

intelligent dozen of men whom I now see in that box before me.

*(Jurymen begin taking notes, etc.)*

You have heard from my learned friend, gentlemen, that this is an action for breach of promise of marriage, in which the damages are laid at fifteen pounds.

*(Mr. Skimpin hastily whispers correction.)*

Er—I should say fifteen *hundred* pounds. But you have *not* heard from my learned friend, inasmuch as it did not come within my learned friend's province to tell you, what are the facts and circumstances of the case. Those facts and circumstances, gentlemen, you shall hear detailed by me, and proved by the unimpeachable female whom I will place in that box before you.

*(Dodson and Fogg express admiration. Judge falls asleep.)*

The plaintiff, gentlemen, is a widow; *(burst of grief from Mrs. Bardell)* yes, gentlemen, a widow. The late Mr. Bardell, after enjoying for many years the esteem and confidence of his sovereign, as one of the guardians of his royal revenues, glided almost imperceptibly from the world, to seek elsewhere for that repose and peace which a custom-house can never afford.

SAM WELLER : *(aside to Pickwick)* 'E was knocked on the 'ead with a quart pot in a public 'ouse cellar.

JUDGE *(suddenly awaking)* : I'll make a note of it.

SERJT. BUZFUZ : Some time before his death he had stamped his likeness upon a little boy. With this little boy, the only pledge of her departed exciseman, Mrs. Bardell shrunk from the world, and courted the retirement and tranquility of Goswell Street ; and here she placed in her front parlor window a written placard, bearing this inscription, " Apartments furnished for a single gentleman. Inquire within." *(Displays placard.)*

JUROR UPWICH : There is no date to that, is there, sir ?

SERJT. BUZFUZ : There is no date, gentlemen, but I am instructed to say that it was put in the plaintiff's parlor window just this time three years. I entreat the attention of the jury to the wording of this document—" Apartments furnished for a single gentleman !" Mrs. Bardell's opinions of the opposite sex, gentlemen, were derived from a long contemplation of the inestimable qualities of her lost husband. She had no fear, she had no distrust, she had no suspicion, all was confidence and reliance. " Mr. Bardell," said the widow, " Mr. Bardell