

ALGERNON monologue

ALGERNON MONCRIEFF - Now, go on! Tell me the whole thing. I may mention that I have always suspected you of being a confirmed and secret Bunburyist; and I'm quite sure of it now. You have invented a very useful younger brother called Ernest, in order that you may be able to come up to town as often as you like. I have invented an invaluable permanent invalid called Bunbury, in order that I may be able to go down into the country if I choose. Bunbury is invaluable. If it wasn't for Bunbury's extraordinary bad health, for instance, I wouldn't be able to dine with you at Willis's tonight. I have been really engaged to Aunt Augusta for more than a week. I haven't the smallest intention of doing anything of the kind. To begin with, I dined there on Monday, and once a week is quite enough to dine with one's own relations. In the second place, whenever I do dine here, I am always treated as a member of the family, and sit down with either no woman at all, or two. Besides, now that I know you to be a confirmed Bunburyist, I naturally want to talk to you about Bunburying. Nothing will induce me to part with Bunbury, and if you ever get married, which seems to me extremely problematic, you will be very glad to know Bunbury. A man who marries without knowing Bunbury has a very tedious time of it.