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At Didson & Fogg's. Jackson is seated at desk. There is a gentle tap on the door.

JACKSON

Come in, can't you?

(Pickwick and Sam enter)

PICKWICK

Mr. Dodson or Mr. Fogg at home, sir?

JACKSON

Mr. Dodson a'nt at home and Mr. Fogg's particularly engaged.

oligas

PICKWICK When will Mr. Dodson be back, sir?

JACKSON

Can't say.

PICKWICK

Will it be long before Mr. Fogg is disengaged, sir?

JACKSON

Don't know.

(Jackson proceeds to mend his pen while another clerk mixes a Seidlitz powder under cover of the lid of his desk and laughs approvingly)

PICKWICK I think I'll wait.

CLERK

That was a game, wasn't it?

Seidlitz Powder CLERK

Devilish good.

CLERK

Tom Cummins was in the chair. It was half past four when I got to Somers Town and then I was so uncommon lushey that I couldn't find the place where the latch key went in and was obliged to knock up the old woman. I say, I wonder what old Fogg 'd say if he knew it. I should get the sack, I s'pose, eh? (Laughs)

(Pickwick coughs to attract attention)

JACKSON

I wonder whether Fogg's disengaged now.

WICKS

I'll see - (to Mr. Pickwick) What name shall I tell

Mr. Fogg?

PICKWICK

Pickwick.

WICKS

(whispers) What did he say his name was?

JACKSON

(whispers) It's the defendant in Bardell and Pickwick (both laugh)

SAM

They're a twiggin' of you, sir.

PICKWICK

Twigging of me, Sam, what do you mean by twigging me?

(Mr. Pickwick looks up to find all the clerks looking at him with amused air. Bell rings and Jackson goes to answer it at Fogg's effice. He then returns to stage.)

JACKSON

Mr. Fogg will be ready to see Mr. Pickwick in five minutes. Please step this way.

(The office of Dodson & Fogg lights up as Mr. Pickwick goes upstairs. Fogg comes into the outer office.)

FOGG

Is Mr. Dodson in?

JACKSON

Just come in, sir.

FOGG

Ask him to step this way.

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JACKSON

Yes, sir.

(Pickwick is shown into the inner office.)

FOGG

Take a seat, sir, there is the paper, my partner will be here directly and we can converse about this matter, sir.

(Enter Mr. Dodson)

(4085)

FOGG

This is Mr. Pickwick.

DODSON

Ah, you are the defendant, sir, in Bardell and

Pickwick.

I am, sir.

PICKWICK

4634

DODSON

Well, what do you propose?

FOGG

Ah, what do you propose, Mr. Pickwick?

DODSON

Hush, Fogg, let me hear what Mr. Pickwick has to say.

PICKWICK

I came here, Gentlemen, to express the surprise with which I received your letter and to enquire what

grounds of action you can have against me.

FOGG

Grounds of - ,

DODSON

Mr. Fogg, I am going to speak.

FOGG

I beg your pardon, Mr. Dodson.

DODSON

For grounds of action, you will consult your own conscience. We are guided by the statement of our client. That statement, sir, may be true or it may be false. It may be credible or it may be incredible. But if it be true and if it be credible, I do not hesitate to say, sir, that our grounds of action, sir, are strong and not to be shaken. You may be an unfortunate man or you may be a designing one, but if I were called upon as a juryman upon my oath, sir, to express an opinion of your conduct, sir, I do not hesitate to assert that I should have but one opinion about it. What do you say, Mr. Fogg?

FOGG

I say precisely what you say.

DODSON

Mr. Fogg, the praecipe book.

FOGG

Here it is.

DODSON

Middlesex, Capias Martha Bardell, widow, v. Samuel Pickwick. Damages £1500. Dodson & Fogg for the plaintiff, August 28th, 1830. All regular, sir, perfectly.

per

FOGG

Perfectly.

PICKWICK

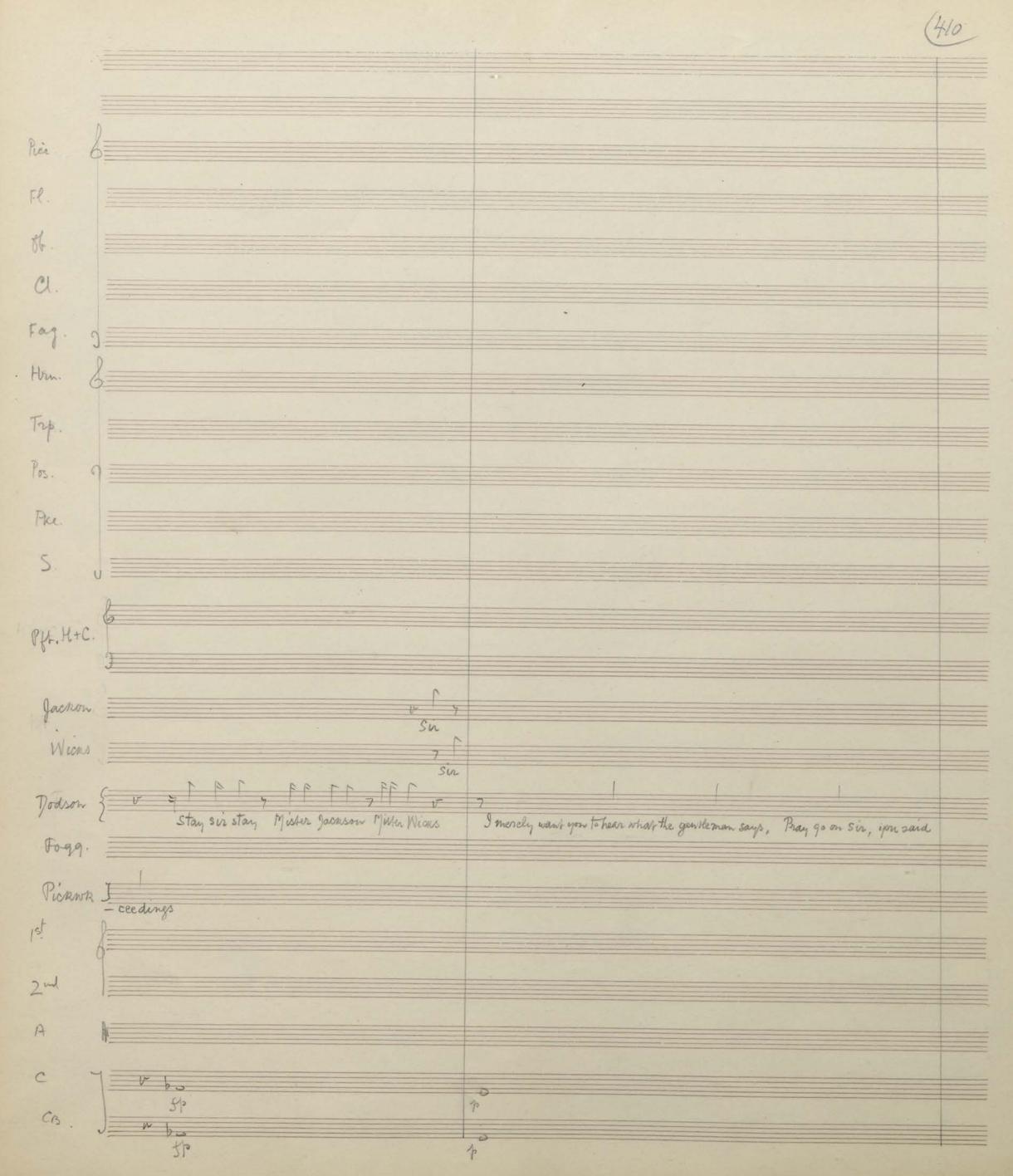
I am to understand, then, that it really is your intention to proceed with the action?

DODSON

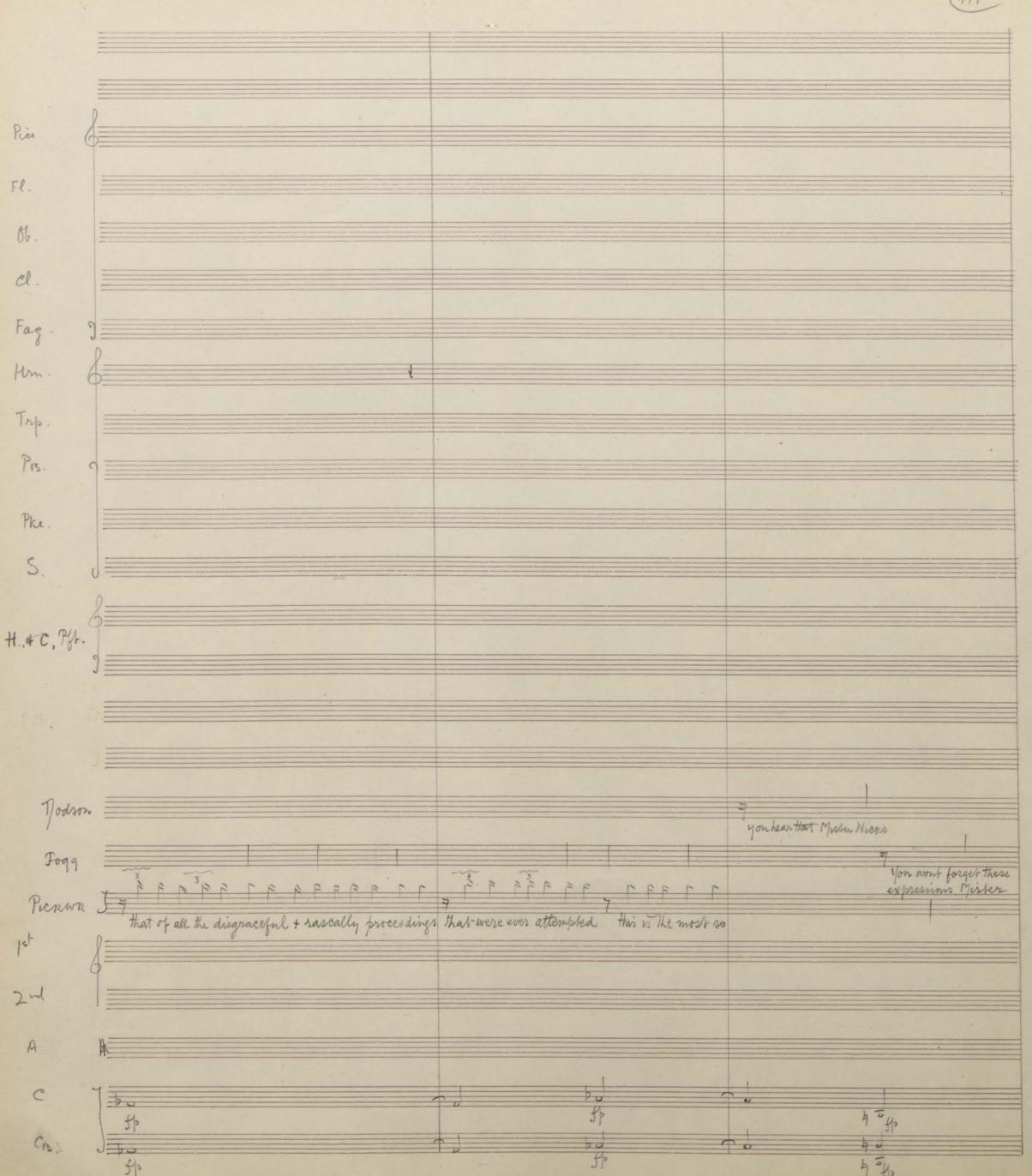
Understand, sir? That you certainly may.

(orchestra)!

Pièc Trop Prs. Pke 5. 畔. We shall be very happy to do so And before I go permit me to say that of all the Very well Gentlemen, you shall hear from my soticitor nascally & disgraceful 7 Very Todson! A



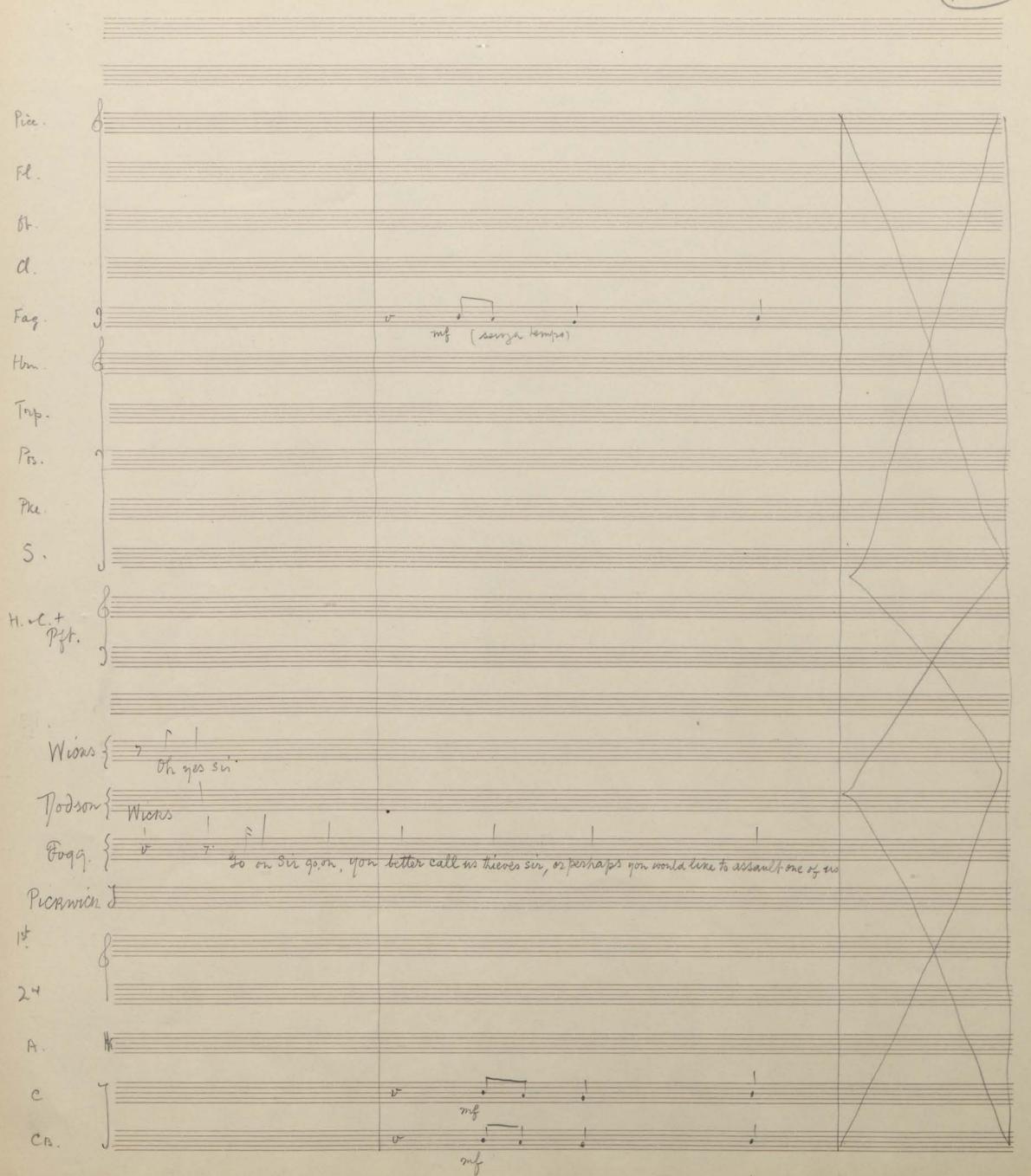
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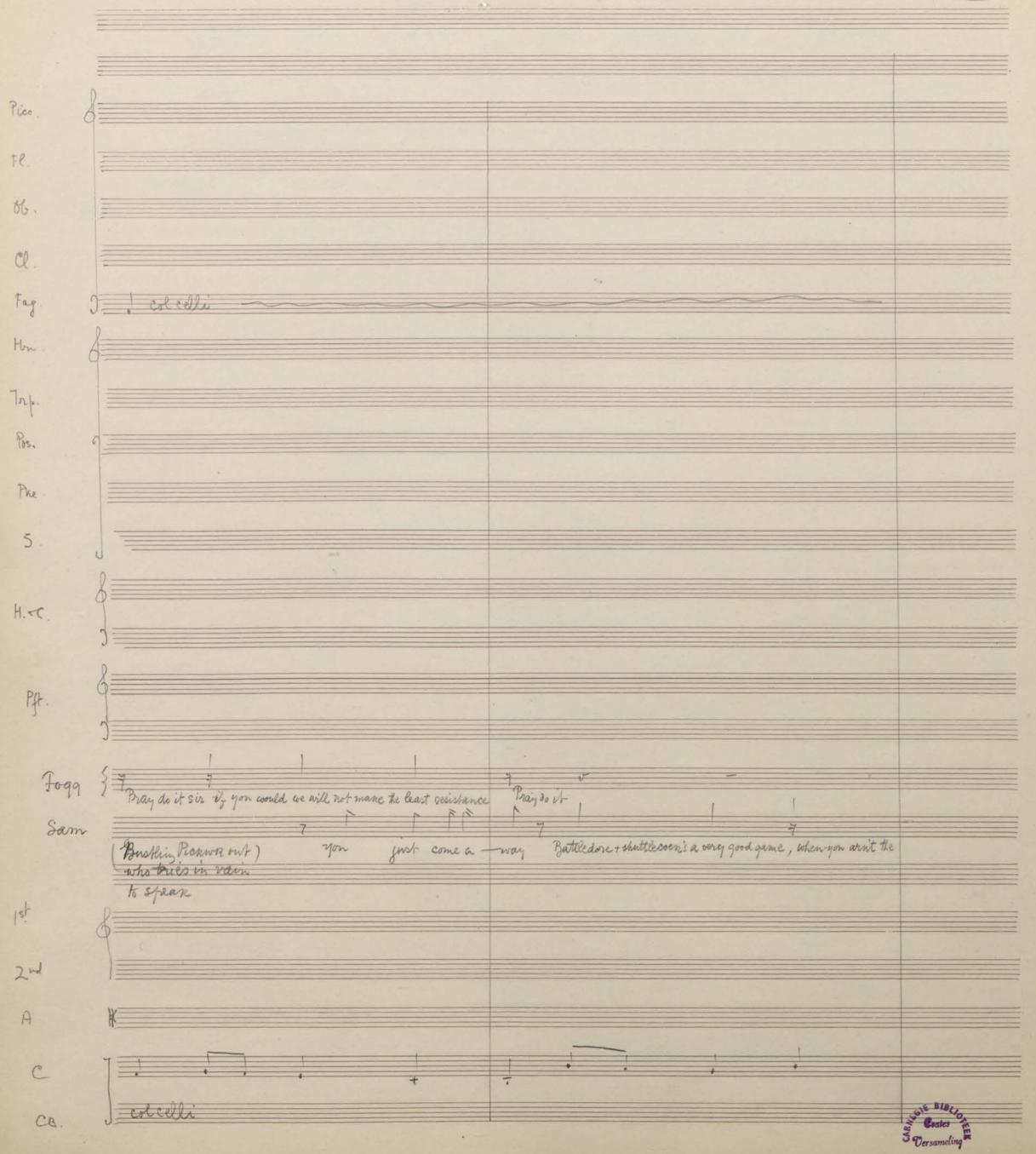
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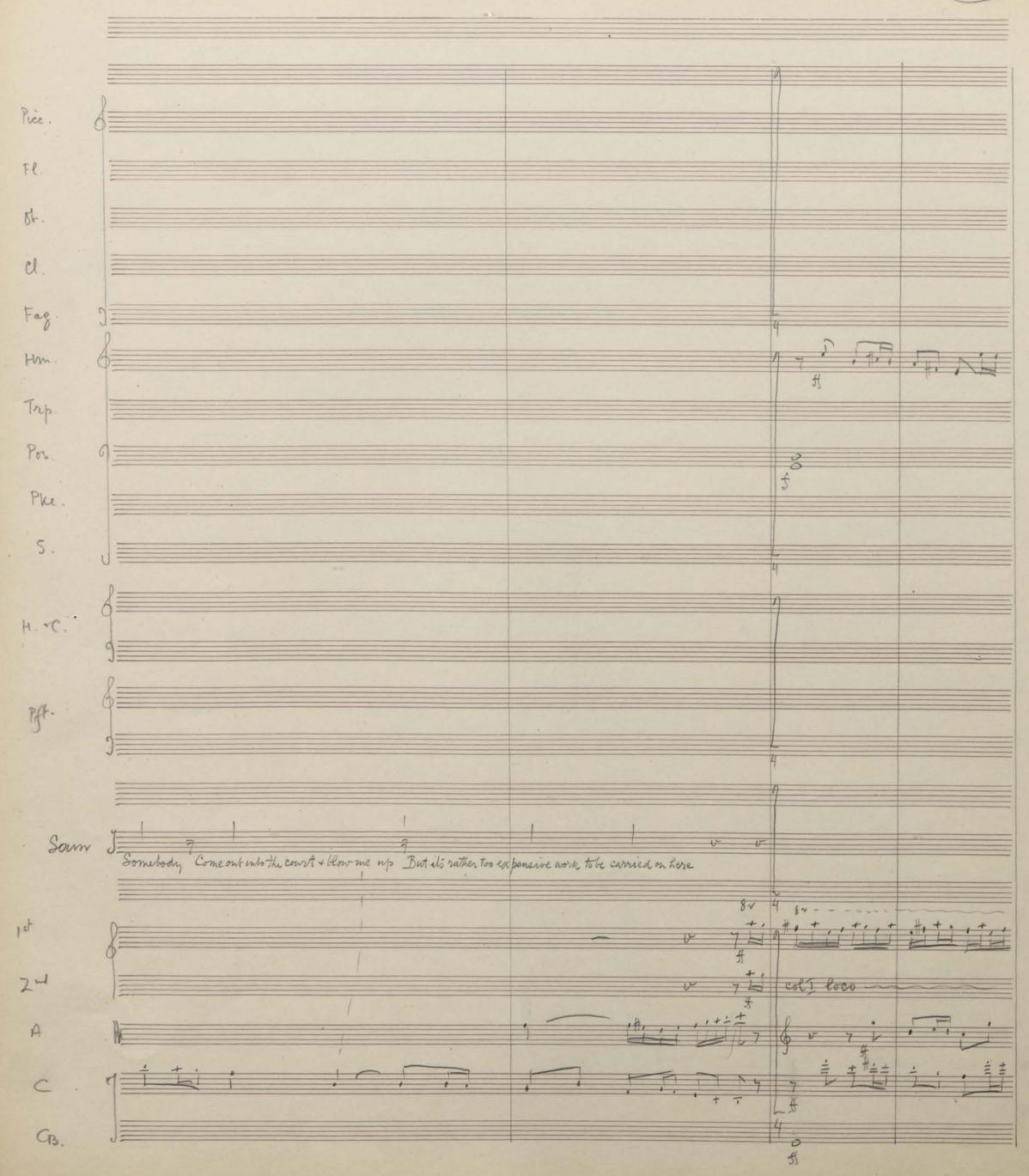
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