

	SIR WILFRID	Hullo, John.
	MAYHEW	<i>(rising)</i> Ah, Wilfrid.
	SIR WILFRID	<i>(handing the wig and gown to CARTER)</i> Carter told you I was in Court? Banter really surpassed himself. <i>(He looks at LEONARD)</i> And this is Mr. - er - Vole?
	MAYHEW	This is Leonard Vole.
	LEONARD	How do you do, sir?
	SIR WILFRID	How do you do, Vole? Won't you sit down? How's the family, John? <i>(CARTER assists SIR WILFRID to change his jacket)</i>
	MAYHEW	Molly's got a touch of this twenty-four hour flu.
	SIR WILFRID	Too bad!
	MAYHEW	Yes, damnable. Did you win your case, Wilfrid?
	SIR WILFRID	Yes, I'm glad to say.
	MAYHEW	It always gives you satisfaction to beat Myers, doesn't it?
	SIR WILFRID	It gives me satisfaction to beat anyone.
	MAYHEW	But especially Myers.
	SIR WILFRID	<i>(taking the bow tie from CARTER)</i> Especially Myers. He's an irritating - gentleman. <i>(He puts on his tie)</i> He always seems to bring out the worst in me.
17	MAYHEW	That would appear to be mutual. You irritate him because you hardly ever let him finish a sentence.

	SIR WILFRID	He irritates me because of that mannerism of his. It's this <i>(He clears his throat and adjusts an imaginary wig)</i> that drives me to distraction, and he will call me Ro-barts - Ro-barts. But he's a very able advocate, if only he'd remember not to ask leading questions when he knows damn well he shouldn't. But let's get down to business.
	MAYHEW	Yes. I brought Vole here, because I am anxious for you to hear his story exactly as he told it to me. <i>(He takes some papers from his briefcase)</i> There is some urgency in the matter, it seems. <i>(He hands the papers to SIR WILFRID)</i>
	SIR WILFRID	Oh?
	LEONARD	My wife thinks I'm going to be arrested. <i>(He looks embarrassed)</i> She's much cleverer than I am so she may be right.
	SIR WILFRID	Arrested for what?
	LEONARD	<i>(still more embarrassed)</i> Well - for murder.
	MAYHEW	It's the case of Miss Emily French. You've probably seen the reports in the Press? <i>(SIR WILFRID nods)</i> She was a maiden lady, living alone but for an elderly housekeeper; in a house at Hampstead. On the night of October the 14th, her housekeeper returned at eleven o'clock to find that apparently the place had been broken into, and that her mistress had been coshed on the back of the head and killed. <i>(to LEONARD)</i> That is right?
18	LEONARD	That's right. It's quite an ordinary sort of thing to happen nowadays. And then, the other day, the papers said that the police were anxious to interview a Mr. Leonard Vole, who had visited Miss French earlier on the evening in question, as they thought he might be able to give them useful information. So, of course, I went along to the police station and they asked me a lot of questions.
	SIR WILFRID	<i>(sharply)</i> Did they caution you?

	LEONARD	<i>(vaguely)</i> I don't quite know. I mean they said would I like to make a statement and they'd write it down, and it might be used in Court Is that cautioning me?
	<i>(SIR WILFRID exchanges a glance with MAYHEW, and speaks more to him than to LEONARD)</i>	
	SIR WILFRID	Oh well, can't be helped now.
	LEONARD	Anyway, it sounded damned silly to me. I told them all I could and they were very polite and seemed quite satisfied and all that when I got home and told Romaine about it - my wife that is - well, she got the wind up. She seemed to think that they - well - that they'd got hold of the idea that I might have done it.
	LEONARD	So, I thought perhaps I ought to get hold of a solicitor <i>(to MAYHEW)</i> so I came along to you. I thought you'd be able to tell me what I ought to do about it. <i>(He looks anxiously from one to the other)</i>
	SIR WILFRID	You knew Miss French well?
	<i>(LEONARD rises, but SIR WILFRID motions him to sit.)</i>	
	LEONARD	Oh yes, she'd been frightfully kind to me. Actually it was a bit of a bore sometimes - she positively fussed over me, but she meant it very well, and when I saw in the paper that she'd been killed I was awfully upset, because, you see, I'd really got fond of her.