

of Mr. Dodson and Mr. Fogg, them two gentlemen as is sittin' near you now, sir.

BUZFUZ : The attorneys for the plaintiff. Well, they spoke in high praise of the honorable conduct of Messrs. Dodson and Fogg, the attorneys for the plaintiff, did they ?

SAM : Yes. They said what a werry generous thing it was o' them to have took up the case on spec, and not to charge nothin' at all for costs, unless they got 'em out of Mr. Pickwick.

BUZFUZ (*to Dodson and Fogg after hurried consultation with them*): You are quite right. (*To Judge*). It's perfectly useless, my lord, attempting to get at any evidence through the impenetrable stupidity of this witness. I will not trouble the court by asking him any more questions. Stand down, sir.

SAM : Would any other gen'l'man like to ask me anythin' ?

(*Takes up hat and looks round composedly*).

SNUBBIN : Not I, Mr. Weller, thank you.

BUZFUZ : You may go down, sir.

SNUBBIN : I have no objection to admit, m' lord, if it will save the examination of another witness, that Mr. Pickwick has retired from business, and is a man of considerable independent property.

BUZFUZ : Very well, m' lord. Then that is my case. I put in these letters. (*Hands up letters to Judge*).

JUDGE : Do you wish to call any witnesses, Brother Snubbin ?

SNUBBIN : I will call the defendant, Samuel Pickwick.

CLERK : Samuel Pickwick !

CRUER : Samuel Pickwick !

(*Mr. Pickwick, evidently astonished, enters witness-box*).

PICKWICK : My lord, of all the rascally—

SNUBBIN (*interrupting*) : One moment, Mr. Pickwick, anything you say, sir, must be in reply to questions by counsel or by the Court. Now, Mr. Pickwick, reference has been made to a most embarrassing little episode, which I have no doubt at all you will be able to explain. Will you be kind enough to tell the court just what occurred when you were—er—discovered in the apartment of a middle-aged lady with violet curl papers ?

SKIMPIN : My lord, I beg the privilege of correcting my learned friend, they were yellow curl papers.

JUDGE : Let me see—er—er—yes, yes, you are right, they were yellow, not violet.