

HE'S MUCH TO BLAME.

A COMEDY, IN FIVE ACTS - BY THOMAS HOLCROFT
IN A NEW VERSION BY DANIEL O'BRIEN.



Sir G.—“ HEAVEN AND EARTH! ’TIS SHE! HELP !” —Act iv, scene 2.

PERSONS REPRESENTED

LORD VIBRATE.

LADY VIBRATE.

SIR GEORGE VERSATILE.

LADY JANE.

DELAVAL.

MARIA.

DR. GOSTERMAN.

THOMSON.

WILLIAMS.

LUCY.

JENKINS

HARRY/EDWARD

ACT I.

SCENE I - *the Hall of an hotel, with a spacious staircase. Enter THOMPSON and JENKINS, meeting*

Thompson.

Jenkins? Don't you hear the bell?

Jenkins.

The hotel porter is gone up to answer it, sir.

Thompson.

Who occupies that apartment?

Jenkins.

The handsome youth and girl, that arrived late last night.

Thompson.

And asked for lodging just as I was going to bed?

Jenkins.

Yes, sir.

Thompson.

He is quite a boy.

Jenkins.

Razor never robbed him of a hair.

Thompson.

Some stripling, perhaps, that has run away with his mother's maid.

Jenkins.

They ordered separate beds.

Thompson.

Well ! Things pass in a hotel that would never do elsewhere. And, harkye! Inform me the moment you hear Lord and Lady Vibrate, or their daughter, stirring.

Jenkins.

Yes, sir! Here is Doctor Gosterman.

[Exit]

Enter DOCTOR GOSTERMAN.

Thompson.

Good morrow, Doctor.

Doctor.

Coot morgen, my tear friend, Is de Fiprate family fisible to see?

Thompson.

Not yet.

Doctor.

My lordtship and my latyship vas sharge me to mit dem betime.

Thompson.

You are a great favourite there, Doctor.

Doctor.

Ya, sair. Dat I am eferyvhere.

Thompson.

You act in a double capacity; physician and privy-counsellor.

Doctor.

Und I am as better in the von as in the oder.

Thompson.

Why, ay, doctor; you have a smooth, pleasant manner.

Doctor.

Ya, sair. Dat is my vay. I mix de syrup all mit my prescription.

Thompson.

Ay, ay, you are a useful person.

Doctor.

Ya, dat is my vay, sair. I leave Yarmany, und I com at Englandt mit little money, and great cunning in de art and de science. I shall have de essence, und de cream, und de balsam, und de syrup, und de electric, und de magnetic, und de mineral, und de vegetable, und de

air, und de earse, und de sea, und all dat vas subject under my command. So I make the nation benefit, and myself rish. Dat is my vay.

Thompson.

You have had many patients.

Doctor.

Ya sir; I af cure tousand und tousand. Dat is my vay.

Thompson.

And how many have you killed, doctor?

Doctor.

Der teufel, sair! Kill! Ven my patient vas die, dat vas Nature dat vas kill. Ven dey vas cure, dat vas Doctor von Gostermans. Dat is my vay. No, sair; Doctor von Gostermans vas kill himself, dat oder people may live.

Thompson.

How do you mean kill yourself, doctor?

Doctor.

Der teufel sair! Vas I not be call here? Vas I not be called eferyvhere? I af hundert and tousand patient dat die efery day till I vas com. So I vas drive to de City, und dare I vas meet my besten friend, de gout, de apoplexy, and de asthmatica; and den I vas drive to de inn of court, und de lawyer; und dere I vas find more of my besten friend; de hydroptica, de rheumatica, und de paralitica.

Thompson.

What, doctor, the lawyers and inns of court paralytic?

Doctor.

Ya, sair.

Thompson.

For my lords sake, I wish they were, with all my soul!

Doctor.

Und den I vas drive and make my reverence mit de lordt, und mit de duke, and mit de grandee; und dare I vas meet mosh oder of my besten friend; de hypochondrica, de spasmodica, de hysterica, de marasma, de morbid affection, de tremor, und de mist before de eye.

Thompson.

Morbid affections, tremors, and mists before the eyes, the diseases of the great?

Doctor.

Ya sair. Und dey vas grow vorse and vorse eferyday.

Thompson.

Well, well, they have chosen a skilful Doctor.

Doctor.

Ya sair, I shall do all deir business, efery von. Dat is my vay. So now you tell me, af you seen any new fisor dat was com?

Thompson.

Yes; a youth, and a girl that looks like a waiting-maid, arrived late last night.

Doctor.

Vhich it vas a person of grandeur?

Thompson.

Oh,no! wholly unattended.

Doctor.

Ah, ha! Vhich it vas a lofing couple, den?

Thompson.

So I think. Here comes the girl.

Doctor.

Ah, ha! Let me do. I shall talk to her. I shall begin by make acquaintance mit her.

Enter LUCY.

Lucy.

[calling] Pray, in the kitchen; make haste with breakfast. -

Jenkins.

(Without.) Yes, ma'am. Tea or coffee, ma'am?

Lucy.

Tea.

Doctor..

How do you do, my tear? You vas pretty young frau; fery pretty girl, my tear. Perhaps you vas stranger, my tear?

Lucy.

Perhaps I am.

Doctor.

Ah! Vat is your name, my tear?

Lucy.

That which my godmother gave me.

Doctor.

Your maister af made de long journey my tear?

Lucy.

Has he?

Doctor.

From vat country you com, my tear?

Lucy.

Hem!

Doctor.

I ask from vat country you com, my tear?

Lucy.

Ask again.

Doctor.

From the town of - eh?

Lucy.

Ay! How do you call it?

Doctor.

Dat is vat I vant you shall tell.

Lucy.

I see you do.

Doctor.

Your maister is fery young, my tear.

Lucy.

Thank you, sir.

Doctor.

For what you tank me?

Lucy.

For your news.

Doctor.

Ah, ha! You are fery vitty and pretty, my tear.

Lucy.

More news. Thank you again.

Doctor.

Vat vas you call de young yentleman's name?

Lucy.

I will ask, and send you word.

Doctor.

How long shall he be stay in town?

Lucy.

Till he goes into the country.

Doctor.

Vat is your capacity, my tear?

Lucy.

Like yours, little enough.

Doctor.

You do not understand me, my dear. What is your post, your office? -

Lucy.

To answer rude questions.

Doctor.

Your maid is a man of family?

Lucy.

Yes; he had a father and mother, and uncles and aunts.

Doctor.

Com, com, my dear; let you make me answer.

Lucy.

Anan!

Enter JENKINS

Jenkins.

Here is the breakfast, ma'am.

Lucy.

Take it upstairs.

Exit with JENKINS

Doctor.

Der teufel! A cunning yipsey! She has made me raise my curiosity. My dear, my dear! Com pack, my dear!

Re-enter LUCY.

Do my compliments to your maid, and I shall be most happy if I shall be of de honour to make me acquaintance with him. My name is called Doctor Von Gostermans. I shall be of de essence, and de cream, and de balsam, and de syrup, and de electric, and de magnetic, and de mineral, and de vegetable, and de air, and de earth, and de sea, and all that was subject under my command. I shall be of de best recommendation for de honest docteur that was possible. My Lord and my Lady Fiprate was my best friend. I was practice with all de biggest family in de universe. Docteur Von Gostermans was know everybody; and everybody was know Docteur Von Gostermans. You tell him that, my dear.

Lucy.

Tell him that! I cannot remember half of it. Are you, sir, acquainted with Lord Vibrate's family?

Doctor.

Ya, my tear. I vas make friendships mit them more as many year.

Lucy.

And do you know where they are?

Thompson.

To be sure he does. They are in this -

Doctor.

Hush! Silence your tongue! Dere is something mystery. (*Aside to Thompson.*) If you shall make me introduce to your maistair, my tear, I shall tell him eferyting und more as dat, my tear. Will you, my tear?

Lucy.

I will go and inquire.

Doctor.

Tank you, my tear. You are fery pretty girl, my tear; fery vltty, pretty - Ah! you are so sly, cunning, little yipsey, my tear! Ah,ha!

Exeunt]