

VANDERGELDER/CORNELIUS/BARNABY

VANDERGELDER

(HE has gone up onto R platform;
HE stamps on floor by trap door)
....Cornelius! Barnaby!

(Trap door opens, CORNELIUS and
BARNABY appear)

CORNELIUS

You stamped, Mr. Vandergelder?

VANDERGELDER

I did! I got news for you both! I am going to New York
this afternoon to march in the Fourteenth Street
Association Parade. And when I come back you're going to
have a mistress.

BARNABY

I'm too young, Mr. Vandergelder!

VANDERGELDER

Not yours, hell and damnation, mine!....I mean, I'm
getting married again. And in honor of that occasion
I've decided to promote you, Cornelius, to chief clerk.

CORNELIUS

And what am I now, Mr. Vandergelder?

VANDERGELDER

You're an impertinent fool, that's what you are! And
I'm promoting you from impertinent fool to chief clerk.
Any more questions?

CORNELIUS

Yes.

VANDERGELDER

What?

CORNELIUS

Does....does the chief clerk get one evening off a week?

VANDERGELDER

So that's the way you thank me for your promotion, is it?
No sir, you'll attend to the store as usual! Now get back
to work! And don't forget to put the lid on the sheep dip!
(To AUDIENCE)

....Evenings off, marrying artists....Foolishness!
Ninety-nine percent of the people in this world are
fools....And the rest of us are in great danger of
contamination! Why, even I was once young, which was
foolish; and got married, which was foolish; and was
poor which was more foolish than

VANDERGELDER (Continued)

anything else. Then my wife died which was foolish of her; I grew older which was sensible of me; and became rich, friendless and mean, which in Yonkers is about as far as you can go!

(Music starts.

VANDERGELDER starts down steps)

Oh I know what you're wondering now. Why a man of so much good sense should be planning anything as foolish as getting married again. The answer's simple... This house without a woman would be an empty shell....and pretty dirty, too!