

ear.) Pipandor, you rascal, what are you doing here? (PIPANDOR shows signs of hesitation and fear. MAURICE is heard off R. U. E. singing softly the air "Ah, sweet the day." A light flashes three times from window over balcony.) Ah! my daughter's room! A signal! I see it all! Come with me you young rascal. (Goes rapidly into house, dragging PIPANDOR with him. MAURICE and GIGOT enter R. U. E. with a ladder, which they place against balcony. CHATEAUGRIS appears on balcony covered with a woman's cloak. He prepares to descend. The moon shines out from a cloud. MAURICE and GIGOT see who it is.

MAURICE. The Marquis! (The alarm bell sounds, they seize the ladder and run off, R., leaving CHATEAUGRIS suspended on a hook. Enter villagers, R. U. E. ESCARGOT, R., and MADAME GIGOT from house.

CHORUS. What's the matter! What's the matter!
What's the meaning of this clatter?
Through the village people bawling!
From our beds the tocsin calling!
Is it fire? is it murder? is it thieves?
Thieves! thieves! thieves! thieves!

CHAT. Hi there, you rascals! Help me down!

CHORUS. The Marquis! What surprise!
Suspended from the skies,
In such a strange disguise!
Can we believe our eyes?
Ho! ho! ho! ho!
(Vainly trying to suppress laughter, they help him down.

CHAT. (Embarrassed.) The situation,
Some explanation,
Appears to need.

CHORUS. It does indeed.

CHAT. My lofty station,
In the nation—
I proceed.

CHORUS. You do indeed.

CHAT. Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking.—No! (Stops.)

ESCAR. He's stuck!

MAD. GIG. (Aside.) Elopement interrupted! Just my luck!

ESCAR. (Aside.) I see it all.

CHAT. This is a question.

ESCAR. (Coming front.) Of too much cucumber and indigestion.

CHAT. Oh, not at all. The fact is, friend, that—

ESCAR. (Aside.) Dolt! (Aloud.)

The Marquis had a nightmare and a bolt. (Whispers to CHATEAUGRIS.)