

We *must* go by the *book*, Giles—as if he meant the Bible.
 A second self-same looking thing lay close beside the other,
 It puzzled me to note how this *so, somehow*, backed its brother,
 And always on the one board—I needn't mention which :
 T' have caught it on the other tack had passed for something rich.
 “ And now, my man,” he said, “ you'll see precisely how we stand,”
 And then a paper, folded twice, he put into my hand.
 “ Just fifteen dollars, Giles to us—some few cents more or less ;
 Short, by five dollars, Giles, of what I'd put it, at a guess :
 I'm glad, indeed, I'm *very* glad you've given us a call,
 We do—so—want—these—little things—all—settled up this fall ;
 It struck me—your account—but—r—let it—let it—stand,
 There always will be something that slips the head or hand ;
 You'll—r—not, Giles, kick at that, eh ! ” and here the generous man
 Gave one of those especial smiles that only such men can.
 I know not whether on my face was what was in my mind—
 The looks of injured honest men are seldom far behind ;
 I did my best to hide it, but my brain was on the burst,
 And terribly I struggled to speak civilly at first :
 “ Pray, when do you expect,” I said, “ this balance to be paid ;
 I've nothing now in hand, sir, and, for sometime, I'm afraid.”—
 “ I'm sorry I'm obliged,” said he, “ to seem a little hard ;
 But things—with us—of late—in fact—a good deal off our guard,
 But still—we're never pressing,—if cash—is scarce—with you
 Perhaps—we're not *particular*—the cow—perhaps—might do—
 A tolerable milker, Giles ?—though as to that—of course,
 A pig, Giles, in a poke, for better or for worse ;
 At all events—we'll—r—take her—t' *oblige* you—by-the-bye,
 Now, I recall,—our own—must be—I think,—yes,—nearly dry ;—
 I'll look up in a day or so, and, Giles, should *you* be out,
 Just whisper to your wife the business we're about.”