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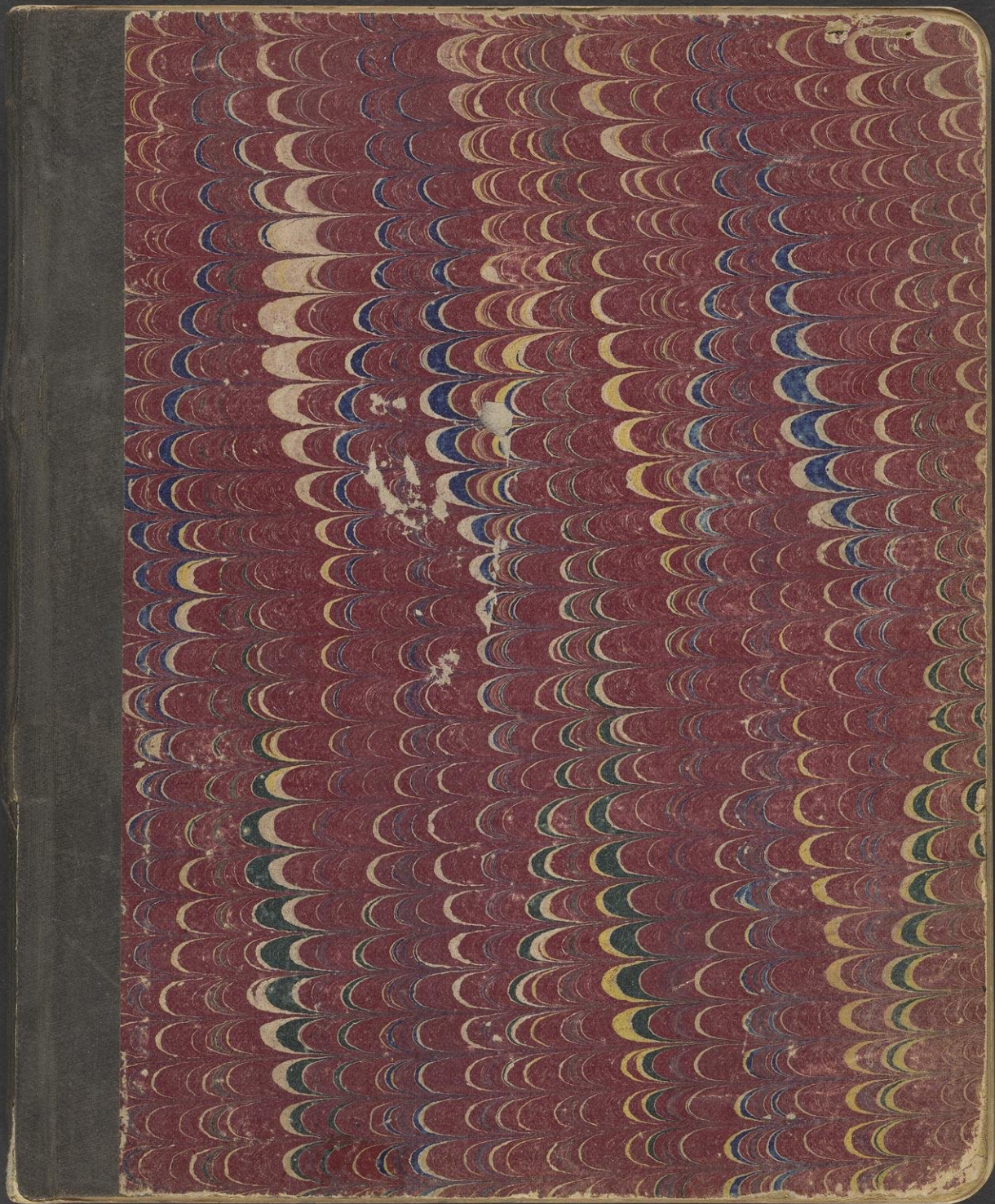
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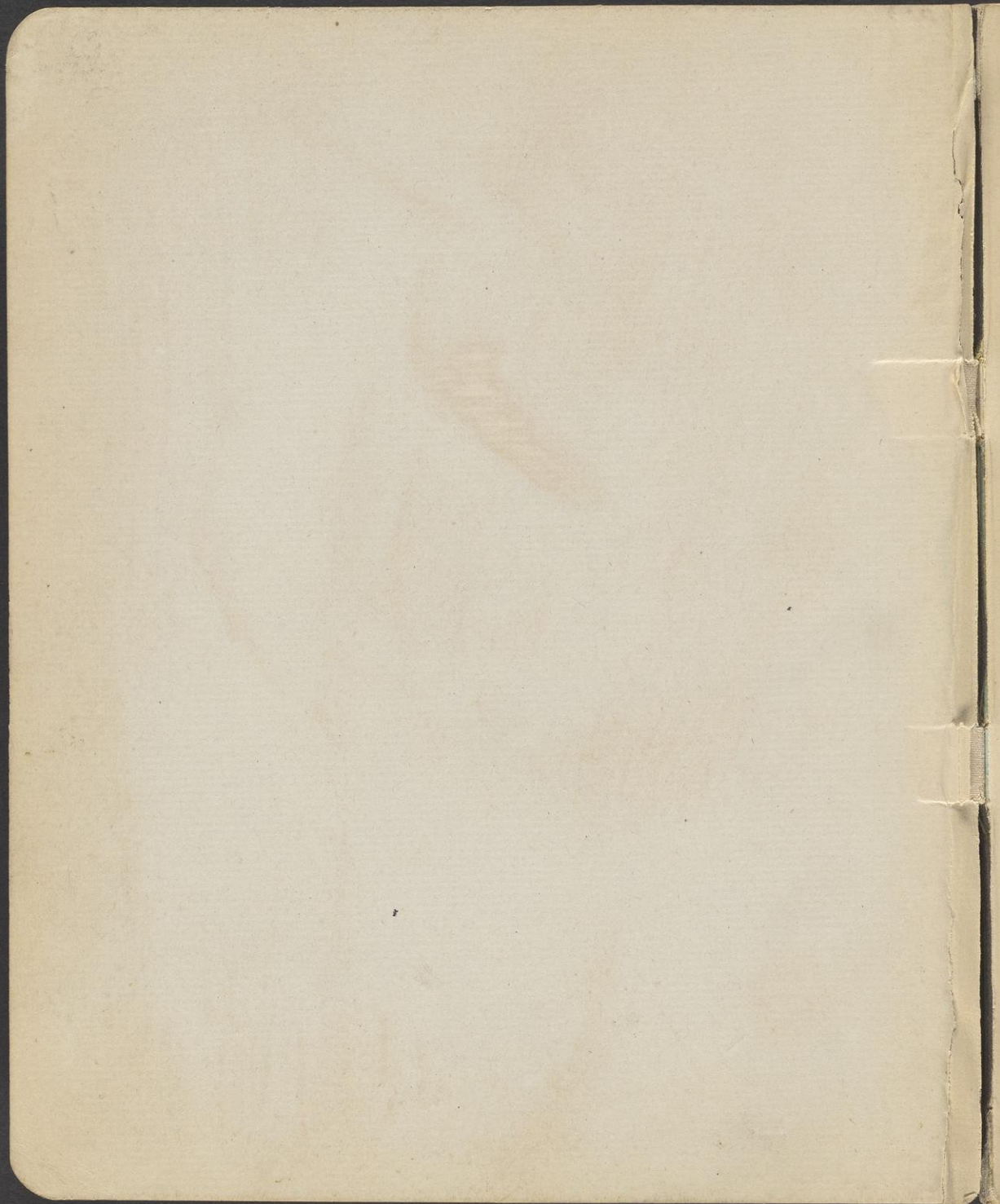
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ea
35

Paul and Virginia

Act First-

Scene First-

Margaret's Cabin

A bamboo hut, opening upon
a landscape of the Isle of France

Scene First

Madame De Latour, and
Margaret are seated right
and left, spinning cotton.

Margaret - I love to recall their
early years.

Mdme De Latour - Heaven protect
them from our eyes.

Margaret
Each of us two children had,

Madame De Labour
And they in us had each two
mothers.

Margaret
All they had was one; their cra-
dle of rest
Received them as birds in one
leafy nest.

Madame De Labour
The first words they could say
Were the tender names of Brothers
and Sisters.

Margaret
And children never lived
Who could utter those words
more sweetly.

Chorus -

I love to recall their early
years
Heaven protect them from our
evils
Each of us two children had
And they in us, had each two
mothers.

Mdm. De Labour (rising)

Behold, them both now grown,
Paul by his toil
Regardless of fatigue, has tri-
umphed o'er the soil;
Adding more land to our domain.

Margaret
Virginia at work in the
house may be found,
Or dispensing our alms to
the poor around,

The gift-presenting though she
the giver's name retain.

Mdme. De La Tour
Paul has eyes, but for her, his
soul is aflame,

Margaret
And Virginia's fond glances are
ever the same.

Mdme De La Tour
Near her all is delight, far
from her joy is flown

Margaret.
Without him nought can
please; she sees but him alone.

Chorus
Thus their happy hours of
childhood
Passed in holiest love away

As a fair and radiant morn-
ing
Of smiles, a brilliant day
Thanks to The Father who
hath given,
To our sad hearts this boon,
Their joyous smiles will
dry our tears -
And soothe our sorrows soon.

{ Margaret resumes her work
and Madme. De Latour comes
and sits near her.

Madme De Latours
Thus, than as well as I have
read their hearts

Margaret - (firmly)
Yes like you I have seen
their friendship succeeded
by a sentiment still more
tender.

Mdme. De Latour,
Ah well; may we not yet
see those early dreams of
happiness realized, when
folded in our arms, we
have rocked them to sleep.

Margaret. (joyfully)
What! you would consent?

Mdme. De Latour.
What say you? - Why should
I not? Are you not my
friend, my sister? - When
lonely and abandoned and
discarded did you not shel-
ter me when I sought refuge
in this strange land?

Margaret
you forget!

Mdme. De Latour
No, no! How could I

remember!

Margaret (after a silence
with compression)
I, I alas am only an hum-
ble peasant, only an exile
condemned to shame - I
was never married, my
son has not a name.

Madame. De Latour
And I have lost by death
the one who called me wife
and from those proud rela-
tions I once defied I no
longer expect aid, or par-
don ——— (taking the hands
of Margaret in hers)

But our children are still
young, our poor domain is
very small for them; let their
lives grow in peace, let them
remain in ignorance, tis
best they should be happy.

Domings (appears at back,

Margaret,

What is your advice? I wait
to hear.

Madme. De Latour

To send Paul to India, for
a time.

Domings (advancing)

Eh! What's that? —

Scene Second

The Same

Domingo to Mdm. De Latour,
You surely wish to alarm
no sisters, what have
you said - What is it that
I hear?

Ah send ye not young Master dear
Into that distant land
The waves may bear him safely
there

But the winds shift as the sand,
Know you what chance the
future holds?

Would you increase your power?
With my aid his strength unfold,
To give you what you wish each
hour.

Ah send ye not &c &c

Margaret and Medone.

De Labour approach each other
and clasp hands in silence,

Joy fears to tempt the treacherous

Dares not its depths to sound'
Why search the earth, tho' ^{sea} near

That which you seek is found?
Joy's each morning surely born
Stand ready at your hand,
Oh send ye not - & &

Margaret and Madame De Labour
(in low tone

The same fears arise
In our quivering hearts.

Madame De Labour
But this noise, what can it
mean? ^{noise outside.}

Dominica, (running to further end

All who are on the island,
men, women and children
are running to the town

Chorus (outside)

Behold! a ship from France
Into our harbor sailing
And the flag which flies at the mast
Brings a promise of hope unfa-
-ing.

A ship has entered our port
A ship which comes from France

[Running across the stage, are
seen the islanders, followed
by slaves, children &c.]

Mdame. De Labrousse (joyful)
Ah! a ship has arrived
from France to-day - Heaven!
if it bring me -

Domingo
What? -

Mdme. De Latour.
My pardon! a letter!!

Margaret,
Yes, your noble aunt has
deigned perhaps to remem-
ber you, and forgive you,
at last.

Mdme. De Latour.
Dont thou speak truly, let us
haste, come quickly!
[They are going]

Domingo
Where do you wish to go,
mistress? -

Mdme. De Latour
To Port-Louis.

Margaret, [aside]
Some dark presentiment
saddens me.

Dominique.
Let me go with you?—

Mdm. De Latour.
No, guard the children.

Margaret [aside]
I have a dreadful fear.

Mdm. De Latour
[Leads Margaret
Come Margaret,
[They go out.]

Chorus [in the distance

Behold! a ship from France,
Into our harbor sailing
And the flag which floats from the
mast—

Brings a promise of hope unfailing
Behold a ship from France
A ship in our harbor sailing.
[The voices die away in distance]

Scene 3^d

Domingo.

They have gone without me
see them already in the dis-
tance - They have left me
to guard the house.

[Seats himself ill humoredly]
Send Master Paul to Indieu!
beautiful idea! Poor children
they say nothing. Who knows?
Her dear aunt has perhaps
decided to forgive her and
this letter which we await
may bear ^{us} the good news.
[It commences to rain]

Ah! what rain and what
lightning a terrible storm
I hope Miss Mrs has found
a shelter from the storm.

[Gets up and moves restlessly]
But the children are not there,
Where shall I set them
towards the woods or the
plains? - Towards the
rocks, towards the mountains
Let us run! Not here! no!
not there!

[He takes a large bamboo
umbrella and runs out
one of the side doors. The
sledge remains vacant a
moment. Tom Paul and
Virginia appear both un-
der a large banana leaf.]

Scene 4

Virginia

We are sheltered at last -
now what think you of
my leaf for a parasite?
you see we were wise in
trusting to it.

Paul

Yes it - protected us well.

[They throw away the leaf
and come down the stage
hand in hand.

Duet

Oh joy! oh delight -
To love those who love us

Virginia,
My brother!

Paul.
My Sister.

Together

Oh bliss of Heaven above us
Oh joy! Oh delight!
To love those who love us.

[The sky clears, the sun appears,
Virginia seats herself and
Paul throws himself upon a
mat at her feet.]

Paul.

By what charm, hast thou
entranced me?
I ask my heart, it answers
not,
In seeing thee, I think 'tis
thy sweet smile,
In hearing thee, both voice
and smile beguiles!

By what charm hast thou
entranced me?

Virginia [smiling]

Thou askest-wherefore, dost
thou love me.

Deest-thou the birds by Heaven
blest-

Nursed together in one nest,
They love as thou lovest-me
and I love thee.

[They get up]

Paul.

When with labor fatigued, rest-
from me doth fly.

'Tis enough if thy voice in the
distance I hear

There's something that moves
me when'er thou'rt nigh.

Quies rest to my soul and
quiets all fear.

Virginia.

Oh, my brother the light thus
illuminating,
Upon forest-tree tops high,
To mine eyes is less
alluring
Than thy sweet face, when thou
art nigh.

Paul

Should forest shade thy form
conceal,
Or darkest-night, thy
presence hide
The radiance from thy
soul would steal
And guide me to thy
side.

Virginia

Thou know'st full well the
love I bear
For both our mothers, and
how each day

I love them still more dear
Is it for loving thee? Then I
pray
Each day with fervent prayer
for ~~each~~ both
But when it is for thee I
pray
My heart that prayer doth
bear away.

Together

Virginia

Thou askest wherefore dost
thou love me?

Seest thou the birds by
Heaven blest-

Nursed together in one nest,
They love as thou lovest me
and I love thee,

Paul,

By what charm hast thou
entranced me?

I ask my heart, it answers not
In seeing thee I think 'tis thy
sweet smile,
In hearing thee both voice
and smile beguile
By what charm hast thou
entranced me?—

[Meala weak, exhausted
and ragged appears upon
the threshold.]

Scene 5th

The Same

Meala.

My young lady take pity
on me!

Virginia [Turning at
her voice]

Ah, poor unfortunate!

[As Paul]

See what misery

Meala

Alas dragging my weary
limbs through dark forests
pursued by blood hounds
I fly from my master,

Paul.

Has he ill treated you?

Meala.

At his feet I begged for
mercy.

[Showing the marks of the whip on
her arms]

See

Paul

What is he?

Meala

A planter on Black River.

Paul.

The same perhaps to whom
the governor has sold his
lands.

Meala,

yes unhappily for us,

Paul.

I have heard of him before
I now remember.

Meala,

I have sought death, my woes
so fly

But you are so gentle. As

those who implore you
that I dare to ask, bending
before you

Oh generous hearts, must I
surely die? —

Virginica [with kindness]

Be consoled unhappy woman
There is milk and bread is bread,

[She places the milk and bread
before her]

Together

Melala [seating herself]

The poor condemned slave
Asks blessings on your head,

Virginia
'Tis God himself who led
thee here
Eat, eat as thou hast need.

Paul [silently regards Virginia
the alms which are bestowed
by her
A tenderer grace assume

Virginia [singing to Paul]

Alas! where are our mothers?

Paul

Doubtless at Port Louis, a
ship has arrived from this
country, but of what art
thou dreaming.

Virginia

Of this suffering creature
of the dreadful wanderings
in the forests and the
burning anger of her re-
lentless master.

Paul.

What counsel would
your mother give us? -

Virginia

When heaven smiles on us
If thy heart to mine be true
We have no need of counsel.

Paul

Thy heart perhaps misleads
thee, we can not always
guard that.

Virginia [approaches Meala]

I will go with you and ask
pity from your master.

Meala [rising]

To fall again in his power!

Virginia

Courage! have good hope!

[takes her hand]

The hearts which God himself
inspires

With innocence and love,
can better more where guilt-
conspires
Their aid is from above.

Meala [stretching her hands
towards front of stage]

Alas! through forests dear your
path will lead you, and
swollen rivers you 'must
ford.

Virginia

A happy soul feels no
fatigue. Besides I have
no fear [pointing to Paul]
my brother goes with me]

Meala [with submission]

It is for you to command,

Paul [aside]
God gives to her a charm

she will succeed.

Virginia

Now lead the way and I
will follow to your cruel
master.

Meala.

I obey - To you I surrender
myself, you come as an
angel from heaven.

Together -

The hearts which God himself
inspires
With innocence and love
can better move, where
guilt-conspires
Their aid is from above.

[They go out-]

[Change of Scene]

Second Tableau.

The Plantation of M. De St-Croix

In front a field of sugar cane
to the right a pavillion, the
door protected by a veranda,
The slaves at work. A bright
sun illumines the scene.

Scene First-

Slaves black and mulattoes,
women & children walk
among the canes, going & com-
ing - A Negro asleep under
the shade of a cactus. A
young mulattress

The negro [rings in plaint
I had all my earnings hid
Our liberty to buy,

I had all my earnings hid away
The whites also took them one day

Chorus [in front.

O fierce, burning sun!
My breath deserts me!
The earth melts with heat
O - heaven have mercy.

[During the chorus the millattress
approaches the negro and gives
him a gourd which he
carries to his lips]

The Negro -
Ah - poor negro thou must suffer
still
Thy master whips; but he dare
not kill
Ah! poor negro thou must
suffer still
Death is denied thy longing
still.

Chorus-

Oh fierce burning sun
My breath dries to me
The earth melts with heat
Oh! heaven have mercy!

[Enter M. St-Croix followed
by the overseer and two
mulattoes bearing whips].

Scene 2nd

The same, Saint-Croix, two
mulattoes, and overseer.

St Croix.

Who dares to complain, or
to sing, silence!

[Perceives the Negro sleeping
What are you doing ~~there~~
here? - Taking your ease

[Kicks him]
Wallo you rascal, get up
there and go to 'work.

To the young mulattress

Who are you? - By the powers
you are not so ugly - You
may bring me my coffee
by land by, but mind, I
wish no more crying - Go!

[Raising his voice and address-
ing the other slaves.

I am your Master now
and the one who sold you
leaves for France tomorrow.
The new governor will short-
ly arrive. Without knowing
even his name, I have hope
that he will punish all
fugitives.

[Turning towards the overseer
and the mulattoes

You must find some
means to track this young
Meal, put on her track
the fiercest blood hounds
I'll have her alive or dead.

[The slaves with fright and in
low voice]

Behold her!

[Meala appears followed by
Paul and Virginia,

Scene 3^d

The same, Meala, Paul and Virginia

St. Croix

'Tis she!

[Meala in low tones to
Paul & Virginia, points to
St. Croix

'Tis he!!

[She falls at the feet of St. Croix

St. Croix,

In the devil's name where
are you from, who brought
thee back I'd like to know!

Paul [advancing
Have mercy, listen to me,

forgive her!

St. Louis

Who are you? What do you want?

Paul.

We bring your slave to you, who

though erring

Far, far, away your anger daring

Now prays her fault may be

condoned.

Your rage no doubt is just:

that we admit.

But though she did a crime

commit

Her suffering here for that

atoned.

St. Louis [with pride

It seems not so to me, I
am her Master,

[menacing threat]

And in returning her, you
recognize my rights.

Together

St. Croix

Who is there who will deny
my rights?

Virginia [aside]
I dread his angry voice.

Paul -

No one denies your rights.

Meala.

Alas! I tremble at his voice.

The Corsic [softly]
Revengeance is in his voice.

Virginia [advancing to
St. Croix]

Have mercy! Show her some
pity.

St. Croix [aside]

Who is this lovely child? -

Virginia

Pardon her I pray, that
which I would say I ^{now} forget!

What I would ask, my tongue
I know she from you fled away,
But she the fully slow repenteth

Pardon I pray! Pardon I pray!
I have ⁺ braved the forests
dear

Through the heat! I've come
this day,

Here behold me, trembling
weary!

Pardon I pray! Pardon I pray!
When all the world abandon
ed her

My heart-alone became her
stay,

For love of God now pity her -
Pardon I pray, Pardon I pray!

[She falls on her knees before
St. Croix

[Slaves in low plaintive voice

Oh! that sweet voice

Oh that smile so tender
'tis a song of birds, that in the
air rejoice

At her first word all hearts surround,
I would but for aye speak on
sweet voice.

- St. Croix [aside raising
Virginia

Oh that sweet voice, Oh that
smile so tender

Stirs me to my inmost soul
in spite of me.

[Aloud to Virginia
St. Croix

Tell me your name my
charming maiden,

Virginia
Virginia is my name.

[She approaches Paul with fear
And this is my brother,

St. Leroy aside

She is beautiful,

aloud
Your sweet voice has touched
my heart - For your sake I
grant the request and par-
don her [pointing to Meala]
To you I yield

Virginia [with joy
Oh! Sir I thank you!

Meala [aside

How he gazes upon her,

St. Croix, to Virginia

What? You are not going? Wait
until evening. Rest yourself be-
neath the shade of our trees
and breathe the fresh air of
heaven. I will have some
entertainment prepared for you.

[To a slave

Bring wine and fruits.

[To the other slaves

And you give yourselves
up to play, sing and dance.

Chorus

The master doth pardon

The master commandeth

Let us obey and sing and dance

[A table is brought in covered

with fruit. St. Croy invites
Virginia and Paul to be seated.
The mulattoes carry a flask
of wine. St. Croy fills the
glasses. The slaves dance
and strike the cocoa nuts
together.

Chorus
La Bamboula
La Bamboula
La Bamboula
Wa! ha! ha! ha!
This is my jolly!
Poor Slave.

Hopeless, by her forgotten
Only work and we
La Bamboula
La Bamboula
La Bamboula
Wa! ha! ha! ha!
The master is there!

- Meala [aside

See his eyes are still fixed
upon her -

[Trying to approach Virginia

How ^{can} shall I name her?

St. Erny [to Meala

Come my beauty to pay for
thy freedom, thou shalt sing
us a song.

Meala
I obey.

Virginia [aside
Poor creature.

Meala [to Virginia and Paul
Listen well to my song.

[She takes from the hands of one
of the slaves a sort of guitar, with
which she accompanies herself.

Chorus

Death rank vines entwining
In dismal swamps ^{hiding} ~~belonging~~
The tiger is there,
Fiery glances sending
For his prey attending
The gloom is his lair,
The light soon will fade there,
The night is nigh
He waits to assail thee
Oh haste and fly,

Chorus

Fly, fly.

So, leaving emptying his glass
again and again.

Enough! It is too long, let the
dance go on. The devil take

your song.

Paul.

No! suffer her to finish.

Meala.

Oh! gazelle affrighted
In the desert blighted,
Hie! quick on thy way!
Let nothing detain thee
Thy retreat regain thee
Till dawn of the day.

[Turning to Paul and Virginia
The light will soon leave thee
The night is nigh,
He waits to assure thee
Oh haste thee & fly.

Chorus.

Haste thee and fly.

Paul [rising
I understand.

[To Virginia
Come, let us go.

St. Louis - [staggering makes
an attempt to rise
Why this haste, come sit down
again -
Paul.

No!
Virginia [low to Paul
Come! I am afraid.

Paul
Adieu.

[He takes Virginia and
they go
St. Louis [turning with anger
to Meala
\$

Is thy cursed son has
driven them away

Meala -
You ordered your slave

To sing a song.

St. Louis

'Death I believe she de-
fies me' [To overseer

Here seize her, take her away
and punish her.

[The two mulattoes seize her
and lead her away.

As for the other, I will find
her tomorrow

[The slaves are struck dumb
with terror

Sing and dance you scoun-
drels, while I glass in
hand drink this wine
which fires my senses.

[He falls heavily upon his
chair and calls the young
mulattress to him.

Chorus [in low tones

God give us pardon,
The Master commands it
Let us obey and sing and dance,
[with spirit

La Bamboula, La Bamboula
La Bamboula, La Bamboula
Ha! ha! ha! ha!

The Chorus stops, and listens
to a cry which comes from
the crowd.

Poor Meala!

Chorus

~~Poor slave~~

It is my folly, Poor slave
By her forgotten, without hope
Only work and woe
La Bamboula, La Bam-
boula

La Bamboula La Bamboula
Ha! ha! ha! ha!

[Another cry! Again the chorus
cease.

Poor Meala.

St. Lesoir

By the devil, they're asleep,
sing out, sing out.

Chorus

La Bambula! La Bambula!
ha! ha! ha! &c.

[The dance becomes more and
more animated. The curtain
falls -

End of Act. 1st.

Act 2nd

First-Tableau

The House of M^{de}m. De Latour,

At the rising of the curtain Virginia is discovered seated. M^{de}m. De Latour is adorning her with jewels and an indigo scarf &c. At the back of the stage Domingo is at work upon a rush mat.

Scene 1st.

Virginia, M^{de}m. De Latour
and Domingo.

M^{de}m. De Latour

These jewels make thee look
even more beautiful.

Virginia [aside
Alas! Where is Paul -

Mdme. De Latour [presenting a
mirror to Virginia
Here Virginia; judge for thyself,
Let thine own eyes see thee.

Domingo advancing
Oyes for others these may make
Thee more beautiful. I like
her best as she was.

Mdme. De Latour [with reproach
Domingo!

Virginia [rising
Oyes he is right!

Domingo,
When I found you in the
depths of the forest that
dark night, why did not

some warning voice foretell
that this sad hour was com-
ing?

(Lifting bag of gold which is
on the table,
Alas this gold which was
sent to us from France should
have brought only happiness,
not bitter sorrows.

[At a gesture from Mdmé,
De Labour Domingo exits.

Scene 2nd

Virginia & Mdmé De Labour

Virginia

What does he mean?

Mdmé De Labour.

I dare not yet confess to thee
yet the one who sends us
this gift -

Virginia

Well what does she require of
thee - finish 'go on.'

Mdme. De Latour presents a letter
to Virginia
This letter will tell you all,
read it!

Virginia [after reading the
letter hastily
Oh Heaven! Leave you! Bid
you an eternal farewell?
[She staggers as if
about to fall

Mdme. De Latour [supports her
in her arms]

We must submit - my child
Your grand aunt had con-
sented to forget the past
and begs you to accept her
kind welcome. You will
become her heiress. Your
absence will not be an
eternal one. You will

return to us.

Virginia [With sadweep
No! I can never obey her cruel
commands -

[She falls weeping in
the arms of M^{de} De Latour.
I can not leave my mother

M^{de} De Latour
She has the right to command,

Virginia
Ah! all my soul cries out
against it.

M^{de} De Latour [smiled
My dear child if I bid thee
go it is for Paul.

Virginia [excitedly
For him! For Paul!

Madme. De La Tour
Remember child he has nothing
but that which he gains by
his toil, if you two should
marry.

Virginia [Hiding her head
upon the bosom of her Mother,
My Mother!

Madme. De La Tour
I know the tie that binds you
two. I have read it in your
soul, his love and shine,

Virginia
I knew it not myself in
oil today and now for
the first time I know how
much I love him.

As through the woods last night
our doubtful path we tried

His hand in safety o'er a stream
die draw me

Then in my veins I felt an un-
known fire run through me.

Then for the first time did I
tumble at his side.

O flame divine! O flame celestial!
E'en as a flower opens o'er my heart
By his side I fain would stay forever
But fate now wills that we should
part.

When my tottering feet no more
the path could keep,
The softest mat he sought on which
I could extend me
All night he watched me ready
to defend me.

Content, I closed my eyes, and
yet I could not sleep.

O flame divine! O flame celestial!
E'en as a flower opens o'er my heart
By his side I fain would stay forever
But fate now wills that we
should part.

Madme. De Latour

Think of the bliss that awaits
thee on thy return and dry thy
tears.

Virginia

I can not do it,

Madme. De Latour

At least keep silence say nothing
to him of this love!

Virginia (with despair)

You wish it?—

Madme. De Latour [putting her
arms around her neck]

Think it over my child until
evening— God's holy servant,
who knows and loves thee
has promised to come this
evening and advise thee
Give him heed 'tis all I
ask.

[Virginia releases herself from
her mother's embrace. M^{rs} De
Latur regards her sadly
and then moves away.]

Scene 3^d

Domingo and Virginia

Virginia

Ah my heart fails me. I
felt that some dreadful blow
was coming - What shall I
say? What shall I do?

[Sees Domingo at back
of stage.]

Domingo he knows
all

[Approaches Domingo excited^{ly}
Tell me what shall I do?
I die! My courage fails
me.]

[Domingo continues his

work without regarding Virginia

