



TINY TIM: (to MR. PINCH)
God bless you, sir.



(ROBERTA and TINY TIM begin to walk away.)

MR. DICKENS

Wait!

(pulling out his wallet)

Don't let the child go to bed hungry.

(handing bills to ROBERTA)

Here, take this.

(placing a large, shiny coin in TINY TIM's hand)

And this.

ROBERTA

Oh, no, sir, we couldn't. We have no way to repay you.

MR. DICKENS

You can repay me by putting some meat on this child's bones.
Please, friends, my only wish is that this small offering may
help to stock your larder with food and your hearts with hope.



Bah



o MR. PINCH)
1, sir.



(TINY TIM is enthralled by the miracle that has just happened, but ROBERTA looks as if she will burst into tears. They exit together, with a dignified, hopeful air about them. MR. DICKENS watches, wistfully. MR. PINCH watches, refusing to be moved.)

ANNIE

You did such a good thing. You made that boy and his mother so happy.

MR. DICKENS

For a day or two, but what happens after that? And there are hundreds, *thousands*, just like them. And I... I am just one man. I may do a bit of good, but I can never do enough.

MR. PINCH

The mother should put the boy to work! There are plenty of factories that would hire him!

(*These last words of MR. PINCH stun MR. DICKENS.*)

MR. DICKENS

Factories are no place for children!

(*MR. DICKENS leaves money on the table and heads for the door.*)

MRS. PINCH

Mr. Dickens, aren't you going to have your meal?

MR. DICKENS

No, no I couldn't.

(*MR. DICKENS hurries outside.*)

SCENE FIVE

(#16 – WHO WILL HEAR MY SONG? (PART 1) begins.)

you.

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ering may
s with hope.