

his coat, faced abruptly round, and looked Mr. Toosypegs straight in the eyes.

"Do call to her to get in, Mr. Harkins. There's plenty of room for her on the back seat," said Mr. Toosypegs, unheeding Mr. Harkins' astounded look at his philanthropy. "A woman traveling on foot in such a storm! Why, it ain't right!" repeated Mr. Toosypegs, getting still more excited.

"Mr. Toosypegs, Hamericans don't never be a little hout their mind, do they?" said Mr. Harkins, blandly.

"Not often, Mr. Harkins, I'm very much obliged to you," said Mr. Toosypegs, with his customary politeness.

"Because if they did, you know," said Mr. Harkins, in the same bland tone, "I should say you wasn't quite right yourself, you know!"

"Good gracious! Mr. Harkins, what do you mean?" exclaimed Mr. Toosypegs, in a tone of mild remonstrance. "You don't think I'm crazy, do you?"

"Mr. Toosypegs, I don't like to be personal; so I'll only say it's my private opinion you're a brick!" said Mr. Harkins, mildly. "Perhaps, though, its the hair of Hingland wot doesn't agree with you. I thought you was very sensible a little w'ile ago, when you gin me them two poun'."

"I'm very much obliged to you for your good opinion, Mr. Harkins," said Mr. Toosypegs, blushing. "And if you'll only call to that woman to get into the wagon, I'll be still more so."

"And have your pockets picked?" said Mr. Harkins, sharply. "I shan't do no sich thing."

"Mr. Harkins!" said Mr. Toosypegs, warmly, "she's a woman—ain't she?"

"Well, wot if she be?" said Mr. Harkins, sullenly.

"Why, that no woman should be walking at this hour when men are riding; more particularly when there is a back seat with nobody in it. Why, it ain't right!" said Mr. Toosypegs, who seemed unable to get beyond this point.

"Well, I don't care!" said Mr. Harkins, snappishly. "Do you s'pose, Mr. Toosypegs, I have nothing to do but buy waggins to kerry sich lumber as that 'ere? I won't do it for no one. Likely as not she's nothin' but a gipsy, or something as bad. This 'ere waggin ain't goin' to be perluted with no sich trash."