

Act 1 . Scene 1.

A Room in Old Chesters 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
shant 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 - Shaw! 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 than a fool

Tom Bowing Thank ye Maister

Chester Silence, I want you to listen & not talk -
Can you keep quiet?

Tom

Chester

Tom

Chester

Tom

Chester

Tom

Chester

Tom

Chester

Tom

Chester

Tom

Tom. Its Noa that yell 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 wont Gabble & run about.

Tom Noa I beg—

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

Tom I beg silent sure—

Chester (Pupinately) Will you be silent— Rascal

Tom Yes, I beg—

Chester (Raising 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 Neices from the Country— Do you understand?

Tom Yees, 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 Yees I do sure—

Chester Now I think they've on each side taken another
notion - and bent to choose for themselves,

Tom Very likely sir - 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 Masib
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 Marthas place - (Exit Tom)

The "old Woman is deaf - no rattling -
Poor old Martha it was hard to part with
her - if it is for a short time (Wipes eye a min)

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 eye) 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, 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, now remember the Old Woman
is as deaf as a door nail -

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

Martha (Screaming) Yi Honor may depend on me -
Chester God Heavens! But I suppose Deaf People
don't know how loud they talk (in a
tone). 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
passes - 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 (in a low tone) 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
(Exit Tom & Martha) My Scheme its my
"Grand Scheme". (Dumps up calling) Tom Tom
(Tom enters) Tell the Old Woman, Tom, to say
to the Gild - I'll be there as soon as they arrive, so
let me know when the Coach comes in -

Tom Yes sir - but they has 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 cummed 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 curning on - (noise without)

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

Chester Run Tom - Show them up (Exit Tom)

Oh the young Dops - won't want to marry - but I'll make them, its my "Grand Scheme"

(Enter Charley & Henry) Chester grasps each by the hand (Cha's & Henry both opening) 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 Chester in the middle)

Charley 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 (Ha-ha laughing) So you thought I'd be married Eh! Oh you Young Dops - But I've been getting wives for you both -

Charley
Henry
Chester
Henry

Charley
Chester

Henry
Charley

Henry

Chester

Charly (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 -

Charly 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"

Charly 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"

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
disagreeable wretch (Mutual voice in a passion)
Monstrous fine! 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 - Havent I always indulged
you in everything. I now got wives for you
so as to save you the trouble, you must make
as much 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 jobs
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

Charles That we are two fools -

Henry Pshaw -

Charles 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 -

Charles But I really loved my Cousin Mary -

Henry And I my Cousin Anna - but for our enthusiastically 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"

Charles It was unfortunate we did not return home; those little Gipsy looking fair ones we saved from having their necks broken, 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

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introduced to you by 4 o'clock. (Withdraws)
Charles I've half a mind to see them - What say you?
Henry With all my heart, we have some money & can
leave tonight. As to marrying against my will
I'll be transported to Botany Bay first -
What a Grand Scheme -

Charles 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 yes Sir

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 Charles & 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
^{brave heart} Husband, (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 Starve -

Chester How to toy to - 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 bequest send the
old woman to me (that I sent to stay with you
(2x) 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 couldnt have her way
in every thing - Pshaw but I wont be moved
It was the wish of my two half brothers - Fathers
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's

Martha
Chester

Martha
Chester

Martha

Chester
Tom

Chester
Tom

Chester

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Old England coming to - The King himself
can't choose - & now every Upstart boy of twenty
one & girls of Eighteen must have a Choice
(Enter old Martha with a Cap on with a
long full - spectacles & shawl)

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 (whispering) It only becs I.

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

Tom Why you seed as how the Young Gints have
servin' men of their own & noa wanting I -
I jist thought you'd be a wanting I for a
mumet -

Chester No - go 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 Yes I do understand (aside) & means to
keep close all I hear too - They've given me
money (Exit)

Chester (to Martha very loud) Now come close and listen
to me (Martha goes to Chester & puts her ear
down to him) Not so close (Chester draws back
Martha raises her head - Chester hands her a key)
This is the key that opens the gate between
Mrs Grant's 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 &
turns to go) Have the girls brought their
maids with them?

Martha (aside) Yes Sir -

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

(Martha shakes the key after him)

Martha (aside) 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

Ma

Ann

Mary

Ann

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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 to - 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, 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 Chester'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 Niece
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?

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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 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 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 places?

Ellen Yes Marm we'll do any thing you wish

Mary What do you say to it Susan?

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

Ellen It's mighty queer - Folks can't ~~charm~~ ^{and choose husbands} who off
they ~~charm~~ ^{charm} for themselves -

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

Martha Now, there they go, if I could see master
Charles & Henry - I'd tell them every word
after all this fuss - Maybe they don't want
the girls neither, now only think of their
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'll
be ^{determined} 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 per chance
the sylvian notes of the sweet ones who have
come to charm us into matrimony -

Charles Profuturous - what can my Uncle mean -
but I am resolved to start to night - bid adieu
to my sweet little wood nymphs 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

Ellen
Charles

Henry

Charles
Henry

Charles
Henry

Charles
Henry

Charles

half a mind to do the same thing myself

What are you thinking of Charles?

Charles Trying to picture to myself what kind of thing
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 (Whistles)

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
awkward country Saps - Uncle disliked City
Belles. Heavens What a situation -

Henry Hush, 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 Benedicts at
once -

Charles

Henry

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 -

Henry

Charles How?

Henry Get Patrick & William to perorate up in our
Norn opens on the parlor we can see & hear
all that traps -

Patrick
in

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 -

Charles

William

Henry The Brogue will excite no suspicion we have
been in Ireland ten Years & ~~they~~ they will not
be at home -

Charles

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 -

Patrick

Henry

Henry The dreams of our boyhood is over & we have come
to the reality of life, but what say you to the
Scheme?

Charles

William

Charles Excellent day (Wrote up on afternoon, at
may please him (with regard to writing))

Henry (writing) Patrick - William
(after) There we are please you Henry -
Henry Well Henry you have learned by this time
that the whole means to have by means

whether we will or no -
Patrick We've been the same please you Henry & you may
movement at all - all to have a wife

given till you - knowing no choice as Adam
of out ~~out~~ had

Charles The ladies are on coming & we want to see
them without seeing over -

William And as you Henry will be after taking a
probe at the state Chreators before yet

Henry He is paying for letters for us -
Charles Exactly - & we want you to meet them

Henry -
Patrick And as we do court the state Henry?

Oh & them be from Henry -
Henry No you must be very distant to write

Charles Must - don't forget that they are our Henry
William I take an Abraham to be quite like if you

deem up when we would go over to Mrs. Stoughton

Charly Never mind Mrs O'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. (Exit Charles, Henry, P. & William)
(Enter Tom looking about)

Tom Tom - No a fool & if this beant the darnedest
queres, complicationist doings but Mum (Ma
(Laughs) Tom's no a fool (Pulls out money) El
them young Chaps a given me a shilling to Am
run down the Street a bit for um it's a power
o Money, I'll get more afore I've done & then Ma
I'll go & get Peggy if she no a get tired away
& comes & gets I - Tom's no a fool - dident
I seed them chaps in Yorksheer when Maister
sent I with a letter to the old body Mrs Patterson
& then didint Maister say - "Tom as it's no a
being but a short distance from your old
home you mun step o'er a bit & see them -
Tom's no a blind & if I dont have Peggy afore
a month - but I didint tell Maister all I
seed in Yorksheer - now the young led dies
them Chaps - but Mum - Tom - ye a cute
lad, Yees I know I'll aiter Peggy afore a month
yees afore a week yees before two days -
(dances about & Exit)

Act 2^d - Scene 2

Parlor in Old Chestery 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 Ambo loquuntur)

(^{both} 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 Lorda 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 Lorda Mercy there they must be coming now
Oh! Ellen I'm trembling all oer - ^{miss out side}
(Ellen & Susan both jump up)

Enter Patrick & William from the door Scraping
& blowing awkwardly - Susan & Ellen bust their fans
& look confused - ~~William~~ Patrick -

William (to Patrick aside) Faith Patrick & why dont ye spake

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

William (.....) Dont forget they're to be our kin -

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

Susan (aside) Why dont you say something?

Wm. Won't yer Laddyship be after taking a seat
(all sit in front)

Pat Be the power its a long time since we've seen

Ellen ye, ^{lambkins} & how do you like ^{we have just come from} being in the County

Susan Its a powerful more buelieer place than this,
I am sartain of that, tho we only come to-day

Wm (aside to Patrick) They dont spake, like they were
mighty proud at all at all -

Pat (to Wm ^{side}) Ye may well say that same for I think its due
enough - & we havint ~~some~~ the face of a laddy nor
looking at till we see ye own pratty jewel of face

Susan (aside to Ellen) If they aint going to make love

Ellen (aside to Susan) Hush (aloud to Pat) Lor me, ye can
talk all that sorter talk & we wont mind ye a bit
because ye are only our Cousins

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

Pat- (Touches Wm - aside) Ye spalpeen - Dont be forgetting that they are born led dig -

Wm (to the girls) Wouldnt yer Seddyships like a bit of a turn in the Garden - its maty dull a sattung here - well tell ye a bit about Old Ireland -

Susan We dont care

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

Pat. Wont ye take one arm (aside) I musn't forget they are ladies - (Exit 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 Bubbies -

Anna That's been one of Uncle's "Grand Schemes" he was always railing at the folks for the day -

Mary But it was too bad Anna to carry them in the wildest part of Ireland with some old Irish Sailor, & then bring them here to us for husband 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? 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 Cousins -
 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

Charles 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 Most foul
 Positively in the first degree

Henry I was trying to steel my heart against the Charms
 of my little Cousins, whether such a Power 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 Stoop - 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 sailing 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
Enter Tom after them
meet up with

Act 3^o Scene I.

Wood

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

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

Henry It cannot be - Charley

Charley 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 Windows 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 saying that ~~she~~ was blind, but I hope the little God will not lead us astray this time.

(Turns & sees Tom who has come little forward)

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've seed 'em get out there to-day

Chas Do you know their names?

Tom No.

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

Tom I beez cute enough when I beez paid -

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

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

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

Henry Now 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". (Exit 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 post 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 - Quick 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
up & so packed them off to some old Hag of a
Quenna here to keep them in "duvance vile"

(Henry & Chas. walk about)

Chas I told Patrick & W^m 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 proposals.

Chas It can be no harm to try, (the Chaise we will want, we must leave town for a while & so escape the first brillitions 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 Lamp (port Henry Henry opens the letter & reads to himself)

Chas (rather impatiently) Read it out Henry here 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" (Mrs. Grants door opens ^{think they come} 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 lets be in haste the Chaise will be at the place by the time we get there (all start to go Tom touches Charles)

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 needn't say who they
 be gone with - noa if I do, that we wont noa
 vider and I be powerful tired or staying here
 Oh I be a cute chap I know them new
 names (shakes his purse) I be in luck sure
 & I'll ha Peggy (Exit Dancing &c.) *Tom*

Act 3^o. Scene 2^o

(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 pulls
 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 hap
 in spite of themselves - lucky dogs, two wedding
 tomorrow It was a "Grand Scheme" (rubbing
 his hands in great glee (calling) Tom - Tom
 where can he be, every body gone Tom, Tom
 I say.

(Come without a mirror) I lay coming -
(Enter for ... breath)
Th' Murther, Murther, such a Murther Th' Lords -

Chorus (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
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Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
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Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
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Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
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Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Th' Lords (Excited) Murther? Murther? Murther? Murther?
Th' Lords -

Chester Where's my Nephews, Rascal. Where are they. Eh?

Tom Oh Master they run & left I too & I seed them get in a great Po Sha too - I ware a running to tell you when I seed them others and

Chester That's enough (walking about) was ever an old Man so plagued. All the Scheme of my life gone - But they shant have a cent left to them, I'll build Hospitals, any thing let them go - But no they shant I'll right after them, tell all I've got to say - not a cent shall they have - I'll - - but never mind (to Tom) you are the only faithful one in the House - Herij's money (give Tom money when I come back you may go for Peggy -

Tom (aside) Beant I cute?

Chester Now go Tom put 4 of the best Horses to the Chaise, well start at once - but wheris that old Witch. I set to watch the Girls & their maids?

Tom They bej all down stairs.

Chester Fetch them up quick (Exit Tom) I'll catch the Dearest & Suries. I'll search England but I'll find them. (Enter Susan, Ellen, & Martha still disguised - followed by Tom -

Chester (very loud) Hey Old Jezebel, What's become of my Nieces?

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

Chester (turning to Susan & Ellen) Where's your Young Mistreps who have they gone off with? Hey Hench who has followed them up here?

Susan Saw sir, I don't know

Ellen Indeed sir, we just now missed them from Mrs. Grants & run here to find them

Chester I'll make you all (Trying to calm himself) But I won't say 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 cant 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 Tom, Oh how I long to put my hands on them.

(Exit Chester)

Tom 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 sitting Old Michel with
 a Fiddle)

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

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

1 Peas Run away (Match I warrant)

2 Peas (looking out) Whats that coming?

1 Peas Its 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 cant be - people dont hunt runaways &
 carry a parcel of women along -

Mike - How many be coming?

1st Peas Two Girls & Old Gentleman, a boy and londa
mercy the other I think must be H^d Madge
the Witch Gypsy - (Enter Chester, ~~Master~~
~~James the Old Girl~~) ~~Old~~ ~~Barney~~,
(sees the Peasants)

Chester Hey Boys, What's to pay here?

1st Peas. A Holy Day in 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 ~~tired~~ to death - Chaise broken down
in the bargain - Can we get breakfast at the
farm House?

2nd 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 ?

1st 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 calling) come out
come out, I've caught you, Come out I say -
(noise in the Cottage)

2nd 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 & Anna 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 what 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 look 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 how it is, you've been
playing Peep (Laughing again)

Run away with your own wings to keep from getting married - Hurrah for my "Grand Scheme" (Tom peeps in slyly, Chester) Hey Rascal Now come you to tell me such tales?

Tom (drawing back) I can't touch I now Maister I see they all loved a "Grand Scheme" and I beant the Chap to stop the fun.

Chester I'm too happy to trouble you now (turning to his nieces) But I've a mind not to let you have each other - Now die a great mind -

Charly To let us all be happy

Chester Well, it's the happiest day of my life and well have a merry one Strike up Fiddler (to Mike) but where shall I get a partner - ~~Martha~~ takes off goggles, large Cap and Old Coat - an appears well dreped with a neat Cap under Chester looks amazed -

Martha Won't I do? Bless the Children, I feel as young as I did when I danced at their Mother's wedding.

Chester (Takes Martha by the hand) And you leagued against me too - but never mind if all feel as happy as I do, there shall be nothing to mar our pleasure so now for the Music & an explanation afterwards (All take partners & Dance Chester & Martha lead off - Tom Capers about - the Peasants throw up their Caps & Hurrah for Old England -

Curtain falls