Tony and Mrs Hardcastle

MRS. HARDCASTLE. Confusion! thieves! robbers! we are cheated,  
plundered, broke open, undone.  
  
TONY. What's the matter, what's the matter, mamma? I hope nothing has  
happened to any of the good family!  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. We are robbed. My bureau has been broken open, the  
jewels taken out, and I'm undone.  
  
TONY. Oh! is that all? Ha! ha! ha! By the laws, I never saw it  
acted better in my life. Ecod, I thought you was ruined in earnest,  
ha! ha! ha!  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. Why, boy, I AM ruined in earnest. My bureau has been  
broken open, and all taken away.  
  
TONY. Stick to that: ha! ha! ha! stick to that. I'll bear witness,  
you know; call me to bear witness.  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. I tell you, Tony, by all that's precious, the jewels  
are gone, and I shall be ruined for ever.  
  
TONY. Sure I know they're gone, and I'm to say so.  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. My dearest Tony, but hear me. They're gone, I say.  
  
TONY. By the laws, mamma, you make me for to laugh, ha! ha! I know  
who took them well enough, ha! ha! ha!  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. Was there ever such a blockhead, that can't tell the  
difference between jest and earnest? I tell you I'm not in jest,  
booby.  
  
TONY. That's right, that's right; you must be in a bitter passion, and  
then nobody will suspect either of us. I'll bear witness that they are  
gone.  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. Was there ever such a cross-grained brute, that  
won't hear me? Can you bear witness that you're no better than a  
fool? Was ever poor woman so beset with fools on one hand, and  
thieves on the other?  
  
TONY. I can bear witness to that.  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. Bear witness again, you blockhead you, and I'll turn  
you out of the room directly. My poor niece, what will become of her?   
Do you laugh, you unfeeling brute, as if you enjoyed my distress?  
  
TONY. I can bear witness to that.  
  
MRS. HARDCASTLE. Do you insult me, monster? I'll teach you to vex  
your mother, I will.  
  
TONY. I can bear witness to that