And honest brown right hand!
And yet he is so wondrous fair
That love for one so passing rare,
So peerless in his manly beauty,
Were little else than solemn duty!
Oh, god of love, and god of reason, say,
Which of you twain shall my poor heart obey!

(SIR JOSEPH *and* CAPTAIN *enter.*)

SIR JOSEPH. Madam, it has been represented to me that you are appalled by my exalted rank. I desire to convey to you officially my assurance, that if your hesitation is attributable to that circumstance, it is uncalled for.

JOS. Oh! then your lordship is of opinion that married happiness is *not* inconsistent with discrepancy in rank?

SIR JOSEPH. I am officially of that opinion.

JOS. That the high and the lowly may be truly happy together, provided that they truly love one another?

SIR JOSEPH. Madam, I desire to convey to you officially my opinion that love is a platform upon which all ranks meet.

JOS. I thank you, Sir Joseph. I *did* hesitate, but I will hesitate no longer. (*Aside.*) He little thinks how eloquently he has pleaded his rival's cause!

TRIO – SIR JOSEPH, CAPTAIN, *and* JOSEPHINE.

CAPT. Never mind the why and wherefore,
Love can level ranks, and therefore,
Though his lordship's station's mighty,
Though stupendous be his brain,
Though your tastes are mean and flighty
And your fortune poor and plain,

CAPT. *and* SIR JOSEPH. Ring the merry bells on board-ship,
Rend the air with warbling wild,
For the union of {his / my} lordship
With a humble captain's child!

CAPT. For a humble captain's daughter –
JOS. For a gallant captain's daughter –
SIR JOSEPH. And a lord who rules the water –
JOS. (*aside*). And a *tar* who ploughs the water!
ALL. Let the air with joy be laden,
Rend with songs the air above,
For the union of a maiden
With the man who owns her love!

SIR JOSEPH. Never mind the why and wherefore,
Love can level ranks, and therefore,
Though your nautical relation (*alluding to* CAPT.)
In my set could scarcely pass –
Though you occupy a station
In the lower middle class –

CAPT. *and* SIR JOSEPH. Ring the merry bells on board-ship,
Rend the air with warbling wild,
For the union of {my / his} lordship
With a humble captain's child!

CAPT. For a humble captain's daughter –
JOS. For a gallant captain's daughter –