

PERKER : Restrain yourself, sir ; keep calm.

SERJT. BUZFUZ : I say systematic villainy, gentlemen, and when I say systematic villainy, let me tell the defendant Pickwick, if he be in Court, as I am informed he is, that it would have been more decent in him, more becoming, in better judgment and in better taste, if he had stopped away. Let me tell him, gentlemen, that any gestures of dissent or disapprobation in which he may indulge in this Court will not go down with you ; that you will know how to value and how to appreciate them ; and let me tell him further, as my Lord will tell you, gentlemen, that a counsel in the discharge of his duty to his client, is neither to be intimidated nor bullied nor put down ; and that any attempt to do either the one or the other, or the first or the last, will recoil on the head of the attempter, be he plaintiff or be he defendant, be his name Pickwick or Noakes or Stokes or Stiles or Brown or Thompson.

DODSON AND FOGG (*delighted*) : Aha ! Aha !

JUDGE (*awaking*) : We must have order. Go on.

CRIER : Silence !

BUZFUZ . I shall show you, gentlemen, that for two years Pickwick continued to reside constantly, and without interruption or intermission, at Mrs. Bardell's house. I shall show you that Mrs. Bardell during the whole of that time, waited on him, attended to his comforts, cooked his meals, looked out his linen for the washerwoman when it went abroad ; darned, aired, and prepared it for wear when it came home ; and in short enjoyed his fullest trust and confidence. I shall show you that on many occasions he gave half-pence and on some occasions even sixpences, to her little boy ; and I shall prove to you by a witness whose testimony it will be impossible for my learned friend to weaken or controvert, that on one occasion he patted the boy on the head, and after inquiring whether he had won any alley tors or commonneys lately (both of which I understand to be a particular species of marbles much prized by the youth of this town), made use of this remarkable expression, "How should you like to have another father ?" I shall prove to you, gentlemen, that about a year ago, Pickwick suddenly began to absent himself from home during long intervals, as if with the intention of gradually breaking off from my client ; but I shall show you also that his resolution was not at that time sufficiently strong, or that his better feelings conquered, if better feelings