

CASILDA

O Luiz, Luiz—what have you said! What have I done! What have I allowed you to do!

LUIZ

Nothing, I trust, that you will ever have reason to repent. (*Offering to embrace her*)

CASILDA

(*withdrawing from him*) Nay, Luiz, it may not be. I have embraced you for the last time.

LUIZ

(*amazed*) Casilda!

CASILDA

I have just learnt, to my surprise and indignation, that I was wed in babyhood to the infant son of the King of Barataria!

LUIZ

The son of the King of Barataria? The child who was stolen in infancy by the Inquisition?

CASILDA

The same. But, of course, you know his story.

LUIZ

Know his story? Why, I have often told you that my mother was the nurse to whose charge he was entrusted!

CASILDA

True. I had forgotten. Well, he has been discovered, and my father has brought me here to claim his hand.

LUIZ

But you will not recognize this marriage? It took place when you were too young to understand its import.

CASILDA

Nay, Luiz, respect my principles and cease to torture me with vain entreaties. Henceforth my life is another's.

LUIZ

But stay—the present and the future—*they* are another's; but the past—that at least is ours, and none can take it from us. As we may revel in naught else, let us revel in that!

CASILDA

I don't think I grasp your meaning.

LUIZ

Yet it is logical enough. You say you cease to love me?

CASILDA

(*demurely*) I say I *may* not love you.

LUIZ

Ah, but you do not say you *did* not love me?

CASILDA

I loved you with a frenzy that words are powerless to express—and that but ten brief minutes since!

LUIZ

Exactly. My own—that is, until ten minutes since, my own—my lately loved, my recently adored—tell me that until, say a quarter of an hour ago, I was all in all to thee! (*Embracing her*)

CASILDA

I see your idea. It's ingenious, but don't do that.

(*Releasing herself*)

LUIZ

There can be no harm in revelling in the past.

CASILDA

None whatever, but an embrace cannot be taken to act retrospectively.

LUIZ

Perhaps not! Ah, Casilda, you were to me as the sun is to the earth!

CASILDA

And now our love, so full of life, is but a silent, solemn memory!

LUIZ

Must it be so, Casilda?

CASILDA

Luiz, it must be so!