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**Box 18, Folder 19 - "A Case of Magic" at Arundel Castle (E.M.S.)**

Edwin Mortimer Standing

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# "A Case of Magic"

(A PLAY IN ONE ACT),

## AT ARUNDEL CASTLE,

MONDAY, DEC. 14th, 1925

(By kind invitation of Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk).

### DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

#### IMMORTALS.

##### PRESIDING GENIUS :

Ariel - - - - Lady Winefride Howard.

##### SPIRITS OF ARIEL :

Queen of Hearts - - - Lady Katharine Howard.

Mrs. Malaprop - - - Elizabeth Fowler.

Sir Walter Raleigh - - Mortimer Standing.

Don Quixote - - - Michael de Geofroy.

##### Rozinante—

Front Legs - - - Lord Petre.

Back Legs - - - Prince Radziwill.

Caliban - - - Charles Brown.

Executioner - - - Hon. Basil Feilding.

Knave of Hearts - - - Peter Wilberforce.

#### MORTALS.

Eleanor - - - Annette Fowler.

Molly - - - Catharine Fowler.

Alex - - - Arthur Littledale.

Gulliver - - - John Sweetman-Powell.

Tommy, the Boot Boy - - Simon Molloy.

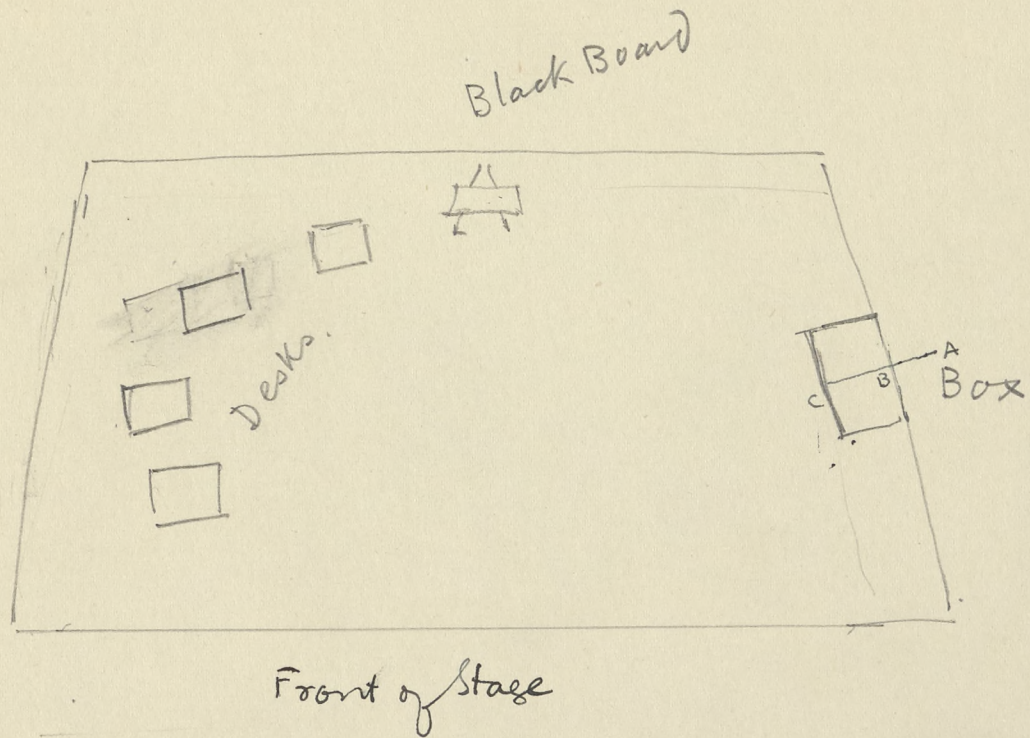
Scene - - - A SCHOOLROOM.

Time - - - PRESENT DAY.

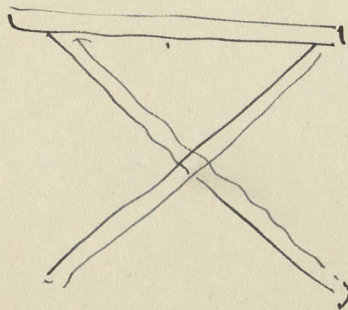
Mitchell and Co. (Printers), Ltd., Arundel.

*E. M. Standing. 117 Denning Rd  
N.W. 3*

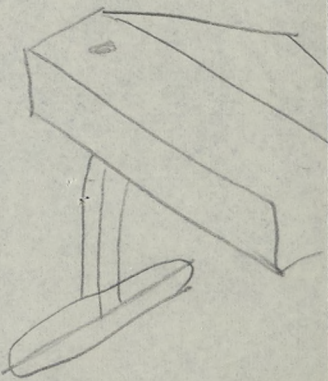
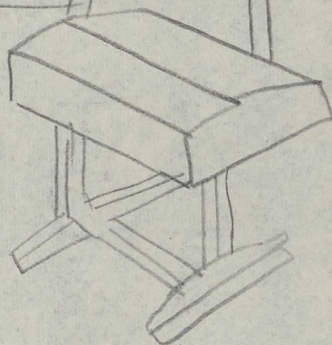
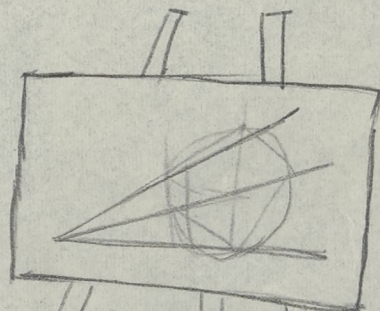
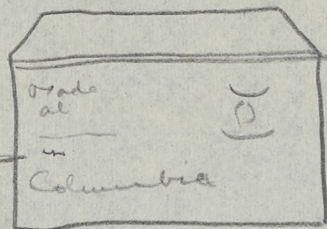
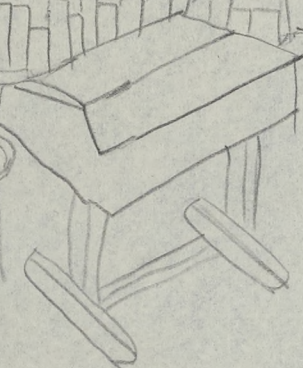
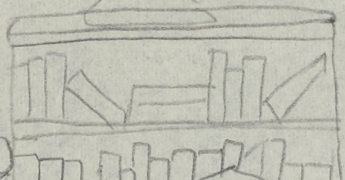
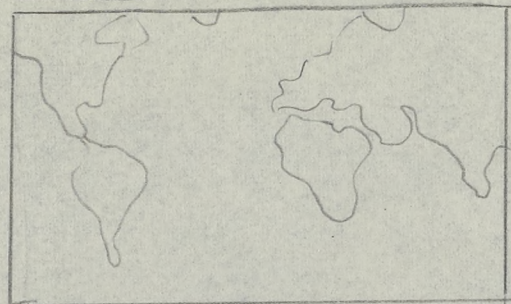
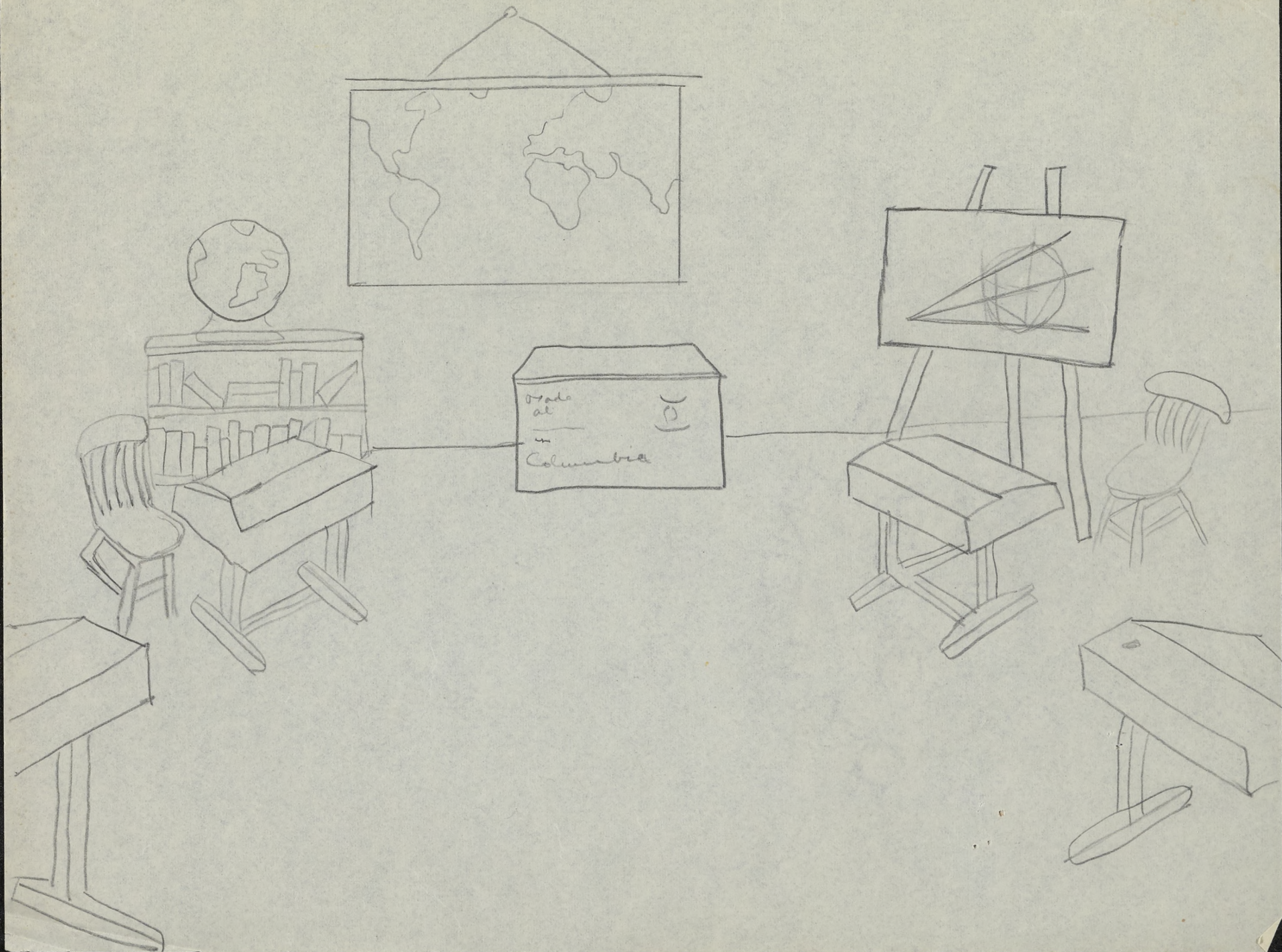


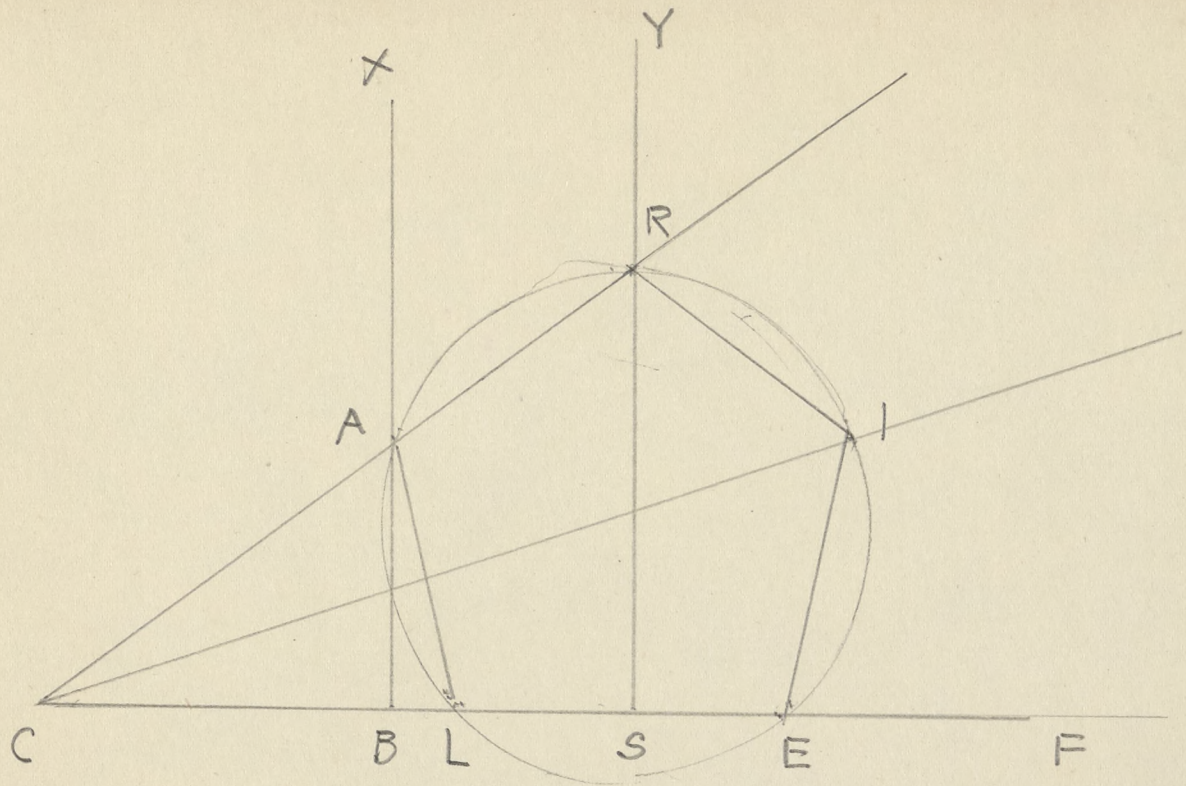


General Arrangement of  
Class Room.

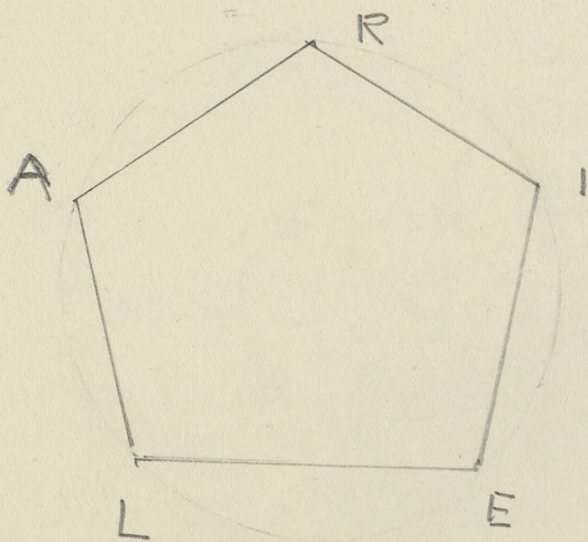


Folding Desk.



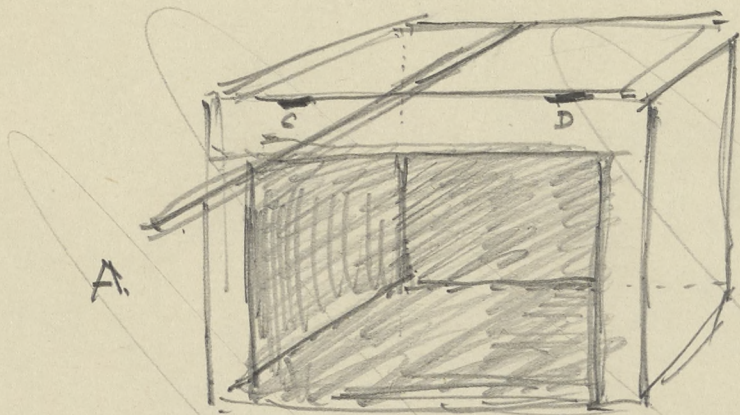


Original Diagram on the Board.



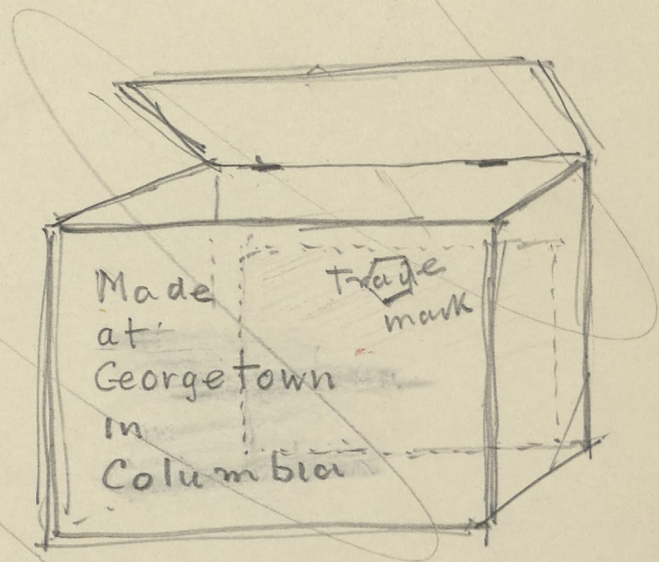
(ARIEL)

All that is left at the end.



A

A



Made  
at  
Georgetown  
in  
Columbia

Trade  
mark

B.

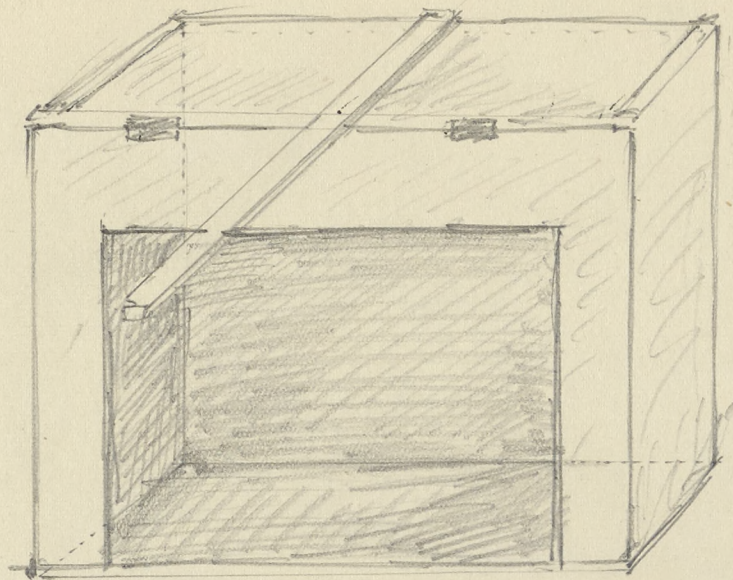
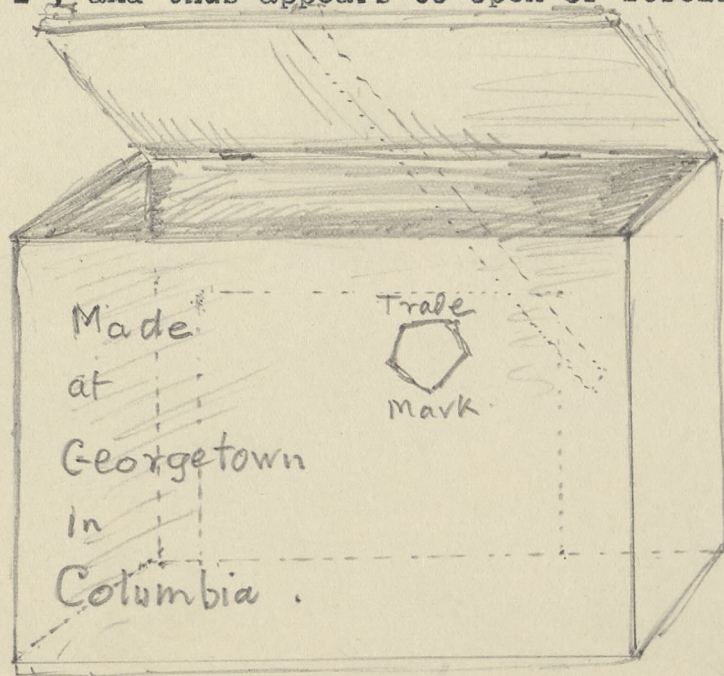


Diagram of "Magic Box", showing part of one side cut away, - as seen from off stage. A.B.C. is a piece of wood. The part BC is fastened to the lid and appears to be part of it. The part B. projects behind i.e. off stage. Using A as a handle the lid can be opened and shut from behind - opening on the hinges X and Y; and thus appears to open of itself.



D

Diagram of "Magic Box" as seen from the audience - as the lid is being opened from behind. The box should be placed up to the back edge of the stage. The dotted rectangle behind shows the part cut away through which the actors enter.



A CASE OF MAGIC .

---

Scene . An ordinary Schoolrom. About half a dozen desks are arranged in a rough semicircle ,as indicated in the diagram. (Four desks are enough if the stage is rather small ). Folding "examination -room " desks are very useful , as they are light , and can be easily moved when necessary .

At the back of the stage ,to the left is a black-board ,on which is the geometrical figure as shown in the illustration . At the other,corner near the back of the stage , is a large wooden packing case .

The far side of the packing case -the one removed from the audience - has been cut out ( for details see p. ) ; and the box is so placed that it is possible for any number of persons to enter the stage from outside, one by one , through the box , making it appear - to the audience -exactly as if they all came out of the box.

On the walls of the school are maps , diagrams , pictures etc., and there must also be a portable globe , such as is used in Geography lessons .

Two boys , Gulliver ( his real name is Oliver ) and Alex , and one girl ,Eleanor , are working at the desks. They are being "kept in" .

.....

GULLIVER (wearily) What's the time anyone ?

ALEX (taking out his watch , looking at it , shaking it vigorously and looking at it again) Don't know ! The rotten thing has stopped , as usual .

ELEANOR (looking at wrist )It's not half past yet .

GULLIVER Golly ! how slowly the Time goes !

ALEX It always does , when you're being kept in - just when you want it to go fast .

ELEANOR Yes , and it goes specially slowly , when you're being kept in unjustly , as we are .

GULLIVER Hear, hear ! I wish I had broken his beastly old arenoid barometer ; we might just as well have ~~gone~~ ~~the~~ the satisfaction of doing, it seeing the we are getting punished for it in any case .

ALEX That 's just like old Squaretoes ! Because we happened to be the only people who went into the library this

afternoon , it is no proof that any of us smashed his beastly old barometer . I wouldn't have touched the thing at the end of a long pole . It wasn't worth anything anyhow , for it was out of order . It has been stuck at "Very Fair " for the last six months . set

ELEANOR Well this isn't "<sup>even</sup>very fair " .

THE OTHERS No, indeed .

ALEX *(bangs his fist down)*  
There's no justice in this world ! that's what I say.

GULLIVER Hear ! hear !

~~GULLIVER~~ *(pointing)*  
And to be kept in on this night of all others , when everyone else has been let off Prep . to go to the theatre ' .

ELEANOR Yes , lucky things ! The shows just about to begin . (Looks at her watch) It seems to me that we've been stuck in here hours and hours since they left .

ALEX I shouldn't wonder if my watch is right after all , and it's Time that's stopped going , and not it !

GULLIVER It 's a rummy thing - and I 've often wondered about it .

ALEX About what ?

GULLIVER About Time , and the way it seems to go differently at different times . Haven't you ever noticed how some lessons seem to buzz by almost before they've begun , whilst others drag out so slowly that you think they will never come to an end .

ELEANOR Latin , for instance !

ALEX I 'll tell you when Time goes about as slowly as ever <sup>it</sup> He can

OTHERS When's that ?

ALEX *stand*  
When you're copped fooling in the dormitory , and made to get up on a cold winter's night in the corridor in your pyjamas and a stiff North East Trade Wind blowing through the door at the other end --like I had to last night -- Old Squaretoes again !

ELEANOR I 'll tell you when Time goes quickest of all .

OTHERS When's that ?

ELEANOR In the holidays : it simply buzzes along then ; there's no stopping it .

ALEX. (Still shaking his watch , after which he hits it a stout bang on the desk)

Ther'd be no making it go at all if it depended on my w watch . By the way , I made up a riddle about my watch last night ...

ELEANOR While you were shivering in the corridor ?

ALEX Yes , I 'd nothing else to do .Would you like to hear it ?

GULLIVER O, alright , fire away , but I know your riddles of old.

ALEX "Why is my watch like early Summer ?"

THE OTHERS Why- is- your- watch- like- Early Summer (pause) I don't know .

ALEX Give it up ? You too ? ( They nod ).

The OTHERS Well ?.

ALEX Because the Spring has just gone !

OTHERS Oh, Ugh ! (groans )

ALEX (settling down to work again ) .Well, well, as the proverb says "It is a long punishment that has no ending ".  
(They all work hard for a few seconds ).

GULLIVER I wonder where <sup>Alex</sup> ~~Hardy~~ is . He was to have been kept in with this little lot , wasn't he ?

ALEX Yes , he was ; but he's gone over to the San .

GULLIVER Golly! that's the third that's gone over from our Form to-day .I wonder what's the matter with them .

ELEANOR And Molly ought to be here too . I wonder if she's gone over too .Oh, here she is !

(Enter Molly O'Flaherty , carrying a large bottle of coloured liquid )

GULLIVER Ohm hurrah! what's that -lemonade , or wine , or beer '

ALEX I hope you're going to stand drinks all round .

ELEANOR Whatever is it ? and where did you get it ?.

MOLLY(planking the bottle down on one of the desks ) Oh, it's just the latest fad. The Doctor has just been up to the San.;

and he says there's an awful lot of Flu~~s~~ about .

ELEANOR Have they got it at the san ?

MOLLY He thinks so , but he 's not quite sure . Anyhow he says we must take all possible precautions against it . This is one of them .

ELEANOR What is it ?.

MOLLY It's some wonderful disinfectant: and we've all got to gargle with it before going to bed . Matron asked me to take this up to my Dormy , and see that they all use it . You'll have some too ; she's mixing gallons of it .

GULLIVER Good ! I 've got rather a gift for gargling ! I always gargle in the scale of B.Flat Minor .

ELEANOR I don't believe there is such a scale .

GULLIVER No matter ; it's only a detail - a minor detail .

ALEX (threateningly ) Look here ,you'll B.Flat in a minute if you go on like that .

MOLLY ~~Yes~~, Oh, I say , we need a "rest" after that .

ELEANOR Yes, it makes me feel quite "crotchety"

GULLIVER In fact , it puts me in a demi-semi-quaver all over.

ELEANOR How often have we got to do this gargling business ?

MOLLY Morning , noon and night .

GULLIVER What a bore ! and a waste of time !

ALEX I think it might profitably be combined with Mr.Adnitt's choir practice before lunch on Saturdays , -kill two -- birds - as you might say - with one stone .

*Time*

( There is another short pause , in which Gulliver appears to be working furiously )

GULLIVER (desperately ) I say ,does anyone here know how long a decimal will go on before it recurs ?

ALEX That depends . How far have you gone .

GULLIVER . 68742693472189659371.....and its still going strong , without any sign of it even thinking of recurring .I believe it will go on until the end of the term .

- ALEX Courage mon ami ! as the French proverb says , "It is a long sum that has no ending ".....(begin to work ; writing in an exercise book ; and speaking slowly as he writes )  
Je gargle , tu gargles , il gargle ; nous garglons , vous garglez , ils garglent ! Voila !
- ELEANOR What are you doing ?
- ALEX French Verbs ; they're a regular nuisance .
- ELEANOR I think they're an irregular nuisance ; at any rate it's the irregular ones that bother me .
- ALEX It isn't the verbs that bother me . It's <sup>old Owlface</sup> ~~Miss Bakerville~~ when I don't know the beastly things . I can't imagine why they want to plague us with learning these unintelligible foreign languages . English is good enough for me - as it was good enough for Shakespeare !
- GULLIVER You're always jawing on about your silly old Shakespeare I think he's a boring old idiot . Give me Sexton Blake!
- ALEX That's because you're too depraved and ignorant to understand the mellow flutings of the "Swan of Avon "  
(Gulliver makes a sign to the others as though to say "he can't help it , poor fellow!")
- MOLLY Now if they'd teach us Irish , there'd be some sense in it - instead of Latin and French - that's a language fit for the tongues of Princes and of Kings .
- GULLIVER Pooh! that's no language at all ; it's only the growlings of Sinn Feiners and that sort of people .
- MOLLY That sort of people indeed ! The Sinn Feiners have made Ireland a Free Counthree at last - thank God .
- GULLIVER I wish this was a free "Counthree " , as you call it .
- MOLLY Why so it is - ~~except for the superstitious of the English people~~ .
- GULLIVER Do you call this a free country ! Do you suppose , if it was , I would be bottled up here , like a convict , working out impossible decimal sums .
- MOLLY I know what I would do if I were free this minute . It is away up the slopes of Slieve Gullion I would be .

where the fresh turf does be cut . And beyond it to where the heather blooms , and the soft winds blow across the purple hills of Connemara

~~At the later end of the day I would climb up and up the way the sheep track winds ; right up till I came to the cairn where the curlews call all day , and all night the Wee Folk dance and dance amongst the moonlit shadows in their Faery Ring !~~

GULLIVER (bringing his fist down with a tremendous bang ) Dash'.

ALL What's the matter ?

GULLIVER I 've been over it again and again and again , and I simply can't find my mistake .

MOLLY Cheer up ! perhaps Mr. Fowler won't notice it either .

GULLIVER Oh, won't he ? he's terribly good at Arithmetic .

ALEX I should think he is ; and at Trigonometry too .

GULLIVER What's that ?

ALEX (with something of a swagger in his tone ) Oh, that's one of the higher branches of Mathematics .

ELEANOR Oh, is it ? . Well , my tastes are very humble . I don't wish to go any further than the root - the "Square Root" - that's quite enough for me , thank you !

MOLLY Whatever 's that great box doing over there .

ALEX Oh, it's "Nuncles" ; it's full of books . He's sending them away to be stored .

MOLLY Whatever for ? .

ELEANOR Well, you see , it was this way . He kept on buying more and more new books , and dumping them down into his room - till at last there wasn't even enough room to turn ~~anywhere~~ <sup>to turn</sup> around in it . It was books here, there, and everywhere : books on the window-sill , books on the mantel-shelf , books round every wall , books on the floor ; and sometimes he wasn't even able to get into bed because his whole bed was covered with books . It was like one of the plagues of Egypt . It got so bad in the end that you couldn't even open his door without causing an avalanche of books . So at last the house-keeper put down her foot , and said that either she would have to go , or the books . So the books have to go.

~~Nuncles~~

MOLLY Poor old Nuncle !

GULLIVER Serve him jolly well right ,I think .

ELEANOR It must be some weight , that box .

GULLIVER(trying to lift it ) I should just think it is ! feels like a ton of bricks.

MOLLY What's it left here for ; it's a funny place to leave it ?

ALEX It was so heavy , the man , who was sent to carry it , couldn't take it any further . So he dumped it down there saying he'd come again tomorrow with another man to help him .

ELEANOR It was rather foolish of him to pack so many books in one enormous case , wasn't it ?.

GULLIVER Perfectly idiotic . The housekeeper told him so - I heard her myself - but still he went on .

ALEX These literary men are so lacking in common sense .

MOLLY What exactly do you mean by a "literary man"?

ALEX If you'd ever been inside his room you'd know ; it 's just one tremendous litter , from one end to the other .

ELEANOR Oh, if you go on making puns like that , I shall have to be carried out on a litter.

ALEX Do you mean that to be taken "Literally" ?

GULLIVER What he really should have done was to have packed himself in the case ..

MOLLY Yes , and nailed the lid down on himself .

ALEX I wish he had done so . Just think! No more beastly Comps on impossible subjects !

MOLLY And above all , nongre beastly Grammar ! for I'd shut up all his participles and gerunds and adjectival clauses with him .

ALEX That would be - as our dear friend Hamlet said - " a consummation devoutly to be wished " .

MOLLY I wonder how many books there are in there altogether ?

- ELEANOR Hundreds and hundreds I should think .
- MOLLY I can't think what anyone wants so many books for ?
- GULLIVER Its simply swank; that's what it is : and there's hardly a decent one amongst the whole lot of 'em .
- ELEANOR How do you know that ? . ~~Are you a clairvoyant ?~~  
because
- GULLIVER ~~I don't know what that is ;~~ but I know once , when I was sick and wanted something to read , and wasn't allowed to go into school , he told me to go into his room and choose anyone I fancied . You never saw such a collection of rotten , dry , uninteresting , musty old things . I would not give that much for the whole lot of 'em put together . I'd make a bonfire of them , if they were mine.
- MOLLY Oh, there must be some interesting ones amongst them ; because he's read us one or two passable things at times
- ALEX Yes, I'd like that one - I forget its name - all about Sir . Walter Raleigh . I wouldn't burn that .
- ELEANOR I'd spare that one "The Rivals" I think it was called - which brings in Mrs. Malaprop.
- ALEX Who's she ? I never heard of her.
- ELEANOR Oh, she 's a killingly funny old lady . She thought an awful lot of herself , and was always using long words that she didn't understand ; and getting them all mixed up together .
- MOLLY The one I 'd like to keep m was the one about Don Quixote .
- GULLIVER Never heard of him .
- MOLLY Never heard of Don Quixote !! Mushya 'but you are an ignoramus .
- GULLIVER Some silly girls'yarn , I expect , about fairies and all that sort of tosh .
- MOLLY No it wasn't then ; so there ! It was about a knight and his battles .
- GULLIVER Well , that's a bit better . Was he one of the Knights of the Round Table ?



MOLLY

No, he was an an old Spanish gentleman who, lived several centuries ago . He used to spend all his time reading stories about the days of chivalry ~~that~~ <sup>tille</sup> he got his head so stuffed full of brave knights and fair ladies and fierce dragons that he became quite dotty about them .

GULLIVER ( Tapping his forehead ) A bit loose in the top story, eh?.

MOLLY

Exactly ; and it took him so badly that he began to imagine that he was a great and wonderful knight himself. So he fixed himself up with an old suit of armour and a tin can for a helmet , picked up an awful old crock of a horse -- and set off on his adventures - his quests as he called them .

GULLIVER

Did he have any ?.

MOLLY

I should just think he did . If he couldn't find any real ones he made them up . They were just as good to him . Once he thought a windmill was a giant , and charged at it full tilt , and got caught up in one of the arms .

GULLIVER

Seems to have been a bit of an old sport , even if he was rather balmy . I wouldn't mind saving that book from the general conflagration .

ELEANOR

So you see there are a few books amongst them worth keeping . Wouldn't you keep any .

GULLIVER

Well , I wouldn't mind having a look at that Don Quixote yarn : and there was one other , he read us once - I rather liked that . It was about a quaint monster called Caliban . It wasn't bad on the whole , though it was a bit heavy in parts .

MOLLY

Oh, I know that one . It's called "The Tempest " . I liked awfully . I didn't like Caliban very much - but I should just love to see Ariel .

ELEANOR

Great Heavens ! it's eight o' clock , and I haven't hardly begun my work yet .

GULLIVER

Nor I,

ALEX , MOLLY

Nor I.

( Silence again . It begins to get darker )

MOLLY It seems fearfully close this evening .

ALEX It's getting awfully dark .

GULLIVER I feel dreadfully sleepy .

ELEANOR So do I ; and my head aches .

MOLLY I hope we're not all getting the Flu .

( There is a pause . Soon they all stop working , and begin to get more and more drowsy . At last , overcome with sleep , they lean forward and fall asleep in various attitudes .

The light goes out .

Then , soft music is heard , which gradually becomes louder . Then a voice is heard , as in the distance , singing . It is Ariel's voice , and she is singing "Where the bee sucks--" .

Then the light begins to come on again ( if possible in a different colour ) . The lid of the box is now seen to rise gradually by itself ; and the singing at once becomes louder .

Ariel now appears in the box with her magic wand and steps out of the box .

The music changes its rhythm , and Ariel begins to dance . She glides - still dancing - towards the boys and girls , and waves her wand over each in turn . As soon as she does so they begin , gradually to wake up . They sit up , rubbing their eyes , and gaze around them as in a dream . )

ARIEL (with a wave of her wand ) .

Enough ! the charm's wound up ! Spirits of music cease your harmonies . (Music stops )

ELEANOR (not seeing Ariel ) I thought I heard some music somewhere .

MOLLY So did I ; and very sweet it was .

ALEX I heard it too ; and some one singing .

ELEANOR Whoever can it be .

MOLLY (suddenly seeing Ariel and turning round ) Why , who's that ? .

ELEANOR (frightened ) What is it ? .

ALL ( in whispers to each other ) Who ever is it ?

GULLIVER Where did she come from ?.

ELEANOR Excuse me , but who are you ; and can we do anything for you .

(Ariel says nothing , but the music begins again ; and she sings another verse of "Where the bee sucks etc" does another dance .They watch her woderingly )

ALL( as Ariel finishes ) Bravo ! Jolly good ! ( they clap )

GULLIVER I say , did you ever learn Eurhythmics with Miss Hayden ?.

ARIEL Simple and deluded mortal ! I learned dancing hundreds of years before Miss Haydn was born , or Eurhythmics had been invented .

ALEX You wear pretty well , if I may be so bold as to say so . I should hardly have thought you were that age .

GULLIVER Well , whoever ~~you were~~ taught you , and whoever you are, you can dance jolly well .Even a "simple and deluded mortal" can see that . Which brings us back to where we started from , and the question - which you haven't yet answered -namely "Who are you ?.

ARIEL I am Ariel , sometime spirit to Prospero ,but now my own master . I am a free spirit now - free as a cloud upon thve azure breast of Heaven !, free as a gossamer thread upon the Autumn wind ! free as a snowwhite sea-gull sailing serene o'er summer seas !

GULLIVER Yes,yes , of course ; that sort of stuff is alright on the stage .....

ALEX Or in elocution class ....

GULLIVER ...But , if you will allow me to say so , it s totally out of place in Prep. , and still more so to "complete strangers like us .

ARIEL But I am not a complete stranger ; you at least have heard of Ariel . In fact you were talking about me only just now .

GULLIVER Oho ! Eaves-dropping into the bargain !

ELEANOR (goes up to Gulliver and whispers to him and he nods )  
Now we know what you are . You are one of the people  
from the Circus in the town .

ARIEL (sternly) Be careful what you say ~~Eleanor~~ (Eleanor starts) and  
you too Masters Gulliver and Alex . You may be sorry  
for not taking the word of an honest spirit . This  
is the third and last time I tell you . I-am-  
Ariel .

GULLIVER Well , I don't like to have to call you a ..... er-I  
mean I don't wish to be unintentionally rude ...but  
I'm sorry to say I simply don't believe you .

ALEX You're only an ordinary person dressed up for the  
part -(I must congratulate you , by the way , on  
the way you've got yourself up ) but as for being  
Ariel -well! - every one knows that the age of  
magicians and fairies and such like things has  
passed away . We are living in an age of Scientific  
explanations , of telephones and tubes and top-hats ,  
and not in the Middle Ages as you seem to imagine .

ARIEL (looking round on all of them , but especially at Molly , who  
has said nothing all this time ) I am sorry that none of  
you can believe my word ; for then I shall be obliged  
to go ; and I think you would be sorry afterwards  
if you knew all that might happen otherwise .  
(Ariel begins rather sadly-to depart )

MOLLY (suddenly , and in a voice of entreaty ) Oh, wait , wait ,  
don't go - not yet - don't go . Yes . I believe . I do  
really , I didn't at first when you came in ; but  
of course I have believed in fairies all my life -  
though its hard to believe in them after living so  
long in England . The English are such a matter of  
fact people you know ( Ariel nods ) . And besides you  
came at such a funny time and place , and so unex-  
pectedly too .

ARIEL I know .

MOLLY If I had seen you coming towards me , gliding down  
a moonbeam ~~through the great pine woods that slope  
down to Loch Glavin~~ , or "dancing like a flame on  
the top of the dis-shevelled tide "- I would have  
believed at once ; but to come suddenly - bang into  
the middle of Prep- and I to be doing Gemetry of all  
things in the wurrlld - well , it was rather hard

at first .But you will forgive me ,won't you ?, for I do believe now, I do really .

ARIEL I knew you did from the first ; for it was you who worked the magic spell that brought me here .

MOLLY(astohished ) I! worked a magic spell .

ALEX (a. <sup>keeps</sup> ?) She holds it up well ,doesn't she?!

ARIEL(ignoring this remark) I don't suppose you did it consciously, but you did it all the same .Don't you remember saying "I should just love to see Ariel !"

MOLLY Yes, I did say that .

ALEX Then do you come at evrybody's beck and call ?.

ARIEL Oh, dear , no ! how dreafully ignorant you are !

ALEX Then why did you come in this case .

ARIEL Ah, there were special circumstances in this case -a certain coming together of magic elements .

ELEANOR Oh, do tell us what they were '.

ARIEL Not now ; but you will find out for yourselves when the right time comes .

ALEX Well , to speak frankly , I think you're simply talking dans votre chapeau -which being interpreted means "through your hat ".

GULLIVER Absolute Tommy-rot ,that's what I call it !

ELEANOR I wouldn't be quite so sûre ,if I was you .

MOLLY Nor I .

ARIEL I could prove myself to you , if I were so minded - but I don't think your'e worth the trouble .

ALEX Oh, thanks !.

GULLIVER Er, don't mention it .

ALEX and GUL. Er, - how?

ARIEL By working some magic , of course .

MOLLY And can you really work magic ? where did you learn . ?

ARIEL From my beloved master Prospero .

GULLIVER I say , if you can do magic , I wish you'd do something for me ?.

ARIEL What's that?.

GULLIVER Make this rotten old decimal sum come out into a decent answer . I don't believe it can be done by ordinary mortal methods .

ALEX That would be "sum" magic , if she did .

ARIEL As a matter of fact I never work magic to prove myself to anyone .

ALEX A very nice way out of it !.

GULLIVER Very smart ; but it doesn't take us in .

MOLLY Oh, don't take any notice of them .

ELEANOR Boys can't help being like that : they are sceptical by nature .

MOLLY But we believe alright : you might please do something for us .

ELEANOR Do , please ! you know we are being kept in unjustly ; and all the others are at the theatre .

ARIEL Well, seeing you ask me so nicely ; and (to Molly) seeing that you brought me here I will do just a little .

EL. and MOL. Oh, thanks awfully !

ALEX (to Gulliver ) Now for some of the usual old conjuring stunts .

GULLIVER Well, there's not much room up her sleeve , anyhow .

ARIEL (goes humming round the room , like a bee looking for a flower) ' Let me see . let me see ! (goes to the board , as if about to do something to it ) Ah, no that wouldn't do ; I might spoil everything .

ALEX You need n't be afraid of damaging that board ; we're *bored* board enough without it .

ARIEL Ah, that will do nicely. Do you see that box ?.

ALEX You could hardly miss it without being blind .

OTHERS Yes ?.

ARIEL Do you know what is inside it ?.

ALEX Yes, Nuncle's books .

ARIEL Quite right . (Ariel goes over to the box , nods her head and comes back again)

GULLIVER (aside ) What's she going to do now ?.

ARIEL Now each of you choose any character in any one of those books in there ; and I will make him appear before you .

ELEANOR Not really !

MOLLY Can you do that !

ALEX Gosh! but she has some assurance !

GULLIVER A brazen faced little hussy ! that's what I call her .

ARIEL (to Molly ) Will you choose ?

MOLLY I'll have ....

ARIEL Alright , my dear , you needn't tell me . Just choose in your mind . I shall know .

ALEX Gosh , but that would really be "Some magic " .

ARIEL (to Eleanor ) Have you chosen? (Eleanor nods ) (Then Ariel looks at the boys ) And you?.

ALEX (aside) I don't believe there's anything in it . In fact I believe she's off her dot .

GULLIVER So do I .

ALEX I think we'd better humour her (aloud ) Yes, I've chosen

GULLIVER I'll have ..

ARIEL No don't tell me ; that's part of the magic : you can tell one another if you like . (They whisper to each other)

ARIEL (contd.) Now have you all chosen ? (They nod ).

Now still! very still! (She waves a wand, and soft music begins to play. The others are about to speak to each other in their astonishment; but Ariel warns them with her finger to her lip) No, you mustn't speak a word while the charm is working or you would break the spell (The music gets louder and louder) The lid of the box begins very slowly to lift up again )

ELEANOR (in an awed voice) Look! the box!

ALEX By Jupiter! the lids opening!

GULLIVER Gosh! (They all move backwards in fear away from the box )

ARIEL You needn't be afraid .

(By this time the lid is fully opened; and Sir Walter Raleigh, in Elizabethan costume steps out and looks rather bewildered about him ).

ARIEL He won't harm you; go up and speak to him .

(The others are still afraid; but at last Molly goes forwards and makes a slight curtsey )

MOLLY (nervously) Er..er..are you Sir Walter Raleigh ?

SIR WALTER I am, fair maiden; and right pleased am I to <sup>meet</sup> make so charming an acquaintance (Very courteously he <sup>gallantly</sup> kiss her hand ) And may I be so bold as to ask what is your name ?

MOLLY Molly Fionovar O'Flagherty .

SIR WALTER (with a smile ) I beg your pardon '. I didn't quite catch it .

GULLIVER You'd need a big net to catch her name . She's Irish you know; so she can't help it . Its not her fault .

SIR WALTER Ah, from Ireland! it is a beautiful country .

MOLLY (eagerly) It is! it is! were you ever in it ?

SIR WALTER Yes, my pretty coz, I was sent over to crush those troublesome Geraldines .



- GULLIVER It's the Republicans that want sitting on at present .
- MOLLY The Republicans are alright ; ~~but they're in too much of a hurry .~~ <sup>rather</sup>
- SIR WALTER It was there I met my dear friend , Edmund Spenser .
- MOLLY Why yes , I remember now ; we had all about it in History . In fact I 've got it all down about you and him in one of my History Preps .
- SIR WALTER I 'm sure I feel very honoured ! ( makes a bow ) .
- GULLIVER Did they have the "Flu~~p~~" in those days ?
- SIR WALTER I 'm afraid I don't quite understand you ?
- GULLIVER The Flu~~p~~ ! it's a disease -and a jolly rotten one .
- SIR WALTER I 'm thankful ~~to say~~ I never had it ; nor even heard of it .
- GULLIVER Then I 'd advise you to gargle ; there's an awful lot of it about . ( hands him some of the mixture )
- SIR WALTER What is this ? is it a drink ?
- EKEANOR No, it's to gargle with .
- SIR WALTER Again I'm afraid I don't get your meaning .
- ALEX You put some in your throat , and make a noise .
- SIR WALTER Is it an incantation to keep away evil spirits ?
- ALEX No, marry , it is not !- it is to keep away the germs.
- SIR WALTER The what ?
- ALEX The Germs . They are the mortal enemies of the human race .
- SIR WALTER By St. George , it was never my custom to keep away mine enemies by making a strange noise in my throat . This was the way I dealt with them - always have done and always will ( draws his sword and waves it about )
- GULLIVER Bravo~~!~~ <sup>and scatters them like chaff</sup>
- ALEX That's the stuff to give'em .
- SIR WALTER This sword was given me by Sir Francis Drake .

- ALEX Oh, so you knew him too, did you ?
- SIR WALTER Excellently well . He was a noble gentleman , a true friend , and as gallant a soldier, as ever chased the Spaniards on the high seas . Many's the time we've drunk a cup of sack together at the Mermaid Tavern .
- ALEX I suppose you knew he sailed round the world .
- SIR WALTER Why , of course I did . I met him the day after he arrived back .
- ALEX Then perhaps you can tell me the answer to a riddle that has often puzzled me .
- SIR WALTER ~~My head's been never quite the same since it was cut off,~~ but I 'll do my best to answer you . And a man can do no more at any time .
- ALEX Well, this is the point . Our Geography Master - who tells some pretty tall yarns, sometimes, and expects us to believe him - said that, when Sir Francis Drake came back, he found he had gained a day in his voyage round the world . By his reckoning it was Saturday , and when he arrived he found it was Sunday .
- SIR WALTER That's true ; for all the people ran out of the church when his boat came into the bay . A little boy saw his ship through the door , when he should have been listening to the sermon . Magellan found the same thing .  
*change in the date.*
- ALEX Well , this is the point . Supposing I were to start off today , Thursday , and went round the world with a terrific rapidity and got round it in seven days , I would find it was Thursday with me , but people here would still only be having Wednesday .
- SIR WALTER Yes, well?.
- ALEX Well, now supposing I were to go round as quick as thought - or as quick as our friend Ariel here - and got right round in one day . Then seeing that you always gain a day by going round that way , I should come back into tomorrow ! wouldn't I ?.
- SIR WALTER By the Mass , but that ~~could~~ is a hard question to answer .
- GULLIVER It would be a jolly useful stunt if you could do that . Supposing , in the morning you knew you were going to

be tanned that evening ; you could just slip round the world and come back into to-morrow ! and so miss it altogether .

ELEANOR

Yes, and I suppose , if you went round the same speed in the opposite direction you would lose a day , and so come back into yesterday .

GULLIVER

That would be a useful stunt too . You could have a birthday party one day ; and then - the next day - go round the world and come back into yesterday - and have all your birthday cake over again . Yum-yum !

SIR WALTER

I am sure there must be some mistake in the argument somewhere ; but at the moment I don't quite see where it is .

ALEX

Perhaps Einstein could help us .

SIR WALTER

I have never heard of him ; but I tell who would resolve your doubts as quickly as the sun disperses the morning mists - my friend Lord Bacon .

ELEANOR

Oh, did you know him *too* !

SIR WALTER

Very well . He often came to visit me , when I was a prisoner in the Tower ; and we used to discuss the principles of Alchemy over my crucibles in my Laboratory .

ELEANOR ( *eagerly* ) Well , then , Sir Walter , you can tell us .

What do you think - honestly now, did Bacon write Shakespeare ? .

( Before he has time to reply , at a sign from Ariel , sounds are heard proceeding from the box . A voice - shrill and penetrating , is heard talking volubly . The lid begins to open as before )

VOICE OF MRS.M. ( *from the box* ) Well , now , was ever a lady treated in such a convoking manner before ! To be shut up in here like a Jack-in-the-box , without any remorse or litigation of ~~xxx~~ my poor pneumatic joints ! ( stretch herself as she stands up in the box - her back is turned to the others on the stage ) . I was never so refined in such a little space before in my life .

ELEANOR

Why, I do believe ? ... it is ! it is ! it's Mrs Malaprop ! She's the one I chose .

MRS. MALAP. . My only consultation is that Lydia isn't here to see me in this conciliating position . How I came here is more than I can reprehend . (She makes an effort to step down from the box - hesitates , and nearly falls; then partially recovers herself ) This is really a most undignified apposition for an elderly lady ' . I never had to condescend from such a height before .

SIR WALTER (moving towards MRS Malaprop , whose back is still towards him ) Perhaps, Madam , I may be bold enough to offer you my humble assistance .

MRS. MALAP. (still making vain efforts to get down , without turning round ) Thank you , thank you , whoever you are ; I find it almost impossible to contain my equilibrium at this predominating altitude (turning round , she sees Sir Walter , and throws up her hands in dismay and nearly falls off again ) Oh, Lud ! whoever are you ?

SIR WALTER I am Sir Walter Raleigh .

MRS MALAP. "Angels and spinsters of grace , defend us ! it's a ghost ! (As she is still very unbalanced Sir Walter puts out his hand to help her ) .

MRS. MALAP Oh, oh, oh, !

SIR WALTER (As he holds her up just in time ) There now Madam , a ghost could not have done that !

MRS. MALAP . But I waa always taught as a child, that you were condemned to the block and decapitalized ... Oh dear , oh dear , my poor wits must be tottering ... I shall get the hydrostatics' I shall get the Hydrostatics !

SIR WALTER Calm yourself , good Madam <sup>and your</sup> your wits are as keen as -er - ever they were <sup>and your</sup> words as well chosen .. ~~And as since your mind is not tottering , there is also no need for you to totter in body .~~ By your leave , fair and beautiful lady ! (Sir Walter helps her down )

MRS. MALAP. (Coily , from behind her fan ) Really Sir Walter , you flatter me to make such supplementary remarks ! Oh, how glad I am to be once more on Terra cotta . I am sure I am very grateful indeed to you , for your prompt and malevolent assistance .

GULLIVER (bowing ) May I have the pleasure of offering you some of this , as a precaution .

MRS. MALAP. What is this ,young man ,?Port wine ?.

GULLIVER No Miss....I mean Madame .. it's to gargle with .

MRS. MALAP. ( in a very superior manner / To gargle indeed !  
Gargling don't become a young lady ! (to Sir Walter )  
There s a decorum ih these matters ,you know ,Sir  
Walter .

SIR WALTER ( bowing ) Certainly,Mrs. Malaprop , certainly .

GULLIVER ( reaching out for the glass ) No offence meant , I'm sure ;  
I was only thinking of the Germs .

MRS. MALAP A most barbarous nation ,I think , wholly given over  
to beer and philosophical subtractions . No thank you'.  
cup

( As Mrs. Malaprop hands the glass back to Gulliver  
- it falls between them on the floor , and makes  
a little pool in front of Mrs. Malaprop . She draws  
back at first , and then comes on again , but stops  
at the pool , hesitating to cross . At once Sir  
Walter removes his cloak , and is about to put it  
down )

Oh, Sir Walter ,I beg of you ,do not  
spoil it .

SIR WALTER ~~But~~ What is a pãtry cloak in comparison with such  
beauty .

( He puts down the cloak over the spill - and  
looking mighty pleased and flattered Mrs Malaprop  
marches sedately over it )

MOLLY The true Raleigh touch !

MRS. MALAP. Oh, dear ,Sir Walter , I do hope it is not ruined .

SIR WALTER On the contrary , Madam , its value is enhanced by  
the very fact that your fairy feet have deigned to  
walk on it .It can now only be compared with Jacobs  
Ladder made beautiful by the feet of the Angels of  
heaven - as this by one of the angels of <sup>the</sup> earth .

MRS. MALAP ( cooly ) Really ,Sir Walter , You make me blush ! Your  
comparisons are so charming + so overwhelming--if I  
may say so . I have never met anyone who could coin  
such mellifluous epitaphs .

( At a sign from Ariel , strange noises are  
heard in the box :gurglings ,sputterings and  
growlings .All look in that direction )

MRS. MAL. Merciful Heavens offend us ! Whatever is that ? . To think that I ~~xxxxx~~ have only just converged out of that box myself but ten minutes ago !

(The lid rises a few inches , and Caliban's brown hand with its long claws (see p. ) is seen moving along the edge of the opening . The others all draw back in fear and consternation ,whilst Sir Walter draws his sword to be ready for any emergency )

ELEANOR What on earth can it be ?.

MOLLY What a dreadful noise !

GULLIVER (excitedly ) Oh, I know its ...it's .....(By this time, the lid has been raised sufficiently for Caliban's head and shoulders to be visible )it's... "

ALL TOGETHER It's CALIBAN !!

GULLIVER I chose him (to Ariel ) I say thanks awfully . I hope he won't bite .

ARIEL Not while I 'm here . You needn't be afraid .

CALIBAN "All the infections that the sun sucks up  
From bogs , fens , flats on Prosper fall ,and make him  
By inch meal a disease ! His spirits hear me  
Yet I needs must curse .

(Gulliver goes over towards him)

Lo now ,here comes a spirit to torment me !

As Gulliver draws nearer Caliban shrinks back into the box ,like a snail into its shell , and holds the lid shut like an oyster )

GULLIVER Alright old thing ! we're not going to torment you . We're glad to make your acquaintace .

(The lid begins again to open m and very slowly Caliban re-appears . He seems very frightened and suspicious of evryone )

CALIBAN(muttering still and growling ) There's plaenty of wood brought in !

GULLIVER Now just compose yourself a bit ;we're not going to do you any harm ; we're not even going to make you do any work - are we ? .

THE OTHERS No, of course not .

ELEANOR In fact we are very glad to see you .

ALEX (going forward and stretching out his hand ) Delighted !

(Caliban thinks it is going to be an attack on him , and runs away )

You silly cuckoo ; I was only going to shake hands with you . I 'm rather glad he didn't : I don't like the look of those claws .

(Caliban , beginning to feel more at home , begins to prow round , inquisitively , Meanwhile the others follow him with their eyes )

ELEANOR Ugh ! Isn't he ugly !

MOLLY Dreadful ! I 'm sure I shall dream of him .

GULLIVER He certainly is a quaint monster , upon my life .

(By this time Caliban has reached the bottle of gargle . He peers into it inquisitively ; and then very adroitly he whips the cork out )

SIR WALTER I would lay any wager 't is not the first time that monster has opened a bottle . Look Madam he pours it with the ease of a tapster .

MRS MALAP He looks as uncultivated as a wild Indian , and as full of venom as a syphon .

ALEX (watching Caliban smelling the gargle in the cup )

That 's only gargle , you old gargoyle , would you like to try some . You seem a bit husky ; and at any rate it wouldn't do you any harm .

(CALIBAN puts down the cup , seizes the bottle , and begins to gulp its contents greedily )

GULLIVER Sakes alive ! he 's swigging it off .

ALEX ( laughing ) Bell drawn Monster . I could laugh myself to death at this puppy headed rascal .

SIR WALTER I wouldn't let this fellow have the key of my wine cellar .

MRS MALAP No indeed ; he 's as bibulous as a ~~tipple~~ hypotenuse ' on the banks of the Congo .

ELEANOR

Here! stop! stop! ...take the bottle away from him or he'll poison himself .

(At this moment Caliban of his own accord , puts down the bottle ,and begins sputtering ,and gesticulating and making wry faces and shakes his fist furiously at Alex )

CALIBAN

The red plague rid you for giving me that liquor!; may it burn in my throat like a furnace! (Begins coughing and sputtering again ) May earwigs and spiders run down your back , and toads and scorpions creep into your bed!...

ALEX

Why, it was your own silly fault - you fat-headed monster - (Here Caliban gnashes his teeth at him like an angry monkey ) I never told you to drink the stuff ; and you swigged it down so greedily that you hadn't time to taste it .It serves you jolly well right .

GULLIVER

(Handing him a piece of chocolate ) Here, moon-calf , here's a piece of chocolate ; that'll help to take the taste out of your mouth . (Caliban takes the chocolate smells it suspiciously , nibbles a bit of it and then greedily devours it with evident relish . He then runs up to Gulliver and begins to fawn on him like a dog )

CALIBAN

Thou god-like spirit , I'll worship thee and be thy slave .

GULLIVER

What can you do ?

CALIBAN

I 'll serve thee faithfully , both day and night , In offices convenient to thy majesty .

GULLIVER

Yes, I daresay , - but be more practical .

CALIBAN

I'll get thy books and bring them into Prep; Sharpen thy pencils with my knifey teeth ..

GULLIVER

Ah, that's better ; but you mustn't bite the wrong end , as I often bite that a bit myself . Understand? (Caliban nods) Proceed monster .

CALIBAN

When masters fierce would rob thee of thy play , I'll write thy impots out instead myself . And when thou comest in from valiant deeds Upon the football field , thy muddy boots



Will I unlace ,op'ning each Gordian knot  
With my long nails ,and fetch thy slippers too .

GULLIVER

If you do all that I'll give you a bar~~w~~ of chocolate  
once a week .Only you must remember to put my foot-  
ball boots away ,for that s a peany fine I should  
have to knock it off your"chocolate .

*if its not done*

CALIBAN

My Lord , I will remember .

GULLIVER

Any thing else ?

CALIBAN

Upon thy side I'll always play in ~~xxxxxx~~ games ,  
And pass thee every ball that comes my way ;  
Bag thee a place with the tuck-shop queue ,  
And peel and core thy apple at the break .  
And ,if thy worship will ,I'll make thee paper darts  
That soar like eagles through the wondring air .  
I'll run thy bath , and fetch thee soap and sponge .

ALEX

He could do with a little of that himself .—

CALIBAN

And crease thy Sunday trousers like a knife .

GULLIVER

Two bars of chocolate.!! if you do all this .

CALIBAN

And if within the dead and vast of night  
Malignat pillows hurtle through the air,  
I'll guard thy head , and scratch thy foes .

GULLIVER

Scratch my toes ?!! *You'd better not!*

CALIBAN

Scratch thy foes, my Lord ,upon their eyes !

GULLIVER

No you mustn't do that<sup>either</sup> ;that's not playing the game .

CALIBAN

'Tis good my Lord , for then they cannot see .

GULLIVER

I say ,NO! I shall sack you if you do that . Go on.

CALIBAN

And when the Autumns rich and golden sheaves  
Garnish the fields ,I ll forth into the woods  
And pluck thee giant"conquers"from the trees .  
Yea e'en my dough-nut will I give to thee,  
If thou will let me serve thee as thy slave .

GULLIVER

Three bars of chocolate !! it s worth it -if there are  
dough nuts twice a week .

CALIBAN

All this I'll do for thee,thou god-like-man ,  
And more besides --- but not for him

I'll not serve him ;he is not valiant .

ALEX Look here, Caliban, none of your cheek ,or.....

CALIBAN(to Gulliver ) My Lord, do not let him hurt me ! Bite him!  
Bite him ! After a little while I'll bite him too .

GULLIVER Bite him yourself .

ALEX You'd better try !

MRS.MAL. (Examining Caliban through her lorgnettes ) Well, of all  
the strangest and most hideous looking monsters this  
is the most ~~quarrelsome~~ impulsive ;I have never set eyes  
on a creature so misinformed .

Do ( Caliban makes faces at Mrs. Malaprop , and  
gnashes his teeth . )

At a sign from Ariel ,loud sounds-as of a  
horse neighing are heard in the box )

M

Merciful heavens ! what's that ?

ELEANOR The lids moving again ! ( All look towards the box )  
( As the lid opens wider , a horse 's head appears  
over the edge of the box ) )

MOLLY What ever is it all ?

ELEANOR I think it must be Nick Bottom .

ALEX I think "it's old Proteus rising from the Sea " .

GULLIVER (going and looking in )Why it's a horse !

( All the characters crowd round the box woth their  
backs to the audience making a kind of screen which  
hides it from the audience . This "screen" goes right  
up to the side wing , where Rozinantes Back and  
Front legs are waiting . Frontlegs is given the  
stick which supports the head ( see Diagr.p. )  
and one of the actors fastens the ~~head~~ front part  
pf the trunk to the head . )

MOLLY What a strange broken-down looking creature !

( As soon as Rozinante is fixed up the charactes on  
the stage move away from him to let the audience  
have a good look at him . )

At another sign fro Ariel , a voice is heard  
in the box )

VOICE OF D.Q. Stay, my noble Rozinante, stay! Your master follows. Would that I could find the enchanter by whose art I have been confined in this hideous and narrow prison! I would knock his head in for him with a good knightly blow.

(Don Quixote comes right out of the box)

ALL Whoever is it?

ALEX What a strange looking man!

DON Q. Unless I am very much mistaken, the gods have been very kind to me, and I am about to meet with some new and very wonderful adventures.

Who are these strange people? - these knights and ladies - and this very singular monster?

I will announce myself to them.

(Pompously) I am Don Quixote de la Mancha - at your service. (makes a deep bow)

GULLIVER Have some gargle.

SIR WALTER It is a strange custom in this land, Sir Knight, - to keep away ~~their~~ one's enemies.

DON Q. But I do not wish to keep away mine enemies; I wish to find them.

ALEX Bravo! *That's the spirit!*

GULLIVER Well, then let poor old Rozinante have some.

DON Q. What's ~~is~~ the need?

GULLIVER He's "horse" you know. People always gargle when they're hoarse.

OTHERS Oh, what a rotten one!

(At this juncture terrible groanings are heard from Caliban, who writhes in pain)

ALEX Hello Moon-calf, what's the matter with you?..

CALIBAN Oh...oh...oh!

MOLLY A pun like that 's enough even to make a monster groan.

ELEANOR I know what it is; it's the gargle; it must have given him a pain: he drank such a lot of it.

GULLIVER ( in a kindly voice ) Here, ole Bean, here's another piece of chocolate :perhaps it will help to take your mind off your pain .

( Caliban devours the chocolate eagerly )

Well - I'm jiggered !

G

OTHERS

What's the matter ?

GULLIVER

Just listen a minute .He's actually purring -just like a cat .

( They all listen except Molly , who has gone back to her desk ,and is looking at her work with puzzled brow .Don Q. is watching her )

DON Q.

Methinks yon maiden looks sad and pensive .What is thy trouble ,fair maid of the flowing locks.

MOLLY

Geometry is my trouble . Did you ever do a rider .

DON Q.

Do a rider ! I am a rider - and a bold and valiant rider .

( Gulliver taps his head significantly )

ALEX

I think you're not a "rider" but a "problem".

GULLIVER ( handing him a cup of gargle ) Here' the "solution".

DON Q. ( who has entirely ignored these pleasantries ) - ~~to~~ Molly )  
But why dost thou look so pale and mournful?

MOLLY

Because I 've been shut up here all the afternoon - when I wanted to be free to wander like a cloud o'er hill and dale .

DON Q. ( fiercely ) This is the work of some foul tyrant .He has captured this noble lady and shut her up in this dungeon, to break her spirit--peradventure to starve her into surrender , or to hand her over, as prey , to some fierce and hideous dragon .Take heart fair image of beauty , the hour of thy liberation is at hand !

GULLIVER ( Again tapping his forehead ) I told you he was a bit k balmy .

( Sounds are heard approaching of a large disinfectant sprayer )

DON Q. (excitedly) Hark! hark! What is this I hear? Be silent all!

(They listen , and the noise becomes louder )  
It is indeed, just as I had supposed ! The keeper of the dungeon is sending hither his dragon to devour her up, ~~in rage at her constancy to her lover.~~  
Praised be the gods , that I have come just in the nick of time .

ALEX/ALEX.

If you'd like to know , that's only Tommy, the boot boy , going round with a disinfectant sprayer.

DON Q.

Fond youth , thou art too young to be versed in these matters : they pertain only to age and to knightly experienc .

GULLIVER

Well, of all the.....

( The sounds become very loud )

DON Q.

Hark , it draws nearer ! The moment of destiny has come . It is Death or endless Glory !

(He prepares for battle . The others help him to mount Rozinante )

ELEANOR

Now we're going to have some fun .

DON Q. (who is now in the saddle) Come noble Rozinante ! brace up thy sinews, now, to meet the foe .

(Rozinante , with the spirit of an Arab steed -if not the form- is seen to paw the ground , impatient of the coming fray .

Tommy enters with the disinfectant sprayer, still going hard , all unconscious of impending disaster .

As soon as he sees him , Don Q. utters a wild war-cry, digs spurs into Rozinante's flanks , who bears him with a rush across the stage .

Don Q. knocks down Tommy , who falls with fright , drops the sprayer , and runs for his life-off the stage to the left , from whence he came . All the others cheer lustily )

ALEX

That's done for him .

ELEANOR

Well stricken , noblest of knights .

(Don Q. dismounts , and stands dramatically with his foot on the sprayer. More cheers )

*Rozinante can retire left to make more room - returns later*

DON Q. I have severed his venomous head from his ugly body. I will hang it in my steed, and bring it home as a trophy to the fair Dulcinea del Tobosa.

ALEX I tell you, old fellah, where you ought to go to.

DON Q. Where's that?

ALEX To Bedlam <sup>or</sup> (the nearest lunatic asylum)

DON Q. Why there? Is there more tyranny to be overcome?

ALEX No, it's a kind of place foo such as you to retreat into. --

DON Q. Retreat! I never retreat; never have done, and never will.

(Sympathetic whinny and frisk from Rozinante)

ALEX (significantly) Oh, but you may have to some day.

GULLIVER Oh, I say, that's too bad!

OTHERS What's the matter?

GULLIVER It's that silly old fool! Just look what he's done. With his rampaging about -he and his dragon - he's gone and spilt ink all over my Arithmetic Prep. - which has taken me hours and hours to do. I shall never have time to get it done again by tomorrow.

DON Q. What does that matter, my boy. It is but a scrap of paper. Think of the honour and glory.

GULLIVER Think of the row I shall get into tomorrow for not having done my Prep. I shall be kept in all the afternoon; and won't be able to play in the match.

DON Q. Is this more tyranny? Fear not, good youth, the dragon is slain; thou art free to go where thou wilt.

GULLIVER (angrily) The silly old fool; he's not right in the head.

SIR WALTER What is thy trouble, fair youth.

GULLIVER That silly old lunatic, in the tin can, has destroyed all my Prep.

SIR WALTER What is that?

GULLIVER

My work . You see I had to get twenty of these infernal decimal sums done by this evening .

MOLLY

And I 've got piles of Geometry as well as my Geography .

MRS. MAL(to Sir Walter ) Just to think now of all these poor young people being defined in here on a nice evening like this doing all these pneumatical and geographical calculations .It is the most unjust prosecution that evr I heard of .

SIR WALTER

I entirely agree with you, Madam , It puts me in mind of the tortures of the Spanish Inquisition .Those accursed Spaniards were bad enough with their thumb-screws and wracks ,but these recurring decimala...!

DON Q. (angrily ) What is that thou sayest of the Spaniards ?

SIR WALTER I spake of the cruelties of the cursed Spaniards ..

DON Q. What! What!

SIR WALTER <sup>(defiantly)</sup> And of the devilries of the Spanish Inquisition .  
furiously

DON Q. (~~exasperatedly~~) <sup>(beside himself)</sup> Cursed Spaniards ! Devilries of the Inquisition ! Sir Knight , whoever thou art , let me tell thee I am a Spanish nobleman .The bluest blood of Castile runs in my veins ,from a heart which ever beats more quickly at the thought of my native land . Therefore I tell thee I will not hear my country's honour dragged in the dust by ~~thy peridious lips~~ . Therefore Bethink thee ,foolish man ,and withdraw thy words .

SIR WALTER Nay, Sir, I will not with draw them , for they <sup>truth they utter</sup> are as as ~~evident~~ as the sun in heaven .

DON. Q. Have a care with whom thou dealest . I am DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA, the hero of a hundred fights !

ALEX (aside ) With windmills .

DON Q. For the last time I charge - and for thine own safety- Unsay at once thine ungracious words .

SIR WALTER Not a syllable !

DON Q. Then, by the sacred sword of Orlando, I will make thee eat them up again .I say moreover that thou art blind to the truth , and liest in thy throat .

*Thou*

SIR WALTER Enough of this prating , thou fond ,Spanish braggart.  
But that thou art tainted in thy wits ,thou wouldst  
long ere this have tasted of my steel .

(They both draw )

ALEX Looks as if there's going to be another scrap .

ELEANOR No joke this time .

MOLLY What can we do ?

DON Q. Have at thee , thou base Sea-robber !

SIR WALTER Come on , thou Castilian coxcomb !

(They fight . After a few passages of  
arms ,the boys try to separate them )

DON Q. (to Alex) Away ,fond youth ! Come not between the Spaniard  
and his country's honour .

SIR WALTER (to Gulliver ) Unhand me ,boy! I must let a little of  
this blue Castilian blood out of him , to ease the  
fever of his pride .

MRS . MAL O stop them ! stop them! hold them apart ! Do not  
let them reproach each other any nearer .I 'm afraid  
there is going to be a terrible apostrophe '.Heaven  
send ,they do not entirely distinguish each other .

(The knights begin fighting once more)

p.t.o →



ELEANOR ( seizes a window-pole , and, rushing in between the two combatants, knocks up their swords ) Stop! stop! wait a minute ! I ' ve got an idea by which you can settle your quarrel without loss of blood or honour.

Sir WALT. How 's that ?  
Don Q.

ELEANOR Put the matter before the League of Nations.

MRS. MAL. My dear , you are a progeny of wisdom ! You remind me of the Queen of Zebra , who came to visit King Solomon from the country of Utopia .

ELEANOR Will you two gentlemen agree ?.

MRS. MAL. Of course they will ; to think of quarrelling with such blood, and fury, and philanthropy over such an insignificant detail as the Spanish Disquisition .  
Do , Sir Walter , to please me.

SIR WALT. To please so elegant and accomplished a lady I <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ do anything in reason .

MRS. MAL ( bowing ) Thank you , Sir Walter .

ELEANOR And you , Don Quixote ?

DON Q. If you can assure me there will be no loss of honour to my country or myself .

ALEX  
ELEANOR- Why of course there will be no loss of honour to your country : that 's what the League of Nations is there for .

GULLIVER And as for yourself , why everybody knows you to be as brave and honourable <sup>a</sup> knight as ever drew a sword . Just look at the way you slew that dragon just now ; it was heroic - and it was no ordinary dragon either ( winks at Alex )

DON Q. ( flattered ) Well, well, under these conditions I will agree .

GULLIVER ( patting him on the back ) That's right : you're a good old sport .

ELEANOR ( joining their hands ) There now ! shake hands .

MRS. MAL. Well, well! I never thought we should see the matter come to such a happy extermination .

(At a sign from Ariel - who has been in the back-ground - dance music begins )

SIR WALT. (to Eleanor ) Shall we tread a measure ?.

ELEANOR Delighted , Sir Walter .

( They begin dancing , and the others join in. Gulliver takes Mrs. Malapoop , Alex takes Ariel ; Don Q. , Molly .

Rozinante (who has been off stage -left- since the charge -to make room ) returns and stands at the back of the stage . Caliban climbs up on his back and sits there watching the dancers and waving his hand in time to the music .

When the music and dancing are at their height , suddenly - at a sign from Ariel - there is a loud noise , and all the lights go out .

In the darkness and confusion which follows all the "Immortals "- except Ariel - slip off the stage .

The children push back their desks (which had been moved aside to make room for the fight etc . ) to their original positions .

As the light begins to come on again , Eleanor , Molly and the others are seen fast asleep at their desks in their original attitudes .

Soft music plays, while Ariel dances round the sleeping children and works a waking magic over them with her wand .

This finished Ariel goes toward; the box , which opens of its own accord as she gets nearer to it . She gets into the box and slowly disappears .

As the light becomes normal again , the children begin to stir . They are just waking as the tip of Ariel's wand disappears . The lid closes, and the children wake up . )

ELEANOR Good Heavens ! I must have been dreaming .

MOLLY I 've been asleep too ; and I 've had a wonderful dream.

- GULLIVER That's funny ; so have I !
- ALEX As for me , like Nick Bottom "I have had a most rare vision ....~~Methought~~ I saw ... but there is no man can tell what methought I saw ".
- GULLIVER Yes, there is ! I saw it too !
- ALEX Saw what ?
- GULLIVER The vision .
- ELEANOR In my dream, or vision, or whatever you call it , I saw Sir Walter Raleigh come right out of that box over there .
- THE OTHERS So did I !
- MOLLY And Mrs. Malaprop !
- GULLIVER And Caliban !
- ALEX And Don Quixote and old Rozinante !
- TOGETHER Why that's just what I dreamt !
- GULLIVER Well isn't that the limit !
- ALEX Were they real I wonder , or was it just my imagination ?.
- ELEANOR Well it wasn't just your imagination ; for we all saw them too .
- GULLIVER It's the rummiest go I 've ever heard of ! Four people to dream the same dream !
- MOLLY I saw them all come out of that box , one after the other , as plain as daylight .
- OTHERS So did I !
- ELEANOR And do you know, just as I was waking up, I 'm almost sure I saw the lid of the box moving .
- ALEX I was just going to say the same thing myself . I 'd swear I saw it shutting . I caught it with the tail of my eye , and there was something bright and shining just under the lid .
- MOLLY There was : I saw it too ; it was the tip of Ariel's wand .

GULLIVER ( going over to the box ) Well the box is all right anyhow ; there's nothing the matter this . ( He tries to lift it ) It's still as heavy as lead .

ELEANOR But it's impossible that we should all dream the same dream at the same time , isn't it ?.

MOLLY ( excitedly ) I say, look at this ! The ink is spilt all over your work .

GULLIVER Is it by Jove ? . Don Q. did thzt in my dream .

OTHERS And in mine , too .

GULLIVER ( looking round ) Gosh ! I say the gargle's gone ' .

OTHERS What ! the gargle ? so it has !

ELEANOR That proves it must be real .

GULLIVER What must be real ? the gargle .

ELEANOR No , the vision of course , *you silly* .

ALEX ( turning the glass upside down ) It's gone all right !

GULLIVER How do you explain it ?

ALEX I don't explain it .

MOLLY It must be magic .

ALEX But you don't really believe in magic do you ?

MOLLY We do - in Ireland .

GULLIVER Well certain very strange things do go on in your country - no one denied that ! ( Molly makes a face at him )

ELEANOR Of course in the ~~olden~~ old days , everybody believed in magic , even the Professors at the Universities . I was reading the other day about a magician , who worked charms and w<sup>o</sup>ders by ~~means~~ means of magic figures

GULLIVER What do you mean by a magic figure ?

ELEANOR Well , ceratin figures are believed to have magic properties - a regular pentagon , for instance , so it said in this book → was used for calling up spirits .

MOLLY (suddenly and excitedly ) I say , look ! look there !

OTHERS Where ? what ? .

MOLLY At the trade-mark on the box ! Don't you see its a regular pentagon .

OTHERS So it is !

GULLIVER Golly !

MOLLY Jolly strange ; isn't it ?

ALEX Well that might be only a coincidence .

ELEANOR(pointing at the black-board ) And see there ! Oh do look !

ALEX I am looking ! It 's only a drawing that a rather particularly dull master put on the board, during a particularly dull Geometry lesson this morning.

ELEANOR But don't you see there 's a regular pentagon on that too .

ALEX Thunder and Lightning ! so there is !

ELEANOR (examining it closer ) And see , the lines are not quite joined together in one place . The old magicians always left one corner a little bit open, lest they should be caught in their own spells .

GULLIVER (running to the box ) Gee Whizz ' it's the same in this one: it's open at the bottom left hand corner , the same as that .

ALEX But you surely don't mean to imply that old "Squaretoes " was trying to work magic do you in this morning's lesson ..

ELEANOR No , of course not ; but they say - if all the proper conditions are there - you can unloose a spell, by accident - just as you can touch a *opens* ~~new~~ secret spring by accident , which ~~suddenly~~ *reveals* a secret room .

GULLIVER I see , a sort of "short-circuiting" , to the spirit world .

MOLLY But even then, I don't see why just those spirits should be brought up .

- ELEANOR Well , in ~~my~~ dream , Sir Walter , and Mrs. Malaprop and the rest came because Ariel called them up .
- GULLIVER So it was in mine too .
- MOLLY Then why was it Ariel that came .
- GULLIVER Search me !
- ALEX ( gazing at the black-board ) Well , in the name of all that's mysterious .
- OTHERS Now , what's the matteer ?
- ALEX Quick , give me a duster , ( It is well at ~~at~~ this ~~point~~ point to bring the black-board and easel towards the front of the stage - if it cannot be easily seen from where it is )
- ELEANOR (giving duster ) Here you are .
- ALEX ( A. rubs off all the rest of the geometrical figure on the board except the pentagon and the letters which name it . Pointing with a ruler to the letters , he reads them , the others joining in ) ~~\*\*\*\*~~  
A...R...I...E...L .
- ALL TOGETHER Ariel !!!
- GULLIVER Well , isn't that a knock-out ?.
- ELEANOR They say the age of miracles ~~and magic~~ has passed away ; but I don't believe it .
- OTHERS Nor I .
- ALEX Looks as if our dear old friend , William , was right after all when he said , "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy !"
- MOLLY Oh' Oh'Oh'.
- ALEX Great Scott ' . what's the matter now ?.
- ELEANOR Tell us quick . All this is beginning to make me feel quite jumpy .
- GULLIVER Me too : I shall be a nervous wreck if this sort of thing goes on much longer .

MOLLY Its the box , the box .

GULLIVER (going over towards it - warily - and returning without touching it ) What's wrong with the box ; it looks all right . You didn't see it move or anything , did you ?

MOLLY No , it's the writing . Read it .

GULLIVER (reading ) "Made-At -Georgetown-In-Columbia,". That's quite straight forward , isn't it ; there s nothing to make your hair stand on end in that .

MOLLY Yes , but it's an anagram .

GULLIVER (starting back from the box again) Bless my soul , what's that? - is it dangerous , does it bite!  
I hope it doesn't bite!

MOLLY No , you silly , its a hidden word .

GULLIVER I don't see any hidden words , yet I see all that are.

MOLLY Take the first letter of each word , and read it downwards .

TOGETHER "M"....."A"....."G"...."I"...."C".. MAGIC !! -  
A magic Box !!

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(Curtain )

.....

Mortimer Standing  
Sefton Place  
Arundel  
Sussex.

# “A Case of Magic”

(A PLAY IN ONE ACT),

## AT ARUNDEL CASTLE,

MONDAY, DEC. 14th, 1925

(By kind invitation of Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk).

### DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

#### *IMMORTALS.*

##### PRESIDING GENIUS :

Ariel - - - - - Lady Winefride Howard.

##### SPIRITS OF ARIEL :

Queen of Hearts - - - - - Lady Katharine Howard.

Mrs. Malaprop - - - - - Elizabeth Fowler.

Sir Walter Raleigh - - - - - Mortimer Standing.

Don Quixote - - - - - Michael de Geofroy.

Rozinante—

    Front Legs - - - - - Lord Petre.

    Back Legs - - - - - Prince Radziwill.

Caliban - - - - - Charles Brown.

Executioner - - - - - Hon. Basil Feilding.

Knave of Hearts - - - - - Peter Wilberforce.

#### *MORTALS.*

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Molly - - - - - Catharine Fowler.

Alex - - - - - Arthur Littledale.

Gulliver - - - - - John Sweetman-Powell.

Tommy, the Boot Boy - - - - - Simon Molloy.

*Scene* - - - - - A SCHOOLROOM.

*Time* - - - - - PRESENT DAY.



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