

GIUSEPPE	One of us a king!	} <i>Together</i>
MARCO	Not brothers!	
TESSA	The King of Barataria!	
GIANETTA	Well, who'd have thought it!	
MARCO	But which is it?	
DON AL.	What does it matter? As you are both Republicans, and hold kings in detestation, of course you'll abdicate at once. Good morning! (<i>Going</i>)	
GIA. & TESSA	Oh, don't do that! (<i>MARCO and GIUSEPPE stop him</i>)	
GIUSEPPE	Well, as to that, of course, there are kings and kings. When I say that I detest kings, I mean I detest <i>bad</i> kings.	
DON AL.	I see. It's a delicate distinction.	
GIUSEPPE	Quite so. Now I can conceive a kind of king—an ideal king—the creature of my fancy, you know—who would be absolutely unobjectionable. A king, for instance, who would abolish taxes and make everything cheap, except gondolas—	
MARCO	And give a great many free entertainments to the gondoliers—	
GIUSEPPE	And let off fireworks on the <i>Grand Canal</i> , and engage all the gondolas for the occasion—	
MARCO	And scramble money on the Rialto among the gondoliers.	
GIUSEPPE	Such a king would be a blessing to his people, and if I were a king, that is the sort of king I would be.	
MARCO	And so would I!	
DON AL.	Come, I'm glad to find your objections are not insuperable.	
MAR. & GIU.	Oh, they're not insuperable.	
GIA. & TESSA	No, they're not insuperable.	

GIUSEPPE	Besides, we are open to conviction.
GIANETTA	Yes; they are open to conviction.
TESSA	Oh! they've often been convicted.
GIUSEPPE	Our views may have been hastily formed on insufficient grounds. They may be crude, ill-digested, erroneous. I've a very poor opinion of the politician who is not open to conviction.
TESSA	(<i>To GIANETTA</i>) Oh, he's a fine fellow!
GIANETTA	Yes, that's the sort of politician for <i>my</i> money!
DON AL.	Then we'll consider it settled. Now, as the country is in a state of insurrection, it is absolutely necessary that you should assume the reins of Government at once; and, until it is ascertained which of you is to be king, I have arranged that you will reign jointly, so that no question can arise hereafter as to the validity of any of your acts.
MARCO	As one individual?
DON AL.	As one individual.
GIUSEPPE	(<i>linking himself with MARCO</i>) Like this?
DON AL.	Something like that.
MARCO	And we may take our friends with us, and give them places about the Court?
DON AL.	Undoubtedly. That's always done!
MARCO	I'm convinced!
GIUSEPPE	So am I!
TESSA	Then the sooner we're off the better.
GIANETTA	We'll just run home and pack up a few things (<i>going</i>)—
DON AL.	Stop, stop—that won't do at all—ladies are not admitted.
ALL	What!
DON AL.	Not admitted. Not at present. Afterwards, perhaps. We'll see.
GIUSEPPE	Why, you don't mean to say you are going to separate us from our wives?
DON AL.	(<i>aside</i>) This is very awkward. (<i>Aloud</i>) Only for a time—a few months. After all, what is a few months?
TESSA	But we've only been married half an hour!