(Author's note: There is no suggestion in Dickens that Belle was at this dance; however, by bringing her in at this stage, and focussing some definite moments on her growing relationship with Ebenezer, will undoubtedly help the next scene and add an essence of continuity that is rather essential at this stage.)

Throughout the whole scene, SCROOGE THE ELDER is elated almost to the point of being pulled into the scene himself; and as this dance ends, light begins to fade from the scene with everyone wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a great many "thank-you's" to MR FEZZIWIG for having such a wonderful party. SCROOGE and BELLE predominate in these thanks. And as the scene fades altogether, we concentrate again on SCROOGE and THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST: SCROOGE, momentarily is still filled with glee.

Start

SCROOGE

Dear old Fezziwig. Dear old Fezziwig....

And as the last light of the scene fades, and OLD FEZZIWIG's laugh fades, SCROOGE becomes aware of the GHOST, and subsides.

C. PAST

A small matter - to make these silly folk so happy and so full of thanks.

SCROOGE

Small!

C. PAST

Is it not? He spent but a few pounds - three or four at the most. Is that so much to deserve such praise?

SCROOGE

(Still with some of the excitement he has just experienced.) It isn't that, Spirit, it isn't that. He had the power to make us happy or unhappy.

C. PAST

Us? Who do you mean?

SCROOGE

All of us. But mainly Dick and I; we worked for him, we were his apprentices. He had the power to make our work light or heavy, a pleasure or a dreadful burden; and he used that power. He used that power; he used it in hundreds of little ways - in the way he spoke to us, or looked at us or asked us to do things. That's the kind of happiness he gave to us - and you can't buy that, even with a fortune. You - you can't....

Suddenly he realises THE GHOST is staring at him and he stops.

C. PAST

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

Nothing in particular.

C. PAST

Something, I think.

SCROOGE

No, nothing. I just wish, at this moment, I could say a word or two to my clerk, Bob Cratchit. That's all.

THE GHOST watches him for a moment, then breaks the mood.

C. PAST

My time grows short. Quickly. Let us see another Christmas.

Again light changes as they journey a little way. The light reveals to us SCROOGE, still young, but slightly older than in the last scene. He is fully mature. The gaiety of the Fezziwig evening has left him, in its place is a driving, self-centred, eager ambition. And we see him now, with books, checking details, adding figures, excited and gripped by a world of business and commerce.

(This factor is of tremendous importance as quite clearly Scrooge, deep within himself, could have been quite different from the way he turned out; but the great determination to "better himself" and to "safeguard the future" became an obsession, until all the normal and everyday delights and struggles of living were superseded by a singular determination to make money. As Belle puts it; "The Golden Idol supersedes all;" in more modern terms, Aspiration is superseded by Ambition.)

S	CR	$\infty$	Œ	

No, no, Spirit, don't show me this. Spare me this.

C. PAST

You remember the place?

SCROOGE

I remember.

C. PAST

You remember the occasion?

SCROOGE

How could I ever forget? It was a moment concerning a particular opportunity.

C. PAST

Two particular opportunities. This moment might be called the cross-roads in your life. You had to choose.

SCROOGE

I chose as best I could. I thought I was doing the right thing. My whole future depended on it.

C. PAST

Your whole future. What of others? What of their future?

SCROOGE

Their future was their own affair. It was nothing to do with me.

C. PAST

Look again - and see.