

CHORUS. *Goes off, L. U. E. CHATEAUGRIS angrily rolls up pedigree, and goes off into the house with ESCARGOT and MADAME GIGOT. ESCARGOT making extravagant gestures of respect to his face, but expressing ludicrous depreciation behind his back as they enter. HELENE comes down and takes out letter.*

HELENE. Dear Maurice!

(*Reads.*) "Have you forgotten the garden wall at your Paris school, and the water butt." He used to climb the wall, and we sat on the water butt. Dear Maurice. (*Reads.*) "Accident has brought me here to your house, but poor and friendless, dare I hope to recall your love, once given me? Still I am for ever and a day,

"Thine own. MAURICE."

Maurice. And I thought he had forgotten me! a schoolgirl; with pink cheeks and fuzzy hair; sent to Paris to learn manners. He used to bribe the baker to bring me roses and bon-bons. Dear Maurice. (*Pensively reads.*) "For ever and a day,

"Thine own. MAURICE."

[*She seats herself on see-saw reading letter.*

MAURICE. (*Behind. R. HELENE comes down.*)

Ah, sweet, the day has fled;
The sun-maid droops her head;
In golden glory dies
The flash of fair day's eyes,
Come, for here at thy gate,
For thee I wait.
Come, for light will arise
With my love's eyes.

[MAURICE enters, R. *She turns from him, L.*

HELENE. Ah, friend, too sweet thy song;
The summer day is long;
The daisy fair is wise
To shut her golden eyes.
Maids who go to the gate,
To wed, may wait;
Love light, lit with the eyes,
They say, soon dies.

ENSEMBLE.

HELENE. So sweet his gentle song
Who patient waits so long;
I have not heart to say,
My longing lover may.

MAURICE. Ah, sweet, say shall my song
All lonely, wait so long?
Hast thou the heart to say
Thy longing lover may?