

Mr Bumble the Beadle

A large pompous man who runs the
workhouse

Principal vocal

Adult

Male

Mr Bumble

MR. BUMBLE

Yes, you're quite right Mrs. Corney. We must get rid of this canker in our midst. That boy was born to be hung, Mrs. Corney. I've never been so shocked in all my days.

WIDOW CORNEY

Hush, Mr. Bumble, you must have had quite a turn. Sit down and have a nice cup of tea.

(SHE pours tea)

MR. BUMBLE

I't nice to be appreciated, Mrs. Corney, these here paupers in this here parish don't appreciate me. Anti-parochial they are, ma'am, anti-parochial we have given away a matter of twenty loaves and a cheese-and-a-half this very blessed afternoon; and still, them paupers is not contented.

WIDOW CORNEY

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

MR. BUMBLE

Very Sweet, indeed, ma'am.

(HE sips tea. Spreads HIS pocket handkerchief over HIS fat knees, heaves a deep sigh and looks at cat basket)

WIDOW CORNEY

You little tinker, you.

MR. BUMBLE

You have a cat ma'am, I see...and kittens too, I declare!

WIDOW CORNEY

I'm so fond of them you cant' imagine, Mr. Bumble. And they're fond of their home too.

MR. BUMBLE

Mrs. Corney, ma'am.

(Making time with a teaspoon)
I must say...that any cat...or kitten...that could live with you ma'am...and not be fond of its home...must be an idiot, ma'am, and don't deserve to live in it.

WIDOW CORNEY

Oh, Mr. Bumble!

MR. BUMBLE

It's no use disguising facts ma'am. An idiot! I would drown it myself--with pleasure!

WIDOW CORNEY

Then you're a cruel man...a very hard-hearted man and all.

MR. BUMBLE

Hard-hearted, Mrs. Corney? Hard? Hard-hearted, ma'am? 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 Bumble - Song 'Oliver'

OLIVER! OLIVER!

NEVER BEFORE
HAS A BOY WANTED MORE!

OLIVER! OLIVER!

WON'T ASK FOR MORE
WHEN HE KNOWS WHAT'S IN STORE.
THERE'S A DARK, THIN, WINDING
STAIRWAY WITHOUT ANY BANNISTER,
WHICH WE'LL THROW HIM DOWN, AND
FEED HIM ON COACKROACHES
SERVED IN A CANISTER.

OLIVER! OLIVER!

WHAT WILL HE DO
WHEN HE'S TURNED BLACK AND BLUE?
HE WILL CURSE THE DAY
SOMEBODY NAMED HIM...

O - LI - VER!