

From the Pickwick Papers.

SCENE IN AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

It should be premised that Mr Pickwick has received from Messrs. Dodson and Fogg, a notice of an action for a breach of promise of marriage, brought by Mrs Bardell, a buxom widow, with whom he had formerly boarded, but with whom he had never even dreamed of committing matrimony.

'After a few minutes' silence, Mr Dodson a plump, portly, stern looking man, with a loud voice, appeared, and the conversation commenced.

'This is Mr Pickwick, said Fogg.

'Ah! You are the defendant, Sir, in Bardell and Pickwick,' said Dodson.

'I am, sir,' replied Mr Pickwick.

'Well, sir,' said Dodson, 'and what do you propose?'

'Ah!' said Fogg, thrusting his hands in his trowser pockets, and throwing himself back in his chair, 'what do you propose, Mr Pickwick?'

'Hush, Fogg,' said Dodson; let me hear what Mr Pickwick has to say.'

'I Came, gentlemen, replied Mr Pickwick gazing placidly on the two parties, 'I came here, gentlemen, to express the surprise with which I received your letter of the other day, and to enquire what grounds of action you can have against me.'

'Grounds of—' Fogg had ejaculated thus much when he was stopped by Dodson.

'Mr Fogg,' said Dodson, 'I am going to speak.'

'I beg your pardon, Mr Dodson,' said Fogg.

'For the grounds of action, sir,' continued Dodson, with moral elevation in his air, 'you will consult your own conscience and your own feelings. We sir, we are guided entirely by the statement of our client. That statement, sir, may be true, or it may be false; it may be credible or it may be incredible; but if it be true, and if it be credible, I do not hesitate to say, sir, that our grounds of action sir, are strong and not to be shaken. You may be an unfortunate man, sir, or you may be a designing one; but if I were called upon as a jurymen upon my oath, sir, to express an opinion of your conduct, sir, I do not hesitate to assert that I should have but one opinion about it.' Here Dodson drew himself up with an air of offended virtue, and looked at Fogg who thrust his hands further in his pockets and nodding his head sagely, said, in a tone of the fullest concurrence, 'most certainly.'

'Well, sir,' said Mr Pickwick, with considerable pain depicted in his countenance, 'you will permit me to assure you, that I am a most unfortunate man so far as this case is concerned.'

'I hope you are, sir,' replied Dodson; 'I trust you may be, sir. If you are really innocent of what is laid to your charge, you are more unfortunate than I had believed any man could possibly be. What do you say Mr Fogg?'

'I say precisely what you say,' replied Fogg, with a smile of incredulity.

'The writ, sir, which commences the action,' continued Dodson, 'was issued regularly. Mr Fogg, where is *precipe* book?'

'Here it is,' said Mr Fogg handing over a square book with a parchment cover.

'Here is the entry,' resumed Dodson, 'Middlesex, *Capias Martha Bardell, widow, vs. Samuel Pickwick. Damages £1500. Dodson and Fogg for the plaintiff: Sept. 27, 1830.*

'All regular, sir, perfectly.'—And Dodson coughed and looked at Fogg, who said 'perfectly,' also. And then they both looked at Mr Pickwick.

'I am to understand, then,' said Mr Pickwick, 'that it really is your intention to proceed with this action?'

'Understand, sir!—that you certainly may,' replied Dodson, with something as near a smile as his importance would allow.

'And that the damages are actually laid at fifteen hundred pounds?' said Mr Pickwick.

To which understanding you may add an assurance that, if we could have prevailed upon our client, they would have been laid at treble the amount, sir, replied Dodson.

'I believe Mrs Bardell specially said, however,' observed Fogg, glancing at Dodson, 'that she would not compromise for a farthing less.'

'Unquestionable,' replied Dodson, sternly. For the action was only just begun; and it would not have done to let Mr Pickwick compromise it then, even if he had been so disposed.

'As you offer no terms, sir,' said Dodson, displaying a slip of parchment in his right hand, and affectionately pressing a paper copy of it on Mr Pickwick with his left, 'I had better serve you with a copy of this writ, sir. Here is the original, sir.'

'Very well, gentlemen, very well,' said Mr Pickwick, rising in person and wrath at the same time; 'you shall hear from my solicitor, gentlemen.'

'We shall be very happy to do so,' said Fogg, rubbing his hands.

'Very,' said Dodson, opening the door.

'And before I go, gentlemen,' said the excited Mr Pickwick, turning round on the landing, 'permit me to say, that of all the disgraceful and rascally proceedings—'

'Stay, sir, stay,' interrupted Dodson, with great politeness. 'Mr Jackson—Mr Wicks.'

'Sir,' said two clerks, appearing at the bottom of the stairs.

'I just want you to hear what the gentleman says,' replied Dodson. 'Pray go on sir—disgraceful and rascally proceedings, I think you said.'

'I did,' said Mr Pickwick, thoroughly roused. 'I said, sir, that of all the disgraceful and rascally proceedings that ever were attempted, this is the most so. I repeat it, sir.'

'You hear that, Mr Wicks?' said Dodson.

'You won't forget these expressions, Mr Jackson,' said Fogg.

'Perhaps you would like to call us swindlers, sir,' said Dodson. 'Pray do sir, if you feel disposed—now pray do, sir.'

'I do,' said Mr Pickwick. 'You are swindlers.'

'Very good,' said Dodson, 'You can hear down there, I hope, Mr Wicks.'

'O yes, sir, said Wicks.'

'You had better come up a step or two higher, if you can't,' added Fogg.

'Go on, sir; do go on. You had better call us thieves, sir; or perhaps, you would like to assault one of us. Pray do it, sir.'

As Fogg put himself very temptingly within the reach of Mr Pickwick's clenched fist, there is little doubt that that gentleman would have complied with his earnest entreaty, but for the interposition of Earn who, hearing the dispute, emerged from the office, mounted the stairs, and seized his master by the arm.

'You just come away,' said Mr Weller, 'Battledore and shuttlecock's a werry good game, when you ain't the Shuttlecock and the two lawyers the battledores, in vich case it gets too exhiting to be pleasant. Come away, sir. If you want to ease your mind by blowing up somebody, come out into the court and blow up me; but it is rather too expensive work to be carried on here.'

And without the slightest ceremony, Mr Weller hauled his master down stairs, and down the court, and having safely deposited him in Cornhill, fell behind, prepared to follow, whithersoever he should lead.

AGRICULTURAL.

LIME AS A MANURE.

In 1820, and during the three subsequent years, M. Dubuc, a French chemist, made a series of experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the effect of muriate of lime, applied as a manure to various descriptions of plants—a brief account of which was published in 1824, in the Boston Journal of Philosophy and the Arts. He prepared his "vegetable stimulant" as he calls it, in the proportion of about one pound of "chloride of calcium" to seven gallons of water. The solution is sprinkled upon the earth designed for experiments, in the ordinary manner of watering; the seeds are then sown, or the plants set, and afterwards the sprinkling three or four times repeated, at proper intervals.

M. Dubuc sowed some Indian corn in a light soil sprinkled six or eight days before, with the solution of chloride of lime. At a distance of six feet, in the same soil moistened with common water only, and with the same aspect, seed of the same kind were sown. The first, sprinkled from time to time with the above preparation, attained to double the size of the second. Other vegetables, plants and trees were subjected to like experiments. Onions, potatoes and poppies, grow to double their ordinary volume; the sunflower was increased to a prodigious size; and the action of the chloride was found very sensibly to hasten and favor the development of ornamental and fruit trees of various descriptions.

The application of chloride of lime as an exciting agent in the vegetable kingdom, we believe, has been but occasionally attempted in this country, so that we were unable to judge with certainty, of all its probable results, especially in regard to its ultimate effects on the vigor and duration of plants. There can be little doubt, however, that very important benefits may be derived from a general use of this substance. We yesterday examined two grape vines growing in front of the residence of Hon. Mr Folger in Pleasant street, one of which Mr F. has tried the process in question. The vines were both of the species called *Isabella*, having the same exposure, and situated only eight or ten feet apart. That which had been left to "unassisted nature," was just bursting into leaf; the other, subjected last season to the action of chloride in the manner above described was not only in full leaf, but the fruit was plainly developed, and new wood formed to the extent of several inches, in numerous shoots. Moreover the whole vine exhibited indications of health and cleanliness manifestly superior to those of its neighbor. We trust that an experiment so simple, & so easily tested, will be pursued more extensively; and would particularly recommend its thorough trial in the gardens of our island—*Nantucket Inq.*

[From the New England Farmer.]

DESTROY GRUBS OR CUT WORMS.—The cut worm, or grub is an ash colored worm with a stripe almost black on its back. When fully grown, it is about the size of a goose quill, and about an inch and a quarter in length. These worms are very apt to cut off young cabbages cauliflowers, beets, Indian corn, &c. They never, voluntarily appear above the surface of the ground in the day time, but may be found about an inch below it. In the night time they make their excursions, cut off the stems of young plants, just at the surface of the ground, and again bury themselves.

Dr. Deane observed, "I once prevented their depredations in my garden, by manuring the soil with sea mud, newly taken from the flats. The plants generally escaped, though