<center>Scene 3</center>
<center>*Enter Dogberry and his compartner Verges*</center>
<center>*with the Watch.*</center>

DOGBERRY Are you good men and true?
VERGES Yea, or else it were pity but they should suffer
    salvation, body and soul.
DOGBERRY Nay, that were a punishment too good for
    them if they should have any allegiance in them,   5
    being chosen for the Prince's watch.
VERGES Well, give them their charge, neighbor
    Dogberry.
DOGBERRY Come hither, neighbor. *WATCHMAN*
    steps forward. God hath blessed you with a good
    name. To be a well-favored man is the gift of   15
    fortune, but to write and read comes by nature.
WATCHMAN Both which, master constable—
DOGBERRY You have. I knew it would be your answer.
    Well, for your favor, sir, why, give God thanks, and
    make no boast of it, and for your writing and   20
    reading, let that appear when there is no need of
    such vanity. You are thought here to be the most
    senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch;
    therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge:
    you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to   25
    bid any man stand, in the Prince's name.
WATCHMAN How if he will not stand?
DOGBERRY Why, then, take no note of him, but let him
    go, and presently call the rest of the watch together
    and thank God you are rid of a knave.   30
VERGES If he will not stand when he is bidden, he is
    none of the Prince's subjects.
DOGBERRY True, and they are to meddle with none but
    the Prince's subjects.—You shall also make no
    noise in the streets; for, for the watch to babble and   35
    to talk is most tolerable and not to be endured.
WATCHMAN We will rather sleep than talk.
    We know what belongs to a watch.
DOGBERRY Why, you speak like an ancient and most
    quiet watchman, for I cannot see how sleeping   40
    should offend; only have a care that your bills be not
    stolen. Well, you are to call at all the alehouses and
    bid those that are drunk get them to bed.
WATCHMAN How if they will not?
DOGBERRY Why then, let them alone till they are sober.   45
    If they make you not then the better answer, you
    may say they are not the men you took them for.
WATCHMAN Well, sir.
DOGBERRY If you meet a thief, you may suspect him, by
    virtue of your office, to be no true man, and for such   50
    kind of men, the less you meddle or make with
    them, why, the more is for your honesty.
WATCHMAN If we know him to be a thief, shall we not
    lay hands on him?
DOGBERRY Truly, by your office you may, but I think   55
    they that touch pitch will be defiled. The most

peaceable way for you, if you do take a thief, is to
let him show himself what he is and steal out of
your company.

VERGES You have been always called a merciful man,   60
partner.

DOGBERRY Truly, I would not hang a dog by my will,
much more a man who hath any honesty in him.

VERGES, *to the Watch* If you hear a child cry in the
night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it.   65

WATCHMAN How if the nurse be asleep and
will not hear us?

DOGBERRY Why, then depart in peace, and let the
child wake her with crying, for the ewe that will
not hear her lamb when it baas will never answer a   70
calf when he bleats.

VERGES 'Tis very true.

DOGBERRY This is the end of the charge. You, constable,
are to present the Prince's own person. If you
meet the Prince in the night, you may stay him.   75

VERGES Nay, by 'r Lady, that I think he cannot.

DOGBERRY Five shillings to one on 't, with any man that
knows the statutes, he may stay him—marry, not
without the Prince be willing, for indeed the watch
ought to offend no man, and it is an offense to stay a   80
man against his will.

VERGES By 'r Lady, I think it be so.

DOGBERRY Ha, ah ha!—Well, masters, goodnight. An
there be any matter of weight chances, call up me.
Keep your fellows' counsels and your own, and   85
goodnight.—Come, neighbor.

Dogberry and Verges begin to exit.

WATCHMAN Well, masters, we hear our charge. Let us go
sit here upon the church bench till two, and then all
to bed.

DOGBERRY One word more, honest neighbors. I pray   90
you watch about Signior Leonato's door, for the
wedding being there tomorrow, there is a great coil
tonight. Adieu, be vigitant, I beseech you.