

The Argument.

Adelaida, Daughter of Rodolphus Earl of Burgundy, and King of Italy, was the most renowned Princess of her Time for Beauty and Virtue. She was espoused to Lotharius, the Son of Hugh Earl of Arles, who governed his Dominions more like a Father than a Sovereign : But notwithstanding this, the People rising in Rebellion against him, declared in Favour of Berengarius Duke of Spoleto: But Lotharius, without a military Decision, shared his Kingdom with the Duke, leaving the Throne of Milan to Berengarius, was contented to reside at Pavia. In a little time afterwards, Berengarius, ambitious to be the sole Possessor of the Kingdom, procured Lotharius to be poison'd, and endeavour'd, for his better Establishment in the Throne, to induce the Widow Adelaide to marry his Son Idelbert : But the prudent Queen, declaring her Aversion to the Nuptials, was besieged by Berengarius in Pavia. Actius Marquis of Tuscany, and Adelaide's Uncle, foreseeing the Danger of his Neece, and hearing Wonders of the Valour of Otho King of Germany (whose Name is here changed to Lotharius, to accomodate it to the Scene) engaged him to the Assistance of his Neece. The Drama opens with the Siege and Surrender of Pavia to Berengarius.

Comment [C1]: sic

Overall, a strong correspondence between Score and the two versions of the Libretto: just a few verbal adjustments to the Italian text in the Score. The Libretto begins by marking all dc's and exits but soon becomes more inconsistent. Most of the omitted exits are obvious enough, but in one case (I:x – the end of the 1st Act) there is ambiguity.

ACT I.

SCENE I.

A Garden.

Berengarius with Attendants, to him Idelbert.

BERENGARIUS [CAVATINA]

Ambition's Flame with Fury burns,
Alluring Hopes our Ardours raise,
Dissuading Fear, the Rock displays,
And both perplex the Soul by Turns.

IDELBERT

My Fate, my Lord, averse to my Repose,
Dooms me to love, tho' wretched and disdain'd.

BERENGARIUS

Does Adelaida, then, that haughty Princess,
Your proffer'd Nuptials with such Scorn despise ?

IDELBERT

Fair Adelaida, Sir, was born a Queen,
The Heir of Italy's Imperial Throne ;
Your Arms of half her Empire have depriv'd her :
By you, my Lord, o'erwhelm'd in fatal War,
The King her Consort dy'd before his Time.

BERENGARIUS

May those that fire our Anger feel our Power.
But go on my Son, 'tis now my fix'd Command,
That you obedient to my Will advance,
And storm the Walls of that devoted Town.

IDELBERT

Ah me ! you know fair Adelaide's Fate
Determines mine — My Life is wrapt in her's.

BERENGARIUS

Away ! your Prayers are impotent and vain.

SCENE II.

To them Clodomire.

CLODOMIRE

Great Monarch, from the lofty Alpine Hills,
Germania's King, with all his Host descending,
Pours like a Deluge o'er the Italian Land.

BERENGARIUS

What moves Lotharius to this bold Attempt?

IDELBERT

Perhaps 'tis Adelaida's threatning Fate,
Join'd with his Envy of your conquering Arms.

BERENGARIUS *to Clodomire*

Dispatch the Scouts to view this haughty Foe,
And watch the Progress of his hostile March :
And here let Idelbert this Instant arm,
I mean e'er bold Lotharius can approach,
That Pavia shall surrender to my Power.

Exit Clodomire

SCENE III.

Matilda, Berengarius, Idelbert.

MATILDA My Royal Lord —

BERENGARIUS My Queen —

MATILDA

Our Tidings hear.

Proud Pavia to your Arms will soon submit,
And humbly open her obsequious Gates.

BERENGARIUS Tell me the Means.

MATILDA

Your whole victorious Host,
Amidst the Silence of th' ensuing Night,
Shall unresisted fill the hostile Town.
Our promis'd Treasures have at length prevail'd,
And purchas'd all the Treason we could wish.

BERENGARIUS

Now let Germania arm, I scorn to fear.

IDELBERT

And can my royal Mother then consent,
By such pernicious Frauds, at once to waste
The small Remains of Adelaida's Fortunes !

[Kneels.

Behold me, O my Father! at your Feet.

BERENGARIUS

Rise, and believe in Tenderness to thee,
Humanity shall shine thro' all my Conduct.
Dispatch my Herald to acquaint the Fair,
That she consenting to espouse my Son,
Her Peace and Empire I'll again restore,
And give her all a dearest Daughter's Due.
But Rage implacable and endless Scorn,
If she rejects my Offers, shall ensue.

[ARIA]

Nor let her think her haughty Soul,
With all its Pride shall mine controul,
And triumph in your Pain.

If Love's soft Bands she scorns to wear,
The Chains my Vengeance will prepare
Shall humble her Disdain.
Nor let, &c.

[Exit.

SCENE IV.

Matilda and Idelbert.

IDELBERT

My Queen ! my Royal Mother ! soon the Fair,
The helpless Adelaida must be dragg'd
To vile Captivity, and be your Prisoner.
In one sad Day the dear Unfortunate
Must part with Liberty and lose her Crown.

MATILDA

And don't I, with the Offer of my Son,
Give her at once a Kingdom and a Spouse ?

IDELBERT

To her exalted Soul the one appears
Contemptible, and, ah ! she hates the other.

MATILDA

Compose your Sorrows Idelbert, and know,
That if we mean to wear th' Italian Crown,
The Princess first must perish or be your's.

[ARIA]

Haste to the fair One you adore,
And Love's persuasive Sounds employ ;
With Sighs confess her charming Power,
And tell her she was form'd for Joy.

Your Love's rich Merit then maintain,
That calls her to a splendid Crown :
But tell her if she hopes to reign,
She must for ever cease to frown.
Haste, &c.

[Exit.

IDELBERT

Shall I then quench the radiant Beams of Day ?
Ah! no — My lovely Queen thou shalt not die.

[ARIA]

To save thy Life my Royal Fair,
I know the Stroke I ought to bear :
For thee, my Dearest, I will die,
That so dissolving ev'ry Tie
That draws thee to my hateful Bed,
My Faith shall triumph when I'm dead.
To save, &c.

[Exit.

SCENE V.

An Apartment with a Throne.

Adelaida and Attendants.

ADELAIDA [ACCOMPAGNATO]

Fam'd Throne ! the Right of my renown'd Forefathers,
How were thy Splendors with my Husband lost,
Who fell indignant by a Traitor's Hand ?
Ah! may I live but to avenge thee yet.

[Turning to the Guards.

Let all the Royal Guard observe my Orders.
First, let the warlike Stranger who desires
A private Audience enter, then let him,
Dispatch'd by Berengarius, have Admittance.

[One of the Guard withdraws.

Who should this Stranger be ? Let our Commands
Have your Obedience in the next Apartments.

[The Guards retire.

SCENE VI.

Adelaida and Lotharius.

LOTHARIUS

Fair Queen ! — The Gods that rais'd you to this Throne,
And form'd you for Dominion, still determine
That you shall reign secure ; and to chastise
The proud Oppressor of your Spouse and Empire,
Have urg'd the grateful Vengeance of my Sword.

ADELAIDA Give me, my Lord, to know my Benefactor.

LOTHARIUS Trust me, the Aid is not contemptible,
Which from the Danube now Lotharius brings,
Germania's King whom you behold before you.

ADELAIDA Illustrious Monarch, could thy godlike Pity
Move thee ——

LOTHARIUS

Thou fairest of thy Sex forbear ——
I would not be discover'd, for as yet
None knows me here but conscious Love and Heaven.

ADELAIDA And who's the Object of that Love, my Lord?

LOTHARIUS

A charming Queen, the matchless Adelaida.
I once beheld you in your Father's Court,
Divinely deck'd with each resistless Charm
That blooming Youth and Majesty could give.
I meant to woo you to my Nuptial Love,
But your late Consort's Suit prevented mine,
And gain'd you by Priority of Passion.
But now your widow'd Bed invites me here :
And first your Crown, my Valour shall defend,
And then permit me to adorn your Brows
With the united Lustre of my own.

ADELAIDA

To me, my Lord, your Merit's known too well,
In you the Monarch and Hero shine.
Ah ! go then, and restore a grateful Peace
To an afflicted Queen ; and then demand
What e'er Return your Royal Wish can crave:

LOTHARIUS [ARIA]

Remember then, my All that's dear,
The Hopes your Promise gave me here :
Love, to your Aid a Monarch draws,
Whose Arms can conquer in your Cause.

My Thoughts shall now for Battel burn,
But when Victorious I return,
My Queen, remember you must prove
Just to your Promise and my Love.

Remember, &c. *[Exit.*

ADELAIDA Now let the Messenger approach.

[Ascends the Throne.

SCENE VII.

Adelaide with Guards, and Clodomire with his Retinue.

CLODOMIRE

Great Queen,
My Prince retains his constant Clemency,
Ev'n in the Progress of his conquering Arms.
Again he offers you his Idelbert,
And my Commission is to bid you choose
The Son's Affection, or the Father's Rage.

ADELAIDA

And dwells such Pride in Berengarius' Heart !
Return, and tell him Adelaida, now
Her second Nuptials for no Cause intends,
But to avenge her of the former's Wrongs.
Tell him, that for a Consort she can choose
A great, a rightful Potentate, nor e'er
Will stoop to be so wretched as to prove
The odious Mother of a Tyrant's Off-spring.

CLODOMIRE

Great Queen, as yet I know no Tyranny
My Sovereign shews. — If Tyrants are like him —

ADELAIDA

I've said enough, you've heard my Resolution.

CLODOMIRE [ARIA]

If when a gentle Sea invites,
The prosperous Gale the Pilot slights,
Storms oft succeed, and scarce he saves
His Vessel from the raging Waves.

So when the Mind has been distress'd,
By adverse Fate a while oppress'd ;
When that relents, our Sighs should cease,
And not provoke what gives us Peace.
If when, &c.

[Retires with his Attendants.]

SCENE VIII.

Adelaida and Lotharius.

ADELAIDA My Confidence shall be in Heaven — and then —

LOTHARIUS

My lovely Queen — O curs'd Calamity ! —
Rebellious Pavia, to your savage Foe,
This Moment opens her disloyal Gates.

ADELAIDA Is Pavia then distemper'd with Rebellion?
 Then I am lost indeed! — Leave me, my Lord.

LOTHARIUS And can you thus command me to forsake you,
 In all this sad Extremity of Woe?

ADELAIDA

Once more, my Lord, let me beseech you, leave me.

LOTHARIUS

Ah, no — my Footsteps shall my Fate pursue.
My Love conducts me and I'll die with you.

ADELAIDA

If it be true, that you sincerely love,
Ah ! ne'er perfidious to your Passion prove.
Go, and return victorious from my Foes,
And by your Conquest settle my Repose.

[ARIA]

Take back the Heart you gave me here,
 And lodge it in your Breast with mine ;
With both their Flames for Fight prepare,
 And certain Conquest shall be thine.

But if the Heart you stole from me,
 Should want the Warrior's noble Fire,
What yours communicates, will be
 More than sufficient to inspire.
 Take back, &c.

[Exit.

LOTHARIUS

Blest Language of my Fair, enchanting Sounds
My Heart with Joy and matchless Vigour bounds.
Now to the noble Enterprise I flie,
With Fire to conquer, or with Flame to die :
Let the proud Foe in all his Rage appear,
My Soul's all Ardour, and disdains to fear.

[ARIA]

Already, as my Prize in War,
The Captive Traitor at my Car,
Appears with stern Reluctance bound,
And sullen Glances on the Ground ;
Whilst his disorder'd Looks proclaim
His inward Grief, and guilty Shame.
 Already, &c.

[Exit.]

SCENE IX.

A Triumphal Arch.

*Berengarius, Matilda, Idelbert,
Captains and Soldiers.*

CHORUS *(a3 Adelaide, Lotario, Idelberto, Matilde, Berengario, Clodomiro.)*

Health to the Martial King of Italy,
And fortunately famous let him reign.

BERENGARIUS

Generous, gallant Men,
Your Love enhances your Fidelity ;
If as your Gift this Chaplet binds my Brows,
Your Actions have for ever made me yours.

MATILDA

And will not yet the haughty Adelaida
Present her Homage to the Conqueror?

BERENGARIUS

I mean by Acts of mild Humanity
To conquer that imperious Heart.

MATILDA

She comes ——
But mark the Air of Insolence and Scorn,
With which she bears undaunted her Misfortune.

Comment [C2]: This Chorus (Italian text and the Translation) is printed as an Erratum at the end of the Libretto.
It is in the Score, with the Singers as here listed, by Character, not name.

SCENE X.

Adelaida and the aforesaid, and to them Clodomire.

ADELAIDA

Basely by Treason to your Power betray'd,
Not by your Valour conquer'd, here behold,
Proud Berengarius, your illustrious Spoils
Raise as your insolent Ambition prompts
Your Trophies on the Ruins of my Fortune :
Already by that most pernicious Hand
I've lost my Spouse, my Liberty and Kingdom.

BERENGARIUS

A Spouse, a Kingdom, and your Liberty !
Were you but willing, I would now restore you,
And lay down all my Conquests at your Feet.

ADELAIDA

The Crown already as my Right I claim,
The Son and Lover as your Gifts I scorn.

Clodomire enters.

BERENGARIUS What Tidings, Clodomire ?

CLODOMIRE My Lord I come
Charg'd with Dispatches of the last Importance.

[Berengarius and Clodomire retire and discourse apart.]

MATILDA *[To Idelbert]*

Comment [C3]: from the Italian

And can she thus, tho' conquer'd and depress'd,
Preserve this haughty Steadiness of Soul !

IDELBERT

A Queen, amidst the sharpest Shocks of Fate,
Retains a Mind superiour to her Sufferings.

BERENGARIUS

And is Lotharius at Ticinum then ?
To you my Queen I now consign the Charge
Of this illustrious Captive. Cares of State
Demand my Presence for a while elsewhere.

IDELBERT What may this mean ?

BERENGARIUS No more Enquiries now.
But follow me my Son.

IDELBERT Alas ! my Heart
Seems to presage some sad Calamity.

Exeunt Berengarius, Idelbert and Clodomire.

MATILDA

Think, Adelaida, on the past, and then
Turn your Attention to your present Fate ;
See what you was, and what you're now become,
A Queen that's conquer'd, and a Captive too,
Has no great Claims to boast of.

ADELAIDA The same View
 Presents in Prospect to my Eyes at once
 My former Glory and my present Woes.

MATILDA

To you my willing Mercy would, with Joy,
For Chains present Embraces —

ADELAIDA

And to me
Your Clemency's more cruel than your Chains.

MATILDA

Your Arrogance exceeds all decent Bounds,
You scorn ungrateful to ascend a Throne,
Where my fond Favour condescends to raise you.
We'll see if that imperious Heart will still
Be obstinately cold, when servile Chains
Are order'd to chastise your proud Presumption.

[ARIA]

The feather'd Songster of the Skies,
 Free from the Fowler's fraudulent Snare,
From Grove to Grove exulting flies,
 And wantons in the Waste of Air.
But if the Net her Flight restrains,
 She vainly flutters to and fro ;
Of sad Captivity complains,
 In Accents of melodious Woe.
 The feather'd, &c.

[Exit.]

ADELAIDA

The more these Fetters grind my tender Feet,
Which unrelenting Cruelty prepares,
The more I'll triumph in the vain Restraint,
And find a Pleasure in a Dungeon's Gloom.

[ARIA]

From Wave to Wave, with gentle Gales,
The dancing Bark securely sails;
But if contending Storms arise,
And blot the Brightness of the Skies,
She's then, in whirling Eddies tost,
Amidst the War of Waters lost.

Not so, my Soul shall yield to Fears,
Tho' Fate in all its Rage appears ;
For in the ghastly View of Death,
I'll triumph with my latest Breath.
 From Wave, &c.

THE END OF THE FIRST ACT.

ACT II.

SCENE I.

A spacious Country, with a Bridge over the Ticinum.

Berengarius in a disorderly Flight.

BERENGARIUS [SINFONIA AND ACCOMPAGNATO]

And vanquish'd then!
Oh, Heavens, forlorn and vanquish'd!
Where's now the Glory of my dreaded Sword ?
Wretch that I am ! What Counsels shall I form ?
To what Retreat betake me? Oh, my Son !
My dearest Consort, faithful Friends and Servants,
Where shall I seek you? Ah! your mournful Ruin
Reproaches my Ambition ; but if Fate,
Inexorable, now decrees my Downfall,
I'll perish like a King; and where I've reign'd,
In spite of Destiny, will die in Freedom.

Comment [C4]: The English reflects the Libretto's "morirò"; in the Score Handel changed this to "partiro".

SCENE II.

To him Lotharius.

LOTHARIUS You're now my Prisoner !

BERENGARIUS Cruel Stars.

[Puts himself in a Posture of Defence.

LOTHARIUS Your Sword —

BERENGARIUS

My Heart's undaunted still, and I resolve
To die, tho' vanquish'd, like a Conqueror.

LOTHARIUS

Contend no more, but yield, and you shall find
Humanity attends me in my Conquests,
Resistance now is desperate and vain.

BERENGARIUS

I yield, proud Warrior, but I yield to Fate,
Not to the boasted Valour of your Arms.

[Delivers his Sword.

[ARIA]

The Grandeur I enjoy'd before,
My Throne and Vassals are no more.
Unpitying Fate has hurl'd me down,
From all the Splendors of a Crown.

Let all my Woes at once appear,
My Soul no Injury shall fear,
Nor adverse Stars, nor angry Skies
Shall e'er my Fortitude surprise.
The Grandeur, &c.

[Exit.]

Comment [C5]: lit. yeild

SCENE III.

Lotharius alone.

Comment [C6]: SR.

LOTHARIUS

Tho' now my Glory triumphs o'er a Tyrant,
Love makes me too a Captive in my Turn,
And conquers in my Heart for Adelaida.

[ARIA]

Alluring Tyrant, charming Foe,
That whilst you kill, enchant me so,
To the same Fate my Passion soars,
With that poor Wanton, that adores
The fatal Blaze, that soon consumes
His tender Form and painted Plumes.

Those lovely Locks of flowing Gold,
That now my captive Heart enfold,
With fond Devotion I adore,
And wish for Liberty no more.

Alluring, &c.

Comment [C7]: Lit. Alluding

[Exit.

SCENE IV.

A Cabinet.

Comment [C8]: Italian has "Cabinetto".
The Score heading is "Prigione".

ADELAIDA *alone.*

[ARIA]

Eternal Mind, whose Wisdom guides,
And o'er each Change of Life presides,
With Pity view the Woes I bear,
And be propitious to my Prayer.

My Bosom glows with fond Desire,
That Fate would with my Wish conspire,
And to my Spouse my Soul unite,
With never ending dear Delight.
Eternal, &c.

SCENE V.

Adelaida, and Clodomire followed by
two Pages that carry two Basons cover'd.

CLODOMIRE

With both these Gifts, see, Adelaida now,
My Queen and your's commands me to attend.

ADELAIDA And who's my Queen?

CLODOMIRE

*[Discovers a Bason with a Dagger,
and a Cup of Poison on it.*

In this
View your Destruction if you still refuse
The Spousals of great Idelbert : In this

[Discovers the other, upon which is a Crown and Scepter.

See your Felicity if you consent.

ADELAIDA

Hear me thou grateful Messenger, and bear
This Answer to the stern Matilda now :
Tell her my Constancy by far transcends
The lawless Bounds of her tyrannick Rage.

CLODOMIRE

This I'll deliver, but you now must choose
The Dagger, Poison, or a Spouse and Empire.

ADELAIDA

Here I determine, and disdain the other.

[Takes the Bason with the Dagger and Poison.

CLODOMIRE Ah, think ——

ADELAIDA Forbear your vain Expostulations.

CLODOMIRE [ARIA]

Your Constancy you trust in vain ;
The Pardon that you wish to gain,
Is in your Lips alone.

One short Refusal seals your Fate,
But on your kind Compliance wait
The Glories of a Throne.
Your, &c.

Exit.

Comment [C9]: The Italian reads "troppo lieto" ie Clodomire is too keen a bringer of threats, in Adelaida's view.

Comment [C10]: SR

SCENE VI.

Adelaida, to her Matilda with Guards.

ADELAIDA

What Thoughts engage thee Adelaida now ?

[Resolutely.

Virtue is thine — to the drawn Dagger then
Ah no! I'll perish by my Husband's Fate,
And in the envenom'd Cup forget my Sorrows.

[As she is about to take the Poison, Matilda enters.

MATILDA

Still dost thou live presumptuous, and despise
Alike my proffer'd Gifts ? —

ADELAIDA

Ah no ! this Cup
I now present with Transport to my Lips.

[Takes the Cup of Poison.

MATILDA

Drink then, for this Delay too much affects me.

ADELAIDA

Ev'n now I triumph o'er my Fate and thee.

*[As she prepares to drink the Poison, Idelbert rushes
in with his drawn Sword, driving back one of the Guard
that opposed his Entrance.*

SCENE VII.

Idelbert and the aforesaid.

MATILDA

And hast thou this Presumption, nor remember'st
That still thou art a Subject, tho' a Son ?

IDELBERT

I would implore a Parent, not a Queen.

MATILDA

The Queen is deaf to all you have to urge,
If for this Wretch you now implore the Parent.

IDELBERT

Cease your Suspicions, I desire her Death.

MATILDA My dearest Son ——

IDELBERT

But know that I'm determin'd
She shall not die alone —— see with this Dagger

[Gives the Dagger to Matilda, and presents his Bosom to her.]

I offer you my Breast.

MATILDA

Unworthy Wretch !
Dost thou provoke me too —— thus basely add
To my Dishonour, and encrease her Glory ?

ADELAIDA My Constancy alone shall gain the Conquest.

MATILDA Drink off that Cup.

IDELBERT To me the deadly Draught.

MATILDA Away thou Madman.

IDELBERT Ah at least permit.

ADELAIDA See I obey you.

*[As she offers to drink the Poison,
Idelbert presents the Dagger to his Breast
with an Intent to stab himself.]*

IDELBERT Yes, we'll die together.

MATILDA

Ah me forbear, forbear I charge you both.

*[She snatches the Poison from Adelaida in a Rage, and throws it
on the Ground, as also Idelbert's Dagger.]*

I soon shall see the happy Hour approach,
That shall avenge me well of all my Wrongs,

(to Adelaida) Thou hateful Sorceress

[To Idelbert.] thou unworthy Lover.

Comment [C11]: Was the intent of the Libretto to have a serious tone? Its hard to believe an English audience did not laugh at all this Italian foot-stamping.

SCENE VIII.

To them Clodomire.

CLODOMIRE

Sad Tidings to your Royal Ears I bring,
Our Camp is conquer'd, and as yet we know not
The King your Consort's Fate ; no Tongue can tell
The universal Horror and Distress.

IDELBERT

(These are the Fruits of injur'd Innocence.)

MATILDA

How does all Grandeur in a Moment change !

ADELAIDA

(Faithful Lotharius ! fortunate Event !)

MATILDA

Haste to your Station, and collect your Powers,
For our Defence, and be it in your Charge
To gain some Tidings of the King my Consort ;
Convene the Senate instantly — and here,

[to Adelaida] Proud guilty Woman wear our servile Chains,

[to Idelbert]

And thou, degenerate Son, adorn thy Brows
With Wreaths of fragrant Flowers, and talk of Love.

[ARIA]

Arm your Eyes with every Dart,
That wanton Cupid can impart :
The haughty Nymph that now inspires
The Warmth of these unmanly Fires,
Will proudly smile at all your Pain,
And render all your Ardours vain.

But, know, presumptuous Woman, know,
Tho' constant Pride elates you so,
Tho' now your Guilt escapes my Rage,
Yet none my Vengeance shall assuage ;
No Friend you'll find my Power to brave,
Or guard you from the gloomy Grave.
Arm, &c.

[Exit.]

Comment [C12]: In the Italian clearly addressed to Clodomire "Vanne, o Duce"

SCENE IX.

Adelaida and Idelbert.

ADELAIDA

O Youth, well worthy of a better Race,
Heaven only knows the Anguish I endure
That I'm unable to return your Love.

IDELBERT

Ah ! that's a Bliss your Adversary's Son
Must ne'er presume to hope for — yet allow
My pure unspotted Passion —

ADELAIDA

Trust me, Sir,
My Heart o'erflows with Gratitude, and bears
A tender Sense of your exalted Virtue.

IDELBERT

Ah ! let me but adore you, I'm content.

[ARIA]

Deny me not this one Request,
That I may love, and I am bless'd.
Content will then my Peace secure,
Whate'er I'm destin'd to endure :
And tho' your constant cold Disdain
Should rend my Heart, I'll not complain.
[Deny me, &c.]

[Exit.]

SCENE X.

ADELAIDA *alone.*

[ACCOMPAGNATO]

Dread Sovereign of the Skies ! thy wond'rous Counsels
My Soul with deep Humility adores.
Thy Providence, when my Distress prevail'd,
Dispatch'd Lotharius to my timely Aid.
Thou mad'st the Son of unrelenting Parents
A Shield to guard my injur'd Innocence.

[ARIA]

Thus from a Fountain foul with Stains,
The Stream runs Chrystal o'er the Plains ;
So from the pointed Thorn-Bush blows
Its fragrant Progeny the Rose,
And from a Herb of fetid Fumes,
Her snowy Son the Lilly blooms.

[Thus, &c.]

[Exit.]

SCENE XI.

*The Walls of the City of Pavia,
with a Draw-bridge, Towers, and a Ravelin,
and a distant Prospect of Lotharius's Camp.*

*Lotharius with his Army, and afterwards
Matilda appears upon the Walls with Soldiers.*

LOTHARIUS

[CAVATINA]

How prevalent does Valour prove,
Conducted by unblemish'd Love !

[RECITATIVE]

The Hostages I've taken — now I'll see
My radiant Sun in Freedom, O Matilda,
Condemn'd to my Resentment — see she comes,

[Looks up to the Walls.

O Woman, hear —

MATILDA

And dar'st thou call me so?
The conquer'd Province to my Power submits,
Give me my due Respect, and call me Queen.

LOTHARIUS

That's not your Title, you usurp a Throne —
Proud Woman hear — If injur'd Adelaida
You'll now restore in Freedom to her Kingdom,
I'll pardon all the Wrongs you've offer'd her.
If you refuse, Death, Havock, and Revenge
Shall rage uncheck'd. — I'm all enflam'd already.

MATILDA

Cause Adelaida to attend, and then
You shall behold if I am apt to fear.

SCENE XII.

To them Clodomiro and Adelaida, with Guards.

CLODOMIRE The Prisoner's here.

LOTHARIUS My bright Divinity!

ADELAIDA My great Defender!

Comment [C13]: From the Italian – line omitted in the English

MATILDA Now look up Lotharius.
Here you may see her —

LOTHARIUS Yes, betray'd by you,
And injur'd by your Treasons, impious Woman.

MATILDA

[In a menacing Air.

Or instantly your hostile Troops withdraw
From these Dominions, or this Captive dies.

LOTHARIUS

Ah me, my Glory and my Love in one —

MATILDA

Now with this Hand I give th' unerring Stroke.

LOTHARIUS Scornfully

Comment [C14]: Rubric supplied. "Sdegnato" in both Italian texts.

Ah stop, thou wicked, thou inhumane Woman,
Your Husband whom my Arms have made my Captive —

MATILDA I'll not believe it.

LOTHARIUS [To the Guards.

Haste for Berengarius.

Draw off the Troops,

In a rage

Comment [C15]: Rubric supplied "Infuriato" in both Italian texts.

you shall, Barbarian, now

Stand the Spectator of your Husband's Slaughter.

More calmly

Comment [C16]: Rubric supplied "Placato" in both Italian texts.

Ah, no ! I wish by gentle Means to move you,
I will — (on what shall I conclude ?) Oh Heavens !
Be gracious to my Prayers.

MATILDA Resolve and answer me.

ADELAIDA

Let not my private Danger, mighty King,
Retard the noble Progress of your Glory.

LOTHARIUS

My Eyes are moistned by this Scene of Sorrow.

SCENE XIII.

To them Idelbert.

IDELBERT

It must not be — let my devoted Life
Protect fair Adelaida.

ADELAIDA Oh ye Powers !

MATILDA

Apostate Son, base Monster of Rebellion !

IDELBERT *[To Lotharius.*

I yield my self a willing Prisoner here,
That the dear lovely Innocent may be
Defended from my angry Parent's Rage.

[Matilda seems in Suspense.

LOTHARIUS

I'm all Amazement — ah, presumptuous Woman,
How is your Arrogance confounded now !

MATILDA

Oh, my pernicious Stars — Distraction rends me !

ADELAIDA I now return, Lotharius, to my Prison.

LOTHARIUS

And I am here determin'd to remain,
To give you Freedom by my conquering Sword.

My Dear,

ADELAIDA My Hero,

BOTH Receive from me a tender fond Farewel

[Exeunt Matilda, Adelaida and Clodomire.]

Comment [C17]: Sic

SCENE XIV.

Lotharius, Berengarius, Idelbert and Guards.

LOTHARIUS

Reflect now Berengarius, how you've injur'd
Fair Adelaida, and by lawless Power
Have robb'd her of a Husband and a Crown :
And by my Hand now Heaven ——

BERENGARIUS

Pernicious Fortune,
And not your Valour, loads me with these Chains,
Which with such Justice to your Feet were due.

IDELBERT Oh Heavens !

LOTHARIUS

Hear me thou proud, presumptuous Man :
If you dislike the Rigour of your Chains,
Tell your Matilda to resign this Day,
My Adelaida and the City too,
Or my Revenge shall punish both your Pride.

BERENGARIUS

I'll not live destitute of Royal Honour.

LOTHARIUS

Trifle no longer with my mild Compassion.

BERENGARIUS I scorn ——

LOTHARIUS

You shall be guarded to the Town.
There tell Matilda that your State of Danger.

BERENGARIUS Disastrous Fate

LOTHARIUS

Calls for a quick Result,
And then return, or Idelbert shall die.

BERENGARIUS [ARIA]

A varied Face will Fortune shew,
Nor always roll her Wheel for you,
 In such a prosperous Round.

The steady Temper I disclose,
Will make her, wearied with my Woes,
 Repent she ever frown'd.
 [A varied, &c.]

[Exit.]

SCENE XV.

Lotharius, Idelbert.

LOTHARIUS *To the Guards.*

Comment [C18]: Supplied from the Italian

Let Idelbert to the Imperial Tent
Be now conducted, and to storm the Walls,
Let all my Troops and Engines be prepar'd,
With two such Pledges as a Spouse and Son
In my Possession, proud Matilda trembles,
And dreads the Danger of my dearest Queen.

[ARIA]

The Traveller betrays no Fears
 At the departing Gleam of Day,
Tho' Night in all its Gloom appears,
 To darken his bewilder'd Way.

With Beamy Brightness soon he knows
 The rosy finger'd Morn will rise,
And with returning Rays disclose
 The lovely Scene of Earth and Skies.
 [The Traveller, &c.]

THE END OF THE SECOND ACT.

ACT III.

SCENE I.

A **Gallery.**

Matilda and Berengarius with Guards.

[SINFONIA]

MATILDA

Eas'd of her Chains, let Adelaida here
Attend my Pleasure. Angry Gods ! your Powers
In vain unite against Matilda now.

BERENGARIUS See Adelaida comes !

MATILDA [*To the Guards.*

Retire.

Comment [C19]: The Score rubric is "Galleria d'armi". The Italian text seems to say the same, but "d'armi" is heavily scored out.

SCENE II.

To them Adelaida.

BERENGARIUS Fair Adelaida,
Approach our Presence.

MATILDA Beauteous Queen approach.

ADELAIDA And Berengarius in this Place ?

BERENGARIUS Be seated.

ADELAIDA (What may this mean?)

BERENGARIUS Be seated and attend.

*Berengarius sits on Adelaida's right Hand,
and Matilda on her Left.*

BERENGARIUS

Fair Queen, by the Command of great Lotharius,
I come th' appointed Messenger to you :
His Love prefers your Charms to all my Empire.

ADELAIDA

Is this the real Language of Lotharius,
Or did Matilda meditate the Speech? —

MATILDA

'Tis known Lotharius calls you to a Throne.

ADELAIDA And what results from this ?

BERENGARIUS

That now your Fortune
Hath smooth'd her Frowns to soft Serenity ;
And now the sole Prerogative is yours,
To destine Italy to Peace or War.

ADELAIDA Ah, what can I ? —

BERENGARIUS

No otherwise than yield,
To make Lotharius bless'd in your Espousals.

ADELAIDA

Unbar the Gates then, and this Instant give
An unretarded Entrance to the Hero.

MATILDA

But prior to the Peace, tis fit we settle
Th' important Terms of the intended Treaty.

BERENGARIUS Write to Lotharius.

ADELAIDA And the Subject — what ?

BERENGARIUS

That Peace and Friendship may unite him to us,
And that our Kingdom he would leave us free.

MATILDA Write that I wish for Peace.

BERENGARIUS That I implore it.

Comment [C20]: Fair to describe this translation as interpretative? All the Italian says is, "Vieni, o bella Adelaide" which is hardly a put down, although Matilda's "Reina" is, I suppose, more respectful.

Comment [C21]: One can imagine some fairly comic interpretations of this scene.

ADELAIDA

My Rank, and just Decorum both forbid it.

BERENGARIUS

Your Liberty and Kingdom both depend on't.

MATILDA Subscribe that Paper.

ADELAIDA

And can you suppose

That he'll receive Commands and Laws from me ?

MATILDA

Love to your Will has made him all Submission.

ADELAIDA

'Tis not for me to dictate to the Victor.

Go you, and try Lotharius, I'm content,

If he restores you to the Throne you sue for.

BERENGARIUS The Gift without your all prevailing Pen
 Is too precarious.

ADELAIDA

On my Throne replace me,

Then in your Favour I'll consent to write,

This is my Will, and this I now demand.

BERENGARIUS Ah think, what your Refusal

MATILDA And Repulse
 Will surely cost you.

BERENGARIUS I have Force sufficient
 To try the Fortune of a second Field.

MATILDA

And Conquest may not always court your Champion.

ADELAIDA

Barbarians know, you menace me in vain :

Now to your Chains and Fetters I return.

[Rises disdainfully.

Lotharius is the Victor, from his Valour,
And my firm Constancy, expect your Woes.

[ARIA]

Not always shall my Weight of Woe
Remain without its Vengeance so :
Ye Tyrants all your Power oppose,
My Scene of Sorrow soon will close.

The Hopes you form'd of Royal Joys,
My dauntless Constancy destroys ;
'Tis this that shall my Sighs assuage,
And Fate disarm of all its Rage.
 Not always, &c.

[Exit.]

SCENE III.

Berengarius and Matilda.

BERENGARIUS

Too well the artful Adelaida knows,
Her Triumph must be founded on our Fall.
But after this Refusal how shall we
With the least Gleam of corresponding Power
Avert the Fury of the dire Assault ?

MATILDA Fear not ; to that Disaster I'll oppose
 A Heart of Adamant.

BERENGARIUS Oh worthy Spouse !

MATILDA

Preserve a firm Assurance of your Freedom,
For Adelaida shall —

BERENGARIUS

In you I trust,
But, ah, the Danger of my dearest Son
Awakes a Father's Fears ; my pleading Love
And the stern Victor's Laws recal me hence.

Comment [C22]: sic

[ARIA]

Melting Remorse and tender Fear
I feel, I feel your Motions here ;
Ev'n now, Barbarians, you begin
To rend my wounded Heart within.

But, ah, 'twill prove my sharpest Pain,
To sooth the Tyrant's Rage in vain,
Whose Actions paint him, to my View,
Ungrateful, and a Traitor too.
 [Melting, &c.]

Exit.

Comment [C23]: SR parte

SCENE IV.

MATILDA *alone.*

Betray me not, ye gently rising Hopes,
My Constancy shall like a Mound repel
The proudest Seas of Woe that Fate can swell:

[ARIA]

The Tyrant thinks the Danger o'er,
And that he sails in Sight of Shore,
When, negligent, he ne'er has seen
The boundless Sea that rolls between.

Some pointed Rock that hidden lies,
May burst his Bark, or Storms may rise,
And, with an unresisted Blast,
O'erwhelm him and his Hopes at last.
The Tyrant, &c.

[Exit.]

Comment [C24]:
Italian "Argine"- a dyke

SCENE V.

*The Camp of Lotharius under the City of Pavia,
with military Engines to batter the Walls.*

LOTHARIUS *alone.*

Now to my Camp is fetter'd Berengarius
Return'd, and since th' untractable Matilda
Presumes to trifle with my Patience still,
Proceed we to the Storm, the Triumph seems
Already mine ;

[To his Army.

to Arms, my Friends, to Arms.

[SINFONIA]

*The Assault follows, the Engines batter the Walls,
which after some Opposition are partly demolish'd ;
and upon the Breach, Clodimire and Adelaïda appear
before several Soldiers of the City.*

LOTHARIUS

Me miserable ! what do I behold?
Forbear the Fury of the hot Assault.

[Makes his Soldiers desist.

Comment [C25]: sic

SCENE VI.

Idelbert and the aforesaid.

IDELBERT

Ah Monarch ! if the Life of Adelaida
Is precious in your Sight, your Progress cease.

LOTHARIUS

*[To one of the Guards,
who immediately unfurls a white Ensign.*

Let the white Ensigns be display'd, and then
Bring Berengarius in his Fetters here.
My Adelaida's Danger now shall cost
The proud Matilda both her Spouse and Son.

IDELBERT

Oh spare my Father's Life, and shed my Blood.

LOTHARIUS

Ye both shall perish, if that impious Woman
Removes not Adelaida from the Battle.

(Thus I'll attempt to conquer Art with Art.)

[The Guards conduct Berengarius in.

SCENE VII.

To them Berengarius.

LOTHARIUS *to Berengarius*

Most welcome to my Wish you're come —
ho ! Soldiers.

IDELBERT What Fury now transports him ?

LOTHARIUS

Let the Father,
Plac'd by the Son unarm'd, confront their Squadrons.

BERENGARIUS

And art thou in thy Conquests then so base ?

LOTHARIUS

Such is Matilda's bold Barbarity
To Adelaida there. See where she's fix' d,

[Makes him look towards the Breach.]

Comment [C26]: From the Italian

The guiltless Mark for every hostile Aim.

IDELBERT

Tis I, my Lord, will shield you from your Fate.

BERENGARIUS No, 'tis my Duty and my Resolution,
To face the Terrors of all conquering Death,
Instead of thee.

LOTHARIUS Let him alone advance.

IDELBERT Oh Destiny, delightful to my Soul!

LOTHARIUS

Go unattended and disarm'd, and there
The Bosom of that bright Immaculate
Guard from the Fury of my fighting Squadrons,
And then return, or else thy Father dies.

[Idelbert enters the Breach, and causes Adelaida to retire.]

SCENE VIII.

Lotharius and Berengarius.

LOTHARIUS

Lead Berengarius to our Royal Tent,
There let him wait the Fortune of the Fight.

[Exit Lotharius.]

BERENGARIUS

The brave Man scorns the worst Events of Fate.

[The Guards conduct Berengarius out.]

SCENE IX.

A Gallery.

Clodomire, to him Lotharius.

CLODOMIRE

Ah Fortune ! fond of Mutability,
Now Berengarius wears the destin'd Chains,
And to that Fate is poor Matilda doom'd:
(So Heaven decrees) by Conquest crown'd Lotharius,
To whose resistless Arms submissive Pavia
Prepares to open her defenceless Gates.

[Lotharius advances towards Clodomire.

LOTHARIUS Here Love conducts me ——

CLODOMIRE

Ah ! what do I see ?
Heaven is propitious to your Wish, Lotharius.

LOTHARIUS

Heaven is the great Defender of the Just.
But who art thou?

CLODOMIRE

I am —— you soon shall know,
Your Clemency will now forget the Wrongs
Offer'd by Force, Oh Heavens ! to Innocence.

[ARIA]

The Pine its lofty Top displays
 His Boughs with green Profusion spread,
But shatter'd by the Lightning's Blaze,
 Bows to the Dust his blasted Head.

Such is the Tyrant's varied State,
 In prospering Pride he climbs the Skies,
But punish'd by avenging Fate,
 The low sunk Wretch dejected dies.
 The Pine, &c.

[Exit.]

Comment [C27]: "Gallery" is written into the printed libretto in ink. It replaces a scored-out word, possible "Solitude", reflecting the Italian "Ritiro".

Comment [C28]: lit. Clidimire corrected in ms

SCENE X.

Lotharius and a Messenger, who delivers a Letter to him.

LOTHARIUS *reads*

" Illustrious King,
" With Indignation and with Pity mov'd,
" The universal Voice of Pavia's People
" Calls you with Transport, and they join to wish
" Your Arms may prove triumphant o'er your Foes:

To thee, my Adelaida, now I flie,
And having humbled both thy Tyrants Pride,
Bring thee with Joy thy Freedom and a Throne.

[ARIA]

My lovely Treasure, I shall view
Redoubled Joy and Beauty too ;
With starry Lustre sweetly rise,
And sparkle in thy radiant Eyes.

With their unclouded Brightness bless'd,
My happy Soul shall be posses'd
Of each soft Transport that can prove
The dear Reward of all my Love.
My lovely, &c.

[Exit.]

SCENE XI.

A Royal Apartment.

*Matilda with a drawn Sword in her Hand,
and Idelbert interposing to prevent her Design.*

MATILDA Leave me thou wicked Son.

IDELBERT What can you mean ?

MATILDA

To all that mortal Danger, from whose Aim
You have withdrawn your Charmer, I determine
Now to expose my Person.

IDELBERT Ah my Parent !

MATILDA Forbear that Name.

IDELBERT

To save her from the Danger,
Was the Advice of Reason, not of Love.
Resign that Sword to me, my dearest Mother.

MATILDA

Yes, thou would'st plunge it in my Veins ?

IDELBERT Alas !

'Tis only for your Glory, your Protection,
And for your Dignity, that I would take it.

MATILDA

Protection, Liberty, and Life or Death,
I scorn at thy Donation ; you shall see
That I've a dauntless, an heroick Soul.

[ARIA]

Thou trembling Coward, learn from me,
That gallant Souls are always free ;
That Life and Death, Contempt and Fame,
Are ever in the Power they claim.

When Torments in their Terrors rise,
I view them with undaunted Eyes ;
Alike unmov'd with Pleasures too,
'Tis Fame alone that I pursue.

[Thou, &c.]

*[As she is going she meets Clidimire,
who detains her.]*

Comment [C29]: sic: but corrected to
Clodomire by hand (a modern hand, one
suspects)

SCENE XII.

To them [Clodimire](#).

Comment [C30]: sic

CLODOMIRE

Great Queen, no Gleam of Hope is left us now,
For Pavia is already [faln](#).

Comment [C31]: sic

MATILDA

Oh Fate !
By thee I'm vanquish'd, thou rebellious Son :
But e'er the Sword of Slaughter drinks our Blood,
Bring Adelaida in thy Sight, that she
May fall the Victim of thine ill-born Love.
Guards, execute my Orders.

IDELBERT

Ah ! my Queen.
Fair Adelaida's Chains I've taken off.

MATILDA

What do I hear? And can a faithless Son
Rise to such Insolence and vile Presumption?
And can I bear thy Presence? Can I hear thee,
And yet want Resolution now to stab thee ?

IDELBERT [ARIA]

If 'tis a Crime you can't forgive,
To bid my lovely Angel live,
And Innocence from Chains to free,
The guilty Wretch behold in me,
And let your Justice act its Part,
And aim its Vengeance at my Heart.

But if you find the Action prove
But Virtue's Error urg'd by Love,
Dear Parent, then embrace your Son,
And cease your Rage for what is done.
If 'tis, &c.

[Exit.]

SCENE XIII.

Matilda, to her Lotharius with Guards.

MATILDA [ACCOMPAGNATO]

Ye Furies of the dire Avernus, where
Where are you now ? Ah cruel, I behold you ;
You rend my Heart relentless. Rise to Vengeance
And crimson Slaughter then ; but ah! unhappy,
What canst thou hope from this defenceless Hand?
Propitious Fate, assist me with thy Succour,
The Danger of my dearest Spouse and Son
Awakens all my Fears — But no, 'tis Baseness
To let my prompted Indignation languish ;
Rouze each Aversion then — Ah ! Love prevails.

[Remains in Suspense, with her Eyes fix'd on the Ground,
when Lotharius enters.

LOTHARIUS

See the Barbarian ! Now, my Friends, prepare
Those Fetters for her Feet she gave my fair one.

MATILDA

No, no, you ne'er shall see me bound with Fetters.

[Recovers herself in a Rage,
and prepares to kill herself.

LOTHARIUS [Tries to stop her.

Forbear, thou guilty Woman, and reflect,
That all that Pride of thine —

MATILDA If you approach me —

LOTHARIUS

Is not superior to my Clemency.
You're now my Prisoner.

MATILDA

To my faithless Stars
You ne'er shall have the Joy to see me yield :
Retire, or Death shall set me free this Moment.

Comment [C32]: Reflects the Italian Libretto's "Vinca Amore". The SR is "Viene Amore" (Love comes in ?) but this looks like a simple misreading of an MS.

Comment [C33]: Supplied from the Italian Text "Vuole impedirla"

SCENE XIV.

To them Berengarius.

BERENGARIUS

Matilda, what's the Fury you're possess'd with?
A gallant Heart o'ercomes with Constancy,
Rashly to die betrays a worthless Soul.

[Matilda throws down her Sword, and suffers herself to be chain'd.]

SCENE XV.

To them Adelaida.

ADELAIDA

Permit me, oh my King, and my Defender !
To press that conquering, that triumphant Hand.

LOTHARIUS

My Queen, behold your two imperious Foes
Laid prostrate at your Feet, and in Requital
Permit my constant, and unblemish'd Love,
Now to embrace you as my Spouse and Queen.

ADELAIDA

And what can I deny my Benefactor,
To whom I owe my Liberty, and Throne ?
Yes, I am wholly thine —

LOTHARIUS And thine, my Life,
 I will remain for ever.

ADELAIDA I entreat
 Your kind Permission to demand one Favour.

LOTHARIUS Ask it, whate'er it be.

ADELAIDA These Wretches Fate
 Permit me to determine.

LOTHARIUS

You alone
Dispense Forgiveness, Pains and Recompence.

Comment [C34]: lit. Matil.

SCENE XVI.

Idelbert, Clodomire, and the aforesaid.

IDELBERT

Ah me ! my Queen, save, I entreat you, save
The Lives of those to whom I owe my own.

ADELAIDA

'Tis a Reward well merited indeed,
By your pure Faith, and unpolluted Love.
To thee, exalted Soul, I give thy Parents.

Takes the chains from Matilda and Berengarius

to Lotharius

My Sovereign, to Prince Idelbert I owe
My Life itself ; and now 'tis my Desire.

LOTHARIUS

Of my Dominions, and your own, you are
Sole Arbitress, dispose of them with Freedom.

ADELAIDA My Inclination prompts me thee to raise
 A Son so worthy, to his Father's Throne.

IDELBERT Magnanimous Compassion !

MATILDA Generous Pity!

BERENGARIUS Exalted gallant Souls !

ADELAIDA The Cruelty of Fate I dread no more.

[ADELAIDA AND LOTHARIUS] A 2

And never ending Joys my Fair/my Dear attend me now.

[DUET]

LOTHARIUS Yes, blooming Beauty, 'twas thy Dart
 That wounded my unguarded Heart.

ADELAIDA Yes, my dear Lord, and Lover too,
 My yielding Heart declares for you.

BOTH { From the Tempest's loud Alarms
 Come my dearest to my Arms.

ADELAIDA Our Stars are now relenting seen,
LOTHARIUS And Rebel Fate has chang'd her Mein, }
BOTH And now returns a sweet Serene.
 [Yes, blooming, &c.]

LOTHARIUS

Now let the Clangor of the Battle cease,
And Virtue's soft harmonious Notes resound.

CHORUS.

Endearing Transports, ever new,
And flow'ry Crowns to Merit due ;
Renown and Joys that ever live,
May Cupid and Bellona give.

None on a Throne but those should shine,
Who Valour's Fire with Justice join.
 [Endearing, &c.]

FINIS.

Comment [C35]:
Supplied from the Italian