

*1/2 mofing to*  
**Hodgson's Juvenile Drama.**

*(Entered at Stationers' Hall and the Stamp Office.)*

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THE  
**BLIND BOY.**

**A Drama,**

**IN TWO ACTS:**

*(W. B. HEWETSON)*

ADAPTED TO

**HODGSON'S THEATRICAL CHARACTERS AND  
SCENES IN THE SAME.**

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## CHARACTERS REPRESENTED.

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### *Men.*

STANISLAUS, *King of Sarmatia.*

EDMOND, *his Son.*

RODOLPH.

OBERTO.

STAROW.

KALIG.

MOLINO.

HIGH PRIEST.

*Officers, Guards, &c. &c.*

### *Women.*

LIDA.

ELVINA.

*Ladies, Attendants, &c.*



# THE BLIND BOY.

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## ACT THE FIRST.

### SCENE. I.

*The Farm-yard of OBERTO'S, taking the full extent of the stage ; door of the house on the right ; on the left an out-house ornamented with plants, &c. ; at the bottom a small river, with a bridge, the wall a little broken ; the back scene presents a rural view.*

ELVINA enters from the house, with a small watering pot.

Elv. THERE, I have refreshed all the flowers ; and when Edmond returns, he will be sure to know that it has all been done to please him ;—they look most delightful to view ; but, alas ! poor Edmond, cannot see them ;—still, when I take a faded flower away, and place one more fragrant near his window, he is sure to discover it, and return his thanks to his careful Elvina.— [MOLINO sings, without.

—That is Molino's voice, and he comes this way.

Mol. There's the sweetest girl in the neighbourhood !—she's by herself ;—now if I can just put on resolution, and—hem !—I'll speak a speech, and surprise her.—Let me see :—Elvina, the flowers look charming, beautiful, exquisite, and, and—upon my honour, you look the same ; you do indeed,—so, how do you do, Miss ?

Elv. Quite well, Molino :—but where did you get that fine speech ?



*Mol.* I made it here, on the spot, I assure you,—by instinct, as they call it.—Why, when I was at school, the master, always called me a *genus*.

*Elv.* A *genus*! what's that Molino?

*Mol.* Why, that's—a—a—a—you know what it is as well as I do!—but we'll change the subject, for I don't like to flatter myself.—Is Oberto out?

*Elv.* He is out with the reapers;—you will find him in the field, close by the wood.

*Mol.* And where is Edmond, the blind boy? he'd be very glad to see me.

*Elv.* No doubt;—poor fellow! it is a sad misfortune.

*Mol.* So it is:—why, now I know there are such pretty creatures as you in the world, I wouldn't be blind for all the world.—There's my *genus* at work again!—(*aside.*)

*Elv.* But although Edmond cannot see, he enjoys other gifts to make him happy; he is now in the field with my father, he hears them converse and sing, and thus poor Edmond is by them delighted.

*Mol.* I don't doubt it at all; he's a very nice young fellow, considering that he is blind, and he is very much noticed by all the villagers;—indeed, Edmond, yourself, and I, are three of the best looking people in this neighbourhood—besides it's all settled; your father, Oberto, and my good father have married us already.

*Elv.* Indeed!

*Mol.* Yes; and I came here to inform you of it, just to make you happy.

*Elv.* Happy indeed!—I do not understand you!

*Mol.* Don't understand me,—why, who has bought you all the pretty little amusements of Warsaw? who always made garlands, and other pretty affairs to please you?—ah, you know all about it, Elvina; only you don't like to tell me what a great regard you have for me.

*Elv.* Indeed Molina, it is not my wish to deceive you;—besides, you know very well I am bound to Edmond; and nothing can make me forsake him!

*Mol.* Then, you love him a good deal?

*Elv.* As a friend, certainly!—and I am sure he



loves me a great deal more than ever I loved him.

*Mol.* Oh!—then that settles my business:—you love Edmond, and Edmond loves Elvina; still, of this I am certain, that I'm a much better looking person than he is.

*Elv.* My father comes this way!—see, he approaches us:—

[*ELVINA runs to meet OBERTO; OBERTO enters across the bridge.*

—Oh, my dear father, mind how you come across the bridge!

*Ober.* It is certainly in a broken down condition: it has given way again, I suppose.

*Elv.* I am afraid it will come down all together, some day.—Where is Edmond, father?

*Ober.* He is coming home with my men;—he's safe enough, I assure you.

*Mol.* Why, bless you, that blind boy can see his way in the dark, he never runs against a post: and as for escaping danger, one would think he possessed a better sight than the generality of poor people. Now wonder if he could find the way to kiss a pretty girl!

*Elv.* Don't talk nonsense, Molino!

*Ober.* What's the matter, Molino?

*Mol.* Nothing; only she will persist in saying she does not love me, and I will persist she does, and she can't help it;—but never mind, I'll continue to make love to her, till there's an end of it, at any rate.

[*Going.*

*Ober.* There's nothing done without courage, Molino.—But tell me, are you going to the city?

*Mol.* Aye, that I am; and if you like, you shall have the honour of riding with me:—oh, there will be such doings at Warsaw—nothing but dancing, singing, eating, drinking, and laughing. The king's son, Rodolph, is to be united to the Princess Lida; and I would not lose the sight for the world. I shall go in my own conveyance;—Miss Elvina can go—Ed-



mond can go—you can go—and as the chaise belongs to me, of course nobody will say but I have a right to go!

*Ober.* It will be a folly to take Edmond!

*Mol.* No folly, I know:—why, there will be soldiers in grand dresses, lamps burning, and flags flying.

*Ober.* But he cannot see them!

*Mol.* Well, do you know, I quite forgot that!

*Elv.* I thank you, Molino, for Edmond and myself; but we like the retirement here better than the noise and bustle of Warsaw.

*Mol.* Then you want taste!—now I like an uproar: I'll whip and whip, and tickle my horse, till he shall kick and gallop so as to astonish the new married couple, and all the courtiers in the city.

[*Cracks his whip, and Exit.*]

*Ober.* Elvina, the offer is kind, and I am sorry we cannot accept it:—but say, Elvina,—have you made up your mind to marry Molino?

*Elv.* Dear father, if I should marry him, what would become of poor Edmond—his situation would be forlorn, and it must inevitably break his heart.

*Ober.* No, no, Elvina—I will never forsake poor Edmond!

*Elv.* But you could not always attend him; I know his wants—his sentiments—his heart; and I should be most miserable, if we once were parted.

[*Weeps.*]

*Ober.* Come, come!—do not weep; but tell me candidly, do you wish to be the wife of Edmond?

*Elv.* I never had such an idea:—still there is a something tells me, he is unprotected; and I should wish to watch and comfort him for ever!

*Ober.* I have thought of this before Elvina; still, there is one thing very much against it.

*Elv.* (*Anxiously*). Pray tell me what it is, father?

*Ober.* Nay, I am not certain: still I am fearful; for I imagine Edmond's parents were not of the common order.

*Elv.* What makes you think so?



*Ober.* Attend, and you shall learn.—I had been in the army many years, when your mother and I were married;—we retired to a neighbouring village, and lived in a state of poverty. When you were about three years old, a man followed you into our cottage with a child in his arms, saying to me—Here is a purse with five hundred pieces of gold, if you will take charge of this infant.—My wife and I looked at one another, when you cried, “Do, papa, take the little dear, it is so pretty!” upon which we took it, with the purse, and shortly afterwards discovered it was blind.

*Elv.* Indeed!

*Ober.* We quitted the village of Gesna, and bought this farm, which has prospered ever since;—and I should still have been very happy, had your mother lived.

*Elv.* (*Weeps*) Alas! my poor dear mother!

*Ober.* When Edmond was placed under my care, Gesna was the residence of Stanislaus; after which he established his court at Warsaw. Now the secret manner in which the child was brought---the immense sum contained in the purse—all combined, prompts me to believe that Edmond may be the son of some great nobleman.---This shews the necessity of being considerate before we talk of marriage!

[*EDMOND appears on the Bridge, and advances cautiously, using his stick to find the way.*

*Elv.* (*When she perceives him on the bridge, exclaims,*) Another step, and he will fall!

*Ober.* Edmond! mind, the bridge is broken!

*Elv.* Wait for me Edmond!---don't move till I come to you!—

[*She runs to EDMOND, takes him by the hand, leads him over the bridge, and places him on the seat near the window.*

—Edmond, you should always be very careful when you come to that dangerous bridge; a waggon passed



it this morning, and it will soon fall to pieces in consequence of the shaking it got.

*Edm.* I waited a considerable time for you, Elvina.--Hark! is not that the sound of a horn?

*Elv.* I hear it not!

*Edm.* I not only hear the horn, but I can hear the huntsmen distinctly!

*Elv.* (*Listening.*) I cannot, I assure you.

*Ober.* Oh, you must be mistaken, Edmond!

*Edm.* No, no! I can hear it better now—the sound is louder, and the hunters come this way.

[*ELVINA and her father listen, and the horn is heard at a distance.*]

*Elv.* Now, father, do you hear it?

*Ober.* I do, and am surprised that he could hear it at such an immense distance:—now, it is much nearer!

*Elv.* I dare say it is Prince Rodolph, and his hunting party.

*Ober.* I should think not: he has other business to attend to; you know he is to be married to-morrow.

*Edm.* I wonder who the lady is?—Poor thing, I pity her! for Prince Rodolph is considered a very dissipated character.—If the world speaks true, he was born blind, but heaven has since been pleased to restore his sight.—Elvina!

*Elv.* (*Advances to EDMOND.*) I am here, Edmond.

*Edm.* You have been placing fresh flowers at the window to day, Elvina!

*Elv.* Why, is it possible you can discover it?

*Edm.* To be sure I can:—every thing Elvina does, increases my happiness; and to be near one, who is so kind to me is a greater pleasure than I have the power to express: nay, with such a friend and protector, my misfortunes vanish.

*Elv.* And all our attentions are repaid, if Edmond only loves my father and Elvina.

*Ober.* I have a long story to tell you about Elvina,—one that will surprise you, Edmond!



*Elv.* Father,—don't—don't!—(*low, to OBERTO, and checking him.*)

*Edm.* Let your father speak, Elvina; I'm sure he can say no harm of you.—Now do, father, tell me what she did say?

*Ober.* Oh! she said----

[*ELVINA appears alarmed, and endeavours to prevent his speaking.*

—Why she said----

*Edm.* What?

*Ober.* Remember what you say, when she is away from you--and then you know the whole affair.—

[*The horn sounds again, and is much nearer.*

—Ha! the hunters are come, sure enough; we must prepare for them, as they will require a little refreshment after the chace!

*MOLINO enters; he runs across the Bridge.*

*Mol.* Oh dear! oh dear! how pleased I am!—the hunters will be here presently; and I know who is to be with them:--don't you know who it is, Oberto?

*Ober.* No!

*Mol.* Why, Rodolph; the King's son, he's very fond of hunting; and he's going to be married to-morrow: and do you know he has killed a wild boar!--I wouldn't miss seeing him for the world--I have never seen a Prince, and it will be quite a treat to me!

*Ober.* (*Aside.*) If Rodolph is with them, I wish the party would take some other road!

*Mol.* It is no other than Rodolph, the Prince.

*Ober.* The Prince!

*Mol.* Aye! And he must be very partial to hunting, when he comes thus far from his bride. He's very fond of chacing the wild boar. I hope, with all my heart, he may not find matrimony a boar; for he is to be married to morrow. Just come and have a look, Elvina—see, Edmond!

*Edm.* You know I cannot see, Molino.

*Ober.* Booby!

*Mol.* I'll have a peep at him, however, if its only



to see what sort of a thing a prince is. Look! look! they are all coming!

*Ober.* I'd rather be without their company.

[*The hunters are heard without, Officers Guards, Huntsmen, &c. &c. cross the bridge—RODOLPH, STAROW, KALIG, and others come down—Horns sound, &c.*

*Rod.* Is this your farm?

*Ober.* It is, your Highness.

*Rod.* We are fatigued, and require the best your farm can afford us.

*Ober.* Certainly, your highness—(to ELVINA.) Elvina, bring forth refreshment: as the day is warm, the gentlemen will probably like it best in the open air.

*Rod.* We shall, (*seats himself.*) You have been in the army, I believe?

*Ober.* I have, your highness, and fought for my king and country.

*Rod.* What's your name?

*Ober.* Oberto.

*Kalig.*—(*aside*)—The very man I have been seeking.

[*ELVINA places jugs and cups on the table.*

*Rod.* Is that your daughter?

*Ober.* She is, your highness.

*Rod.* She is a pretty girl.

*Edm.* (to ELVINA)—Elvina, let us be gone.

[*ELVINA leads EDMOND into the house—RODOLPH drinks.*

*Mol.* Why, lord, the prince swallows just the same as I do!

*Kalig.* Is the youth I just now beheld blind?—(to MOLINO.)

*Mol.* Aye, as blind as a bat.

*Kalig.* He is Oberto's son?

*Mol.* Bless you, no. I don't believe he ever had a father or mother.

*Kalig.* Then I am right at last.

*Rod.* (*comes forward*)—Starow, I feel fatigued:



my mind's oppressed, for there is one existing here whose life is sufficient to make me unhappy.

*Star.* Let me fly to—(*draws his dagger.*)

*Rod.* Peace!—I am no coward myself, and will avenge my wrongs. Quick, give orders for our departure.

[*STAROW beacons to the troops, &c.—OBERTO approaches the prince.*]

*Rod.* Oberto, take this purse.

*Ober.* My prince, I am an old soldier, and can never consent to receive reward for performing so pleasing a duty.

*Rod.* Thanks! thanks! I shall remember and reward you yet. Depart! [*Exit with Suite.*]

(*KALIG remains—MOLINO goes with the hunters—KALIG goes up to OBERTO.*)

*Kalig.* Can any one overhear us?

*Ober.* I believe not.

*Kalig.* You are called, Oberto.

*Ober.* True.

*Kalig.* You lived some distance, from this formerly.

*Ober.* I did, but it is a long time ago.

*Kalig.* Where is the blind infant, entrusted to your care?

*Ober.* He was with my daughter, not five minutes since. Perhaps you knew his parents?

*Kalig.* I did. I have sought you for a considerable time to deliver this parchment. Receive it now, for it is addressed to you.

*Ober.* To me! It bears the seal of the late queen!—

[*OBERTO trembles and tears the packet.*]

*Kalig.* Come, come, be steady for—

*Elv.* (*entering.*)—Are you coming in, father?

*Gber.* Yes, yes, you may go in.

*Elv.* What's the matter with you, father?

*Ober.* Nothing, nothing—go in, go in.

[*Exit ELVINA.*]

*Ober.* Now, sir, be kind enough to inform me---

*Kalig.* I cannot remain here longer: read that packet when you are done--farewell! farewell!



*Ober.* I should like to read it before you.

*Kalig.* It cannot be; beware of Rodolph--seek me at court; and at the risk of my life I will prove your friend. [Exit.

*Ober.* I am quite alarmed. I cannot break the seal. Oh, Edmond, it is for you I tremble: Psha! a soldier and tremble! I am ashamed of myself.

[*OBERTO breaks the Seal--then pauses--unfolds the packet, and is violently agitated.*

Ha! Edmond is my lawful prince! Heir to the crown! I can read no more, Rodolph, is not--and I--Ha! There will be some business to do here.

[*MOLINO runs in.*

*Mol.* Well, Oberto, all is ready, and you may come, if you think fit, to accept my offer.

*Ober.* The fate of the Empire; nay, I have every thing in my power; and one word from me is sufficient to secure the crown.

*Mol.* (*Goes up to OBERTO.*) Why, what ails you, neighbour Oberto?

*Ober.* How long have you been here?

*Mol.* I hav'nt been here a moment. I came to say that all is ready, the chaise is waiting; but you seem rather confused. The Empire--the crown--the --Ha, ha, ha! Why you must be dreaming.

*Ober.* Well, well it was so:--I dreamt I was a lord or a duke, or--

*Mol.* Then leave off dreaming, and come to the chaise. I dreamt one night I was riding a white horse; but when I awoke I found myself stretched upon the floor, and whipping the bed post.

*Ober.* (*Aside.*) I'm glad he did not understand me.---Excuse me for leaving you, Molino, I have a great deal of business to do.

*Mol.* Good day, good day! [Going.

*Ober.* Stop Molino--I think, if you can wait a few minutes, I will go with you.

*Mol.* That's right! that's right! I am so glad of that.

*Ober.* Go, my friend; let every thing be prepared, and if you come back in twenty minutes, I will accompany you. Elvina will go, Edmond too----



*Mol.* Edmond ! what will be the use of his going ?

*Ober.* Oh ! if he dont go—I, of course, must decline.

*Mol.* I hav'nt the least objection ; but you make such a fuss about Edmond. Edmond, Edmond, Edmond, it's nothing but Edmond. [Exit.

ELVINA enters.

*Ober.* Elvina, I have great news, where is Edmond ?

*Elv.* He is in the house : what is the news, father ?

*Ober.* It is wonderful news—Go and call Edmond.

*Elv.* He is coming.

[EDMOND enters—OBERTO embraces him.

*Ober.* Edmond, my prince—(*Kneels.*)—here let me pay my homage.

*Edm.* What, kneeling, Oberto !

*Ober.* Yes, to my prince : Here is a packet, written by the late queen. Edmond, you are the son of Stanislaus.

*Edm.* Is it possible ?

*Elv.* Can it be ?

*Edm.* Oberto, inform me how——

*Ober.* Wait, wait, and I shall read it,—“ Oberto” you see she knew my name was Oberto—but, but, but, I--I cannot read it--you read it, Elvina, for I cannot.

*Elv.* (*Reads.*) “ Oberto, if the child placed in your care be living, the packet will explain to you who, and what he is--I have wrong'd the king ; Rodolph is not heir to the throne--the child given to you was born blind, and Rodolph has ever since been cherished by the king and the people.”

*Ober.* Proceed ! proceed.

*Elv.* (*Reads.*) “ Rodolph is son to the Palatine of Rava. I know I have not long to live, and I shall never more behold my child ; but I have entrusted this to an officer of strict integrity. (*Raising her voice.*) I command you, Oberto, instantly to explain this to the king and the people, and restore my son to a father's love, and the possession of his lawful rights.

“ Judith of Bohemia,

“ QUEEN OF SARMATIA.”



*Ober.* I will do my duty.

[*Bows respectfully over the packet--ELVINA weeps.*]

Elvina, my girl, you must not weep when Edmond is the greatest man in the nation.

*Edm.* Sooner than give Elvina the least uneasiness, I will destroy the packet.

*Ober.* What mean you, my prince ?

*Edm.* Call me not by that name. Let Rodolph reign ; Edmond can still be happy with Elvina.

*Ober.* I must obey the queen. She has commanded me to do my duty to my king, my prince, and country. And while I have strength to use my voice or raise my arm, I will not forsake the cause of Edmond. Come, come, my children !

[*He forces them off reluctantly.*]

## ACT THE SECOND.

### SCENE II.

*A magnificent Temple, with a flight of steps leading to the Vestibule--large folding doors are discovered at the back.*

*Enter KALIG, he places the soldiers to prevent the multitude from entering--when all is arranged, KALIG enters--Shouts, Drums, &c. OBERTO, ELVINA, and EDMOND enter.*

*Ober.* Here we are, in a complete scene of bustle. I am almost afraid we shall not be able to see the king ; for it is not a very easy matter to gain access to royalty.

*Elv.* I tremble lest your resolution should bring you into trouble ; at home we were happy, but here---



*Ober.* We shall be equally so ?

*Edm.* I am afraid not--there is such a terrific noise from the populace, that my senses are confused ; and I begin to think no place like our peaceful cottage. Oh, my father ! let us leave this place, and once more taste the pleasures of retirement.

*Ober.* No--I am determined. This splendor has little effect here ; (*Pointing to his head.*) and knowing my cause to be just, it cannot affect me here (*His heart.*)--These warlike sounds I have been accustomed to ; they certainly elevate my spirits, and give me fresh courage : Therefore, be bold, be resolute, my children, and follow me.

[*They are proceeding when stopt by the guards.*

*Sold.* I cannot suffer you to pass.

[*KALIG comes forth.*

*Kalig.* It is the farmer, Oberto : (*To soldier.*) Make way for them. The young man is blind, and we have a right to protect him from danger.

[*Soldier retires.*

*Ober.* What, Kalig here ? I am glad we have found you. You see the prince.

[*KALIG prevents him from finishing the sentence.*

*Kalig.* Silence ! Rodolph's emmissaries are abroad.

*MOLINO enters.*

*Mol.* Oh, you can't refuse ; you must let me pass : I am one of the other party.

*Kalig* (*To soldier.*) Let him proceed.

*Mol.* Aye, let me proceed. I want Oberto, and Elvina, and Edmond, and--oh ! there they are ; and a fine piece of work I had to get to you !

*Ober.* Silence !

*Mol.* Silence : for what ?

*Ober.* (*Drawing KALIG aside.*) You must direct me how to act : the paper must be shewn to the king ; by some means I must be introduced to him ; and you are the only person by whose means it can be done.

*Kalig.* I am afraid, Oberto, the difficulty is too



great. Rodolph is the only person allowed to see him in private. All business is attended to by Rodolph; therefore it will be almost impossible to-----

[*Trumpets sound without.*

*Mol.* There's your fun! Lord, how grand!--look, Edmond, look---oh! but you can't see---I forgot that, at any rate.

*Ober.* See! Prince Rodolph is coming this way, he bends his course to the chapel, where the marriage ceremony is to take place. I'll throw myself in his way, and tell him I have a petition for the king. When he came to my house I received him well, and now I suppose he'll return the compliment.

*Kalig.* I fear you will not find it so; and if he should see the blind prince, he will never stop till he has destroyed him; therefore, mind how you act, for you have precarious business in hand.

*Ober (perplexed.)* I know not what to do---I must venture: Molino, you can conceal yourself for a time: I have business with the prince, and will soon join you again, farewell---good bye---good bye.

[*Gently pushing him off.*

[*A grand march, and RODOLPH enters, richly dressd.---OBERTO throws himself in his way.*

*Ober.* Prince Rodolph!--may I speak with you.--I am Oberto, the farmer now, but, formerly, the soldier!

*Rod.* Away!--you perplex me, now:--you must take some other opportunity.

*Ober. (Holding him by his cloak.)* Another time will not do!--It is business of importance, and must be settled now!

*Rod.* What!--would you detain me?--Guards!

[*Guards enter and seize OBERTO.--EDMOND and ELVINA enter, and rush to OBERTO.--KALIG comes before EDMOND, and prevents RODOLPH passing him.*

*Rod.* Let him pass this time;--but beware how you again provoke me!--Guards---proceed.

[*March recommences; and RODOLPH passes on to the ceremony.*



*Mol. (Entering.)* Well, I declare I never saw such a thing--I thought, from what he said yesterday, that he would have done nothing less to-day than have made a lord of you.

*Elv.* Let us go home; for this place terrifies me!

*Edm.* I will not speak for myself, but for Elvina, for Oberto!--Remember, you are risking your peace, your happiness!--nay, even your life, for me!--Do, then, let us return!

*Ober.* I never can till I have fulfilled my duty!--Your mother's spirit urges me, and a nation must be undeceived!

*Kalig.* Oberto---the Prince is surrounded by foes---you can only proclaim his wrongs aloud, and let the nation protect him from the usurpation of the treacherous Rodolph!--Stanislaus will attend the ceremony:--seek him, and publicly proclaim Edmond to be his son, and Prince of Sarmatia!--

*[Trumpets.---a flourish.]*

Now the procession moves!--Follow me; and I will direct you how to act!

*Ober.* Never fear me!--Oberto is old, certainly; but he never can forget his duty to his King and country!

*[Exeunt. EDMOND, ELVINA, KALIG, and OBERTO.]*

*STANISLAUS and LIDA enter, attended, and take one side of the stage.--RODOLPH enters afterwards, attended by courtiers, guards, &c.---A grand Procession moves towards the right.*

*Stan.* This day is one of happiness!--for the prince, my son, will be united to a princess worthy the love of such a noble people as we have the glory here to govern!

*[Music.---Priests bear an altar to the front, to which the King advances with the Duchess.---RODOLPH then approaches, and the HIGH PRIEST receives them---he burns incense---they bow, and is in the act of blessing them.]*

*High Priest.* I here give Rodolph, son of Stanislaus—



[**OBERTO** at this juncture enters, followed by **EDMOND** and his daughter.

**Ober.** (*With courage.*) Rodolph is not the son of Stanislaus!--Rodolph is not the Prince of Sarmatia!

[*The whole of the assemblage express astonishment--the KING, RODOLPH, and the DUCHESS come forward.*

**Ober.** My liege --this youth is your son!

**Stan.** How!

**Ober.** This packet will explain.

**Stan.** It is my late Queen's hand-writing!

**Ober.** (*As the King reads.*) Edmond, my boy, my prince! kneel to the King, your father!

[**EDMOND** kneels to the **KING**.

**Stan.** There is something in his appearance very like the Queen--The marriage rites must be delayed for the present.--Rodolph, let the officers of state be summoned, for we must inquire into this surprising mystery!

[*The procession withdraws as scene closes on them.*

### SCENE III.

*A Piazza, surrounding the Palace.*

**MOLINO** enters.

**Mol.** Well, I've got into a nice scrape!--I have been running in and out, and round about, and can't find any way!--One fellow says, "You must come here!"--another say, "You cannot go there!"--Some say they won't let me in, and others say they won't let me out!--I don't know what to think of the prince!--why he walks and talks, and looks and, I dare say, does every thing just the same as another man!--Well, I'll have another try to get out! [*Exit.*

*Enter STANISLAUS and RODOLPH.*

**Stan.** Rodolph, my affection is just the same for you as ever:--you shall wed the Duchess of Lithuania, and thereby become Lithuania's Duke!--



Should Edmond die, I will again receive you as my son, and name you as successor to the throne!-- Farewell! [Exit.]

*Rod.* So then, if Edmond fall, I shall once more be reinstated.---Even now he is well observed, and a guard, devoted to my service, attends him!--Oberto and his daughter I have removed; and soon this hated object shall cease to poison the air I breathe!--Ha! Starow here!--his dagger may be of service to me!

*STAROW enters.*

*Star.* My prince, no doubt, is unhappy!--This blind boy must be an object of hatred to him who thus long has enjoyed the King's confidence and affection!

*Rod.* Right! right!--but how can it be helped?

*Star.* There is but one way---the dagger's point!

*Rod.* But who will undertake it?

*Star.* I will!--the night is dark; and it is an easy matter to enter Edmond's prison!--besides, you may have observed one Kalig:---he I have selected for such business!

*Rod.* The plan must be thus arranged:---you and Kalig must drag him from his dungeon, force him into a boat, and get him to the centre of the river, and then ---

*Star.* It shall be done!

*Rod.* Let Kalig's name be frequently mentioned, so that Edmond may hear it!--you must give me a signal when you are a sufficient distance from the shore;---leave Kalig on the watch, and he shall tell no tales afterwards, I'll warrant!--Away to the business!

*Star.* Your Highness shall be obeyed!

*Enter OBERTO and ELVINA.*

*Ober.* My lord!--I have been seeking you; and in the name of justice, I wish to know why you refuse my daughter and myself free access to Prince Edmond's apartment?



*Rod.* All the answer I can give is this:—necessity requires it, and it must be so.

*Ober.* Must be so!—Is it possible, that I,—I, who have brought him up from infancy, can be thus treated!—Answer me, sir!—Is it your intention to imprison your master's son?

*Rod.* Oberto! if you insult me, I shall find a way to punish you!

*Ober.* Punish! punish me!—I have not asked for wealth:—I have not looked for reward!—I love the boy; and if you dare to injure him, I'll compass the globe for vengeance!

*Rod.* (*aside.*) I must deceive him. Wait till tomorrow, and you shall see him. [Exit.

*Ober.* Elvina, there is villainy at work.—Edmond will be destroyed, if we are not active!—Oh! merciful powers! protect the innocent Edmond, and stop the murderers in their vile career!—Come, my child, Edmond shall be saved, or I will die defending him. [Exeunt.

## LAST SCENE.

*The Banks of the River.—A Terrace.—Winding Rocks.—The waves dash with great fury.—There is a boat in the centre.—(Night.)*

*KALIG and STAROW discovered.*

*Star.* Enough!—Remember your oath! [*Retires.*

*Kalig.* (*alone.*) I know not what to do!—Edmond will soon be here, and I am the person selected as his murderer!—Shall I fly to the palace and alarm the guards?—no: I shall be too late to save his life:—Starow will be alone;—that is in my favour.—Ha! here is Rodolph!

[*RODOLPH enters, holding EDMOND by one hand.*  
*EDMOND is uneasy, and struggles to get from him.*

*Edm.* Why do you hold me so fast?—and then



you tremble as if you were meditating some dreadful act!

*Star.* We are taking you to Oberto.—Rodolph would have attended you, but he is with the king.—Come, my lord, come!

[*RODOLPH endeavours to force him off.—EDMOND resists, and breaks from them.*

*Rod.* Away with him!

*Edm.* That is Prince Rodolph's voice!

*Star.* No, my lord, 'tis Kalig's, who is anxious to conduct you!

*Edm.* I wish to return; for I know I am not in a place of safety.

*Kalig.* My prince! I assure you—you have nothing to dread.

*Rod.* Come, come! [*Taking EDMOND'S hand.*

*Star.* Come, my prince,—the evening is dark; but I will take care of you!

*Edm.* Whose hand is this?—I know I am in danger, and I will not go with you.

[*EDMOND breaks from RODOLPH again. (Lightning.)*

*Star.* The storm is coming on, do return.

[*Thunders.*

The thunder rolls, and it is a dreadful night!

[*RODOLPH now mounts the Terrace, directing STAROW'S attention to the boat, and Exit.—STAROW leads EDMOND towards the Rock.*

*Edm.* This is not the way we came;—that is the proper road!—(*points to the direction at which they entered.*) That is the way you must take me back.

*Star.* Nay, 'tis useless to delay:—this way you must come!

*Edm.* Villains! who has prompted you to this act of treachery!

[*KALIG goes round to STAROW, and forces him from the prince:—they stand and gaze on each other.*

*Star.* Kalig turned traitor!



*Kal.* I am not a traitor!—that foul title's thine!—nor will I ever bear it; for while my heart can beat, or this arm can strike a blow, I will defend my injured prince!

*[They fight, and are heard in combat behind the rock.]*

*Edm.* Merciful powers! what shall I do?—Where shall I fly for protection?

*[Goes off on the opposite side.]*

*Enter ELVINA from the Terrace.*

*Elv.* I am sure I heard Edmond's voice! (*noise of swords behind the rock.*) And see, the combatants are on the rock!—good heavens! how terrific!

*[KALIG forces STAROW to the brink of the precipice.]*

*Kal.* Die, traitor, die!

*[He overcomes STAROW, and pushes him from the point of the rock into the river.]*

*Elv.* Edmond may, perhaps, be in danger;—the man comes this way;—I must conceal myself.

*[Thunder and lightning.—She runs and hides herself.]*

*KALIG enters, and looks about for EDMOND.*

*Kal.* Not here! where has he gone?—how can I find him?

*Elv.* I suppose he means EDMOND!

*Kal.* This is unfortunate!—There is but one plan now to pursue.—Starow was to have blown the horn when Edmond's fate was sealed:—I will give the signal. *[Blows the horn, and Exit up the terrace.]*

*Elv.* There is some treachery here!—Edmond! Edmond! where are you, Edmond?

*Edm.* (*Advancing on the rock.*) I am here, Elvina!

*Elv.* (*screams.*) Edmond, stand where you are;—if you attempt to stir, you will fall into the river!



[*She rushes up to the rock as she speaks ; prevents his falling, and exclaims, " Oh, EDMOND! EDMOND!"*]

*Edm.* Elvina, I am glad you have found me!—  
Lead me from this horrid place!

*RODOLPH enters with Guards.*

*Rod.* Soldiers! you must away, to prevent the accomplishment of a dreadful act: search every place to discover the villains!

*Enter OBERTO.*

*Ober.* Oh, traitors! traitors!—they have been employed by that villain, Rodolph!

*Rod.* Ha! what is that I hear!

[*Drawing his sword.*]

*Ober.* The truth!—strike if you dare;—for I defy you!

*Enter STANISLAUS, Officers, Guards, &c. bearing in KALIG.*

*Rod.* Kalig taken prisoner!—Can he be the murderer?

*EDMOND and ELVINA enter.*

*Ober.* Thank heaven! Edmond is still living!

*Stan.* My son, do you know the traitors who have thus meditated your destruction?

*Edm.* There were three; but one of them was called Kalig.

*Stan.* Kalig!

*Rod.* Then we have secured the traitor!

*Ober.* My liege! Kalig is not a traitor!—I'll answer for him with my life

*Kal.* Rodolph is the traitor!—he engaged Starow to destroy Prince Edmond; but I slew the villain, and saved my prince!

*Edm.* In struggling with one of them, I forced the ring from his finger!



*Stan.* 'Tis the ring I presented to Rodolph!—Seize the traitor! (*guards seize him.*) Kalig, you shall be rewarded; and you, my son, I here invest with the sovereign power!

*Edm.* Which I will endeavour to use for the benefit of my people!—Still, I cannot live without Elvina!—To-morrow our nuptials shall be solemnized, and Edmond will be happy, surrounded by his dear father, his Oberto, and guardian angel, sweet Elvina!

And since we thus have conquered all distress,  
The Blind Boy hopes to live in happiness?

*Picturesque group, and curtain falls.*

FINIS.