

**ALL:** No - no - because - because -

**THESPIIS:** (*annoyed*) It isn't a conundrum - it's a misanthropical question. Why cannot I join you? (*Retires up centre.*)

**DAPHNE:** (*who is sitting with SPARKEION to the annoyance of NICEMIS who is crying alone*) I'm sure I don't know. We do not want you. Don't distress yourself on our account - we are getting on very comfortably - aren't we, Sparkeion?

**SPARKEION:** We are so happy that we don't miss the lobster or the claret. What are lobster and claret compared with the society of those we love? (*Embracing DAPHNE.*)

**DAPHNE:** Why, Nicemis, love, you are eating nothing. Aren't you happy, dear?

**NICEMIS:** (*spitefully*) You are quite welcome to my share of *everything*. I intend to console *myself* with the society of my manager. (*Takes THESPIIS' arm affectionately.*)

**THESPIIS:** Here I say - this won't do, you know - I can't allow it - at least before my company - besides, you are half-married to Sparkeion. Sparkeion, here's your half-wife impairing my influence before my company. Don't you know the story of the gentleman who undermined his influence by associating with his inferiors?

**ALL:** Yes, yes, - we know it.

**PREPOSTOROS:** (*furiously*) I do not know it! It's ever thus! Doomed to disappointment from my earliest years - (*STUPIDAS endeavours to console him.*)

**THESPIIS:** There - that's enough. Preposteros - you *shall* hear it.

## No. 8. I Once Knew a Chap

Thespis, Chorus of Thespians

A

Allegro con brio  $\text{♩} = 160$

Thespis

*mf*

Thespis

I once knew a

Piano

Th

chap who dis - charged a func-tion On the North South East West Did-dle-sex

Pno.

62  
13

Th  
8  
junc-tion, He was con - spi - cu - ous ex - ceed-ing For his af - fa-ble ways and his

Pno.

B

20

Th  
8  
ea - sy breed-ing. Al-though a Chair - man of Di - rec-tors, He was hand in

Pno.

27

Th  
8  
glove with the tick-et in - spec-tors, He tipped the guards with brand new fi-vers, And

Pno.

C

34

Th

8

sang lit-tle songs to the en - gine dri-vers. 'Twas told to me with

Pno.

41

Th

8

great com - punc-tion, By one who had dis - charged with unc-tion, A Chair - man

Pno.

48

Th

8

of Di - rec - tors' func-tion, On the North South East West Did-dle-sex junc-tion.

Pno.

55 *f* D *mf*

Th  
8 Fol - [da]-did-dle, lol - [da]-did-dle, lol lol lay. Each Christ - mas

Pno.  
*mf* *mp*

61

Th  
8 Day he gave each sto - ker A sil - ver sho - vel and a gold - en

Pno.

67

Th  
8 po - ker, He'd but-ton-hole flow-ers for the tick - et sort - ers, And rich Bath -

Pno.