

## The Honestus Script for a Reader's Theater

**Narrator:** Mr. Greenleaf, I was led to the following reflections, by accidentally falling in company, some evenings since, with a number of characters . . . at an ale-house, who were making comments on the constitution proposed by the general convention. . . . To my recollection, their animated and heated conversations went something akin to this . . .

**Voice 1:** The blacksmith [is] best suited . . . to his hammer and anvil, and hammer out hob-nails, for country hoof . . .

**Voice 2:** . . . but . . . he will find, that there is a material difference, between welding together two pieces of steel or iron, and that of uniting heterogeneous and jarring interests, so as to make them productive of the public good.

**Voice 3:** The mariner may very well understand, how to take an observation, and navigate his ship . . .

**Voice 4:** . . . but he cannot possibly be acquainted with every point of the political compass, or so to steer the ship of state, as to avoid the hidden and dangerous rocks, and shelves, that may lay in the way—and whenever he makes the attempt, he will undoubtedly find himself out of his latitude.

**Voice 5:** The distiller, brewer and baker, [are] perfectly well acquainted with the principles of fermentation, and how to regulate and check the same, so as to answer their particular purposes . . .

**Voice 6:** . . . but they must be entirely ignorant of the laws and means that will be necessary to prevent a dangerous fermentation in the community, or what steps it may be necessary to take, to check such fermentation, when excited.

**Voice 7:** The farmer [has] a sufficiency of knowledge to guide and govern the plough, and team; and understand the best method to thrash his grain . . .

**Voice 8:** . . . but he must be incompetent to the great purpose of guiding the machinery of the state, or to suggest the best and most effectual method, to thrash the enemies of his country.

**Voice 9:** The carpenter may be a perfect master of his trade, and understand the rules of architecture; he may frame an edifice, complete in all its parts, and sufficiently strong to secure the proprietor from the attempts of the midnight robber . . .

**Voice 10:** . . . but he will be totally ignorant, how to frame laws for the security of society, so as to prevent the artful and designing from preying upon the ignorant and innocent.

**Voice 11:** The miller [is] a complete artist in his profession, and know how to regulate

every thing appertaining to his mill; he may understand extremely well, how to separate the flour from the bran . . .

**Voice 12:** . . . but he cannot possibly be master of the address, that will be necessary, to distinguish the wheat from the chaff; in the choice of officers, to fill the different departments in the state.

**Voice 13:** The clock and watch-maker may know very well how to regulate the wheels, and other movements of a clock or watch . . .

**Voice 14:** . . . but he will be ignorant of the necessary art, how to regulate the complex machinery of government, so as to dispose the different wheels, as will prevent their interfering with, and bearing too hard on each other.

**Voice 15:** The mason [is] an excellent workman, and understand how to lay the foundation of an house or a wall properly . . .

**Voice 16:** . . . but he will be at a loss how to determine what base will be necessary on which such a superstructure as government should be erected.

**Voice 17:** The sadler may be a proficient in his business, and may know what kind of curb is proper to restrain an unruly and restive horse . . .

**Voice 18:** . . . but he cannot possibly be a judge what laws or curbs will be proper and necessary to restrain the unruly passions of men, so as to prevent their injuring one another.

**Voice 19:** The turner may be a very expert artizan . . .

**Voice 20:** . . . but he cannot possibly be acquainted with all the turns and windings, that are used by bad men to evade the laws, and escape the punishment which they justly deserve.

**Voice 21:** The cooper knows extremely well, how to stop the flaws and worm holes in a cask, and make it so tight as to hold water, rum, or any other liquor . . .

**Voice 22:** . . .but he will be much puzzled to stop the flaws, and worm-holes in a law; so as to prevent its operating, either to the injury of individuals, or the government.

**Voice 23:** The barber knows very well how to make a wig, to suit either the priest, phisician or gentleman of the long-robe, or how to shave his customer with dexterity . . .

**Voice 24:** . . . but whenever he attempts to meddle with affairs of state, he will find that his razors have lost their edge, and that he is himself compleatly in the suds.