

**Q. 7.** "I shall not prove another pattern of generosity—he has not obliged me to that with those excesses of himself." In the above remark, analyse Mrs. Marwood's motive, her character and her part in the counter-plot against Mirabell.

**Ans.** Mrs. Marwood hates Mirabell and she has a good reason to do

so because he rejected her advances. But she still seems to have a longing for him. Foible rightly hits her off : "She has a mouth's mind : but I know Mr. Mirabell can't abide her." She has a tussle on his matter with Millamant. She tells Millamant that her affairs with Mirabell is now known in town, and that instead of trifling with Witwoud and Petulant, she should do well to own up Mirabell. Millamant is very tart in reply. She wished that she has had power over Mirabell and could induce him to show more gallantry to other ladies. He must be ill-bred to be particularly attentive to one and indifferent to another. Mrs. Marwood declares that she detests and hates Mirabell. Millamant replies that she too hates Mirabell which does not prevent him from loving her, and she cannot help it.

Before this she overhears the conversation between Mrs. Fainall and Foible and gets hold of Mirabell's second plot. One fictitious Sir Rowland is going to be put up before Lady Wishfort, and he will make love to her. Foible is acting as an agent in this affair, and it is confirmed by Mrs. Marwood having seen Foible in conversation with Mirabell in St. James's Park. And now she finds Fainall assisting Mirabell in his plot. She at once decides her own line of action. She launches into a counter-plot. Her motive is jealousy. She will not let Mirabell win Millamant. She is a depraved and unscrupulous woman. She has an affair with Fainall, and should have let Mirabell alone. She is spiteful. When Mirabell sought to win Millamant under cover of paying addresses to Lady Wishfort, Mrs. Marwood unfolded the trick to Lady Wishfort. On the contrary, Fainall desired that Mirabell could marry Millamant without her aunt's consent so that her fortune could be seized by him. So Mrs. Marwood came in his way. It was just a clash of interests between the two.

As things are developing, Mrs. Marwood, without yet enlightening Lady Wishfort, suggests to her that she should get Millamant married to her nephew, Sir Willfull (for the satisfaction of her spite). But later when she meets Fainall again, she changes her tactics. She will have Fainall denounce his wife for her goings-on to her mother, and threatens to part with her, and she expects that Lady Wishfort will come to terms with him. In the meantime she will send a letter, as if written by an unknown hand, to Lady Wishforts warning, her against the counterfeit, Sir Rowland, while Fainall will manage that Sir Willfull does not marry Millamant (for he will ply Sir Willfull with drink till he is quite fuddled up), and part with his wife after he gets hold of Millamant's fortune that comes to her. Mrs. Marwood makes sure of Fainall as her man now. And it is evidently left open to Mirabell if he will marry Millamant. The question of his marrying Millamant seems immaterial now. But Mrs. Marwood declares here that she will not prove another pattern of generosity to Mirabell, unlike Mrs. Fainall who is assisting Mirabell. She will prevent the marriage between Mirabell and Millamant. But she does not come into the plan, connected between her and Fainall. In any case no definite step is going to be taken to satisfy her spite against Mirabell. But she expects that when the trick is exposed, Lady Wishfort "will be enraged beyond bounds and sacrifice her niece, and fortune and all at that