

Ruth.

Methinks

He is the kindest and the best of men,  
For ere I asked he granted my desire.  
How joyful will be Naomi tonight,  
When I return and tell her all my tale.  
He must indeed possess a noble heart,  
Who treats a stranger so.

Rebecca.

He saw in thee

A woman fair to look on, and his heart  
Was touched, as never, I believe, before.  
I would indeed that I were like thee, Ruth,  
To move the heart of such a mighty Prince.

Ruth.

He saw in me a stranger, and his heart  
Was moved, being princely, to my need;  
But glean we now, Rebecca, for today  
I would not waste one single hour away.

#### ACT IV. SCENE 1.

(The gate of the City. Boaz in the seat of Judgment.)

Enter suitor and debtor.)

Boaz.

What is thy plaint?

Suitor.

My lord, my neighbor here  
Last week, to cut him fuel for the winter,  
Borrowed of me mine axe, which I did lend him,  
But told him to return it yesterday,  
For I myself had need of it. But he  
Came yesterday and cried and wept and said  
That while he cut his fuel near a stream  
The axe head flew, and fell into a pool,  
And though he long time sought he could not find it.  
And as he could not give me back mine axe,  
I did demand the price of it, but he  
Cried out again, and pleaded poverty;  
And so I haled him to the judgment seat.

Boaz.

What sayest thou? Is this his story true?

Neighbor.

His tale, my lord, is true; for I am poor,  
And have no money to redeem the axe.  
But, when I pleaded poverty, he swore  
If I did not forthwith repay the price,  
That he would take and sell me for a slave.  
And what to do I know not; for I would  
Be no man's debtor, yet I cannot pay.