never have met Evelyn & Montague

Mary Well, Anna There's no use talking of what's past..

Anna & Mary go off with Susan and Ellen to rehearse them to meet the cousins.

Enter Charles & Henry

Charles I am resolved to start to night. Bid adieu to my sweet little wood nymph in Yorkshire, then seek my fortune in the wide world (sighing) or if she could be content with a poor devil of a student like me-- why i'll take her at once.

Henry Yes, and make the old saying true "When Poverty enters the door, Love flies out the window." Yet I've half a mind to do the same thing myself.

Henry opens a letter that Tom delivered earlier.

"My dear nephews. I won't vex you any longer--the girls you are to meet are no other than your cousins Mary and Anna. Be in the parlor by 4:00 to see the little dears you are to marry in the morning.

Henry cont I cannot be home till after night."

?Charles And I am devilish glad of it.

Henry Poor Anna, but suppose the affections of our childhood have grown up with them.

Charles Psyhaw, all nonsense. Uncle has had them buried somewhere in the country. & I dare swear that they are bouncing rosy cheeked awkward country lassies. Uncle disliked city belles. Heavens! what a situation--

Henry has an idea: "I mean to see them & not be seen"
Let us get Patrick & William to personate us ~~in~~ our room opens on the parlor. We can see & hear all that passes.
our servants

Charles (Laughing) Our representatives would not be very likely to win the hearts of our fair cousins with the Brogue & then to play them such a trick.

Henry The Brogue will excite no suspicion -we have been in Ireland 10 years & uncle will not be at home.

Charles Should our little cousins have grown up as beautiful as they were when children I fear it would shake our allegiance to the fair ones of Yorkshire.

Henry The dreams of our boyhood is over and we have come to the realities of life., but what say you to my scheme?

Charles exeellent....

Patrick and William enter. & Charles explains the plan.

Patrick And are we to coort the swate jewels? Och & them be born ladies..

Henry No-you must be very distant & polite.

Charles Mind--do not forget that they are our cousins.

William It takes an Irishman to be polite. Och! If you'd seen us when we used to go over to Mrs. O'Flanigan's.

The four go off to ~~rehearse~~ rehearse.

Enter Tom. Tom has been paid by the boys to "get lost" He plans to make a lot of money out of all this scheming so that ~~they~~ he can marry his sweetheart Peggy. Tom saw the cousins in Yorkshire when he was sent w/ a letter to the girls' chaperone. He didn't tell Old Chester.

end II! 1

Act II: 2

Parlor in Old Chest'ers house. Susan & ellen await the suitors

Susan Lor, Ellen suppose they were to court us right out, Oh Mercy & they such fine looking gentlemen

Ellen Oh lorda mercy Susan you've scared the very heart of me into my mouth--I've clean forgot all I had to say.

Susan Lorda mercy there they must be coming now. Oh! Ellen I'm trembling all oer.

Both jump up at noise

Enter Patrick & William scraping & bowing awkwardly. Susan and Ellen twist their fans & look confused. William pushes Patrick

William (to Patrick aside) Faith Patrick & why don't ye spake?

Patrick (aside) because the half the Maister toul d me is clain gone, but here goes for it--

William (Don't forget they're to be our kin

Patrick Faith & its ourselves that glad to see ye & ye're looking as bright as a morning in May and as plump as partridges that grace the Lord Mayor's table on St. Patrick's Day.

Susan (aside to Ellen) Why don't you say something?

Wm Won't yer Leddyships be after taking a seat?

Patrick Be the powers, it's a long time since we've seen ye and how do you like living in the country?

Ellen It's a powerful more livelier place than this, I am sartain of that, thou we only come today.

Wm (aside to Patrick) They don't spake like they were mighty proud at all at all

Patrick (to the girls) Ye may well say that same for I think it's dull enough & we haven't sane the face of a leddy worth looking at till we seed y'r own pratty jewels of faces.

Susan (aside to Ellen) If they ain't going to make llove

Ellen (aside to Susan) Hush (aloud to Pat) Lor me, ye can talk all that sorter talk & we won't mind ye a bit because ye are only our cousins

Wm Faith & by the same, we would have been axing ye for a kiss?

Pat (aside) Ye spalpeen. Don't be forgetting that they are born leddies.

Wm (to the girls) Wouldn't yer leddyships like a bit of a turn in the garden. It's maty dull a satting here--we'll tell ye about ould Ireland

Susan We don't care

(All this time Charles & Hnery are seen peeping from one door and Mary & Anna from the other--as the party rises, Charles & Henry slip out the door and exit)

(Pat Won't yet take ~~me~~ me arm (aside) I mustn't forget they are ladies.

EXEUNT

Enter Mary & Anna

Anna Oh mercy I am ready to cry & my cousins were such pretty boys.

Mary Ah Me! I had begun to fear I should love them more than mere cousins, but such Boobies..

Anna That's been one of Uncle's Grand Schemes. He was always railing at the follies of the day

Mary But it was too bad Anna to bury them in the wildest part of Ireland with some old Irish ~~fixxxxx~~ tutor & then bring them here to us for husbands. Heavens! I would rather he had imported two wild Hottentots for us (sighing).

Anna There's no use in sighing--poor Montague--What's to be done?

Mary Don't speak of Montague or Evelyn in the same breath with our wild cousins.

Anna Do not say cousins. But what's to be done I say?

Mary Go back to Mrs.Grants tonight...Martha promised to conceal us & say we had run off after seeing our Bah I mean those Irishmen...Uncle will never think of searching in the house for us, and as to--I won't say cousins--they can taken Ellen & Susan--they seemed more fascinated with them than they could possibly have been with us.

EXEUNT

Enter Henry & Charles, Henry laughing.

Charles How can you laugh Henry. This I suppose is one of uncles Grand Schemes. They were such sweet little girls--it was too bad to takethem and bury them in some ;uncultivated part of England. Twas Murder, murder most foul. Positively in the first degree/

Henry I was trying to steel myheart aganst the charms of my little cousins, when two such rosy bouncing lasses..hahaha

Charles Henry, I'll be angry if you laugh again. It is too much, and they are our Cousins.

Henry And to be our wives

Charles Never. Hanging, drowning anything would be preferable.

Henry Well they seemed to fancy Patrick & Wm and I for one will give up all claim.

Charles Stop Henry you have forgotten that they are our relations. I would not have them stopp...

Henry Stoop! I think our uncle has made them do that Charles.

Charles (agitated) My sweet little cousins. I cannot bear to think of it.

Henry You know Uncle don't like the delicate ladies of the ~~nd~~ day. Buxom lasses for him. He thought we might prefer them too when he brought us such fine specimens
What do you mean to do?

Charles Be off tonight. we each have 500 pounds

Henry And to Yorkshire

Chas Yes can bid them adieu

Henry Then--let us reconnoitre the town. We can be off by the daylight coach.

Charles It's now dark, so I'll go. If I should meet uncle I could not keep my temper.

EXEUNT

Act III scene 1

A street. front view of Chester's house and Mrs. Grant's.

Enter Charles & Henry.

Charles tells Henry that ~~o~~ he has seen the two girls they kept in Yorkshire--right in the house next door.

They decide to write the ladies and have Tom deliver the letter.
They go off to write the letter.

Mary and Anna appear. Mary tells Anna she saw Montague & Evelyn from her window as they passed the lamp post.

Henry & Charles return and send Tom in the house with their letter. Tom, well paid, returns with an answer.

Charles So they are like ourselves about to be forced into a hateful marriage.

Henry But they do not say who with

Charles No matter. They will be with us in a few moments & then ho for Gretna Green.

Mary & Anna enter

Henry (to Anna) Dearest have we indeed met again!

Charles (to Mary) Oh dearest only two days since we parted & it seems an age.

Anna Montague should we be pursued--

Henry Never fear dearest I will have fleet horses. Draw your veils so that you cannot be seen.

Charles Now Henry let's be in haste. The chaise will be at the place by the time we get there

Charles pay Tom, who's really cleaning up. Tom goes off to tell Old Chester that the girls have left, without telling who they left with. Tom wants some excitement

Act III Scene 2

Inside Chester's House

Chester is back. Tom comes running to tell him he saw the young ladies from Grants getting into a carriage. They left with two gents called "meister Montiscrew and Meister Weberlin."

Chester in a rage asked where are his nephews? Tom tells him that he saw them get in a carriage too.

Chester orders the chaise out and the horses so they can catch them. He questions the girls maids and Old Martha.

All of them set out. Chester "You shall all follow me and I'll have you all hung, drowned, murdered-all together"

Act III Scene 3

country cottage

Chester's chaise has broken down. He and his group approach a group of peasants. The first peasant tells him there's been a chaise by. They people are breakfasting in the cottage.

Chester knows Mary and Anna come out.

Mary Oh uncle do forgive us

Anna We could not marry our booby cousins

Chester I mean to turn you both out of doors

Enter Henry & Charles. Each seizes his girl

Chester What does all this mean eh?

Charles It means that we will protect those ~~one~~^{we} intend to marry from insult & violence.

Anna Oh uncle do forgive us.

Charles & Henry in great surprise: Your uncle!

Chester Yes you dogs. Ain't I their uncle. So, you've run away with Mary & Anna hey? your cousins.

Henry Mary & Anna. Why uncle what d'ye mean?

Mary & Anna: in great surprise: Your Uncle!

Chester yes minxes, ain't that Charles & Hnery

Enter Pat & Wm at the same time that Chas. & Henry see Susan & Ellen

Mary ~~Charles~~ *M* (pointing to Pat & Wm) I thought those were--

Charles (laughing) pointing to Susan & Ellen) And we took them
for our cousins--

Chester (&jumping & laughing) I see how it is, you've been playing
Bo Peep (laughing again) Run away with your own wives to
keep from getting married. Hurrah for my grand scheme.
(sees Tom) Hey rascal how came you to tell me such tales?

Tom Dont touch I now Maister. I seed they all loved a
Grand Scheme and I beant the chap to stop the fun.

Chester I'm hoo happy to trouble now. (turning to nieces) But
I've a mind not to let you have each other.. Now I've
got a great mind...

Charles To let us all be happy

Chester Well, it's the happiest day of my life & we'll have a
merry one.

Tels the peasant fiddlers to strike up. "But where shall I get
a partner?"

Old Martha takes off her disguise.

Chester takes her hand for the dance ... "Now for the music..."

All dance. Caps and Hurrah for Old england.

Curtain

Grand Scheme--Cast

I:1

Chester.....Caroline
Tom.....Kathy
Martha.....Kathy

Chester.....Caroline
Charles.....Sarah
Henry.....Coty

I:2

Chester.....Caroline
Mary.....Sarah
Anna.....Coty
Martha.....Kathy

II:1

A.
Mary.....Sarah
Anna.....Coty
Martha.....Kathy
B.
Charles....Sarah
Henry.....Coty
Patrick ...Kathy
William Caroline

II:2

A.
Susan.....Coty
Ellen.....Sarah
William....Caroline
Patrick....Kathy
B.
Anna.....Coty
Mary.....Sarah
C.
Charles....Sarah
Henry.....Coty

III:1

Charles....Sarah
Henry.....Coty
Anna.....Kathy

III:2

Chester....Caroline

III:3

Mary, Anna=Anna...Coty
Chester.....Caroline
Chas, Henry=Charles..Sarah
Tom.....Kathy

Caroline.....Chester, William
Kathy.....Tom, Martha, Patrick
Sarah.....Charles, Mary, Ellen
Coty.....Henry, Anna, Susan