

The main consents are had ; and here we'll stay
To see our widower's second marriage-day :

Count. Which better than the first, o dear heav'n, bless!
Or, ere they meet, in me, o nature, cease !

Laf. Come on, my son, in whom my house's name
Must be digested : give a favour from you
To sparkle in the spirits of my daughter,
That she may quickly come. By my old beard,

[*Ber. gives a ring.*]

And ev'ry hair that's on't, *Helen* that's dead
Was a sweet creature : such a ring as this,
The last time e'er she took her leave at court,
I saw upon her finger.

Ber. Hers it was not.

King. Now, pray you, let me see it ; for mine eye,
While I was speaking, oft was fasten'd to't :
This ring was mine ; and when I gave it *Helen*,
I had her, if her fortunes ever stood
Necessitated to help, that by this token
I would relieve her : had you that craft to 'reave her
Of what should stead her most ?

Ber. My gracious sovereign,
Howe'er it pleases you to take it so,
The ring was never hers.

Count. Son, on my life,
I've seen her wear it ; and she reckon'd it
At her life's rate.

Laf. I'm sure, I saw her wear it.

Ber. You are deceiv'd, my lord, she never saw it ;
In *Florence* was it from a casement thrown me,
Wrap'd in a paper, which contain'd the name
Of her that threw it : noble she was, and thought
I stood ungag'd ; but when I had subscrib'd
To mine own fortune, and inform'd her fully
I could not answer in that course of honour
As she had made the overture, she ceas'd

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