

PERKER : That is Serjt. Buzfuz, the leading counsel for the Plaintiff.

PICKWICK : He is against us, then ?

PERKER : O yes, certainly.

PICKWICK : Then by what right—how dare he have the assurance to come and tell *our* counsel that it is a fine morning? It is audacious! Ah, there are Dodson and Fogg, the villains! I must have a word with them!

PERKER : I would advise you not, sir. It is scarcely regular.

PICKWICK : But, sir, I owe it to my own character!

*(Pickwick walks over to Dodson and Fogg).*

PICKWICK : I am Mr. Pickwick, sir.

FOGG : Er, so I believe.

DODSON : Ah, you are the defendant in Bardell and Pickwick?

PICKWICK : I am, sir.

DODSON : Well, sir?

PICKWICK : I just take this opportunity, gentlemen, to express my surprise at your conduct in this matter, and to inquire what grounds of action you have against me?

DODSON : You will learn that in a very short time, sir. Meanwhile, sir, consult your own conscience and your own feelings.

PICKWICK : My conscience is clear, and my feelings are that this action is a vile conspiracy, sirs!

DODSON : We, sir, are guided entirely by the statement of our client. That statement may be true, or it may be false; it may be credible or it may be incredible; but if it be true, and if it be credible, I do not hesitate to say, sir, that our grounds of action, sir, are strong and not to be shaken.

FOGG : Most certainly, sir.

PICKWICK : Well, sirs, you will permit me to assure you that I am a most unfortunate man, so far as this case is concerned.

DODSON : You may be an unfortunate man, sir, or you may be a designing one; but if I were called upon as a jurymen in that box to express an opinion of your conduct, sir, I do not hesitate to assert that I should have but one opinion about it.

FOGG : I say precisely the same, sir.

PICKWICK : Well, gentlemen, we shall await the outcome. But I must give myself the satisfaction of saying plainly to you that of all the disgraceful and rascally proceedings—!