

## SCENE TWO

### *THE WIDOW'S PARLOUR.*

*MR BUMBLE*

Mark my words Mrs Corney. That boy was born to be hung, I've never been so shocked in all my days.

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Hush, Mr B, you've have had quite a tum and I fancy you might enjoy a little drop of something special.

*MR. BUMBLE*

What is it?

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Why it's what I'm obliged to keep a little of in the house to put into the blessed infant's medicine when they ain't well and I'll not deceive you Mr B,

*She fumbles in pocket to reveal a bottle of gin.*

It's gin.

*MR. BUMBLE*

Well, you are a humane woman Mrs Corney. It's nice to be appreciated, Mrs Corney. These paupers in this parish they don't appreciate me. Anti-porochial they are, ma'am, anti-porochial. We have given away, Mrs Corney, a matter of twenty loaves and cheese-and-a-half this very afternoon, and still them paupers is not contented.

*Drinks gin and offers to Widow Corney*

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Of course they're not. When would they be? Sweet, Mr Bumble?

*MRBUMBLE*

Very sweet, indeed, ma'am (Bumble Sneezes)

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Bless you

*She drops two lumps of sugar in the gin, and stirs. He spreads his pocket handkerchief over his fat knees, heaves a deep sign and looks at the cat basket.*

*MR. BUMBLE*

Do you still keep a cat, ma'am.

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Yes, and kittens too, I'm so fond of them you can't imagine Mr Bumble. They are so happy, so cheerful, so happy, so cheerful, so frolicsome that they are quite companions for me.

*MR. BUMBLE*

*(loudly)*

Very nice animals indeed, rna' am, and so very domestic.

*WIDOW CORNEY*

So very fond of their home too, that it's really quite a pleasure, I'm sure.

*MRBUMBLE*

Mrs Corney, Ms'am.

*(marking time with a teaspoon)*

I mean to say this, .... that any cat. .. or kitten ... that could live with you ma'am ... and not be fond of it's home ... must be an idiot, ma'am, and don't deserve to live in it.

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Oh, Mr Bumble!

*MRBUMBLE*

It's no use disgusting facts ma'am, An idiot! I would drown it myself with pleasure!

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Then you're a cruel man. And a very hard hearted man besides.

*MRBUMBLE*

Hard hearted, Mrs Corney? Hard? Are you hard hearted Mrs Corney?

*WIDOW CORNEY*

Dear me, what a very curious question coming from a single man. What can you want to know for Mr B.?

*Mr Bumble drinks his gin, wipes his lips and kisses Widow Corney*

Oh, Mr Bumble, I shall scream!