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"This ain't no use ter me, guv'nor. Yer promised me a quid."

"In one's dealings with the criminal classes," said the solicitor, "one finds that the only method of self-protection is the use of their own weapons."

"Yer promised me a quid, guv'nor," said the cabman, who was too excited to follow the course of this reasoning.

"May I say," rejoined the solicitor, with great suavity, "that a promise is considered to be a thing of no particular value among the members of the criminal classes."

"Criminal classes! Wot!" cried the cabman, in a gust of fury. "Breaks yer promises and calls yerself a toff! Not a-going to part with that quid. Well, guv'nor, we'll just see abaht it."

Emitting a string of foul expressions, the cabman hopped down from his perch.

"Call yerself a toff? Give me that quid or I'll knock out yer — eye."

"Try," said the solicitor, with a coolness that his companion felt to be inimitable.

Inflamed a little by drink as well as by a sense of injury, the cabman prepared to exact a summary vengeance. Breathing slaughter he came at Mr. Whitcomb with his fists in the air;

and that gentleman, stepping aside coolly and nimbly, hit him with a hand ungloved for the purpose a heavy blow in the face. The cabman dropped like a log in the slush of the gutter.

"A broken nose," said Mr. Whitcomb, turning to his companion, while they stood watching the unfortunate cabman gather himself slowly and painfully together.

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