

Satire refers to a form of writing holding up a person or society to ridicule or showing the foolishness of an idea, custom, etc. It is also a way of criticizing people or ideas in a humorous way. To be more precise, satire exposes the drawbacks of an individual or of a society, in order to bring about reform. The play is about the tendency of wealthy families to seek ties with other wealthy families, to increase their estates by encouraging marriages that make good economic sense. The problem in the play is that of the marriage (of a grownup daughter) about which everyone around is anxious – everyone around wants to celebrate the marriage with zeal. Ivan Lomov, a long time wealthy neighbour of Stephan Chubukov also wealthy, comes to seek the hand of Chubukov’s twenty five year old daughter, Natalya but human follies intervene because all three are quarrelsome people, and they start to quarrel over petty issues. Thus, the problem of marriage remains unsettled, as Lomov forgets to propose to Natalya, for marriage both Lomov and Natalya first start quarrelling over the meadows and then over the superiority of their dogs. Even Chubukov joins the quarrel, taking his daughter’s side. It is only after a long time that wisdom dawns upon Chubukov and he joins the hands of Lomov and Natalaya and asks them to kiss each other, when they ‘re still half – unconscious, as a mark of their happy union. But their stupidity continues. They start quarrelling again after regaining their consciousness. Chubukov makes an ironical remark – “that’s a way to start family bliss”. These remarks contain some deep hidden meanings. Husband and wife have a deep love for each other, even if they quarrel over petty issues. And occasional quarrels are a part and parcel of marital life.

