

A suitable joke on his enemie,
Prepared by the heathenish Chinee,
For just such times of emergencée.

(Bobbie provides himself with a fire-cracker.)

SCENE 2.

Still stepping softly, he stole down stairs ;
And he laughed when he saw the close-drawn chairs,
And the critical state of love's affairs.
He thought of his Ma and the shoe she wears,
But he said like a boy of spunk : " Who cares ! "

(Bobbie approaches the enemy.)

SCENE 3.

Now Plato was busy, as you have learned ;
The fire of love in his bosom burned ;
And still for another kiss he yearned
From the lovely mouth to his own upturned.
And this is why he had not discerned
That the boy from his bed-room had adjourned.

*(Plato, intent on other business, is unconscious of the
advance of the enemy.)*

Penelope, too, was quite intent
To know exactly what Plato meant ;
Although the evening was well-nigh spent,
And she knew it was time the young man went,
To the matter in hand her mind she bent,
And such assiduous heed she lent,
And gave such gratified assent
To each osculatory incident,
That she did not think it pertinent
To provide against a dire event.

*(Penelope is likewise distracted by more pressing
affairs.)*