

SKIMPIN : Mr. Winkle has rather a short memory, my lord. We shall find means to refresh it before we are quite done with him, I dare say.

JUDGE (*to Winkle*) : You had better be careful, sir.
(*Winkle bows*).

SKIMPIN : Now, Mr. Winkle, attend to me if you please, sir, and let me recommend you for your own sake to bear in mind his lordship's injunction to be careful. I believe you are a particular friend of the defendant, Pickwick, are you not ?

WINKLE : I have known Mr. Pickwick now, as well as I recollect at this moment nearly—

SKIMPIN : Pray, Mr. Winkle, do not evade the question. Are you or are you not a particular friend of the defendant's ?

WINKLE : I was just about to say that—

SKIMPIN : Will you or will you not answer my question, sir ?

JUDGE : If you don't answer the question you'll be committed, sir.

SKIMPIN : Come sir, yes or no, if you please.

WINKLE : Yes, I am.

SKIMPIN : Yes, you are. And couldn't you say that at once, sir ? Perhaps you know the plaintiff too, eh, Mr. Winkle ?

WINKLE : I don't know her, but I've seen her.

SKIMPIN : Oh, you don't know her, but you've seen her. Now, have the goodness to tell the gentlemen of the jury what you mean by *that*, Mr. Winkle.

WINKLE : I mean that I am not intimately acquainted with her, but that I have seen her when I went to call on Mr. Pickwick in Goswell Street.

SKIMPIN : How often have you seen her, sir ?

WINKLE : How often ?

SKIMPIN : Yes, Mr. Winkle, how often ? I'll repeat the question for you a dozen times if you require it, sir.

WINKLE : It's impossible for me to say how many times I have seen her.

SKIMPIN : Twenty times ?

WINKLE : Certainly, more than that.

SKIMPIN : Have you seen her one hundred times ?

WINKLE : No ; I think not.

SKIMPIN : Will you swear that you haven't seen her more than fifty times ?

WINKLE : I think not.

SKIMPIN : Do you not know, sir, that you have seen her at least seventy-five times ?

WINKLE : I may have, but I am uncertain.