

**CHARLES DICKENS:  
THE STORY  
OF HIS LIFE**

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Charles Dickens: The Story of His Life by John Camden Hotten

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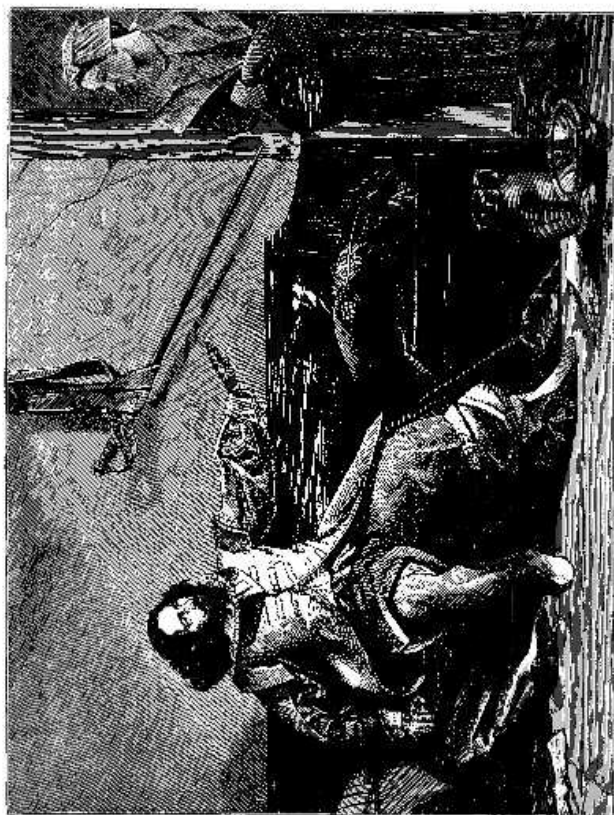
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**JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN**

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CHARLES DICKENS as "CAPTAIN BOBADIL."

*From the original painting by C. R. Leslie, R. A.*

Eleonore Terrace

Second January 1844.

My dear Sir

That is a very horrible case  
you tell me of. I need not look I  
could get at the parent's heart of  
— — —, in which case I need not  
scruple it, that he should write  
again. But if I were to put such  
a father as he into a book, altho  
the father's going (and especially the  
mother's) would hold up their  
hands and protest against the unnat-  
ural caricature. I find that a  
great many people (particularly those  
who might have sat for the character)  
consider even Mr Pickswiff, a sottish

Fac-simile of

MR. DICKENS'S HANDWRITING.

Part of a Letter to a Friend.



CHARLES DICKENS,

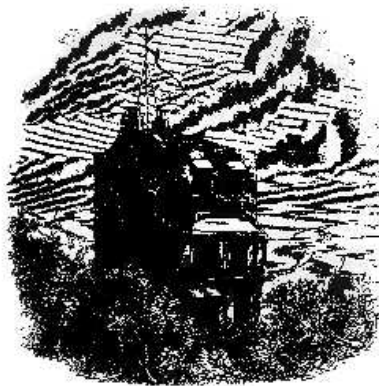
At the age of 27.

*From a Drawing by Count D'Ossy, taken in the completion of  
"The Old Curiosity Shop."*

# CHARLES DICKENS.

The Story of his Life.

BY THE  
AUTHOR OF THE "LIFE OF THACKERAY."



BLEAK HOUSE, AT BROADSTAIRS.

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND FACSIMILES.*

NEW YORK:  
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,  
FRANKLIN SQUARE.

1870.



\*Oh, potent wizard! painter of great skill!  
Blending with life's realities the hues  
Of a rich fancy: sweetest of all singers!  
Charming the public ear, and, at thy will,  
Searching the soul of him thou dost amuse,  
And the warm heart's recess, where memory lingers,  
And child-like love, and sympathy, and truth,  
And every blessed feeling which the world  
Had frozen or repressed with its stern apathy  
For human suffering! 'Crabbed age and youth,'  
And beauty, smiling tearful, turn to thee,  
Whose 'Carol' is an allegory fine,  
The burden of whose 'Crimes' is holy and benign!"

DOUGLAS JERROLD'S *Magazine*.

## PRELIMINARY.

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THE following brief Memoir of the late Mr. Charles Dickens may, perhaps, be acceptable as filling an intermediate place between the newspaper or review article and the more elaborate biography which may be expected in due course. The writer had some peculiar means of acquiring information for the purpose of his sketch; and to this he has added such particulars as have been already made public in English and foreign publications and other scattered sources.

The common complaints against memoirs of this necessarily hasty and incomplete character will not be repeated by those who are accustomed to test questions in morals by the principles which underlie them. That there is nothing necessarily indelicate or improper in the desire of the public to obtain some personal knowledge of the great and good who have just passed away, is assumed by every daily, weekly, and quarterly journal, which, on occasions of this kind, furnish their readers with such details as they are able to obtain, and which in no case confine themselves strictly to the public career of the deceased.

Although some facts in the private life of Mr. Dickens will be found to be touched upon in these pages, the writer is not conscious of having written a line which could give pain to others.

In view of a second edition—should one be called for—the writer will be obliged by the receipt of any additional particulars which may assist in completing the outline memoir which now leaves his hand.

He can not, however, conclude without acknowledging the kind assistance he has received in furnishing anecdotes and other particulars from Mr. Arthur Locker, Mr. E. S. Dallas, Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, Mr. James Grant, Dr. Charles Mackay, Mr. Mitchell, of Bond Street (for permission to make reductions of Leslie's beautiful picture, and Count D'Ossay's characteristic portrait), Mr. Edmund Ollier, Mr. E. P. Hingston, Mr. Allen, Mr. J. Colam (Secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), the writers of interesting articles in the "Daily News" and the "Observer," and to Mr. Hablot K. Browne, for his admirable study of the chief characters drawn by him for the late Mr. Dickens's works.

It would have been impossible to have given the data contained in this little book, in the rather short time occupied in its preparation, but for the hearty assistance of Mr. H. T. Taverner, an industrious *littérateur*, who had already gathered some particulars of the great novelist's public career.

A TRIBUTE  
TO  
CHARLES DICKENS.

By THE HON. MRS. NORTON.

(From ALBERT SCHLASSER'S "*English Dictionnaire*" for 1863.)

"Not merely thine the tribute praise,  
Which tracks an author's progress here;  
Not merely thine the fabled bays,  
Whose verdure brightens his career;  
Thine the pure triumph to have taught  
Thy brother man a gentle part;  
In every line a fervent thought,  
Which gushes from thy generous heart:  
For thine are words which rouse up all  
The dormant good among us found—  
Like drops which from a fountain fall,  
To bless and fertilize the ground!"