G. SCHIRMER EDITION OF

# **PATIENCE**

or Bunthorné's Bride

Book by
W. S. GILBERT

Music by
ARTHUR SULLIVAN

Authentic Version Edited by EDMOND W. RICKETT

This score contains all the dialogue

Ed. 1982

#### DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Colonel Calverley
MAJOR MURGATROYD
LIEUT. THE DUKE OF DUNSTABLE
REGINALD BUNTHORNE
Archibald Grosvenor
Mr. Bunthorne's Solicitor
THE LADY ANGELA
THE LADY SAPHIR
THE LADY ELLA
THE LADY JANE
Patience
CHORUS OF RAPTUROUS MAIDENS AND OFFICERS OF DRAGOON GUARDS

ACT I—Exterior of Castle Bunthorne

ACT II—A Glade

#### STORY OF THE OPERA

This sprightly satire on the æsthetic craze of the eighties presents a 'Fleshly Poet' and an 'Idyllic Poet', Bunthorne and Grosvenor, who are rivals for the affections of the milkmaid, Patience. A train of languid ladies and their former flames, a Colonel, a Duke, and a Major, with a regiment of officers of the Dragoon Guards, complete the picture.

Patience, having been told that love must be absolutely unselfish, has to reject the perfect Grosvenor (Archibald the All-Right) and accept the very imperfect Bunthorne. This defection of their idol drives the ladies back to their military lovers, but the reunion is soon broken up by the arrival of Grosvenor, to whom they promptly transfer their adoration. Later, the baffled Bunthorne, aided by the mature Lady Jane, concocts a scheme to get rid of the interloper by means of a terrible Curse, which compels Grosvenor to give up his æstheticism and to become a quite commonplace young man.

The plan, however, recoils, as all the ladies now revert to ordinary attire, explaining that since Archibald the All-Right cannot possibly be All-Wrong, obviously æstheticism should be discarded. Patience, discovering that her Archibald is no longer perfect, promptly falls into his arms, and Bunthorne, crushed, decides to wed Jane, his one remaining adorer. However, the Duke enters, declaring that since he is a very ordinary young man, it is only fair for him to choose a lady who is distinctly plain, viz., Jane, who joyfully accepts him, so that "Nobody is Bunthorne's Bride!"

EDMOND W. RICKETT

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#### **Patience**

or Bunthorne's Bride

W. S. Gilbert

Arthur Sullivan

#### Overture









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#### Act I

Scene: Exterior of Castle Bunthorne, the gateway to which is seen, R.U.E., and is approached by a drawbridge over a moat. A rocky eminence R. with steps down to the stage. In front of it, a rustic bench, on which Angela is seated, with Ella on her left. Young Ladies wearing aesthetic draperies are grouped about the stage from R. to L.C., Saphir being near the L. end of the group. The Ladies play on lutes, etc., as they sing, and all are in the last stage of despair.

### No. 1. Twenty love-sick maidens we Opening Chorus and Solos

Maidens, Angela, and Ella



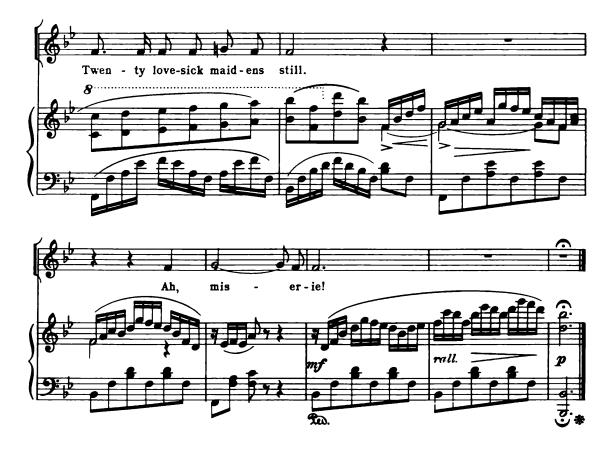












Angela: There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!

Saphir: Jealousy is merged in misery. While he, the very cynosure of our eyes and hearts, remains icy insensible — what have we to strive for?

Ella: The love of maidens is, to him, as interesting as the taxes!

Saphir: Would that it were! He pays his taxes.

Angela: And cherishes the receipts! (Enter Jane, L. U. E.)

Saphir: Happy receipts! (All sigh heavily.)

Jane: (L.C., suddenly) Fools! (They start, and turn to her.)

Angela: I beg your pardon?

Jane: Fools and blind! The man loves—wildly loves!

Angela: But whom? None of us!

Jane: No, none of us. His weird fancy has lighted, for the nonce, on Patience, the vil-

lage milkmaid!

Saphir: On Patience? Oh, it cannot be!

Jane: Bah! But yesterday I caught him in her dairy, eating fresh butter with a tablespoon.

Today he is not well!

Saphir: But Patience boasts that she has never loved — that love is, to her, a sealed book! Oh,

he cannot be serious!

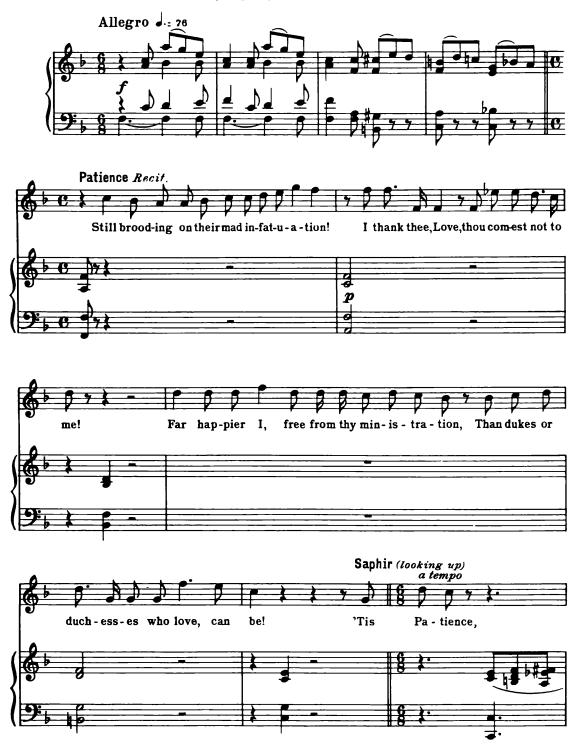
Jane: 'Tis but a passing fancy — 'twill quickly wear away. (aside, coming down-stage) Oh, Reginald, if you but knew what a wealth of golden love is waiting for you, stored up

in this rugged old bosom of mine, the milkmaid's triumph would be short indeed!

(Patience appears on the eminence, R. She looks down with pity on the despondent Ludies.)

### No. 2. Still brooding on their mad infatuation! Recitative

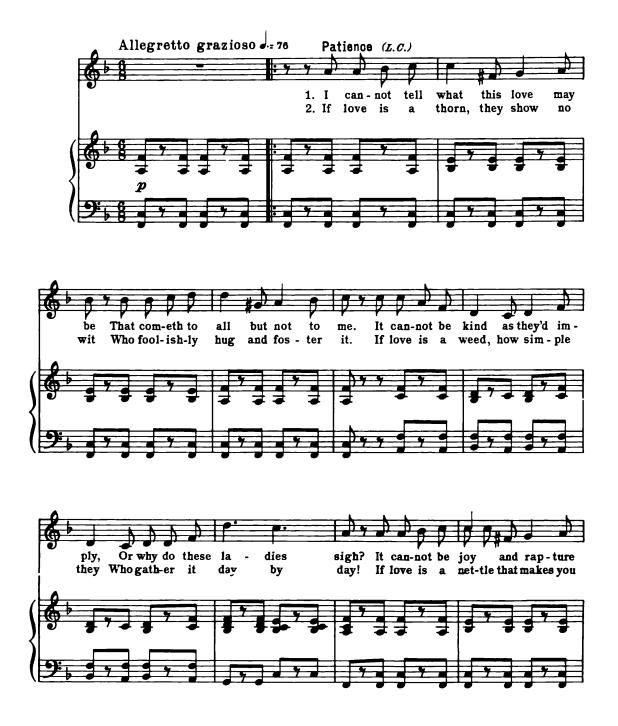
Patience, Saphir, Angela, and Chorus





## I cannot tell what this love may be Solo

**Patience** 









dances across R. and back to R. C.)



Angela: Ah, Patience, if you have never loved, you have never known true happiness! (All sigh.)
Patience: (C.) But the truly happy alway seem to have so much on their minds. The truly happy

never seem quite well.

Jane: (coming L.C.) There is a transcendentality of delirium—an acute accentuation of supremest ecstasy—which the earthy might easily mistake for indigestion. But it is not indigestion—it is aesthetic transfiguration! (to the others) Enough of bab-

ble. Come!

Patience: (stopping her as she turns to go up C.) But stay, I have some news for you. The 35th Dra-

goon Guards have halted in the village, and are even now on their way to this very spot.

Angela: The 35th Dragoon Guards!

Saphir: They are fleshly men, of full habit!

Ella: We care nothing for Dragoon Guards!

Patience: But, bless me, you were all engaged to them a year ago!

Saphir: A year ago!

Angela: My poor child, you don't understand these things. A year ago they were very well

in our eyes, but since then our tastes have been etherealized, our preceptions exalted. (to the others) Come, it is time to lift up our voices in morning carol to

our Reginald. Let us to his door!

(Angela leading, the Ladies go off, two and two, Jane last, over the drawbridge into the castle, singing refrain of "Twenty love-sick maidens", and, as before, accompanying themselves on harps, etc. Patience watches them in surprise, and, with a gesture of complete bafflement, climbs the rock and goes off the way she entered.)

# No. 2a. Twenty love-sick maidens we Chorus Maidens



(The Officers of the Dragoon Guards enter, R.,led by the Major. They form their line across the front of the stage.)

### No. 3. The soldiers of our Queen Chorus and Solo

Dragoons and Colonel

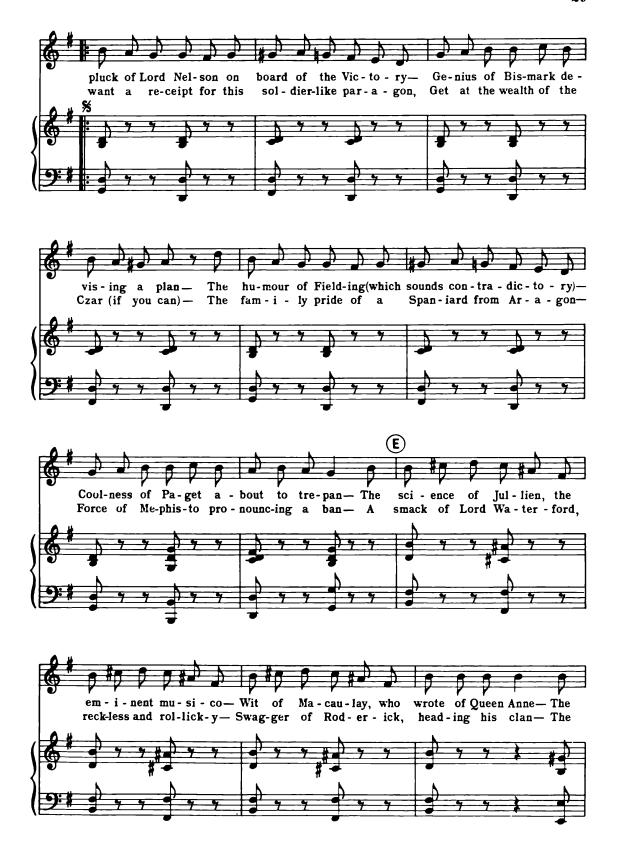


















Colonel: Well, here we are once more on the scene of our former triumphs. But where's the Duke?

(Enter Duke, listlessly, and in low spirits, R.)

Duke: Here I am! (Sighs.)

Colonel: Come, cheer up, don't give way!

Duke: Oh, for that, I'm as cheerful as a poor devil can be expected to be who has the

misfortune to be a Duke, with a thousand a day!

Major: Humph! Most men would envy you!

Duke: Envy me? Tell me, Major, are you fond of toffee?

Major: Very!

Colonel: We are all fond of toffee.

All: We are!

Duke: Yes, and toffee in moderation is a capital thing. But to line on toffee—toffee for breakfast, toffee for dinner, toffee for tea—to have it supposed that you care for nothing but toffee, and that you would consider yourself insulted if anything but

toffee were offered to you - how would you like that?

Colonel: I can quite believe that, under those circumstances, even toffee would become mo-

notonous.

Duke: For "toffee" read flattery, adulation, and abject deference, carried to such a pitch that I began, at last, to think that man was born bent at an angle of forty-five degrees! Great heavens, what is there to adulate in me? Am I particularly intelligent, or remarkably studious, or excruciatingly witty, or unusually accomplished, or ex-

ceptionally virtuous?

Colonel: You're about as commonplace a young man as ever I saw.

All: You are!

Duke: Exactly! That's it exactly! That describes me to a T! Thank you all very much!

(Shakes hands with the Colonel.) Well, I couldn't stand it any longer, so I joined this second class cavalry regiment. In the army, thought I, I shall be occasionally snubbed,

perhaps even bullied, who knows? The thought was rapture, and nere I am.

Colonel: (looking off) Yes, and here are the ladies.

Duke: But who is the gentleman with the long hair?

Colonel: I don't know.

Duke: He seems popular!

Colonel: He does seem popular!

The Dragoons back up R., watching the entrance of the Ladies. Bunthorne enters, L.U.E., followed by the Ladies, two and two, playing on harps as before. He is composing a poem, and is quite absorbed. He sees no one, but walks across the stage, followed by the Ladies, who take no notice of the Dragoons — to the surprise and indignation of those officers.)

### No.4. In a doleful train Chorus and Solos

Maidens, Ella, Angela, Saphir, Dragoons, and Bunthorne



























Colonel: (R.C.) Angela! What is the meaning of this?

Angela: (C.) Oh, sir, leave us; our minds are but ill-tuned to light love-talk.

Major: (L.C.) But what in the world has come over you all?

Jane: (1.C.) Bunthorne. He has come over us. He has come among us, and he has idealized us.

Duke: Has he succeeded in idealizing you?

Jane: He has!

Duke: Good old Bunthorne!

Jane: My eyes are open; I droop despairingly; I am soulfully intense; I am limp and I

cling!

(During this, Bunthorne is seen in all the agonies of composition. The Ladies are watching him intently as he writhes. At last he hits on the word he wants and writes it down. A general sigh of relief.)

Bunthorne: Finished! At last! Finished! (He staggers, overcome with mental strain, into the arms of the Colonel.)

Colonel: Are you better now?

Bunthorne: Yes — oh, it's you!—I am better now. The poem is finished, and my soul has gone out into it. That was all. It was nothing worth mentioning, it occurs three times a day. (Sees Patience, who has entered during this scene.) Ah, Patience! Dear Patience! (Holds her hand; she seems frightened.)

Angela: Will it please you read it to us, sir?

Saphir: This we supplicate. (All kneel.)

Bunthorne: Shall I?
All the Dragoons: No!

Bunthorne: (unnoyed-to Patience) I will read it if you bid me!

Patience: (much frightened) You can if you like!

Bunthorne: It is a wild, weird, fleshly thing; yet very tender, very yearning, very precious.

It is called, "Oh, Hollow! Hollow!"

Patience: Is it a hunting song?

Bunthorne: A hunting song? No, it is not a hunting song. It is the wail of the poet's heart

on discovering that everything is commonplace. To understand it, cling passion-

ately to one another and think of faint lilies. (They do so as he recites.)

"Oh, Hollow! Hollow!"

What time the poet hath hymned The writhing maid, lithe-limbed, Quivering on amaranthine asphodel,

How can he paint her woes, Knowing, as well he knows,

That all can be set right with calomel?

When from the poet's plinth The amorous colocynth

Yearns for the aloe, faint with rapturous thrills,

How can he hymn their throes, Knowing, as well he knows,

That they are only uncompounded pills?

Is it, and can it be, Nature hath this decree,

Nothing poetic in the world shall dwell?

Or that in all her works Something poetic lurks,

Even in colocynth and calomel?

I cannot tell!

(He goes off, L.U.E. All turn and watch him, not speaking until he has gone.)

Angela: How purely fragrant!

Saphir: How earnestly precious!

Patience: Well, it seems to me to be nonsense.

Saphir: Nonsense, yes, perhaps, — but oh, what precious nonsense!

Colonel: This is all very well, but you seem to forget that you are engaged to us.

Saphir: It can never be. You are not Empyrean. You are not Della Cruscan. You are not

even Early English. Oh, be Early English ere it is too late! (Officers look at

each other in astonishment.)

Jane: (looking at uniform) Red and yellow! Primary colors! Oh, South Kensington!

Duke: We didn't design our uniforms, but we don't see how they could be improved!

Jane: No, you wouldn't. Still, there is a cobwebby grey velvet, with a tender bloom like

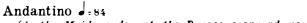
cold gravy, which, made Florentine fourteenth century, trimmed with Venetian leather and Spanish altar lace, and surmounted with something Japanese—it mat-

ters not what-would at least be Early English! Come, maidens.

(Exit Maidens, L.U. E., two and two, singing refrain of "Twenty lovesick maidens we". Putience goes off L. The Officers watch the Ladies go off in astonishment.)

## No. 4a. Twenty love-sick maidens we Chorus

Maidens





Duke: Gentlemen, this is an insult to the British uniform.

Colonel: A uniform that has been as successful in the courts of Venus as on the field of Mars!

### No. 5. When I first put this uniform on Solo and Chorus

Colonel and Dragoons



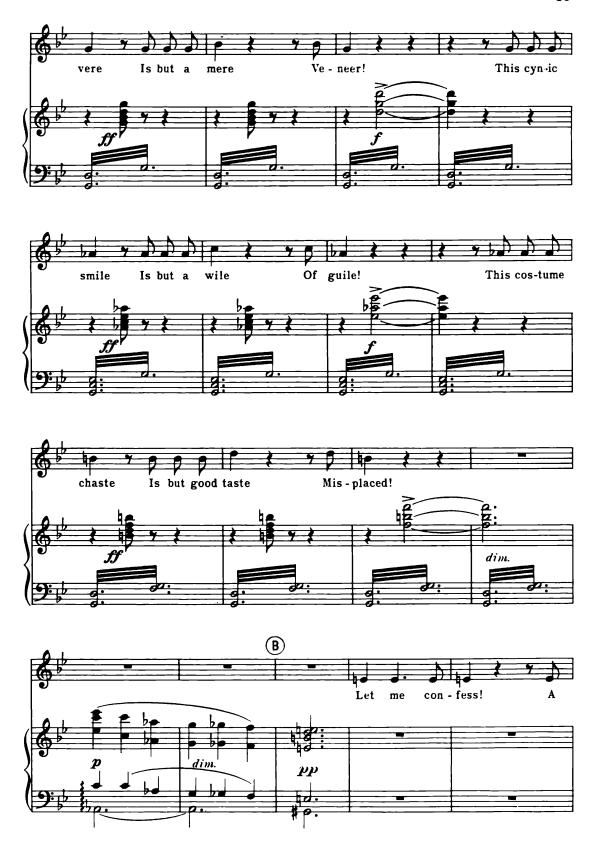




(Enter Bunthorne, L.U. E., who changes his manner and becomes intensely melodramatic.)

# No. 6. Am I alone and unobserved? Recitative and Solo Bunthorne







(Tiptoes up-stage, looking L. and R., and comes back down, C.)









At the end of the song, Patience enters, L. He sees her.)

Bunthorne: Ah! Patience, come hither. (She comes to him, timidly.) I am pleased with thee.

The bitter-hearted one, who finds all else hollow, is pleased with thee. For

you are not hollow. Are you?

Patience: No, thanks, I have dined; but - I beg your pardon - I interrupt you. Turns to

go; he stops her.)

Bunthorne: Life is made up of interruptions. The tortured soul, yearning for solitude,

writhes under them. Oh, but my heart is a-weary! Oh, I am a cursed thing!

(She attempts to escape.) Don't go!

Patience: Really, I'm very sorry.

Bunthorne: Tell me, girl, do you ever yearn?

Patience: I earn my living.

Bunthorne: (impatiently) No, No! Do you know what it is to be heart-hungry? Do you

know what it is to yearn for the Indefinable, and yet to be brought face to face, daily, with the Multiplication Table? Do you know what it is to seek oceans and to find puddles? That's my case. Oh, I am a cursed thing! (She

turns again.) Don't go.

Patience: If you please, I don't understand you—you frighten me!

Bunthorne: Don't be frightened—it's only poetry.

Patience: Well, if that's poetry, I don't like poetry.

Bunthorne: (eagerly) Don't you? (aside) Can I trust her? (aloud) Patience, you don't

like poetry—well, between you and me, I don't like poetry. It's hollow, unsubstantial—unsatisfactory. What's the use of yearning for Elysian Fields when you know you can't get 'em, and would only let 'em out on building leases if

you had 'em?

Patience: Sir, I-

Bunthorne: Patience, I have long loved you. Let me tell you a secret. I am not as bil-

ious as I look. If you like, I will cut my hair. There is more innocent fun within me than a casual spectator would imagine. You have never seen me frolicsome. Be a good girl—a very good girl—and one day you shall. If you

are fond of touch-and-go jocularity—this is the shop for it.

Patience: Sir, I will speak plainly. In the matter of love I am untaught. I have never

loved but my great-aunt. But I am quite certain that, under any circumstances,

I couldn't possibly love you.

Bunthorne: Oh, you think not?

Patience: I'm quite sure of it. Quite sure. Quite.

Bunthorne: Very good. Life is henceforth a blank. I don't care what becomes of me. I

have only to ask that you will not abuse my confidence; though you despise

me, I am extremely popular with the other young ladies.

Patience: I only ask that you leave me and never renew the subject.

Bunthorne: Certainly. Broken-hearted and desolate, I go. (Goes up-stage, suddenly turns

and recites.)

"Oh, to be wafted away,

From this black Aceldama of sorrow, Where the dust of an earthy today Is the earth of a dusty tomorrow!"

It is a little thing of my own. I call it "Heart Foam". I shall not publish

it. Farewell! Patience, Patience, farewell! (Exit Bunthorne.)

Patience: What on earth does it all mean? Why does he love me? Why does he ex-

pect me to love him? (going R.) He's not a relation! It frightens me!

(Enter Angela, L.)

Angela: Why, Patience, what is the matter?

Patience: Lady Angela, tell me two things. Firstly, what on earth is this love that up-

sets everybody; and, secondly, how is it to be distinguished from insanity?

Angela: Poor blind child! Oh, forgive her, Eros! Why, love is of all passions the

most essential! It is the embodiment of purity, the abstraction of refinement! It is the one unselfish emotion in this whirlpool of grasping greed!

Patience: Oh, dear, oh! (beginning to cry)

Angela: Why are you crying?

Patience: To think that I have lived all these years without having experienced this

ennobling and unselfish passion! Why, what a wicked girl I must be! For it

is unselfish, isn't it?

Angela: Absolutely! Love that is tainted with selfishness is no love! Oh, try, try, try

to love! It really isn't difficult if you give your whole mind to it.

Patience: I'll set about it at once. I won't go to bed until I'm head over ears in love

with somebody.

Angela: Noble girl! But is it possible that you have never loved anybody?

Patience: Yes, one.

Angela: Ah! Whom?

Patience: My great-aunt-

Angela: Great-aunts don't count.

Patience: Then there's nobody. At least-no, nobody. Not since I was a baby. But that

doesn't count, I suppose.

Angela: I don't know. Tell me all about it.

## No. 7. Long years ago, fourteen maybe Duet

#### Patience and Angela







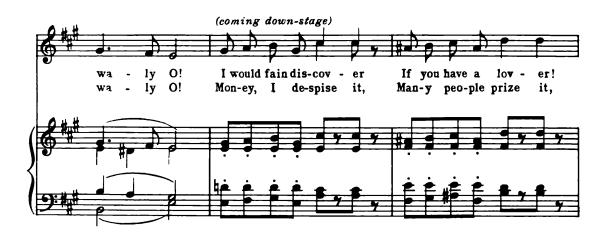


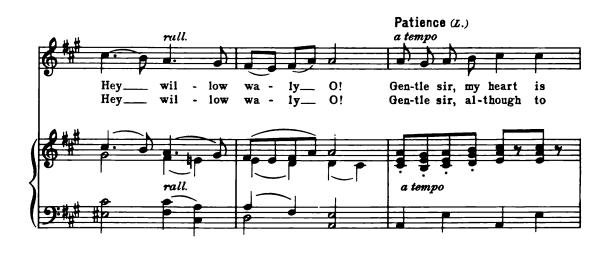
Patience: (R.C.) It's perfectly dreadful to think of the appalling state I must be in! I had no idea that love was a duty. No wonder they all look so unhappy! Upon my word, I hardly like to associate with myself. I don't think I'm respectable. I'll go at once and fall in love with... (As she turns to go up R., Grosvenor enters, R.U.E. She sees him and turns back.) a stranger!

## No. 8. Prithee, pretty maiden Duet

Patience and Grosvenor











Grosvenor: Patience! Can it be that you don't recognize me?

Patience: (donn L.) Recognize you? No, indeed I don't!

Grosvenor: Have fifteen years so greatly changed me?

Patience: (turning to him) Fifteen years? What do you mean?

Grosvenor: Have you forgotten the friend of your youth, your Archibald?-your little play-

fellow? Oh, Chronos, Chronos, this is too bad of you! (Comes down, C.)

Patience: Archibald! Is it possible? Why, let me look! It is! It is! (Takes his hands.)

It must be! Oh, how happy I am! I thought we should never meet again! And

how you've grown!

Grosvenor: Yes, Patience, I am much taller and much stouter than I was.

Patience: And how you've improved!

Grosvenor: (dropping her hands and turning) Yes, Patience, I am very beautiful! (Sighs.)

Patience: But surely that doesn't make you unhappy?

Grosvenor: Yes, Patience. Gifted as I am with a beauty which probably has not its rival

on earth, I am, nevertheless, utterly and completely miserable.

Patience: Oh, but why?

Grosvenor: My child-love for you has never faded. Conceive, then, the horror of my situ-

ation when I tell you that it is my hideous destiny to be madly loved at first

sight by every woman I come across!

Patience: But why do you make yourself so picturesque? Why not disguise yourself, dis-

figure yourself, anything to escape this persecution?

Grosvenor: No, Patience, that may not be. These gifts-irksome as they are-were given

to me for the enjoyment and delectation of my fellow-creatures. I am a trustee for Beauty, and it is my duty to see that the conditions of my trust are faith-

fully discharged.

Patience: And you, too, are a Poet?

Grosvenor: Yes, I am the Apostle of Simplicity. I am called "Archibald the All-Right"-for

I am infallible.

Patience: And is it possible that you condescend to love such a girl as I?

Grosvenor: Yes, Patience, is it not strange? I have loved you with a Florentine fourteenth

century frenzy for a full fifteen years.

Patience: Oh, marvelous! I have hitherto been deaf to the voice of love. I seem now

to know what love is! It has been revealed to me—it is Archibald Grosvenor!

Grosvenor: Yes, Patience, it is! (She goes into his arms.)

Patience: 'as in a trance') We will never, never part!

Grosvenor: We will live and die together!

Patience: I swear it!

Grosvenor: We both swear it!

Patience: (recoiling from him) But—oh, horror!

Grosvenor: What's the matter?

Patience: Why, you are perfection! A source of endless ecstasy to all who know you!

Grosvenor: I know I am. Well?

Patience: Then, bless my heart, there can be nothing unselfish in loving you!

Grosvenor: Merciful powers! I never thought of that!

Patience: To monopolize those features on which all women love to linger! It would

be unpardonable!

Grosvenor: Why, so it would! Oh, fatal perfection, again you interpose between me and

my happiness!

Patience: Oh, if you were but a thought less beautiful than you are!

Grosvenor: Would that I were! but candour compels me to admit that I'm not!

Patience: Our duty is clear; we must part, and for ever!

Grosvenor: Oh, misery! And yet I cannot question the propriety of your decision. Fare-

well. Patience!

Patience: Farewell, Archibald! (They both turn to go.)

Patience: (suddenly) But stay!

Grosvenor: Yes, Patience?

Patience: Although I may not love you-for you are perfection-there is nothing to

prevent your loving me. I am plain, homely, unattractive!

Grosvenor: Why, that's true!

Patience: The love of such a man as you for such a girl as I must be unselfish!

Grosvenor: Unselfishness itself!

No. 8a. Though to marry you would very selfish be



(They go off sadly-Patience, L., Grosvenor, R. U. E.)

## No. 9. Let the merry cymbals sound Finale of Act I

## Ensemble

(Enter Bunthorne, crowned with roses and hung about with garlands and looking very miserable. He is led by Angela and Saphir (each of whom holds an end of the rose-garland by which he is bound), and accompanied by procession of Maidens. They are dancing classically, and playing on cymbals, double pipes, and other archaic instruments. Jane last, with a very large pair of cymbals.)



(The procession enters over the draubridge, Bunthorne being preceded by the Chorus.



They go R. and round the stage, ending with Bunthorne down L. C., with Angela on his



R., Saphir on his L., June up C.)











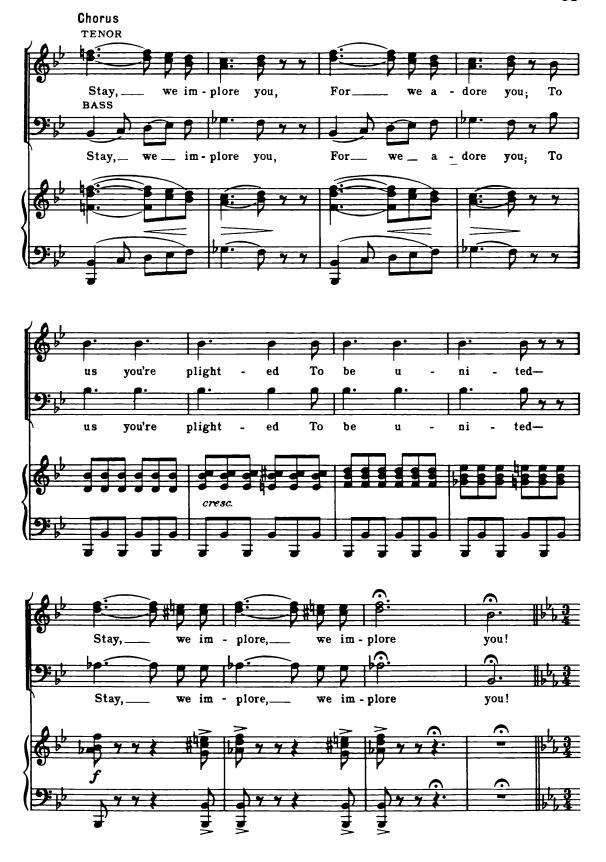


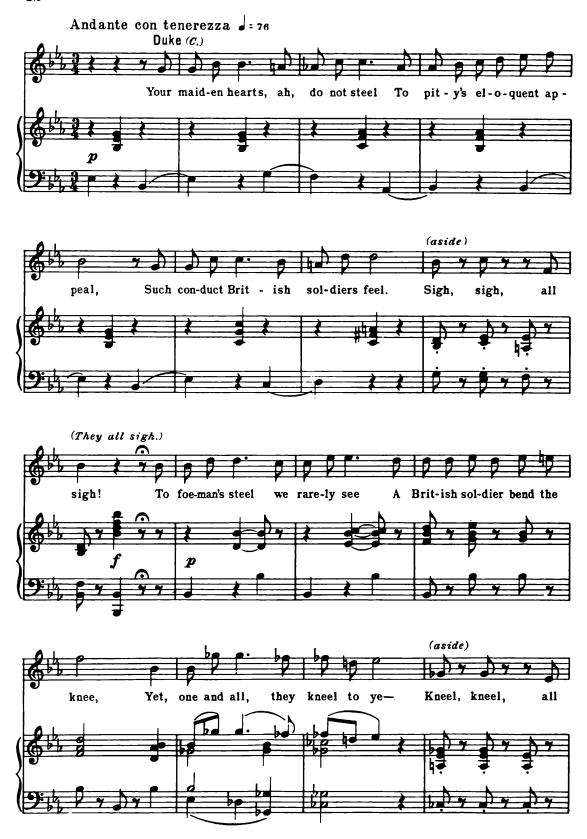










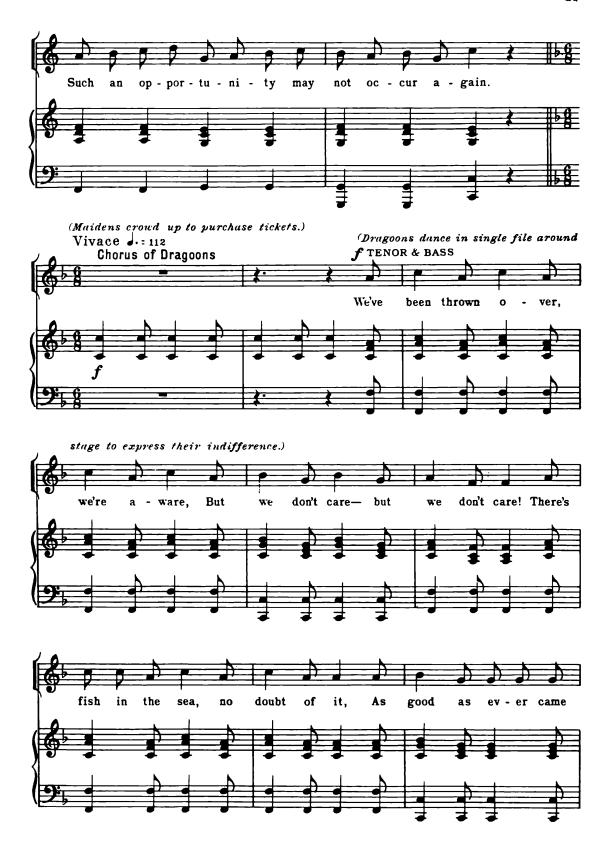
















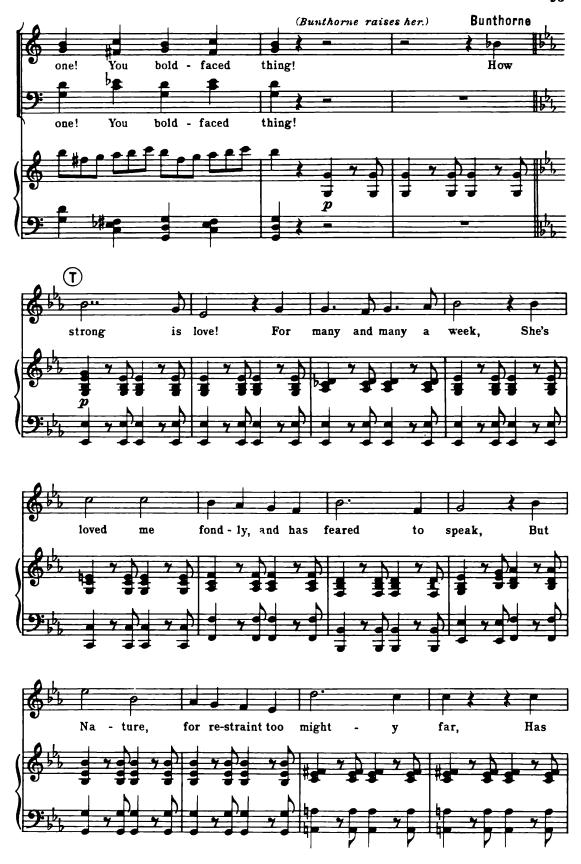








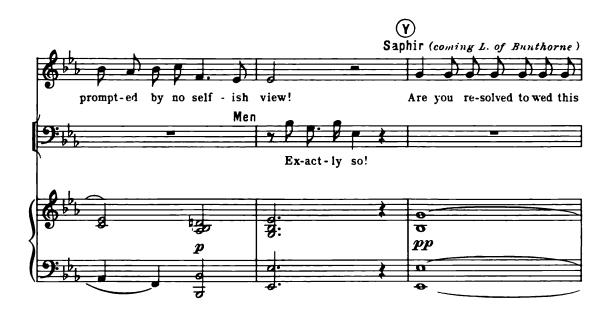






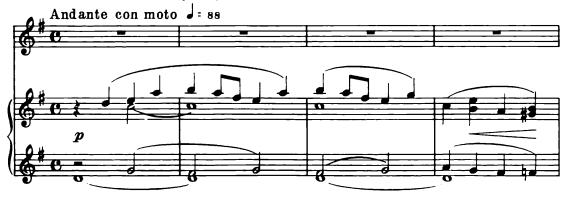








(Exit Patience and Bunthorne, L. Angela, Saphir, and Ella take Colonel, Duke, and Major down, while Girls gaze fondly at other Officers.)













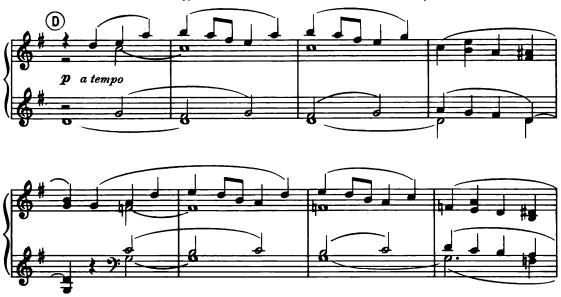




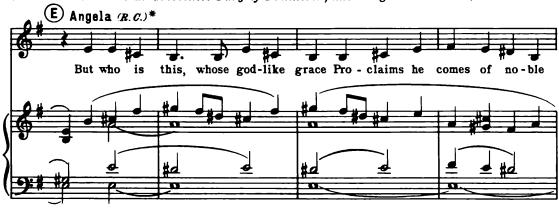




(The Girls embrace the Officers. Re-enter Patience and Bunthorne, L.)



(As the Drugoons and Girls are embracing, enter Grosvenor, R.U. E., reading. He takes no notice of them, but comes slowly down, still reading. The Girls are strangely fascinated by him. The Chorus divides, L. & R., and the Girls are held back by the Dragoons, as they attempt to throw themselves at Grosvenor. Fury of Bunthorne, who recognizes a rival.)

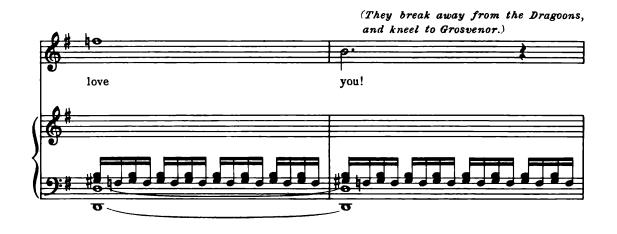




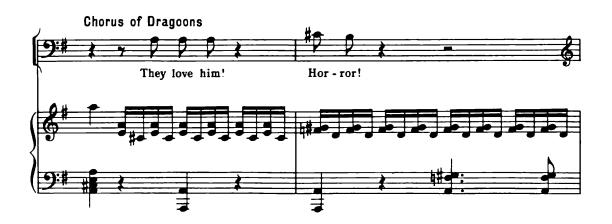
\*Because of the low range of this phrase, the Editor suggests that it be sung by Jane, Angela entering with "And who is this".

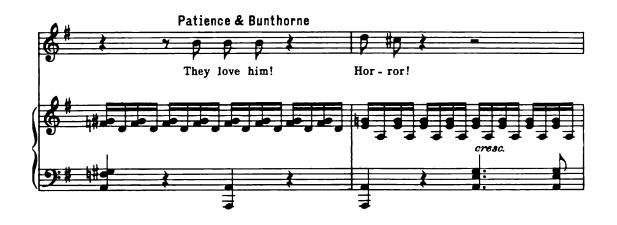


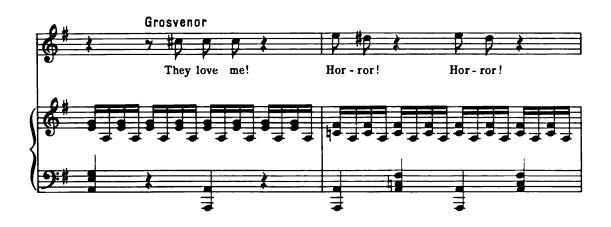


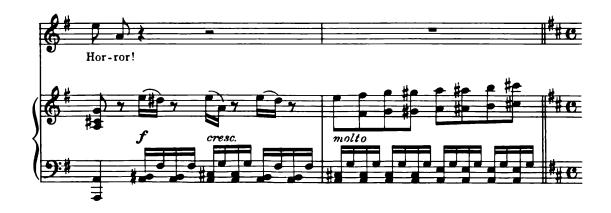








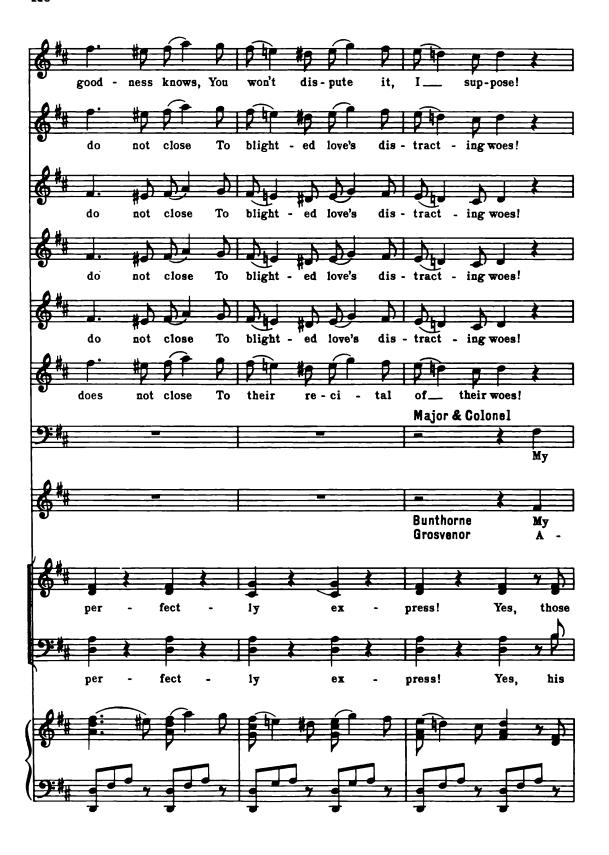




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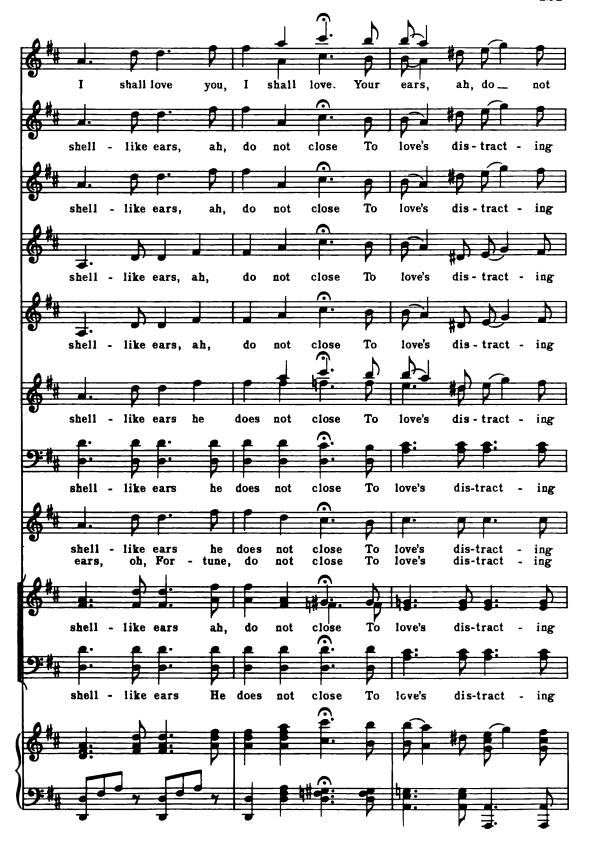






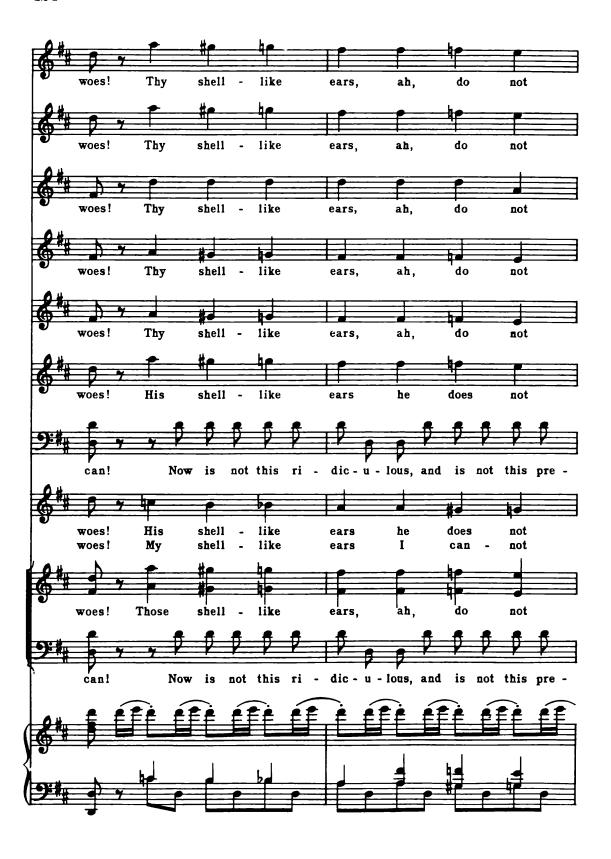


















End of Act I

#### Act II

Scene: A wooded glade, with a view of open country in the background. The Chorus of Maidens is heard singing in the distance. Jane is discovered leaning upon a violoncello, which she has propped up on a tree-stump, L., and upon which she will presently accompany herself. As the Chorus ends, she speaks.

### No. 10. On such eyes as maidens cherish Opening Chorus





Jane: The fickle crew have deserted Reginald and sworn allegiance to his rival, and all, forsooth, because he has glanced with passing favour on a puling milkmaid! Fools! Of that fancy he will soon weary — and then, I, who alone am faithful to him, shall reap my reward. But do not dally too long, Reginald, for my charms are ripe, Reginald, and already they are decaying. Better secure me ere I have gone too far!

#### No. 11. Sad is that woman's lot Recitative and Solo Jane









(Bnter Grosvenor, R., followed by Maidens, two and two, playing on archaic instruments as in Act I. He is reading abstractedly, as Bunthorne did in Act I, and pays no attention to them.)

# No. 12. Turn, oh, turn in this direction Chorus Maidens





Grosvenor: (aside, not looking up) The old, old tale! How rapturously these maidens love me,

and how hopelessly! (He looks up.) Oh, Patience, Patience, with the love of thee in my heart, what have I for these poor mad maidens but an unvalued pity? Alas,

they will die of hopeless love for me, as I shall die of hopeless love for theel

Angela: Sir, will it please you read to us?

Grosvenor: (sighing) Yes, child, if you will. What shall I read?

Angela: One of your own poems.

Grosvenor: One of my own poems? Better not, my child. They will not cure thee of thy love.

(All sigh.)

Ella: Mr. Bunthorne used to read us a poem of his own every day.

Saphir: And, to do him justice, he read them extremely well.

Grosvenor: Oh, did he so? Well, who am I that I should take upon myself to withhold my

gifts from you? What am I but a trustee? Here is a decalet — a pure and simple thing, a very daisy — a babe might understand it. To appreciate it, it is

not necessary to think of anything at all.

Angela: Let us think of nothing at all!

Grosvenor: (reciting) Gentle Jane was as good as gold,

She always did as she was told;

She never spoke when her mouth was full, Or caught bluebottles their legs to pull, Or spilt plum jam on her nice new frock, Or put white mice in the eight-day clock,

Or vivisected her last new doll,

Or fostered a passion for alcohol.

And when she grew up she was given in marriage To a first - class earl who keeps his carriage!

Grosvenor: I believe I am right in saying that there is not one word in that decalet which

is calculated to bring the blush of shame to the cheek of modesty.

Angela: Not one; it is purity itself.

Grosvenor: Here's another.

Teasing Tom was a very bad boy,
A great big squirt was his favourite toy,
He put live shrimps in his father's boots,
And sewed up sleeves of his Sunday suits;
He punched his poor little sisters' heads,
And cayenne - peppered their four - post beds;
He plastered their hair with cobbler's wax,
And dropped hot halfpennies down their backs.

The consequence was he was lost totally, And married a girl in the corps de bally!

(The Maidens express intense horror.)

Angela: Marked you how grandly - how relentlessly - the damning catalogue of crime

strode on, till Retribution, like a poised hawk, came swooping down upon the

Wrong-Doer? Oh, it was terrible! (All shudder.)

Ella: Oh, sir, you are indeed a true poet, for you touch our hearts, and they go

out to you!

Grosvenor: (aside) This is simply cloying. (aloud) Ladies, I am sorry to appear ungallant,

but this is Saturday, and you have been following me about ever since Monday. I should like the usual half - holiday. I shall take it as a personal favour if you

will kindly allow me to close early to-day.

Saphir: Oh, sir, do not send us from you!

Grosvenor: Poor, poor girls! It is best to speak plainly. I know that I am loved by you, but

I never can love you in return, for my heart is fixed elsewhere! Remember the

fable of the Magnet and the Churn.

Angela: (wildly) But we don't know the fable of the Magnet and the Churn!

Grosvenor: Don't you? Then I will sing it to you.

## No. 13. A magnet hung in a hardware shop Solo and Chorus

Grosvenor and Maidens















ut him from time to time.)



Grosvenor: At last they are gone! What is this mysterious fascination that I seem to

exercise over all I come across? A curse on my fatal beauty, for I am sick

of conquests! (Goes R.)

(Enter Putience, L. Stops L.C. on seeing Grosvenor.)

Grosvenor: (Turns und sees her.) Patience!

Patience: I have escaped with difficulty from my Reginald. I wanted to see you so

much that I might ask you if you still love me as fondly as ever?

Grosvenor: Love you? If the devotion of a lifetime-(seizing her hand)

Patience: (indignantly) Hold! Unhand me, or I scream! (He releases her.) If you are a

gentleman, pray remember that I am another's! (very tenderly) But you do

love me, don't you?

Grosvenor: Madly, hopelessly, despairingly!

Patience: That's right! I never can be yours; but that's right!

Grosvenor: And you love this Bunthorne?

Patience: With a heart - whole ecstasy that withers, and scorches, and burns, and stings!

(sadly) It is my duty.

Grosvenor: Admirable girl! But you are not happy with him?

Patience: Happy? I am miserable beyond description!

Grosvenor: That's right! I never can be yours; but that's right!

Patience: But go now. I see dear Reginald approaching. Farewell, dear Archibald; I can-

not tell you how happy it has made me to know that you still love me.

Grosvenor: Ah, if I only dared— (advancing towards her)

Patience: Sir! this language to one who is promised to another! (tenderly) Oh, Archibald,

think of me sometimes, for my heart is breaking! He is so unkind to me, and you

would be so loving!

Grosvenor: Loving! (advancing toward her)

Patience: Advance one step, and as I am a good and pure woman, I scream! (tenderly)

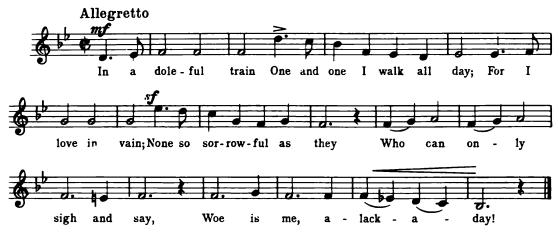
Farewell, Archibald! (sternly) Stop there! (tenderly) Think of me sometimes!

(angrily) Advance at your peril! Once more, adieu!

(Grosvenor sighs, gazes sorrowfully at her, sighs deeply, and exits, R. She dursts into tears.)

(Enter Bunthorne, followed by Jane. He is moody and preoccupied.)

Jane: (singing)



Bunthorne: (seeing Patience) Crying, eh? What are you crying about?

Patience: I've only been thinking how dearly I love you!

Bunthorne: Love me! Bah!

Jane: Love him! Bah!

Bunthorne: (to Jane) Don't you interfere.

Jane: He always crushes me!

Patience: (going to him) What is the matter, dear Reginald? If you have any sorrow,

tell it to me, that I may share it with you. (sighing) It is my duty!

Bunthorne: (snappishly) Whom were you talking with just now?

Patience: With dear Archibald.

Bunthorne: (furiously) With dear Archibald! Upon my honour, this is too much!

Jane: A great deal too much!

Bunthorne: (angrily to Jane) Do be quiet!

Jane: Crushed again!

Patience: I think he is the noblest, purest, and most perfect being I have ever met. But

I don't love him. It is true that he is devotedly attached to me, but I don't love him. Whenever he grows affectionate, I scream. It is my duty! (sighing)

Bunthorne: I dare say.

Jane: So do I! I dare say!

Patience: Why, how could I love him and love you too? You can't love two people at once!

Bunthorne: Oh, can't you though!

Patience: No, you can't; I only wish you could.

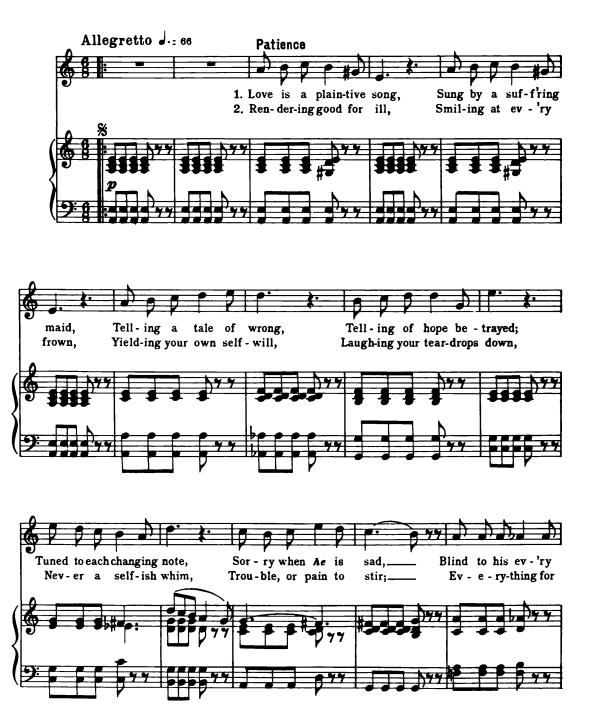
Bunthorne: I don't believe you know what love is!

Patience: (sighing) Yes, I do. There was a happy time when I didn't, but a bitter ex-

perience has taught me.

(Bunthorne, noticing that Jane is not looking at him, goes off quickly up B. She turns, sees him, and runs after him.)

## No. 14. Love is a plaintive song Solo Patience







(At the end of the Ballad exit Patience, L., weeping. Enter Bunthorne, R., Jane following.)

Bunthorne: Everything has gone wrong with me since that smug-faced idiot came here. Before

that I was admired - I may say, loved.

Jane: Too mild - adored!

Bunthorne: Do let a poet soliloquize! The damozels used to follow me wherever I went; now

they all follow him!

Jane: Not all! I am still faithful to you.

Bunthorne: Yes, and a pretty damozel you are!

Jane: No, not pretty. Massive. Cheer up! I will never leave you, I swear it!

Bunthorne: Oh, thank you! I know what it is; it's his confounded mildness. They find me too

highly spiced, if you please! And no doubt I am highly spiced.

Jane: Not for my taste!

Bunthorne: (savagely) No, but I am for theirs. But I will show the world I can be as mild as

he. If they want insipidity, they shall have it. I'll meet this fellow on his own ground

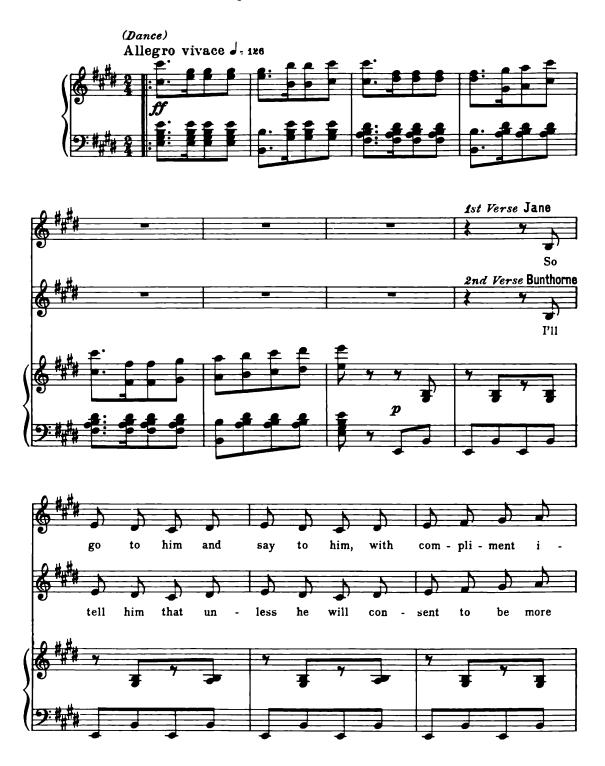
and beat him on it.

Jane: You shall. And I will help you.

Bunthorne: You will? Jane, there's a good deal of good in you, after all!

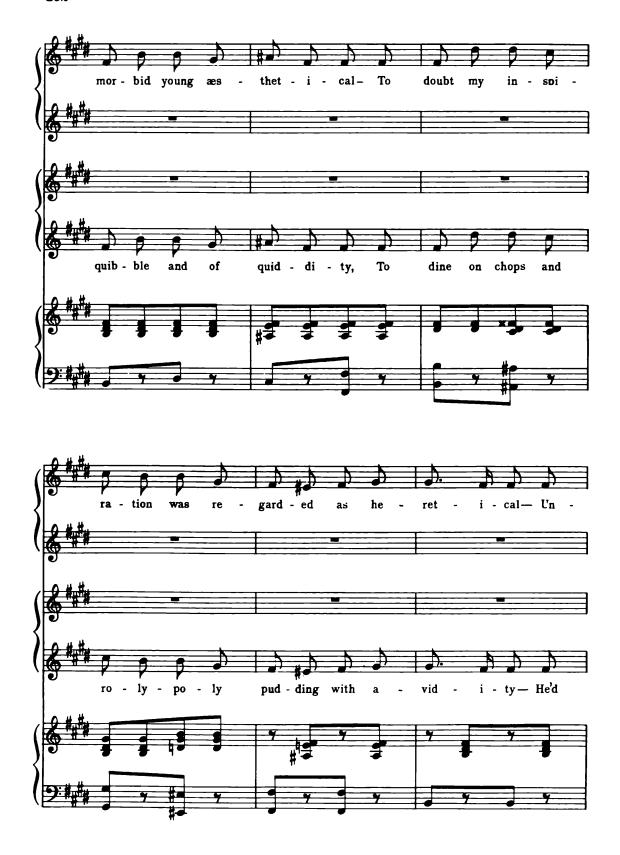
## No. 15. So go to him and say to him Duet

Jane and Bunthorne



















(Enter Duke, Colonel, and Major, R. They have abandoned their uniforms, and are dressed and made up in imitation of Aesthetics. They have long hair, and other signs of attachment to the brotherhood. As they sing they walk in stiff, constrained, and angular attitudes — a grotesque exaggeration of the attitudes adopted by Bunthorne and the young Ladies in Act I.)

## No. 16. It's clear that mediæval art

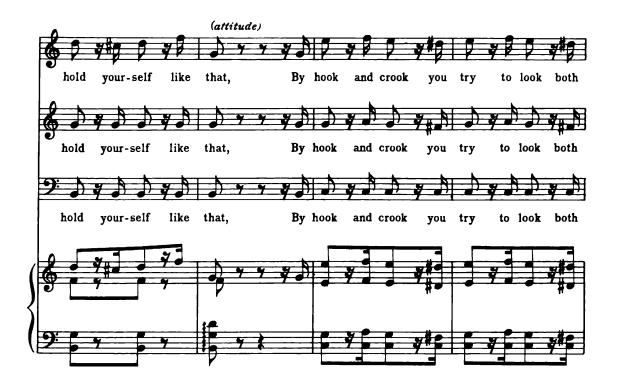
Duke, Major, and Colonel















Colonel: (attitude) Yes, it's quite clear that our only chance of making a lasting impression on these young ladies is to become as aesthetic as they are.

Major: (attitude) No doubt. The only question is how far we've succeeded in doing so. I don't know why, but I've an idea that this is not quite right.

Duke: (attitude) I don't like it. I never did. I don't see what it means. I do it, but I don't like it.

**Colonel:** My good friend, the question is not whether we like it, but whether they do. They understand these things — we don't. Now I shouldn't be surprised if this is effective enough — at a distance.

Major: I can't help thinking we're a little stiff at it. It would be extremely awkward if we were to be "struck" so!

Colonel: I don't think we shall be struck so. Perhaps we're a little awkward at first — but everything must have a beginning. Oh here they come! 'Tention!

(They strike fresh attitudes, as Angela and Saphir enter, L.)

Angela: 'seeing them') Oh, Saphir — see — see! The immortal fire has descended on them, and they are of the Inner Brotherhood — perceptively intense and consummately utter. (The Officers have some difficulty in maintaining their constrained attitudes.)

Saphir: (in admiration) How Botticelian! How Fra Angelican! Oh, Art, we thank thee for this boon!

Colonel: (apologetically) I'm afraid we're not quite right.

Angela: Not supremely, perhaps, but oh, so all — but! (to Suphir) Oh, Saphir, are they not quite too all — but?

Saphir: They are indeed jolly utter!

Major: (in agony) I wonder what the Inner Brotherhood usually recommend for cramp?

**Colonel:** Ladies, we will not deceive you. We are doing this at some personal inconvenience with a view of expressing the extremity of our devotion to you. We trust that it is not without its effect.

Angela: We will not deny that we are much moved by this proof of your attachment.

Saphir: Yes, your conversion to the principles of Aesthetic Art in its highest development has touched us deeply.

Angela: And if Mr. Grosvenor should remain obdurate -

Saphir: Which we have every reason to believe he will -

Major: (aside, in agony) I wish they'd make haste! (The others hush him.)

Angela: We are not prepared to say that our yearning hearts will not go out to you.

Colonel: (as giving a word of command) By sections of threes — Rapture! (All strike a fresh attitude, expressive of aesthetic rapture.)

Saphir: Oh, it's extremely good — for beginners it's admirable!

Major: The only question is, who will take who?

Colonel: Oh, the Duke chooses first, as a matter of course.

Duke: Oh, I couldn't think of it — you are really too good!

Colonel: Nothing of the kind. You are a great matrimonial fish, and it's only fair that each of these ladies should have a chance of hooking you. It's perfectly simple. Observe, suppose you choose Angela, I take Saphir, Major takes nobody. (with increasing speed) Suppose you choose Saphir, Major takes Angela, I take nobody. Suppose you choose neither, I take Angela, Major takes Saphir. Clear as day!

## No. 17. If Saphir I choose to marry Quintet

Duke, Colonel, Major, Angela, and Saphir

(The Officers, with obvious relief, abundon their aesthetic attitudes, and, with the Ladies, dunce into position.

into position.
L. to R. 1st verse: Colonel with Angela; Duke with Saphir; Major alone.
2nd verse: Colonel alone; Angela with Duke; Saphir with Major.

























(Enter Grosvenor, R.U.E.)

Grosvenor: It is very pleasant to be alone. It is pleasant to be able to gaze at leisure upon those features which all others may gaze upon at their good will! (looking at his reflection in a hand mirror) Ah, I am a very Narcissus!

(Enter Bunthorne, L. moodily.)

Bunthorne: It's no use; I can't live without admiration. Since Grosvenor came here, insipidity

has been at a premium. Ah, he is there!

Grosvenor: Ah, Bunthorne! Come here - look! Very graceful, isn't it?

Bunthorne: (taking the hand-mirror) Allow me; I haven't seen it. Yes, it is graceful.

Grosvenor: (taking back the mirror) Oh, good gracious! Not that - this -

Bunthorne: You don't mean that! Bah! I am in no mood for trifling.

Grosvenor: And what is amiss?

Bunthorne: Ever since you came here, you have entirely monopolized the attentions of the

young ladies. I don't like it, sir!

Grosvenor: My dear sir, how can I help it? They are the plague of my life. My dear Mr. Bunthorne, with your personal disadvantages, you can have no idea of the in-

convenience of being madly loved, at first sight, by every woman you meet.

Bunthorne: Sir, until you came here I was adored!

Grosvenor: Exactly — until I came here. That's my grievance. I cut everybody out! I assure you, if you could only suggest some means whereby, consistently with my duty

to society, I could escape these inconvenient attentions, you would earn my

everlasting gratitude.

Bunthorne: I will do so at once. However popular it may be with the world at large, your

personal appearance is highly objectionable to me.

Grosvenor: It is? (shaking his hand) Oh, thank you! thank you! How can I express my gratitude?

Bunthorne: By making a complete change at once. Your conversation must henceforth be per-

fectly matter-of-fact. You must cut your hair, and have a back parting. In ap-

pearance and costume you must be absolutely commonplace.

Grosvenor: (decidedly) No. Pardon me, that's impossible.

Bunthorne: Take care! When I am thwarted I am very terrible.

Grosvenor: (crossing to R.) I can't help that. I am a man with a mission. And that

mission must be fulfilled.

Bunthorne: I don't think you quite appreciate the consequences of thwarting me.

Grosvenor: I don't care what they are.

Bunthorne: Suppose - I won't go so far as to say that I will do it - but suppose for one

moment I were to curse you! (Grosvenor quails.) Ah! Very well. Take care.

Grosvenor: But surely you would never do that? (in great alarm)

Bunthorne: I don't know. It would be an extreme measure, no doubt. Still -

Grosvenor: (wildly) But you would not do it - I am sure you would not. (throwing himself

at Bunthorne's knees, and clinging to him ) Oh, reflect, reflect! You had a mother once.

Bunthorne: Never!

Grosvenor: Then you had an aunt! (Bunthorne is affected.) Ah! I see you had! By the

memory of that aunt, I implore you to pause ere you resort to this last fear-

ful expedient. Oh, Mr. Bunthorne, reflect, reflect! (weeping)

Bunthorne: (aside, after a struggle with himself) I must not allow myself to be unmanned!

(aloud) It is useless. Consent at once, or may a nephew's curse -

Grosvenor: Hold! Are you absolutely resolved?

Bunthorne: Absolutely!

Grosvenor: Will nothing shake you?

Bunthorne: Nothing, I am adamant!

Grosvenor: Very good. (rising) Then I yield.

Bunthorne: Ha! You swear it?

Grosvenor: I do, cheerfully. I have long wished for a reasonable pretext for such a change

as you suggest. It has come at last. I do it on compulsion!

Bunthorne: Victory! I triumph!

## No. 18. When I go out of door Duet

## Bunthorne and Grosvenor

(Each one dances around the stage while the other is singing his solo verses.) Vivace J. = 132 Bunthorne When (A11 sigh-ing and burn-ing, And cling-ing and yearn-ing) Will















Bunthorne: It's all right! I have committed my last act of ill-nature, and henceforth I'm

a changed character. (Dunces about stage, humming the refruin of the last

air. Enter Patience, L. She gazes in astonishment at him.)

Patience: Reginald! Dancing! And - what in the world is the matter with you?

Bunthorne: Patience, I'm a changed man. Hitherto I've been gloomy, moody, fitful - uncer-

tain in temper and selfish in disposition-

Patience: You have, indeed! (sighing)

Bunthorne: All that is changed. I have reformed. I have modelled myself upon Mr. Grosvenor.

Henceforth I am mildly cheerful. My conversation will blend amusement with instruction. I shall still be aesthetic; but my aestheticism will be of the most pass-

toral kind.

Patience: Oh, Reginald! Is all this true?

Bunthorne: Quite true. Observe how amiable I am. (assuming a fixed smile)

Patience: But, Reginald, how long will this last?

Bunthorne: With occasional intervals for rest and refreshment, as long as I do.

Patience: Oh, Reginald, I'm so happy! Oh, dear, dear Reginald, I cannot express the joy I

feel at this change. It will no longer be a duty to love you, but a pleasure -

a rapture — an ecstasy!

Bunthorne: My darling! (embracing her)

Patience: But - oh, horror! (recoiling from him)

Bunthorne: What's the matter?

Patience: Is it quite certain that you have absolutely reformed - that you are henceforth

a perfect being - utterly free from defect of any kind?

Bunthorne: It is quite certain. I have sworn it.

Patience: Then I never can be yours! (crossing to R.C.)

Bunthorne: Why not?

Patience: Love, to be pure, must be absolutely unselfish, and there can be nothing unselfish

in loving so perfect a being as you have now become!

Bunthorne: But stop a bit! I don't want to change—I'll relapse—I'll be as I was—interrupted!

(Enter Grosvenor, L.U. B., followed by all the young Ladies, who are followed by the Chorns of Dragoons. He has had his hair cut, and is dressed in an ordinary suit and a bouler hat. They all dance cheerfully round the stage in marked contrast to their former languor.)

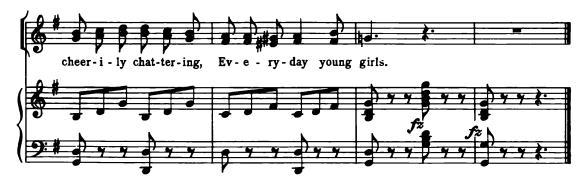
## No. 19. I'm a Waterloo House young man Solo and Chorus

Grosvenor and Maidens









Bunthorne: (c) Angela - Ella - Saphir - what - what does this mean?

Angela: (R) It means that Archibald the All - Right cannot be all - wrong; and if the

All - Right chooses to discard aestheticism, it proves that aestheticism ought

to be discarded.

Patience: Oh, Archibald! Archibald! I'm shocked — surprised — horrified!

Grosvenor: (L.C.) I can't help it. I'm not a free agent. I do it on compulsion.

Patience: This is terrible. Go! I shall never set eyes on you again. But — oh, joy!

Grosvenor: (L.C.) What is the matter?

Patience: (R.C.) It is quite, quite certain that you will always be a common-place young man?

Grosvenor: Always - I have sworn it.

Patience: Why, then, there's nothing to prevent my loving you with all the fervour at my command!

Grosvenor: Why, that's true!

Patience: (crossing to him) My Archibald!

Grosvenor: My Patience! (They embrace)

Bunthorne: Crushed again!

(Enter Jane, L.)

Jane: (who is still aesthetic) Cheer up! I am still here. I have never left you, and I

never will!

Bunthorne: Thank you, Jane. After all, there's no denying it, you're a fine figure of a woman!

Jane: My Reginald!

Bunthorne: My Jane! (They embrace.)

Fanfare (Enter, R., Colonel, Major, and Duke. They are again in uniform.)



Colonel: Ladies, the Duke has at length determined to select a bride!

(General excitement)

Duke: (R.) I have a great gift to bestow. Approach, such of you as are truly lovely. (All

the girls come forward, bashfully, except Jane and Patience.) In personal appearance you have all that is necessary to make a woman happy. In common fairness, I think I ought to choose the only one among you who has the misfortune to be dis-

tinctly plain. (Girls retire disuppointed.) Jane!

Jane: (leaving Bunthorne's arms) Duke! (Jane and Duke embrace. Bunthorne is utterly

disgusted.)

Bunthorne: Crushed again!

## No. 20. After much debate internal Finale of Act II

Ensemble











