

SCENE 3

TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE

(† 38, 39, 40 and 41. * 14)

LIGHTS up. ALICE finds herself in the presence of TWO FAT LITTLE MEN. They are standing under a tree, each with an arm about the other's neck. One of them has "DUM" embroidered on his collar, and the other "DEE."

ALICE

I suppose they've each got Tweedle round at the back of the collar. (*She starts around to see.*)

TWEEDLEDUM

If you think we're wax-works, you ought to pay, you know. Wax-works aren't made to be looked at for nothing—nohow!

TWEEDLEDEE

Contrariwise. If you think we're alive, you ought to speak.

ALICE

I'm sure I'm very sorry.

TWEEDLEDUM

I know what you're thinking about, but it isn't so, nohow.

TWEEDLEDEE

Contrariwise. If it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be, but as it isn't, it ain't. That's logic.

ALICE

I was thinking which is the best way out of this wood. It's getting dark. Would you tell me, please? (*TWEEDLEDUM and TWEEDLEDEE only look at each other and grim.*) They look so exactly like a couple of school-boys! (*She points at TWEEDLEDUM, like a school teacher.*) First boy!

TWEEDLEDUM

Nohow.

ALICE

Next boy!

TWEEDLEDEE

Contrariwise.

ALICE

Would you tell me, please . . .

TWEEDLEDEE

You like poetry?

ALICE

Ye-es, pretty well . . . some poetry . . .

TWEEDLEDEE

What shall we repeat to her?

TWEEDLEDUM (*hugging his brother affectionately*)

"The Walrus and the Carpenter." That's longest.

ALICE

If it's very long, would you tell me, please, which road . . . (*TWEEDLEDUM and TWEEDLEDEE move down left in neat glides, still with their arms around*

STOP