

ACT

THE TRIAL.

Scene :—A Court Room, with Judge's bench, witness box, jury boxes, barristers' table, &c.

(Enter Tony Weller and Sam Weller.)

TONY : So 'ere's where the trial is a'comin' off, hey ? Vell, now, I suppose your governor will want to call some witnesses to speak to his character, or p'raps to prove a alleybi. I've been a turnin' the business over in my mind, and he may make hisself easy, Sammy. I've got some friends as'll do either for him, but my advice 'ud be this 'ere :—never mind the character, and stick to the alleybi. Nothing like a alleybi, Sammy, nothing.

SAM : Why, what do you mean ? You don't take this Court for the Old Bailey, do you ?

TONY : That ain't no part of the present con-sideration, Sammy. A alleybi's the thing to get him off. Ve got Tom Vildspark off that 'ere manslaughter with a alleybi, ven all the bigvigs to a man said as nothing couldn't save him. And my 'pinion is, Sammy, that if your governor don't prove a alleybi, he'll be what the Italians call regularly flummoxed, and that's all about it.

SAM : O don't worry yourself, my Prussian Blue. My governor's got the greatest big vig of 'em all to look arter his case—Mr. Serjeant Snubbin, no less—and speakin' of 'is majesty—'ere 'e comes. You 'ad better go and get a seat in the court room, my ancient. I will 'ave to stop 'ere as the governor may want me.

TONY : All right, Sammy. I'll be where I can see as 'e don't get wictimized.

(Exit Tony. Enter Snubbin, Pickwick, Snodgrass, Winkle, Tupman, Mr. Perker and Mr. Pluuky. Serjt. Snubbin takes his seat at barristers' table).

PICKWICK *(to Snubbin)* : Serjeant Snubbin, I take this opportunity of repeating what I said at your chambers, as I hope you remember, that I solemnly declare there is no foundation in truth and fact for this action against me.

SNUBBIN : Of course, of course. I understand. Well ?

PICKWICK : Well, Sir, I wish you distinctly to understand that I am innocent of the falseness laid to my charge ;