

(*Frederic rises and comes forward with Pirate King, who enters from R.U.E.*)

**King:** Yes, Frederic, from to-day you rank as a full-blown member of our band.

**All:** Hurrah!

**Fred.:** My friends, I thank you all, from my heart, for your kindly wishes. Would that I could repay them as they deserve!

**King:** What do you mean?

**Fred.:** To-day I am out of my indentures, and to-day I leave you forever.

**King:** But this is quite unaccountable; a keener hand at scuttling a Cunarder or cutting out a White Star never shipped a handspike.

**Fred.:** Yes, I have done my best for you. And why? It was my duty under my indentures, and I am the slave of duty. As a child I was regularly apprenticed to your band. It was through an error—no matter, the mistake was ours, not yours, and I was in honour bound by it.

**Sam.:** An error? What error? (*Ruth rises and comes forward.*)

**Fred.:** I may not tell you; it would reflect upon my well-loved Ruth.

**Ruth:** Nay, dear master, my mind has long been gnawed by the cankering tooth of mystery. Better have it out at once.

## No. 2. "When Frederic was a little lad"

Solo

Ruth

Allegro pesante

1. When  
2. I  
3. I

Fred - 'ric was a lit - tle lad he proved so brave and  
was a stu - pid nurs - 'ry - maid, on break - ers al - ways  
soon found out, be - yond all doubt, the scope of this dis -

dar - ing, His fa - ther thought he'd 'pren - tice him to -  
 steer - ing, And I did not catch the word a - right, through  
 as - ter, But I had - n't the face to re - turn to my place, and -

some ca - reer sea - far - ing. I - was, a - las! his nurs - 'ry - maid, and  
 be - ing hard of hear - ing. Mis - tak - ing my in - struc - tions, which with -  
 break it to my mas - ter. A - nurs - 'ry - maid is - not a - fraid of -

so it fell to my lot To take and bind the  
 in my brain did gy - rate, I took and bound this  
 what you peo - ple call work, So I made up my mind to -

prom - is - ing boy ap - pren - tice to a pi - lol. A  
 prom - is - ing boy ap - pren - tice to a pi - rate. A  
 go as a kind of pi - rat - i - cal maid - of - all - work. And