

## Replacement for Page 189

Despard: Poor child, she wanders! But soft – someone comes – Margaret – pray recollect yourself – Basingstoke, I beg! Margaret, if you don't Basingstoke at once, I shall be seriously angry.

Margaret: Basingstoke it is!

Despard: Then make it so.

Robin: Despard! And his young wife! This visit is unexpected.

Margaret: Shall I fly at him? Shall I tear him limb from limb? Shall I render him asunder? Say the word and ---

Despard: Basingstoke!

Margaret: Basingstoke it is!

Despard: Then make it so. My brother – I call you brother still, despite your horrible profligacy – we have come to urge you to abandon the evil course to which you have committed yourself, and at any cost to become a pure and blameless ratepayer.

Robin: That's all very well, but you seem to forget that on the day I reform I perish in excruciating torment.

Despard: Oh, better that than pursue a course of life-long villainy. Oh, seek refuge in death, I implore you.

Margaret: Why not die? Others have died and no one has cared. You will not be mourned.

Despard: True—you could die so well!

Robin: You didn't seem to be of this opinion when you were a bad baronet.

Despard: No, because I had no good brother at my elbow to check me when about to go wrong.

Robin: A home thrust indeed! But I've done no wrong yet.

Margaret: No wrong! He has done no wrong! Did you hear that?

Despard: Basingstoke!

Margaret: Basingstoke it is!

Despard: My brother – I still call you brother, you observe – you forget that you have been, in the eye of the law, a Bad Baronet of Ruddigore for ten years – and you are therefore responsible – in the eye of the law – for all the misdeeds committed by the unhappy gentleman who occupied your place.

Robin: Meaning you?

Despard: Meaning me.

Robin: I see! Bless my hear, I never thought of that! Was I very bad?

Despard: Awful. Wasn't he?

Margaret: Desperate! Oh, you were a flirt!

Robin: And I've been going on like this for how long?

Despard: Ten years! Think of all the atrocities you have committed – by attorney as it were – during that period. Remember how you trifled with this poor child's affections – how you raised her hopes on high (don't cry, my love –Basingstoke you know), only to trample them in the dust when they were at the very zenith of their fullness. Oh, fie, sir, fie---she trusted you!

Robin: Meaning you?

Despard: Nothing of the kind, sir. I was merely your representative.

Robin: Well, meaning us, then. What a scoundrel we must have been! There, there--- don't cry, my dear, it's all right now. Birmingham, you know—Birmingham---

Margaret: It's Ba—Ba—Basingstoke!

Robin: Basingstoke! Of course it is—Basingstoke!

Margaret: Then make it so!

Robin: There ,there—it's all right--- he's married you now—that is, I've married you—I say, which of us has married her?

Despard: Oh, I've married her.

Robin: Oh, I'm glad of that. Yes, He's married you now, and anything more disreputable than my conduct seems to have been I've never even heard of. But my mind is made up—I will defy my ancestors. I will refuse to obey their behests. Thus, by courting death, atone in some degree for the infamy of my career!

Margaret: I knew it ---I knew it---God bless you—

Despard: Basingstoke!

Margaret: Basingstoke it is!