When a poor man came in sight
Gathering winter fuel.

(ALL have gone except JOSHUA. He sings)

In his Master's stepe he trod
Where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now do bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing.

ACT I

Scene 3

Inside the house. BETTY, MRS. SAUNDERS, MAUD with VICTORIA. The blinds are down so the light isn't bright though it is day outside.

MAUD. Clap hands, daddy comes, with his pockets full of plums. All for Vicky.

(CLIVE looks in.)

CLIVE. Everything all right? Nothing to be frightened of. Try not to listen. (CLIVE goes. Silence)

MRS. S. Who actually does the flogging?
MAUD. I don't think we want to imagine.
(Edward is playing clap hands with Vicky's doll.)

Betty. Edward, what have you got there?
Edward. I'm minding her.
Betty. Edward, I've told you before, dolls are for girls.
Maud. Where is Ellen? She should be looking after Edward. (She goes to the door) Ellen! Betty, why do you let that girl mope about in her own room? That's not what she's come to Africa for.
Betty. You must never let the boys at school know you like dolls. Never, never. You won't be on the cricket team, you won't grow up to be a man like your papa.
Edward. I don't want to be like papa. I hate papa.
Maud. Edward! Edward!
Betty. You're a horrid wicked boy and papa will beat you. Of course you don't hate him, you love him. Now give Victoria her doll at once.
Edward. She's not Victoria's doll, she's my doll. She doesn't love Victoria and Victoria doesn't love her. Victoria never even plays with her.
Maud. Victoria will learn to play with her.
Edward. She's mine and she loves me and she won't be happy if you take her away, she'll cry, she'll cry.

(Betty takes the doll away, slaps him, bursts into tears. Ellen comes in)

Betty. Ellen, look what you've done. Edward's had the doll again. Now, Ellen will you please do your job.

Ellen. Edward, you are a wicked boy. I am going to lock you in the nursery until suppertime. Now go upstairs this minute. (She slaps Edward, who bursts into tears and goes out.) I do try to do what you want. I'm so sorry. (Ellen bursts into tears and goes out)

Maud. There now, Vicky's got her baby back. Where did Vicky's naughty baby go? Shall we smack her? Just a little smack? There, now she's a good baby. Clap hands daddy comes with his pockets full of plums. All for Vicky's baby. When I was a child we honoured our parents. My mama was an angel.

(Joshua comes in. He stands without speaking)

Betty. Joshua?
Joshua. Madam?
Betty. Did you want something?
Joshua. Sent to see the ladies are all right, Madam.

(Mrs. Saunders comes in)

Mrs. S. We're very well thank you Joshua, and how are you?
Joshua. Very well thank you Mrs. Saunders.
Mrs. S. And the stable boys?
Joshua. They have had justice, Madam.
Mrs. S. So I saw. And does your arm ache?
Maud. This is not a proper conversation, Mrs. Saunders.

(Harry and Clive come in)