

What! Herbert alive? My own dear Herbert returned to me?

*They rush into each others arms.*

HERB. Yes, your own dear Herbert returned to life again. I have established my innocence to the world, and now it remains for you alone to believe me guiltless.

PAUL. I never believed you guilty; and had I known you were living, I would never have consented to marry that monster. (*They embrace.*)

PARSNIPS *steps forward.*

PARS. Mester Harking, I ha' still a confession t' make. One of great importance.

HARK. Of great importance?

PARS. Yes. Thirty-two years ago three burglars broke into the office of a certain cotton merchant to rob 'is safe. The night clerk and two bobbies takes 'em prisoners. They got five years' penal servitude. (*HARK. much interested.*) But one of the three swore vengeance on the night clerk, and when he was released he kept 'is word.

HARK. (*Wildly.*) By robbing him of his only son! That clerk was myself and that robber—

PARS. War I. Yes, I stole your son to 'ave revenge on—

HARK. Man, do you expect forgiveness for this confession w' all these years I have led such an unhappy life? No, not till he is in my arms can I forgive you.

PARS. You shall 'ave 'im, for there 'e stan's. (*Points to HERBERT 'Erbert Walston be your own son. (Sensation. OPH. falls into SIR JOS.'s arms. PAUL. surprised. HARK. looks closely at HERB., then rushes and embraces him.)*

HARK. Yes, yes, you are indeed my boy—my son! At last I am happy. Come, Pauline, my dear, to think that I find my long-lost son in your own lover. You shall be married at once.

OPH. (*Rushes at HERB.*) My dear nephew—(*embraces him*)—we have found you at last.

SIR J. (*Watches OPH.*) Well, I should sigh! Why did that nephew return? Here I've just made a contract with her, and she goes hugging him instead of me. (*Goes to OPH. They go R. together.*)

HEL. (*Goes to PAUL. and kisses her.*) You should, indeed, be happy now.

PAUL. Yes, Helen dear, supremely happy.

HERB. Mr. Harking my father? This is too much like a dream. I can hardly realize it.