



A C T O N E

THE KISS

SCENE, *the family seated in the drawing-room. Pa is reading the evening paper. Mother is remonstrating with Bobbie, who is performing in the manner peculiar to his youth. Penelope is reading a book. Plato is ushered in.*

In the family circle Penelope sat ;
Her heart went rapidly pittity-pat ;
And a very good cause there was for that,
For Plato had entered the room, whereat
The old man thoughtfully reached for his hat,
And on persuasion the small boy gat
Up stairs with his Ma for a family spat,
And such diversion as comes with a slat.

(The family retire, as indicated, leaving Penelope alone with Plato.)

Young Plato was tickled to death to find
Penelope's folks so uncommonly kind ;
And he said to himself : "It's a regular grind
On the rest of the fellows ;—but why should I mind ?
For some time past I have opined,
That to me Penelope's half inclined,
While the family seem to be resigned,
As all can see, if they are not blind."
And he smoothed himself before and behind,
With the air of a man who has dined and wined.

(Plato greets Penelope, and expresses his satisfaction.)