

Dialogue part: Welland Strong. Set A [ca. 1890-1899]

Gaunt, Percy; Hoyt, Charles H. (Charles Hale), 1859-1900

New York City: [s.n.], [ca. 1890-1899]

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NEW YORK CITY

"A TRIP TO CHINATOWN"

"WELLAND STRONG"

ACT I.

(YOU enter C.)
Did my telegram get here?

Yes, Welland Strong.

I may die before night.

(Take off your wraps, To Lounge, lie down

I will, wine is harmful to me, but I'll take it. (Drink)

No, that is one of the exasperating things about it.

Neither as yet, but the left one probably will be by Saturday night.

Not at all. That's a very serious feature. My malady is so deep seated that I can't bring the cough to the surface. But instead, I feel a sensation which in a well man would be called a thirst for liquor.

(Tony hands you drink - you take it and drink.)

-----do the doctors say? No two agree.

Usually the coronor. I had seven of them ----

-----Coroners

We. doctors, One damn fool said nothing ailed me - do you know the only man who really understood my case was a horse doctor. He was said if I stayed in Boston. I'd die in sixty days, but nout here in San Francisco, I'd live two years if I beyed certain rules / Here's a book of rules, and it tells merjust how much I shorten my life every time I break one. That glass of wine you gave me shortened my life just 19 hours. (Tony hands filled glass.)

Thanks.

(Hand glass back after drinking.) By the way, I hope my extra coats are might at hand. I am obliged to keep myself at a certain temperature. This thermometer applied to the back of my neck ought to register just 99 degrees if I'm all right. And my coats are regulated by degrees. The red one adds just five degrees to my temperature - others from one to ten.

(Apply thermometer)

Thanks. I'm all right now. By the way, can you give me the address of a good horse doctor?

-----see our family physician.

Oh, no. He's no good. None of these M. D's are. They're used to catering to their patient's whims, giving them what they want to take. A horse doctor don't try to please his patients, he gives them what they need. I'll never trust any but a horse doctor.

That's the man I want. He'll keep me along if anyone can.

(Have bus. as if about sneeze - men grab you and take you down stage C.)

It's all right now. Do you know every little while I am seized with the most agonizing desire to sneeze.

Only one thing.

To Sneeze.

(Start to sneeze!

The earthquakes.

Yes, my doctor says what I need is a general shaking up.

Will you please close those curtains, I feel a draught. (Go to lounge.)

I don't know, I have sworn to see Chinatown and fading daily as I am, I shall never be again as able as I am to-night. It will of course shorten my life, but I'll go if the young people will take me.

Thanks. Then I'll sacrifice ten days of my life and go (Cat fight outside - everyone on stage excited.)

(Slavin exits L. YOU and Ben follow)

(YOU enter L 3 E. looking at book. Enter C.)
The excitement of that cat fight has taken a week off my life.

A widow and a woman.

How pathetic. In the flower of youth to be bereft of sweet companionship, to be doomed henceforth forever to tread life's pathway unaided and alone.

(look at her, go up stage with back to audience and put thermometer to back of neck.)

(Come down:)

I came here to die. It's a sure thing. The remedy I'm taking for my lung trouble contains dynamite. If the desease conquers

the remedy why I die of the desease. If the remedy conquers the desease, I shall be so full of dynamite eventually, that I shall go off bang. Think, I may suddenyl vanish before your eyes. It may happen at any moment now.

Both cats eating out of my medicine chest. If they should partake of that dynamite and have trouble on the back fence, Kilkenny wouldn't be in it. (Exit.)

-----I'm your chaperone.

(SONG and CHORUS - after which explosion.)

(YOU enter L. all torn up looking at book - PICTURE AND CURTAIN.)

(2nd Curtain: Widow in chair L. of table - you C. with fan).
She's fainted. send for a horse doctor.

------what'

(Fan her and smile.)

-- PICTURE AND CURTAIN. --

ACTII.

////---so I let him. (Enter, silk hat all broken.)

(0) The hackman said five and I said two.

Five. Jell me, do we stay here long?

-----have supper first.

Eating at night shortens my life. Late suppers six days off. Here waiter, take my hat out and have it blocked.

(X. to R.)

I fear the taste of a dying man may not exactly suit your fancies.

---- Casted one

Shut those doors.

It isn't that jou're letting in a draught - this room is simply dreadful. Close those curtains. (Close curtains) (R. Curtains.)

Npw, waiter, what have you got to eat.

Have you got bread?

----get you some. I think a little bread with the things you mention will do. And waiter, could you give me a glass of whale's milk? ------Whale's milk! Yes, my doctor recommends it. -----bill of fare. He's gone and I8m left here alone. I don't know where I am or why I'm here. I don't understand it - this may be a scheme to shake me. Here, waiter, waiter! (Exit C. calling) Waiter out quellest-(Enter C.) Stoo This is the room (off) ----- away from us. (C) Oh no. you can't shake me. -----have a drink. You can't get there too quick for me. ----- Our club Madrigal. What's that? -----no harm! Drink! !! (All drink.) ----as it should. Do they sing that song at the club.

I think its wery druck

I thinky that club will be a failure.

Too long between drinks. (Put thermometer to back of neck.)

-----wonder he's/warm (All are vigoriously fanning themselves.) Waiter, build a fire.

----it's melting here. I can't help it. My thermometer shows I'm too cold. Say, don't stand there holding those doors open. It causes a draught.

-----stand a fire.

(Drink, use a thermometer) Waiter, have you got a freestone in the house?

----can get one. Heat it and bring it in. I can sit on that and get warm, (At door) You villaim. (Go up to ador, close it. Come down stage with Rash)

-----in this room? (To Rash)

Have you got a five dollar bill in your pocket.

----a twenty do. Yes, ladies, and gentlemen observe this. Lay it here on the hearth. Now, don't say a word there's no draught in this room. -----but my bill. It's gone up the flue see. -----me a cocktail. (YOU have lighted cigarette and move to L. chair.) -----smoking a oigarette. Did you ever hear of a cigarette killing anybody? ------Richmond streight out. (Rise and give Widow your seat. -----speak quick please. These chairs won't do. - Get me one with a cushion and put the stone under the cushion a understand. (Sit at widow's feet.) -----be a lively ball. (All) Sh ! -----you idiot. Ball? -----professional dancers. (All.) Sh. (Alone)

Two professional dancers. Say, is that in the way to Chinatown. (All wink) ------yuo can kick. (Men all rush to ker and show interest and look closely at Flirt.) ----just too kxik high. (Men 311 show disappointment.) -----don't you like it? Men all gather round widow.) ----onth six months.)Men all walk up stage. YOU raise your hat and walk up stage. -----insured for \$50,000 (Men rush back to her. YOU on her right.) How strange I'm insured for just that sum. -----you charming man. (She takes your arm and You both walk up stage then to piano) -----Yes. Willie. (You and Widow at piano.) -----go and skirmish. There's no harm in the young folks having a little fun. ----a body cry.

(You try to kiss her. Why of course not, and do you think flirting wicked? -----tell me so. (YOU are about to put your arms aroung Widow when you see the othersy watching you) -----Ah! Ah! I'm sure I feel a draught. (Close curtains L. and R. return to Widow. -----have you a wife? Oh no. -----were a jolly bachelor. No. not a bachelor. -----you are a widower? No. not a widower.

Well, if you must know, I'm a divorced man.

(YOU and Widow shake hands.)

----see his portrait?

(Looking) I don't see anything but the hack of a photo.

----- let us kiss. muce (Vadous) I'm sure you must feel a draught. (Draw screen)

(look out from hehind screen) What's the matter?

Well, let him keep it, I don't want it now. (Disappear behind screen.)

(Look for Widow.)
That's so - why she's gone. Here, where are you?
(Exit C.)

At finish you enter with boys. You see cocktails)

The cocktails mustn't be wasted, even if I have to drink it myself.

(YOU bow to Flirt)

-----looking at you.

(YOU and Flirt bow)

Beattiful. That song reminds me of that fast approaching day when one of my lungs will be withered and vanish leaving the other desolate alone and overworked. I have often in the

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Det &

still watches of the night, the silence broken only by a cuckoo clock - pondered on this, and at last my sad musings took the form of a little peem.

(Rise - stand facing audience)

It is called the Lay of the lingering lung.

(Look aroung)

Why, they're all gone - here! Somebody.

(Exit C.)

Say, - she's bright. come on we'll have her back. (Rush off C.)

(YOU enter with 3 boys bringing Flirt C.)
You don't get away like that, Young lady.

Say, hold on, Come to think of it. It's my hat. I guess some other form of apology will do.

No, with all my heart.

No, with all your voice well, if that's the maid the mistress must be a damn jimsy - Oh, Jim Dandy. Shut that door.

Great heavens. Another draught. Take it away. Take it awak. Gentlemen, isn't it getting late. We ought to be in Chinatown.

Well, what shall we do while we wait here

there, Song

-----best we can.

I always do that. Do you know that's the motto of my life. I have embalmed my ideas on that point in -

No, a little song.

Gentlemen, be seated.
(All sit C.)

((S O N G))

Now, gentlemen, by way of a change, let's go down to the bar and have a cocktail.

(Exit with Willie C.)

-----Sh!

(Enter C.)
Gentlemen, you missed it. After you led the bartender set 'em up twice. My life is fading.
(Post Book.)

to-night, like money in a faro bank. I am positively dying rapidly. But such a hurrah death. I never knew one could have so much fun expiring. This is the place to die. (Go to sideboard and pick up knife. Heavu pounding outside) Waiter, what's that noise?

so that's the tenderloin. Well, I've heard the Tenderloin was tough - for that kind of tenderloin, this knife seems pretty dull. Well accord he dorse there has because

(All)
Oh, give us a dog fight.

SPECIALTY.

(All)
Oh, can you?

(All)
Splendid.

(YOU and Norman obey.)

(Raise lid and show empty trunk)

(All.) bring him back.

Oh don't

----Ah there.

(C) Very clever trick that. Do you know I would like to put some of my creditors and some of my love letters in that trunk.

(Eat Biscuit.)

Here waiter, there's a pants button - I found it in this bis-

No one could mistake that for a carriway seed. Say waiter, your cook here, doesn't know his business - why don't you tell him so?

(Go to tube L. whistle.)
Hullo, is that the cook? Say you don't wadentswaxx understand your business. You ought to be working on acanal boat or a gravel train. What? Say, don't you know it's wrong to swear? Come downthere. All right.
(Look at them all with an air of assurance and exit C.)

(Enter C. all daubed on back of coat.)

I saw the cook. Why where - why they've all gone - I see
(Look aroung, look off R. and L.U. E.)
Shook!
(Sit R. C.)
Well, I deserve it.
(Figuring in book)
That settles it - never again so long as I live will I believe in a woman, trust one, I swear I won't go within a mile of one.
(Sink in chair R.)

(Read)
"Dear Old Boy": Don't think I shaken you - I had to go follow to Cliff House. Yours, Paisy". I knew it. I knew it.
Waiter, carriage for the Cliff House.
(Drop card)

⁻⁻⁻⁻⁻yes, sir.

(Look at yourself then in mirror in sideboard) I can't go looking like this.
(See dress suit. pick it up and exit R. 3. E.)

(Enter L. U. E.)
Waiter, my carriage.
(Sen Ben)

(Ben rushes after you. Chase YOU C. and to L. dollowed by Ben and Noah through small room to lower door of large room X to alcove R. through office and large room to alcove R. to lower door L. into C. twice round. YOU leave C. run through room L. into C. room. Jump into trunk. YOU rise from behind trunk and run off C.

--- C U R T A I N---

ACT III.

(You enter R. U. E.) much buter

Ran. After I got away from the Riche I rushed madly down stairs. Nothing but a night hawk coope sttod there - I jumped in. Drive to the Cliff House said I. Drive like the devil. He did so. As we turned into the park the bottom of the thing dropped out. The driver didn't notice it - kept right on driving like the devil and I had to run inside that hack all the way out here. I wouldn't have minded it though if it hadn't happened to efery negro minstrel on America. But, bless my soul, what does all this mean?

I appreciate the take off. But---

Me tell him. I'm in a worse scrape with him than you are.
Say, you've all had a narrow escape. Your uncle was in another room at the Riche.

Met him. We had a fight and a foot race. He won the foot race, I won the fight.

Not all of us. - waiting for you Mrs. Guyer.

------Waat for?

He somehow had the idea that you were to meet him there and go to the ball with him?

- ----absurd.

(All look)

Perhaps, but I've got his clothes on.

(Laugh.)

And here's a letter that I found in the pocket.

(Read)

My dear old boy -

-----Riche to meet me.

(All laugh)

Yes, and he'll be out here to meet you just as soon as he gets some clothes.

(Laugh)

-----stay here and---

(A11)

Get caught.

----- see, great.

(All) Great.

(All laugh)

----of the town.

(All start to sing)

-----come on.

(Look at letter.

I wonder if she did mean that letter for Rashleigh or Ben.

That does look like a B. Well if she didmmean it for old Ben, she is going to make him bear the consequences to save herself. She's going to disgrace that old man before his family, and these are the creatures we love and trust.

(Bus. of looking at signs ans exit R. U. E.)

(YOU enter L. 3. meet flirt e- screams and runs to ddor R. YOU and Norman after her. Men after her to R. door. All grab her and take her down stage. YOU L. Men form group around her.)
Out little kicker.
(Men hold hats as high as you can):

I know why she wouldn't open her mouth. She's got no teeth.

I knew I'd make her speak.

(Four men) That voice.

Great Scott.
(Men astonished)

(YOU and others.)

-----of my maid.

(Xing to C. laughing)
Gentlemen we are in the same fix as the vigilance committee who hung the wrong man by mistake. The laugh's on us.
Well this is my first night in San Francisco, but its a real one. It reminds me of the bight I struck way.

I have embalmed those facts in a little song.

You shall.

((SONG))

(All exit a/ la militaire.)
I'm right in line.

(Enter L.3.)
Something's the matter with me. I don't want a drink.
(Go to chair R.)
I must be at the point of death. Int the excitement of this night, I have forgotten that I was a sick man. Somehow I always do forget it the moment my attention is called away from it. I don't know how I am. I don't know how much I have shortened my life. I knly know I feel a draft. What's that.

Take it away. Take it away. (Lay down covering head with robe.)

(She sits on you, you grab her. You sit up. look roubd, put thermometer at back of neck.)
Well, this is simply devilish.

(Lay down again, covering head. YOU jump up when she hits you.)

My head? I mush have eaten something that disagrees with me.

Try it. hThat's the idea. That's just what I want.

Your mistress is a very fine woman.

You bet.

More than any lady I ever met.

with all my heart.

After last night? Not for gold or precious stones. (YOU spring up, see who it is turn and walk off R.U.E.)

(Re-enter - see her - aside)
She's crying. I do believe she's in love with me. I don't see any reason why she shouldn't be. (Aloud) My dear Mrs. Giyer why these tears.

(Sincere)
Say not so. Say not so.

----so very bad? Why I never hinted at such a thing.

But I didn't say that I wouldn't marry you for your own sweet self.

(Thermometer etc)
It may shorten my life, but it's -

Business.

(YOU kiss her - sit on chair.)
This is business isn't it?

(YOU put end of robe to chin.)

Engaged to me and going to breakfast with Ben Gay. Snd I'm to keep out of the way until it's all over. (Lean against ice-box - look into door.) I don't like it. (Thermometer to back of neck.) The thought chills me (See that you are leaning on ice-box.)
No, it's this ice-box, by Jove, an idea. I'll hide in here, and keep tab on that breakfast. I have some little confidence

in her, but none in him. (Get in crusher)

(You look out)
I wish I could see into that room.
(Disappear as the boys enter.)

(YOU and Widow listen to conversation between Ben and Slavin.)

(Slam down lid.)

(Landlord turns crank, YOU torn up, come out.)

I don't care, they're your clothes.

-----and go home.

(Slavin points pistol at you. All scream. OUT FOR A RACKET.)

CURRAIN.



