

you come out and will have to work for your living."

The young man looked rather startled.

"Thought I'd pay and say no more about it, did you?" said his father, with a grating laugh. "Well, you're mistaken. It's too late. This breaks me as well as you, you fool! My only chance of pulling through was Julia's money. Even she can't marry a—convict. Lady Sarah will cut you out of her will the moment she hears of it. She's very angry about this matter, and vows if I don't follow it up she will—for the bank's sake. Oh, you've cooked the goose nicely all round, you idiot! When you come out you can go to stone-breaking on the roads. It's about all you're good for."

"How the deuce should I know——?" began his son.

"You're old enough to know how to keep out of jail."

"Well, if it comes to that, you're old enough to know how to keep out of bankruptcy——"

"Ay, that comes well from you——" and the old man fell silent and very thoughtful, and the young one watched him furtively out of the corners of his eyes. It was a long time before the old man spoke, and then it was to say musingly—"He might. There's no telling,"—which, having apparently reference to nothing that had gone before, caused the young man to wonder hopefully if the old one's mind had given way.

"Now, listen to me," said John Burney, after another long muse. "It would serve you right to let you suffer all the consequences of your folly. But that means my suffering too. . . . On the understanding that you marry Julia at once, and put her money into my charge, I will do my best to get you out of this hole."