

religious nature, further instruction would uplift him and I'd be pleased to provide it. I plan to speak of him from the pulpit this week.

GOMM. I see our visiting bather has flushed the busy Bishop How from his cruciform lair.

BISHOP. Speak with Merrick, sir. I have spoken to him of Mercy and Justice. There's a true Christian in the rough.

GOMM. This makes my news seem banal, yet yes: Frederick, the response to my letter to the *Times* about Merrick has been staggering. The English public has been so generous that Merrick may be supported for life without a penny spent from Hospital funds.

TREVES. But that is excellent.

BISHOP. God bless the English public.

GOMM. Especially for not dismembering him at Liverpool St. Station. Freddie, the London's no home for incurables, this is quite irregular, but for you I permit it—though god knows what you'll do.

BISHOP. God does know, sir, and Darwin does not. GOMM. He'd better, sir; he deformed him.

BISHOP. I had apprehensions coming here. I find it most fortunate Merrick is in the hands of Dr. Treves, a Christian, sir.

GOMM. Freddie is a good man and a brilliant doctor, and that is fortunate indeed.

TREVES. I couldn't have raised the funds though, Doctor.

BISHOP. Don't let me keep you longer from your duties, Mr. Treves. Yet, Mr. Gomm, consider: is it science, sir, that motivates us when we transport English rule of law to India or Ireland? When good British churchmen leave hearth and home for missionary hardship in Africa, is it science that bears

them away? Sir it is not. It is Christian duty. It is the obligation to bring our light and benefices to benighted man. That motivates us, even as it motivates Treves toward Merrick, sir, to bring salvation where none is. Gordon was a Christian, sir, and died at Khartoum for it. Not for science, sir.

GOMM. You're telling me, not for science.

BISHOP. Mr. Treves, I'll visit Merrick weekly if I may.

TREVES. You will be welcome, sir, I am certain.

BISHOP. Then good day, sirs. (*Exits.*)

GOMM. Well, Jesus my boy, now we have the money, what do you plan for Merrick?

TREVES. Normality as far as is possible.

GOMM. So he will be like us? Ah. (*Smiles.*)

TREVES. Is something wrong, Mr. Gomm? With us?

Fadeout.

SCENE 8

MERCY AND JUSTICE ELUDE OUR MINDS AND ACTIONS

Merrick in bath. Treves, Gomm.

MERRICK. How long is as long as I like?

TREVES. You may stay for life. The funds exist.

MERRICK. Been reading this. About homes for the blind. Wouldn't mind going to one when I have to move.

TREVES. But you do not have to move; and you're not blind.