

MARIAN

(Hurrying to HAROLD)

Professor Hill, I think Mayor Shinn has behaved abominably and I think it was wonderful of you coming to Tommy's defense.

HAROLD

Oh, that was nothing.

MARIAN

Yes it was.

HAROLD

Oh, no. A man can't dodge the issue every time a little personal risk is involved –

(Watching her)

What does the Poet say?

The coward dies a thousand deaths – the brave man only 500 –

(Laughs gaily, suddenly turns serious)

Unfortunately, of course, the Mayor was already pretty mad on account of his Billiard Parlor. Now –

(Shrugs ruefully)

Oh, I suppose a recommendation from a musical authority like yourself would help but –

(Leaving)

I couldn't think of asking you to do a thing like that.

MARIAN

(Stopping him)

Why, Professor Hill.

HAROLD

You would?

MARIAN

I'd be glad to. I just wish I was a little more informed – I've been wanting to talk to you about Winthrop's Cornet.

HAROLD

His Cornet? Mother-of-pearl keys.

MARIAN

I'm sure it's fine. But you see he never touches it. Oh, the first week or so, he made a few – ah – experimental – blats? I guess you'd say?

HAROLD

Yes – yes, blats.

MARIAN

And he sings the

(SINGING it)

"Minuet in G de da" almost constantly.

HAROLD

(Going to the groups of LADIES and leading them as they SING)

La de da de da de da de da. La de da. La de da –

MARIAN

But he never touches the Cornet.

HAROLD

Well, you see –

MARIAN

He says you told him it wasn't necessary.

HAROLD

Well.

MARIAN

He tells me about some “Think System.” If he thinks the “Minuet in G”, he won’t have to bother with the notes. Now Professor –

HAROLD

Miss Marian. The Think System is a revolutionary method, I’ll admit. So was Galileo’s conception of the Heavens, Columbus’ conception of the egg – ah – globe, Bach’s conception of the Well-Tempered Clavichord. Hmm? Now I cannot discuss these things here in public. But if you’ll allow me to call –

(Spotting the LADIES who are ENTERING, hastily)

When may I call?

MARIAN

Why any night this week –