

## APPENDIX I :

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

The birth of Richard Brinsley Sheridan was surrounded with portents. It was surprising that as late as 1751, the exact date or month of his birth - in either September or October - would not be properly recorded in Dublin, Ireland. It was also unusual to baptize (November 4, in the same year) a child Thomas Brinsley, an old family name that had been given to an elder brother who died before he was born, and then to change his name to Richard.

The family tradition seems to supply an appropriate background for the kind of life Sheridan was to live. His grandfather, Thomas Sheridan, had been a companion and confidant of Jonathan Swift. His father, Thomas Sheridan, was a sort of success actor and the author of a pronouncing dictionary, also the advocate of a scheme of public education on prominently elocution. While his mother, Frances, gained some fame as a playwright.

Richard Brinsley was not successful as a student, either before Harrow or at Harrow. With a school friend, he composed a burlesque opera, *Jupiter*. In 1770, he moved with his family to Bath.

Bath lay to a considerable degree beneath everything Sheridan wrote. *The Rivals* (1775) was set there. *The School for Scandal*, in its earliest versions, was also located in Bath. This place was of great importance indeed to Sheridan for another reason. Here he met Elizabeth Ann Linley. Their relationship involved an elopement to France, two duels, and two sets of disapproving parents. Anyway they get married eventually.

In the light of his heritage, young Richard took to writing for the stage to gain money. His first play was *The Rivals*. Though not exactly identical, he drew on Bath for its story background on his own love affair. After a preliminary failure, the play became a great success. In the same year, it also appeared *St. Patrick's Day*, designed to exploit the popularity of the stage Irishman, and then *The Duenna*, an operetta. In February, 1777, he produced *A Trip to Scarborough*. Still in that year, there was Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*

which works out for good.

Sheridan's growth in status over this period was very rapid. In 1776, he became one of the proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre. During the years he was manager or co-manager, the theatre was consistently misgoverned. Repeatedly in need of money for the rest of his life, Drury Lane was bound to suffer or as dramatist he did not manage any important contribution to the playhouse. *The Critic* appeared in 1779. For the following years, he contributed only minor works. Like his great predecessor, Congreve, Sheridan became a grand old man of the theatre at the ripe old age of thirty.

The rest of Sheridan's life formed a fascinating history. He was in turn brilliant and elected to Parliament in 1780. He found there a theatre more suitable to his talents. Yet his own life was chaotic. He drank too much and courted too many women. He lost the love of the wife whom he had wooed so romantically. When she died he married again in too great haste. He squandered money when he had it, and in the last years of his life, he was imprisoned for debt. Sheridan closed his eyes eternally in London, July 7, 1816.

## APPENDIX II:

SYNOPSIS OF THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

The early opening conversation, taking place at Lady Sneerwell's house, between the Lady and Snake, whom she has been employing to spread scandalous information about people of the town, has already showed the truth upon Surface Brothers. She tells him that Joseph Surface, the elder brother, believed to be a highly admirable person, is actually a sentimental knave. She found him out a long time since to be artful, selfish and malicious, while with Sir Peter and indeed with all his acquaintance, he is known for a youthful miracle of prudence, good sense and benevolence. As for Charles Surface, he passes for a young libertine, extravagant and bankrupt in fortune and reputation.

As Snake wonders Lady Sneer's relationship with Joseph, she clears up that, unlike sexual relationship over the world, love has no share whatever in their intercourse. Joseph's real attachment is for Maria, Sir Peter's ward, or her fortune, but knowing that Charles is his rival on Maria's love, he comes to her to gain advantages from her assistance. Thereafter he's been obliged in pretending still. Whereas, Lady Sneer herself is so much in love with Charles that she will destroy the mutual attachment subsisting between Maria and him, sacrifice everything to achieve even more so. She is working with Joseph, however, for she wants Charles and Joseph hopes to woo and win Maria.

When Joseph Surface enters the room, the conspiratorial gathering comes to the discussion of Charles' condition. They put Charles down as a man in considerable financial distress. It seems that the worse his circumstance goes the happier Lady Sneer will be. She apparently expects him to be more miserable with the improper, shocking things they do purposely.

The confidence placed by Lady towards Snake by telling him all the points doesn't get any suspicion from Joseph before. Yet, once Snake takes leave, he turns up to be regretful. For, though they co-operate, he doesn't believe Snake trustworthy in his villainy.

Maria's arrival, caught up by Mrs. Candour, Mr.

Crabtree and Sir Benjamin Backbite, gets the party to begin fierce on gossip. When Maria feels she can stand no more malice directed at the man she loves, she leaves that place. The company then breaks up.

Meanwhile, the life of Sir Peter Teazle's marriage leads into an unhappiness state. For he, an old bachelor having a young country wife, often objects to her extravagances and her friends. His anger only makes her barely pay attention.

By the way, as Rowley visits Sir Peter, they fall into a time to speak for Sir Oliver's nephews. They do not agree each other. Sir Peter, who also acts on guardianship for those two brothers, believes Joseph to be a fine and noble person and Charles a disreputable rake. Rowley, happening to be an old and faithful employee of Sir Oliver Surface, appears not to have the same opinion. He is more perspicacious around them. The news Rowley informs that Sir Oliver has arrived in London from India comes up at the end of that argument.

As the time goes by, the scandal mongers live on, while Joseph is remaining in his plan. Furthermore, he has endeavoured to forward his suit of Maria by ingratiating himself with her guardian's wife who appreciates a mild flirtation and since she is in reality an inexperienced country girl, assumes that Joseph's love-making is a tribute to her own charms.

In the interim when there is a pack of slanderers at the home of Lady Sneerwell, Joseph has been trying to pay court to Maria, but Lady Teazle interrupts them while he is on his knees. To avoid Lady Teazle's distrust, he pretends that he was asking Maria not to tell Sir Peter of her suspicions of Joseph's "tender concern" for Lady Teazle.

There, at Sir Peter Teazle's house, Sir Oliver Surface, the uncle of the two brothers has just arrived in town. He is informed with Rowley about Sir Peter's marriage. After all, when Sir Peter has entered and those two old friends greet each other, Sir Oliver is inclined to agree with Rowley's judgment of the relative worth of his two nephews rather than Sir Peter's.

On the advice of Sir Peter and Rowley, Sir Oliver next plans to test his nephews by personal observation of Charles' profligacy and Joseph's sentiment. He is desirous of judging for himself the real characters of his nephews so that he arranges to visit Charles in the character of Little Premium a broker, and Joseph in that of a needy relative named Stanley.

As Moses, a moneylender from whom Charles has borrowed money, is to introduce Sir Oliver to Charles, he coaches him in the jargon and the behaviour of moneylender. That new temporary partnership, then, leaves together to carry on the plan.

Afterwards, a tension develops between Sir Peter and Maria. She will not disobey her guardian by marrying Charles, but she will not consent to marry Joseph. It is followed by the usual family arguments when Maria goes away and Lady Teazle enters, though their conversation starts pleasantly enough.

There is a men's party in progress, a luxury which we know Charles can not afford at the day Moses and Sir Oliver, as Mr. Premium, arrive at Charles Surface's house. From the beginning, Sir Oliver gets his first introduction to the profligate through Trip, Charles' servant, who likely tries to borrow money from Moses too.

When Moses and Premium enter, they interrupt the drinking and singing and the guests leave the room. "Mr. Premium" is not anxious to lend Charles money on the expectation of Sir Oliver's death, besides he is prepared to buy plate or property. Since there is nothing left but family portraits, Charles offers to sell them and together they all leave for the picture room.

Proceeding to the picture room, Charles first burlesques the part of auctioneer. He starts selling the pictures in batches when he feels that the selling individually proves too slow for him. Seeing the heartlessness of his nephew makes Sir Oliver shocked. However, when they come to the picture of Sir Oliver, painted before he went to India, Charles refuses to sell it. This obviously pleases Sir Oliver. He buys the rest, and leaves.

A fact in which it becomes clear how delighted Sir Oliver is that his nephew would not sell his picture. His approval becomes positive enthusiasm for the young man when he discovers that Charles immediately gives some of the money to Stanley via Rowley.

Inopportunately Sir Peter visits his friend, Joseph, when his wife is being there as well. In that place, Joseph's library, Lady Teazle has arrived for a clandestine and indiscreet meeting, which is clear not as her first visit. She scaredly hides behind a screen, from which point of vantage she hears what they are talking about. Concerning his wife who may be having an affair with Charles, Sir Peter then announces that he intends to make her an independent allowance since money is so often

the cause of their arguments. For the next discussion is about Joseph's suit of Maria, all this time Joseph is attempting to change the conversation to some safe subject.

Another unwelcome visitor at this point is Charles. His sudden arrival, what is more, has Sir Peter getting himself in the closet so as to hear whatever Charles might say about Lady Teazle. Before it is done, Sir Peter sees a bit of a lady's skirt behind the screen, but he doesn't see the lady.

Charles also seems to pick unfortunate subjects for conversation. He discusses the fact that he thinks Lady Teazle has shown some partiality to Joseph. In desperation Joseph reveals the fact that Sir Peter is around, hidden, and Charles calls him out at once. On the basis of the conversation, Sir Peter is convinced that Charles has not been having an affair with his wife.

When Joseph leaves the room for someone is waiting to see him below, Sir Peter can not resist telling Charles that there is a little French milliner covered by the screen. Charles insists on unveiling her, and Lady Teazle is revealed just as Joseph returns. After some biting remarks, Charles goes off.

Impressed by the kindness Sir Peter intended to show, Lady Teazle refuses to support Joseph. Instead of bearing out the story concocted by Joseph, of which is her coming to talk about his pretensions to Maria, she decides to tell her husband the truth.

On the second test, Sir Oliver pretending to be Stanley, the poor relation, reaches Joseph's apartment. No money is offered to him by Joseph but a full measure of noble sentiments, which he can apparently call up automatically, despite his preoccupation with his own problems. In the course of conversation, he assures Stanley that Sir Oliver had not been particularly generous but has only sent curios and gifts from India. Sir Oliver leaves, determines that Charles will be his heir.

As soon as Stanley leaves, Rowley enters, according to an earlier arrangement, to announce that Sir Oliver is back in the country. Joseph tries to call back "Stanley", but Rowley tells him the old man has already left.

The coven of slanderers descend upon the Teazle home. Rumor has already spread garbled versions of the events at Joseph Surface's apartment. All the versions describe Sir Peter wounded, yet they do not agree on whether Sir Peter's antagonist was Joseph or Charles.

When Sir Oliver enters, he is assumed to be a doctor in attendance on him until Sir Peter enters. In humiliation and anger, the knight orders the rout from his house.

At first, Sir Oliver taunts his old friend, for he knows everything that occurred, but soon he and Rowley try to convince Sir Peter to be reconciled with his wife. Despite Sir Peter's anger, he is easily convinced and it is clear that he and Lady Teazle will be reconciled.

In Joseph's apartment, Lady Sneerwell is angry at her confederate's fiasco. If he does not marry Maria, his brother may, and that would interfere with her plan to marry Charles. Joseph feels they still have some chance. She, then, hides at Sir Oliver's knock.

At the moment Sir Oliver enters, Joseph recognizes "Stanley" and is anxious to get rid of him before Sir Oliver arrives. It becomes clear who Sir Oliver is when Sir Peter and Lady Teazle, Rowley, and Maria enter. It now appears that Lady Sneerwell had Snake spread the story that Charles was in honor bound to this Lady, and she comes out of hiding to accuse Charles of perfidy. But Snake now appears to confess his part in the villainy, for, though Lady Sneerwell paid him extremely liberally for the lie in question, unfortunately he's been paid double to speak the truth.

At last the right things come up. Charles and Maria silently agree to marry, and Sir Oliver feels they should have the wedding "tomorrow".