

—from the war office, and his wife washes for the force. He'll pay, sir, he'll pay, after the first few steps. He'll never let it come to trial. My office is just round the corner!"

"Pay!" said Gerald, "for what?"

"Why, for staying proceedings!" replied the little man, rubbing his hands gleefully.

"What proceedings?"

"Why, sir!—surely——! But I may as well be explicit! The proceedings in an action for assault and false imprisonment! 'Grey versus Biddle!' Biddle's his name! I've half drawn the declaration. Just step round, sir!"

Gerald looked down at the little lawyer in astonishment! "I've forgiven the man!" he said.

"What!" exclaimed the practitioner, turning red, and stammering slightly. "For—for—for—given him! For—for—for—given a man that can p—p—pay! I tell you, sir, its such as you that ruin us! How are we to l—l—ive? how are we to l—l—ive!" And the little man gave Gerald a glance of