

Grand Scheme by
Characters &c

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| Mr. Old | Old Chester | A Frothy Old Bachelor. |
| Mr. Henry | Henry | } Nephews of Old Chester |
| Mr. Charles | Charles | |
| Mr. William | William | } Irish Servants of Charles and Henry |
| Mr. Patrick | Patrick | |
| Mr. Tom | Tom | Yorkshire Servant of O. Chester |
| Mr. Michel | Old Michel | Fiddler |
| Mr. Mary | Mary | } Nieces of Old Chester |
| Mr. Anna | Anna | |
| Miss Susan | Susan Faint | } Waiting Maids of Mary and Anna |
| Miss Ellen | Ellen A. Sade | |
| Miss Martha | Old Martha | Servant to Old Chester |

Peasants &c.



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

Act 1 . Scene 1

A Room in Old Chester's House

O. Chester Seated at Table with papers & letters

Well! Young people will be young people -
What a trouble - But I have it - I don't
mean to be pestered with their Whimsy &
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! Nor
the Boys don't want to come back. May
be 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 & 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 without coming I be's coming Sir. Enter O.
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 & not talk -
Can you keep quiet?

Tom. Its Noa that y'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 & another reason you are not acquainted about the Town so won't Gabble & run about.

Tom Noa I beg—

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

Tom I beg silent sure—

Chester (Whisperingly) Will you be silent— Rascal

Tom Yes, I beg—

Chester (Raises his Stick—)

Tom O Lordy, Maister its Noa I speaking—

Chester Now another word & you'll feel my stick— My Nephews will be here to day, 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 Grants, The Young folks have not seen each other since they were Children, The Boys he kept in Dublin, but I mean they shall marry each other "Its 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 likely sur - I be doing that very often,
till I seed Peggy - then I stunk to her.

Chester Listen to me Sirrah, You must watch the
Boys - Be silent and tell me all you see & hear

Tom (scratching his head) Its noa I eands that Martha
I can't talk & 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 (Pensive pause)
Pshaw 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 & wipes his eyes) Pshaw My
Old Eyes are getting weak - I'll make them
happy - they must fall in love each other -
Its my "Grand Scheme" -

(Enter Tom^R 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 stiff as a door nail -

Chester Sure enough I had forgotten (Hulloa say, loud)
Can you be faithful & silent?

Martha (screaming) Yi Honor may depend on me -

Chester Good Heavens! But I suppose Deaf People
don't know how loud they talk (screaming
loud). I want you to wait on two young ladies,
You will stay next door at Mrs. Grants -
No letter carrying - I must know all that
grapes - Do you hear and understand what
I say?

Martha (very loud) Yi Honor need not fear me - I'll be
a very Symp - Good Day -

Chester (screaming) You shall be well paid, if no one
sees them without my knowledge - except
the ones I intend them to marry (screaming
loud) Tom, take the Old Woman to Mrs. Grants
(Exit Tom & Martha) My Scheme its my
"Grand Scheme" (Trumpet call) Tom Tom
(Tom enters) Tell the Old Woman, Tom, today
to the Gilly - I'll be there as soon as they arrive, so
let me know when the Coach comes in -

Tom Yes sir - but they been cumed for I war looking at the
Great Crack 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 curmed 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 Lordy a cunning air - (Noise without)

Lordy - Mercy, that bees them a cunning air - (Old Chester gathers up his papers - puts them in his pocket - Noisy without - Where's Uncle)

Chester Run Tom - Show them up (Exit Tom)

Oh the young Doss - won't want to marry but I'll make them, Its my Grand Scheme

(Enter Charles & Henry) (Chester grasps each by the hand) Oh's I Henry, both of you) Glad to see you looking so well - Uncle -

Henry You look as well Uncle as you did when I left you ten years ago (all moved in front of Chester in the middle)

Charles I wonder some of the Girls did not fall in love with you Uncle & we find a good Aunt to welcome us on our return Home -

Chester (Hustling & laughing) So you thought I'd be married Eh? Oh you Young Doss - 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 my, Uncle saying we preferred choosing for ourselves -

Charles Indeed Uncle you would not expect -

Chester Indeed, but I do expect you to marry the Girl, 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 - It's My "Grand Scheme"

Henry (aside) Duce take the "Grand Scheme"

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 & Anna (aside) Ah! poor Anna I did love her once (walks a little from Chester) 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 any thing about your Cousins - I mean to make them marry too - It's My "Grand Scheme"

8
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 (Mistaking Henry) A Life of Misery with some
disagreeable wretch (Mistaken voice in a passing
Monstrous piece) Dictate to your Uncle -
Did you ever lack for Money, you extravagant
scamp - Have you not been wandering in
England this three weeks when I ordered
you home - say - Haven't I always indulged
you in everything - I now get wives for you
so as to save you the trouble, you must make
as much Pip as if I had read your Death-
warrant, I'll not have my "Grand Scheme"
knocked in the head in this way by two jays
of Boys - You shall marry to-morrow or I'll
turn you both out of doors - (Exit Chester) R.

Henry What's to be done, Charles? Here's a to-do &
poor Mary and Anna must also be the victims
of my Uncle's "Grand Scheme" as he calls it -
Heigh Ho - I wonder where my Uncle has
them

Charles I don't know Henry

Henry I've been thinking -

Charles So have I -

Henry Of what

Charley That we are two fools -

Henry Pshaw -

Charley Do you remember ten years ago when we parted from Mary & Anna?

Henry Yes - we cried like School-Boys & swore eternal love to our little Cousins -

Charley But I really loved my Cousin Mary -

Henry And my Cousin Anna - but for our uncle - chily falling in love in Yorkshires I would hunt them out & carry them off - like a true Knight - & a fig for my Uncle's "Grand Scheme"

Charley It was unfortunate we did not return home, those little Gipsy looking fair ones we saved from having their necks broke, have stolen all the heart I had to give -

Henry That is the natural consequence of Horses running away - Ladies fainting - & two young Gallants as ourselves ready to save them -

Charles Well! The Dream is over (sighing) we cannot seek them as Beggars - I am really glad that we did not tell them our true names -
(Chester puts his head in) L

Chester Hey - Boys - come to your senses yet - your wives that is to be - will be here - be

introduced to you by 4 o'clock. (withdrawing)

Charley I've half a mind to see them - What say you?

Henry With all my heart, we have some money & can leave to-night. As to marrying against my will I'll be transported to Botany Bay, first. What a "Grand Scheme"

Charley And I'll seek a home among the Perps at the Bottom of the Blue Sea, before I'll marry a woman I cannot love

Henry This I think is our old Room (opens a door in the back) Exit Chas & Henry

Act 1. Scene 2

A Room in Mrs Grant's House - Enter Chester & servant

Chester Tell Mrs Grant to send the two Young Ladies to me that came this morning in the Coach -

Servant Yes Sir (Exit) outside speaker

Chester (Laughing) Grand Scheme - Neither know that their Cousins have arrived - The Boys think I suppose that I mean to marry them to some old witchy for their money - and the Girls will go into hysterics - But it won't do - They shan't know each other when they meet. It's a "Grand Scheme" (Rubbing his hands & laughing) I've kept those Girls in Yorkshire - They're never seen such fine looking fellows as Charley & Henry -

Must fall in love at first sight, - but they
shan't know it is their Cousins till they meet
- No - I don't think I'll let them know -
- Yes I will too - Poor things - Egad there they
come (looking out) + as beautiful as two
little Canaries - Enter Mary & Anna both
speaking) Dear Uncle! How glad we are to
see you - (Chester catches both by the hand looks
at them & all come forward)

Chester How you've grown since I was in Yorkshire
last, so I suppose the next thing will be a
~~Husband~~^{Southwest}, But I have one ready for each of
you - Eh! (The girls look at each other & turn
away alarmed) Hey day what's the matter
not frightened at the name of a Husband,
Why they are two of the finest looking fellows
in all Old England -

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 to-morrow morning -

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

Anna Nor I, Uncle - You may turn up into the
Street to Stave -

12
Chester Hoy te toy te - Here's a to do - But I can tell you
it is not so easy dying or staying as you think
You got to marry - Its My "Grand Scheme"

Mary I suppose some Miser wants us for our
youth - or some Filled Spend Thrift for our
money

Chester Eh: who told you that you had any money
I'll disinheir you, all your property is at my
disposal, if you do not marry to please me
I'll send you to some Convent in France
if you dont marry them I want - you shan't
marry them I dont want - so begone send the
old woman to me that I sent to stay with you
(Exit Mary & Anna in a bad humor)

Things have come to a pretty pass Girls only
18. must choose for themselves - Those two
Girls were the twin Children of my poor
sister Mary - How much like their Mother
they looked when she couldn't have her way
in every thing - Pshaw but I wont be moved
It was the wish of my two halfbrothers - Father
of Charles & Henry also my sister's wish for the
Children to marry each other - It shall be
its been my "Grand Scheme" ever since - and if
they wont help me out with it - I'll do it all
myself - I'll make them Happy in spite of
themselves - They Choose - Why what

Old England coming to - The King himself
can't choose - & now every Upstart boy of twenty
one & girl of eighteen must have a Choice
Enter old Martha with a Cap on with a
long full Spectacles & shawl &c

Hey what's them you've got on?

Martha (very loud) What did you say on?

Chester (startling) I forgot again (very loud) What have
you got them things on for - & that awful Bed-
-Curtain around your Cap for?

Martha (very loud) I've weak Eyes Your Honor -

Chester (very loud) Have the Girls seen any one yet -
I mean any Gentleman?

Martha (very loud) No your Honor they ain't seen
any Gentleman - They've only seen you
(A Knock at the Door)

Chester Who's that?

Tom (softly) It only becs I.

Chester Come in (Enter Tom) Well what do you want?

Tom Why you see as how the Young Gints have
sewing Men of their own & now wanting I -
I jist thought you'd be a wanting I for a
mumet -

Chester No - get back - I want you to follow them
Gallants at my House - always keep close

enough to see & hear all that goes on -
Do you understand Sirrah? I told so before
Tom Geeg I do understand (aside) & means to
keep close all I hear too - They're giving me
money (Exit)

Chester (to Martha my lord) Now come close and listen
to me (Martha goes to Chester & puts her ear
down to him) Not so close (Chester crang back
Martha raising her head - Chester hands her a key)
This is the key that opens the Gate between
Mrs Grants Garden and mine - bring the Girls
in & be sure to come in the back way - They
must be in the Parlor by 4 o'clock No body
must see them (Martha takes the key &
derry to go) Have the Girls brought their
Maids with them?

Martha (aside) Yes Sir -

Chester (my lord) Then bring them too they will be safer
at my House - Mind now what I say (Exit)

(Martha shakes the key after him)

Martha (narrative) Well! I'm glad we've got this
Key - Poor Children - going to Marry them to
God only knows who, that is the reason he sent
me in the Country to stay a Month - I thought
something was hatching up here - His "Grand
Scheme" - But I'll have my "Grand Scheme"
too, he wanted me away that he might break

their poor hearts & nobody here to pity them
but I'll outscheme him, if I could only find
out who he means to marry them too - poor
dear Children, but I know it is to the men
that come to his house that he was talking to
Tom about - but I'll match him ^{see} if I don't,
but we'll be off to the ^{house} directly - Oh what a
"Grand Scheme" (Exit Martha quickly)

Act 2^d - Scene I

Garden back of Chutey's House - Enter Mary
& Anna followed by Susan & Ellen and Martha
in the same dress -

Mary (with a letter in her hand) Now let me see
what this letter says (reads) My dear Nieces
it is my Order 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 and Montague -

Mary Our faith is pledged to them, Anna - Till I'm convinced they are false, I will not consent to marry any other 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 But Martha you know when my Uncle has set his Mind upon a thing he is obstinate in it, and perhaps Charles & Henry may also be in favor of it - Ah! me I wish I knew what they look like living so long in Ireland -

Martha The dear Boys I know have grown up as handsome as they were when Children -

Anna Well at any rate I will not marry Henry -

Mary Nor I Charles - My Uncle hates what he calls fops & fools that is in English a handsome man, now I am certain they cannot be papable or he ^{not} would praise them - so much

Anna If my Uncle had ever let us correspond I could have told by their letters if they had changed

Mary Had I known what part of Ireland they were in I would have written - Do you think Anna they knew where we were?

11
Anna ~~Ma~~ No. Uncle said he sent them to Ireland
to learn them the Brogue - Only think of a
Husband saying Anna - Ma dare or be aisy
love - (all laughing)

Mary Pshaw - its no time to laugh - but I mean to
see them without being seen - if they're not
changed, we can trust them with our secret.

Anna How will you do that Mary?

Mary Let us get Ellen & Susan to receive them in
our place, they can have no recollection of
us - Our door opening 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 Horse in Yorkshire we would
never have met Evelyn and Montague
could -

Mary well Anna there's no use talking of what's
past - Ellen, what do you & Susan think of
our scheme - can you see them in your place?

Ellen Yes Marm, we'll do any thing you wish

Mary What do you say to it, Susan?

98 30
65
93-56

Susan I'll try Ma'am but I'm afraid I'll laugh
Anna Never fear we'll train you till the time comes

Ellen Its mighty queer - Folks cant ~~show~~ ^{and choose husbands} who they ~~like~~ ^{and choose husbands} for themselves -

May Well; come along we'll tell you what to say (Exit Mary & Anna followed by Ellen & Susan)

Martha Now, where they go, if I could see masters Charles & Henry - I'd tell them every word after all this fuss - Maybe they dont want the girls neither, now only think of them believing that the boys looked like great Raw Fishmen, if I can only see them, I'll stop all this "Grand Scheming" I will - I'm ^{determined} bound for it I will (Exit)

Enter Charles & Henry

Charles I thought I heard some one speaking -

Henry It was but the echo of our voices or perchance the sylvian notes of the sweet ones who have come to charm us into matrimony -

Charles Profusestony - what can my Uncle mean - but 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 I 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

See, What are you thinking of Charles?

Charles Trying to picture to myself what kind of things
My Uncle has chosen for us - let us at any
rate, see them -

Henry With all my heart, But I'd nearly forgotten
that foolish Boy that Uncle has - he brought
me a letter a few minutes ago (takes letter
out of his pocket opens it & reads) My Dear
Nephew, I won't vex you any longer the girls
you are to meet are no other than your Cousins
Mary & Anna -

Charles Good Heavens, What's to be done now?

Henry (reads on) Be in the parlor by 4 o'clock to see
the little Dears you are to marry in the morning

Charles (Whistling)

Henry (reads on) I cannot be home till after night -

Charles And I am devilish glad of it. ~~what's to be done?~~

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

Charles Pshaw - all nonsense - Uncle has had them
buried somewhere in the Country & I dare
swear that they are bouncing rosy cheeked
and country Lapsies - Uncle disliked City
Belles. Heavens What a situation -

Henry ~~Wish~~ ^{Wish} Charles such an Idea would be profanity
two months ago we would have been delighted
at the idea only of meeting Mary & Anna
but taking them and becoming Benedict's at
once -

Charles Circumstances alters Case I have since fallen
in love

Henry My Case is as bad as yours, at all events I
mean to see them & not be seen -

Charles How?

Henry Get Patrick & William to parsonate up in our
Noon opening on the parlor we can see & hear
all that passes -

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 ten Years & ~~My~~ ^{My} cle 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 & we have come
to the reality of life, but what say you to the
Scheme?

Charles Excellent & as Uncle is so scheming, it
may please him (really about the business)

Henry (calling Patrick & William
(enter Patrick & William both speaking
at once) Here we are please your Honor -

Henry Well Boys you have learned by this time
that our Uncle means to have us married
whether we will or no -

Patrick We've heard the same please yr Honor & it's maty
inconvenient at all - at all to have a wife
given till ye - barring no choice as Adam
of ould ~~had~~ had

Charles The Ladies are our Cousins & we want to see
them without being seen -

William And so yr Honor will be after taking a
pope at the svate Chrealtous before ye'd
be for saying for better for worse -

Charles Exactly so - & we want you to meet them
for us -

Patrick And are we to court the svate genels?
Och & them be horn ladies -

Henry No - You must be very distant & polite

Charles Mind - don't 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'Hanigan's

Charly Never mind Mrs C. Hanigany come along we will teach you what to say

Henry. (Takes out his watch) It's nearly time to meet them let's be off. (Ex. Enter Charles, Henry, P. W. Hillier, (Enter Tom looking about)

Tom Tom - Noa a fool & if this beant the daindest quarest, complicationist doings but Mum (Laughs) Tom's noa a fool (Pulls out money) Them young Chaps a give me a this to run down the Street a bit for um it's a power o Money, I'll get more afore I've done & then I'll go & get Peggy if she noa get tired away & comes & gets I - Tom's noa a fool - dident I seed them chaps in Yorksheer when Maister sent I with a letter to the old body Mr Patterson & then didnt Maister say - "Tom as it's noa being but a short distance from your old home you mun step o'er a bit & see them - Tom's noa blind & if I dont have Peggy afore a month - but I didnt tell Maister all I seed in Yorksheer, - Now the young beddies & them Chaps - but Mum - Tom - ye's a cute lad, Ye's I know I'll aiter Peggy afore a month ye's afore a week ye's before two days - (dances about & Exit)

Act 2^d - Scene 2

Parlor in Old Chesters house - four Chairs
near the front of the Stage -

(Enter Mary, Anna, Susan & Ellen)

Mary Now mind Ellen all I told you

Ellen Yes Mem

Anna And you Susan don't forget a word, we
must leave you

May Mind don't look too shy nor don't laugh -

(Ellen & Susan Ambrosiquitur)

(But Never fear us Mem)

~~Anna~~
Anna You'd better sit down (both sit down) now
don't forget a word we have told you or they
may find you out -

Ellen We've got it all by heart mem -

(Exit Mary & Anna to their Rooms)

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

Ellen Oh Lord a Mercy Susan you're scared the
very heart of me into my mouth - I've clean
forgot all I had to say - (Noise in one of the rooms)

Susan Lord a Mercy there they must be coming now
Oh! Ellen I'm trembling all over - ~~miss out side~~

(Ellen & Susan both jump up)

Enter Patrick & William from the door. Scraping
 & bowing awkwardly. Susan & Ellen twist their faces
 & look confused. ~~William~~ ~~Patrick~~

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

Patrick (and to Wm) Because the half the Maister told me
 is claim gone, but here goes for it.

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

Pat (to Susan & Ellen) Faith & it's ourselves that's glad
 to see ye - & ye'r looking as bright as a Morning
 on May - & as plump as Partridges that grace
 the Lord Mayor's table on St. Patrick's Day
 (Susan touches Ellen)

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

Wm. Won't ye'r Ladyship be after taking a seat
 (all out in front)

Pat Be the power, it's a long time since we've seen

Ellen ye, & how do you like ^{London} ~~living~~ ^{we have just come from} in the County?

Susan It's a powerful more livelier place than this,
 I am certain of that, tho we only come to day

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

Pat Ye may well say that same for I think it's due
 enough - & we havint some the face of a leddy now
 looking at till we see ye our jolly jewel of faces

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

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- (Touches Wm - aside) Ye spalpeen - Don't be forgetting that they are born leddies -

Wm (to the girls) Wouldn't yer Seddystiffs like a bit of a turn in the Garden - its maty dull a satting here - well tell ye a bit about Old Ireland -

Susan We don't care

(All this time Charles & Henry are seen peeping from one door & Mary & Anna from the other - as their party rises - Chas & Henry slip out the door & exit Back Door)

Pat. Won't ye take one arm (aside) I musn't forget they are ladies - (Exeunt Pat with Ellen & Wm & Susan) (Enter Mary & Anna from Room)

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 folly of the day -

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

1888

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 Cousin

Anna Do not say Cousin - But what's to be done? do say

Mary Go back to Mrs. Grants to night, we can steal back
 through the Garden Gate - Martha promised
 to conceal us - & say we had ran off after seeing
 our - Bah - I mean those Dishmen

Anna Martha was so sure they looked as they did
 when Boys

Mary Uncle will never think of searching in the
 house for us, and as to - I won't say Cousin -
 they can take Ellen & Susan - they seemed more
 fascinated with them than they could
 possibly have been with us -

(Exit Mrs. Grant)

Enter Charles & Henry from opposite side of stage
 Henry Laughing

Charly How can you laugh Henry, this I suppose
 one of Uncle's "Grand Schemes" They were such
 sweet little Girls - it was too bad to take them
 & bury them in some uncultivated part of
 England - I say Murder, Murder Must you
 positively in the first degree -

Henry I was trying to steel my heart against the Charm
 my little Cousin, whether on a River bounding Cape
 Ha Ha - (Laughing again)

Chas Henry, I'll be angry if you laugh again - it is too much, & and they are our Cousins

Henry And to be our Wives -

Chas Never, Hanging, drowning anything would be preferable

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

Chas Stop Henry - You have forgotten that they are our relations, I would not have them stoop -

Henry Stop - I think our Uncle has made them do that Charles

Chas (walks about agitated) My sweet little Cousins I cannot bear to think of it -

Henry You know Uncle don't like the delicate Ladies of the day - Buxom Ladies for him - he thought we might prefer them too - when he brought us such fine specimens

Chas No rickling Henry - I cannot bear it

Henry What do you mean to do?

Chas Be off to night we each have 500 pounds

Henry And to Yorkshire

Chas Yes - we can bid them adieu

Henry Then - let us reconnoitre the Town we can be off by the day light Coach

Charles It's now dark - so I'll go - If I should meet Uncle I could not keep my temper -

(Exit Chas & Henry
after them
not up stairs)

Act 3^o - Scene I.

Wood

A Street - front view of Chester's House and Mrs Grants' door - (Enter Tom)

Tom I beg in luck - law there be the two Gents coming out of Maister's Garden I'll just stand back here a little (goes to the side, (Enter Chas & Henry off))

Henry It cannot be - Charles

Charles But I am not mistaken, when you left me in the Garden to go back to the House, I chanced to look up to the Window of the next House

Henry How could you distinguish them?

Chas. There was a brilliant light on the Table somewhere by the window & they were standing full in the light.

Henry It must be a mistake - we left them in Yorkshire but two days ago

Chas. Love has keen eyes Henry

Henry So I should think - contrary to the old maxim that ~~she~~ was blind, but I hope the little God will not lead us astray this time.

(Tom & Mrs Grants who has come little from side)

Chas Ah! there's Uncle's Yorkshire Bumpkin - (to Tom) who lies in that House next to Uncle's? (pointing to Mrs Grants)

Tom Don't moa sur (aside) murr - Tom

Chas Is there any young ladies living there?

Tom I be seed two get out there to-day

Chas Do you know their names?

Tom Noa.

Henry Stupid Pelt - but couldn't you find out or carry a letter to them?

Tom I beey cute enough when I beey paid.

Chas You shall have money - + a double reward too if you can get an answer.

Henry But admit that it is our fair ones from Yorkshire how will you direct the letter?

Chas I expect they were nicey of that Old Mrs. Patterson they lived with - Egad - I never asked -

Henry How - I - the dear names of Rosa + Ida was a cognomen - sweet enough for one -

Chas Let us go in + write the letter + a jig for the Old Man's "Grand Scheme". (Exeunt Chas + Henry)

(Tom Capering after them) The door of Mrs. Grants open. Mary peeps out + looks up to the window + speaks to Anna who is looking from a window above.

May Anna. I tell you it was Montague + Evelyn I saw them distinctly as they passed the lamp just a moment ago - + I really thought that fool Tom was behind them -

Anna How unfortunate we ^{never} told them our right names but I was afraid of their sending some note over to us if the Old Lady Patterson had got it - she wouldn't have been none the wiser -

Mary It was still more unfortunate our being brought
away the day they left.

Anna-Decker from the door - Mary - I hear some
one coming -

(Both disappear - Enter Chas & Henry followed
by Tom)

Chas Now Tom take this letter (gives letter) Mind
you see the two young ladies that came to-day
and wait for an answer.

Tom I bein sure (aside) Tom noa joll - Wont I
get Peggy (tries to turn the bolt of Mr Grant's door)

Henry Why dont you knock?

Tom Cause you said I must see the Young Ladies
& Mayhap a Rap would bring the Old Bodies

Henry Very true (Tom turns the bolt)

Chas Well! The die is cast - But what could have
brought them here?

Henry I expect the Old Lady found out they had me-
ny & so packed them off to some old Hag of a
Quenna here to keep them in "durance vile"

(Henry & Chas. walk about)

Chas I told Patrick & Wm to fly with all speed & get
4 fleet Horses and a light Chaise & be at your
corner in ten minutes -

Henry How long he stays (looking at Mr Grant's door)
suppose they do not accede to our proposal.

Chas It can be no harm to try, the Chaise we will want, we must leave town for a while & so escape the first ebullitions of Uncle's passion when he finds his "Grand Scheme" has ~~failed~~ exploded (Tom comes out with a letter - Henry seizes it)

Chas Come here by the same post Henry
Henry opens the letter & reads to himself

Chas (rather impatiently) Read it out Henry
Henry hands the letter Chas

Henry Read for yourself Chas looks over it

Chas So they are like ourselves about to be forced into a hateful Marriage,

Henry But they do not say who with

Chas No matter they will be with us in a few moments & then Ho for "Gretna Green" (Mr. Grants ^{think they come} door opens Mary & Anna appear with a veil covering their heads but not their faces - Henry & Chas spring to their sides)

Henry (to Anna) Dearest have we indeed met again

Charly (to Mary) Oh Mary 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 (Mary & Anna drop their veils over their faces)

Chas Now Henry let's be in haste the Chaise will be at the place by the time we get there (all start to go Tom touches Charles)

32

Chas

Sure enough (Throws a purse to Tom)

Tom

(looking after them) Well if that beant the softest
 trick (laughing). Tom's noa the fool now - well
 they've given I a power of money - but mum
 Tom - I be see through it all the time - Now
 I be going to run to tell Old Maister, the birds
 be flown from Mrs Grants - then he'll be
 all fired mad - but I neednt say who they
 be gone with - Noa if I dog that we wont noa
 wide, and I be powerful tired of staying here
 Oh I be a cute chap I know them new
 names (shaky whisper) I be in luck sure
 & I'll ha Peggy (Exit Dancing) Song

Act 3^d. Scene 2^d

Inside of Chesters House - Chester sitting at
 table (Candles lit)

Chester Why how still every^{thing} where can the Boys be
 Gets up & opens their Room door looks in pull
 it to. Nobody there I'd give something to
 know how they liked each other, Couldn't help
 it - fell right in love & gone I dare swear to
 Grants with them - I meant they should be happy
 in spite of themselves - lucky dogs, two wedded
 tomorrow It was a "Grand Scheme" (rubbing
 his hands in great glee (Cuddling) Tom - Tom
 Where can he be, every body gone Tom, Tom
 I say.

(Tom without answer) I beez coming
(Enter Tom with breath)

Tom Oh Maister, Maister, such a Mishap Oh Lord
Lord

Chester (Excited) What's the Matter? Speak Rascal
Tom As I beez coming down the Street a watching
them as you told me to watch I seed Oh Lord

Chester (Impatiently) What did you see?

Tom Oh me, I seed them Young Ladies as cum'd today
in whar at Miss Grant's

Chester What of my Niece - speak out or I'll break every
bone in your body to pieces (catches hold of Tom)

Tom Oh Lord Don't hurt I - I only seed them a
getting into a ^{great} Po Sha and -

Chester Speak fast - And what?

Tom And two Gents the men called

Chester I'll kill the Rascal (shakes Tom) called what?
(lets Tom go Chester much excited)

Tom Oh me Oh Lord - Maister I beez run all
the way to tell you - Oh Murder - if you kill
I - what's to become of poor Peggy?

Chester Confound Peggy & you too - what was the
names of the fellows my Niece went with?
It must be some of them chaps that followed
them from Yorkshire - But their names Rascal

Tom I stood up close to the Po. Sha & I heard em call me
Montiscrew & the other Maister Weberlin. I've been a saying
it all the way I be running back -

Matthew (to her) Don't call me names, but I'll let you know
when Birds don't like their Cages they aint so
easy kept without bars.

Chester (coming in from below) Where's your Young Master
who have they done off with? Hey ~~Henry~~ who
has followed them up here?

Alban Law sir, I don't know

Eden Indeed sir, We just now wiped them from
Mrs. Grant's & run here to find them

Chester I'll make you all (Trying to calm himself)
But I won't ~~do~~ any thing more, I'll have
you all together - Yes - you shall all follow
me, & I'll have you all hung, drowned,
murdered - all together - By the laws of
Old England you shall every one be punished -
I'll see if a Guardian can't make young folks
that don't know their own minds, do what is
right, Get ready in a moment all three of
you, before I say (drives them off) when I
catch them they shall not say a word - No -
they shant plead, they shant look at me -
No - if they speak, I won't hear, Oh my
"Grand Scheme" I must get ready - Hurry
Lorn, Oh how I long to put my hands on them.
(Exit Chester)

Lorn I hope hell wa put his hands on em - as he did
on me - Now I must get the Po Sha ready -

I'll lead Old Maister right after them,
 I be wanting a ride, powerful bad. Maister
 when he finds them will noa be mad, &
 I'll just ask him to let me have the horses
 & I'll keep right on for Peggy. I beg a cute
 lad. I be see through it all, and Old Maister
 too (laughing) doant she look - (shakes
 money in his Pockets) Now for the Po. Chaise -
 Catch them & then for Peggy (Exit Capering)

Act 4. ~~Scene 2~~

(View of the Country a cottage at the side
 Peasants seated round Old Michel with
 a Fiddle)

1 Peas. Now Old Mike gie us a tune
 (Mike tunes his Fiddle)

2 Peas. I wonder who all them folks are that
 stopped at the Cottage for breakfast

1 Peas. Runaway Match I warrant.

2 Peas. (Looking out) What's that coming?

1 Peas. It's a broken down Chaise. & the People are
 walking. The Chaise has stopped

Mike Somebody after them runaways there
 pointing to the cottage with his bow

1 Peas. It can't be - people don't hunt runaways &
 carry a parcel of women along -

Mike - How many be coming?

Peas Two Girls & Old Gentleman, a boy and lorde
mercy the other I think must be Old Madge
the Witch Gypsy (Enter Chester, Mary
and Anne) *Old Gentleman*
(see The Peasants)

Chester Hey Boys, What's to pay here?

Peas A Holy Day is Honor, we are only waiting
for the Lady Flapjacks to come -

Chester And then for the dance Hey - When I was
a Boy I could have beat any of you at that
But I am ~~to~~ to death - Chaise broken down
in the bargain - Can we get breakfast at the
farm House?

Peas There be a power of folks there now -

Chester We must have something for love or money
Have any of you seen a Chaise pass this
morning with two young town larks in one
or with two young Girls & two?

Peas We've seen a Chaise with some folks in it
they are in the Cottage now -

Chester That must be them - Now I'll have them
(knocks at cottage door) come out
come out, he caught you, Come out I say -
(noise in the cottage)

Peas I think the Gents are gone out to see the Horses

Chester (knocks again) come out I say (shakes the door
door opens - Mary & Anne comes out & kneel to
Chester)

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 from the house in haste
 Oh Uncle send to him)

Henry seizes Anna & Charles seizes Mary)

Chester What does all this mean Oh?

Chas It means that we will protect those we intend
 to marry from insult & violence.

Anna Oh! Uncle do forgive us

(Chas & Henry in great surprise both exclaim)
 Your Uncle!

Chester Yes you Dog - Aint I their Uncle, so youve
 run away with Mary & Anna Hey you Cousins

Henry Mary & Anna, ^{why} Uncle, what d'ye mean?

(Mary & Anna both surprised & both exclaim)
 Your Uncle

Chester Yes - Minxes - aint that Chas & Henry -

(Enter Pat & Wm - ~~Susan & Ellen~~ - Mary & Anna
 see Pat & Wm at the same time that Chas &
 Henry see Susan & Ellen)

Mary (Pointing to Pat & William) I thought those
 were -

Charles (Laughing & pointing to Susan & Ellen) and
 we took them for our Cousins -

Chester (Jumping & laughing) I see now it is, you've been
 playing ~~Bo~~ Peep (Laughing again)