

SCENE ELEVEN

(TIME: Noon, the following Saturday.

AT RISE: Center of town, exterior. ZANEETA is crossing followed by TOMMY wearing his invention)

TOMMY

(Calling)

... Zaneeta... Hey, Zaneeta –

(ZANEETA stops and turns)

ZANEETA

Tommy, Papa and Mama are sitting right there in the bank. Ye Gods!

TOMMY

All right, then meet me after supper.

ZANEETA

I can't. It's Epworth League night. Meet you where?

TOMMY

The footbridge.

ZANEETA

You see? Isn't that just what I said? Last time the lumber yard and now the footbridge. And where will you meet me after that? In the Black Hole of Calcutta? Ye Gods.

TOMMY

I only want to show you my invention.

ZANEETA

What invention?

TOMMY

My music holder for a marching Piccolo player. It still has a couple of minor flaws; see, when you keep it tight enough to hold the music steady you cut off the circulation and you can't wiggle your fingers. Meanwhile –

(Demonstrates how close it would be in playing position)

(TOMMY)

You could go blind.

ZANEETA

(Gestures in alarm at OLIVER HIX'S office)

Tommy! It's Papa!

(TOMMY leaves in a hurry as SHINN and EULALIE ENTER)