

of idlers which surrounded us. Master Walton protested that he had business in hand, and must leave us. He made offer of his services, if at any future time they should be required, a contingency which he thought not unlikely. Then he went on his way with an excess of alacrity, as if he were bound for a tavern. Alderman Sherwyn also explained that he had some affairs in the City, which demanded his attention, as it was now high noon.

"I intend," he said in an agitated way "to make something of this chance meeting in the court, where I was on business with my counsellor, and will have you at my house. In the meantime you may desire to consult with your friends." As he uttered this generous sentiment, he cast a swift glance at my foul and disordered dress, though assuming not to notice it.

"By this time to-morrow," he continued, "or a little later, I shall send for you, if you will signify to me where you may be found," and I gave him the name of Mother Lam's hostelry in Jewin Street, where I was in the habit of consorting with my companions. I protested, however, that he need not seek me out, and that I should come to him willingly, if he would indicate where he lived, as I knew the city well enough for that. He mentioned that his house was in Lombard Street, and then made a grave bow which consorted ill with his restless eyes. He turned to go, and then stopped. He started again, and went with rapid steps, swinging his cane, and rapping smartly at every post which stood by the way.

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