

BARDELL v. PICKWICK

PROLOGUE

Scene—Mr. Pickwick's Apartments in Goswell Street. Mr. Pickwick in a state of agitation, pacing the room with hurried steps, popping his head out of the window at intervals, referring to his watch, and exhibiting other manifestations of impatience.

PICKWICK : Dear me, I wish that boy would come ! Well, I suppose I must be patient ; but I'm satisfied I have decided wisely in determining to engage this man, Sam Weller, as my valet. (*Looks out.*) Not coming yet, the lazy rascal ! I have a mind to ring for his mother and find out if she knows what's keeping him. Perhaps I should have mentioned to her the exact nature of the errand I've sent her dear child to the Borough on,—to bring Sam Weller here,—in fact it now occurs to me I ought to have consulted Mrs. Bardell, perhaps, on the whole matter, as she is a very capable woman, and her advice would be valuable.



MR. PICKWICK

(*Enter Mrs. Bardell.*)

MRS. BARDELL : Oh, beg pardon, sir. I thought you 'ad gone out.

PICKWICK : Oh no, not yet, Mrs. Bardell ; I'm waiting, you know, for the return of your little boy.