

UPWICH : It's hall right, m' lord. I'll be sworn : but there'll be a bloomin' row with the missus over this 'ere.

JUDGE : Sit down. Another word and I'll commit you for contempt. (*Upwich takes his seat.*)

CLERK : Gentlemen of the Jury, stand up to be sworn—mumble, mumble.

MRS. BARDELL (*suddenly awaking from her drooping condition and hysterically kissing the boy*) : Where am I ? My darling ! My darling !

DODSON : Compose yourself, Madam.

FOGG : Yes madam, try to compose yourself.

(*Mrs. Cluppins and Mrs. Sanders burst into tears. Serjt. Buzfuz ostentatiously wipes his eyes and looks towards the jury. Dodson and Fogg seem overcome with emotion. Jury seem much affected.*)

PERKER (*aside to Pickwick*) : Very good notion that. Capital fellows those, Dodson and Fogg, excellent ideas of effect, my dear sir. Excellent.

PICKWICK : They're rascals, sir; rascals !

JUDGE : Go on !

CLERK : Bardell against Pic' wick.

SERJT. BUZFUZ : I am for the plaintiff, my lord.

JUDGE : Who is with you, Bro. Buzfuz ?

MR. SKIMPIN : I am, my lord.

SNUBBIN : I appear for the defendant, my lord.

JUDGE : Anybody with you, Brother Snubbin ?

SNUBBIN : Mr. Phunky, my lord.

JUDGE (*writing*) : Serjt. Buzfuz and Mr. Skimpin for the plaintiff; for the defendant, Serjt. Snubbin and Mr. Mon' ey.

PHUNKY : Beg your lordship's pardon,—Phunky.

JUDGE : Oh, very good. I never had the pleasure of hearing the gentleman's name before.

PHUNKY : Thank you, m' lord.

JUDGE : Go on .

CRIER : Silence !

MR. SKIMPIN : May it please your lordship and gentlemen of the jury. This is an action for breach of promise of marriage, in which the plaintiff, Mrs. Martha Bardell, a respectable, and I may add, prepossessing widow of Goswell Street, sues Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G. C., M. P. C., a former lodger in her house, for £1,500 damages. Mr. Pickwick, my lord and gentlemen of the jury, may be recognized by many of you as the President of the Club, pretty well known in London, which bears his name, and as the author of the essay entitled "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with some