

MR. PHUNKY : I believe, Mr. Winkle, that Mr. P-P-P-Pickwick is not a young man ?

WINKLE : Oh no, old enough to be my father.

PHUNKY : You have told my learned friend that you have known Mr. P-P-Pickwick a long time. Had you ever any reason to suppose or believe that he was about to be m-m-m-married ?

WINKLE : Oh no, certainly not.

PHUNKY : I will even go f-f-further than that, Mr. Winkle. Did you ever see anything in Mr. P-P-Pickwick's manner and conduct toward the opposite sex, to induce you to believe that he ever contemplated m-m-matrimony, of late years at any rate ?

WINKLE : Oh no, certainly not.

PHUNKY : Has his behaviour, when f-f-females have been concerned, always been that of a m-m-m-man who, having attained a pretty advanced p-p-period of life, content with his own occupations and amusements, treats them only as a f-f-father might his daughters ?

WINKLE : Not the least doubt of it. That is,—yes,—er—oh, yes, certainly.

PHUNKY : You have never known anything in his behaviour towards Mrs. B-B-Bardell, or any other f-f-female, in the least degree suspicious ?

SNUBBIN (*aside to Phunky, pulling his coat.*) : Sit down !

WINKLE : N-n-no. Except on one trifling occasion, which I have no doubt might be easily explained.

PHUNKY : Er—never m-m-mind, Mr. Winkle, that will do—that will do.

(*Phunky sits down.*)

SNUBBIN : You may leave the box, Mr. Winkle.

BUZFUZ : Stay, Mr. Winkle, stay. (*To Judge.*) Will your lordship have the goodness to ask the witness what this one instance of suspicious behaviour towards females, on the part of this gentleman, who is old enough to be his father, was ?

JUDGE : You hear what the learned counsel says, sir. Describe the occasion to which you refer.

WINKLE : My lord, I'd—I'd rather not.

JUDGE : Perhaps so, but you must.

WINKLE : But my lord, it is a matter about which I really know nothing, and, should never have heard of it had we not all been arrested over it.

BUZFUZ : Oh, indeed, this is interesting ! Do I understand you to say that Mr. Pickwick, yourself, and friends were actually arrested ?