

From *Nightmare Abbey*, chapter VI

“Let me alone,” said Scythrop. Marionetta looked at him with a deprecating smile, and said, “You unjust, cross creature, you.” – “Let me alone,” said Scythrop, but much less emphatically than at first, and by no means wishing to be taken at his word. Marionetta left him immediately, and returning to the harp, said, just loud enough for Scythrop to hear – “Did you ever read Dante, Mr Listless? Scythrop is reading Dante, and is just now in Purgatory.” – “And I” said the Honourable Mr Listless, “am not reading Dante, and am just now in Paradise,” bowing to Marionetta.

MARIONETTA: You are very gallant, Mr. Listless; and I dare say you are very fond of reading Dante.

THE HONOURABLE MR LISTLESS: I don't know how it is, but Dante never came in my way till lately. I never had him in my collection, and if I had had him I should not have read him. But I find he is growing fashionable, and I am afraid I must read him some wet morning.