

MAX: I like their people, I like the way they live. I like the way I live when I'm with them. *(We hear the Abbey bells.)*
Speaking as a government official, I—Georg, is there a cathedral around here?

CAPTAIN: That's our Abbey—Nonnberg Abbey.

MAX: Do they have a choir?

CAPTAIN: A beautiful one.

MAX: Good! In the next few days I have to visit all these towns around here and listen to saengerbunds, choirs, quartets—

(Indicating.) Who lives in that dilapidated castle down there? Rumpelstiltskin?

CAPTAIN: Baron Elberfeld. The oldest family in the valley.

ELSA: I'd like to meet him. I'd like to meet all your friends.

Georg, why don't you give a dinner for me while I'm here? Nothing very much—just something lavish.

CAPTAIN: I wouldn't know whom to invite. Today it's difficult to tell who's a friend and who's an enemy.

ELSA: This isn't a good time to make enemies. Let's make some friends.

(Wishing to change the subject, the CAPTAIN goes up-stage and looks off.)

CAPTAIN: I can't understand what's happened to the children.

ELSA: You're not worried about them, are you?

CAPTAIN: They should have been here to welcome you.

ELSA: It couldn't have been an intentional slight because they haven't met me yet.

CAPTAIN: Forgive me, I'll try to find them. *(He exits U.L.)*

MAX: Elsa, have you made up Georg's mind yet? Is he going to marry you?

ELSA: Oh, yes! He hasn't admitted it yet. There seems to be something standing in his way.

MAX: *(Crosses C.)* You don't know what it is?

ELSA: No.

MAX: I do.

ELSA: *(Rises)* What?

MAX: It's very simple. It's money. *(Takes her arm, crosses D.C.)*

ELSA: Money?

MAX: Yes. He's rich and you're rich. *(He sings, D.C. ELSA*