

- X DUKE** *(to his attendants)* Be good enough to inform His Majesty that His Grace the Duke of Plaza-Toro, Limited, has arrived, and begs—
- CASILDA** Desires—
- DUCHESS** Demands—
- DUKE** And demands an audience. *(Exeunt attendants)* And now, my child, prepare to receive the husband to whom you were united under such interesting and romantic circumstances.
- CASILDA** But which is it? There are two of them!
- DUKE** It is true that at present His Majesty is a double gentleman; but as soon as the circumstances of his marriage are ascertained, he will, *ipso facto*, boil down to a single gentleman—thus presenting a unique example of an individual who becomes a single man and a married man by the same operation.
- DUCHESS** *(severely)* I have known instances in which the characteristics of both conditions existed concurrently in the same individual.
- DUKE** Ah, he couldn't have been a Plaza-Toro.
- DUCHESS** Oh! couldn't he, though!
- CASILDA** Well, whatever happens, I shall, of course, be a dutiful wife, but I can never love my husband.
- DUKE** I don't know. It's extraordinary what unprepossessing people one can love if one gives one's mind to it.
- DUCHESS** I loved your father.
- DUKE** My love—that remark is a little hard, I think? Rather cruel perhaps? Somewhat uncalled for, I venture to believe?
- DUCHESS** It was very difficult, my dear; but I said to myself, "That man is a Duke, and I *will* love him". Several of my relations bet I couldn't, but I did—desperately!