

1st Officer. To business, my Lord Marquis; which to us is a sad duty.

Marq. What mean you?

2nd Officer. In fact my Lord Marquis, we have a process to serve on you. [*Hands him a paper.*]

Marq. Oh, an officer of the law.

1st Officer. Yes, your Excellency.

Marq. Ah—whose suit is this?

2nd Officer. At the suit of Diavolo.

Marq. I can satisfy his claim.

2nd Officer. But he is now the possessor of the claims of all the other creditors. [*Hands him other papers.*]

Marq. Then I am undone. I cannot pay him.

1st Officer. It will be our sad duty to convey you to prison.

Marq. A hard fate for me in my old days.

*Enter MARCO and BASSO, right.*

Mar. This is a strange welcome after my long absence, Basso. What mean those guards placed at the gates; have you learned?

Bas. It seems the estate has been seized for debt; a notice posted on the pavillion informs the public it will be sold to-morrow.

Mar. S'death! Going to sell the old castle over my father's head!

Bas. But that is not all—I am informed that the officers of the law entered a few minutes before, in search of the Marquis, whom they intend to arrest.

Mar. What! my father! I must go and seek him. [*Turns and meets the Marquis in the custody of the officers.*] My father! do you not know me?