

Frederic:

Act 1 page 3 "Rise Sweet one ---- thrashed"

FREDERICK

(Fred puts his arm around Ruth where he seats her, wiping her tears away)

Rise, sweet one, I have long since pardoned you.

RUTH

The two words were so much alike!

FREDERICK

They were. They still are, though years have rolled over their heads. But this afternoon my obligation ceases. Individually I love you all with affection unspeakable, but, collectively, I look upon you with a disgust that amounts to absolute detestation. (Pirates go at him. KING stops them). **Oh! Pity me, my beloved friends, for such is my sense of duty that, once out of my indentures, I shall feel myself bound to devote myself heart and soul to your extermination!**

ALL

Poor lad – poor lad!

KING (embracing Fred)

Well, Frederick, if you conscientiously feel that it is your duty to destroy us, we cannot blame you for acting on that conviction. Always act in accordance with the dictates of your conscience, my boy, and chance the consequences.

SAMUEL

Besides, we can offer you but little temptation to remain with us. We don't seem to make piracy pay. (KING turns on him and HE retreats) I'm sure I don't know why, but we don't.

FREDERICK

I know why, but alas! I mustn't tell you; it wouldn't be right.

KING

Why not, my boy? It's only (looks up) half past eleven, and you are one of us until the clock strikes twelve.

SAMUEL

True, and until then you are bound to protect our interests.

ALL

Hear, hear!

FREDERICK

Well, then, it is my duty as a pirate, to tell you that you are too tender-hearted. For instance, you make a point of never attacking a weaker party than yourselves, and when you attack a stronger one you invariably get thrashed.

KING

There is some truth in that.