

SKIMPIN : You had better take care of yourself, sir !

(*Skimpin sits down.*)

BUZFUZ : Pray, Mr. Winkle, do you remember calling on the defendant, Pickwick, at these apartments in the plaintiff's house in Goswell Street, on one particular morning in the month of July last ?

WINKLE : Yes, I do.

BUZFUZ : Were you accompanied on that occasion by a friend of the name of Tupman, and another of the name of Snodgrass ?

WINKLE : Yes, I was.

BUZFUZ : Are they here ?

WINKLE : Yes, they are. (*Looks towards them.*)

BUZFUZ : Pray attend to me, Mr. Winkle, and never mind your friends. They must tell their stories without any previous consultation with you, if none has yet taken place. Now, sir, tell the gentlemen of the jury what you saw on entering the defendant's room on this particular morning. Come, out with it, sir, we must have it sooner or later.

WINKLE : The defendant, Mr. Pickwick, was holding the plaintiff in his arms, with his hands clasping her waist, and the plaintiff appeared to have fainted away.

BUZFUZ : Did you hear the defendant say anything ?

WINKLE : I heard him call the plaintiff a good creature, and I heard him ask her to compose herself, for what a situation it was, if anybody should come, or words to that effect.

BUZFUZ : Now, Mr. Winkle, I have only one more question to ask you, and I beg you to bear in mind his lordship's caution. Will you undertake to swear that Pickwick, the defendant, did not say on the occasion in question "My dear Mrs. Bardell, you're a good creature; compose yourself to this situation, for to this situation you must come," or words to *that* effect."

WINKLE : I—I didn't understand him so, certainly. I was on the staircase and couldn't hear distinctly ; the impression on my mind is—

BUZFUZ : The gentlemen of the jury want none of the impressions on your mind, Mr. Winkle, which I fear would be of little service to honest, straightforward men. You were on the staircase and didn't distinctly hear, but you will not swear that Pickwick did not make use of the expressions I have quoted ? Do I understand that ?

WINKLE : No, I will not.

BUZFUZ : No ; you will not.

(*Buzfuz sits down.*)