

**IN DICKEN'S
LONDON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649229048

In Dicken's London by F. Hopkinson Smith

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F. HOPKINSON SMITH

ILLUSTRATED WITH
CHARCOAL DRAWINGS
BY THE AUTHOR



NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
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Published October, 1914

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FOREWORD

THE author begs to express his indebtedness to the several authorities who have made a close and intimate study of the life and work of the man whom we all love. Notably to his friend the late Laurence Hutton, for his "Literary Landmarks of London," to Hare's "Walks in London," Taylor's "Historical Guide to London," Lucas's "A Wanderer in London," Francis Miltoun's "Dickens's London," J. Snowden Ward's and Katherine B. Ward's "The Real Dickens Land," and John Forster's "The Life of Charles Dickens."

He would also extend his grateful thanks to his friend Mr. Charles Sessler of Philadelphia for permission to include among his illustrations fac-similes of the rare letters, photographs, and souvenirs now in his possession, and here for the first time given to the public.

F. H. S.

INTRODUCTION

AN apology for adding another page to the overwhelming mass of printed matter laudatory of the genius of Charles Dickens is perhaps necessary. Mine is personal. For a long time I have wished to discharge something of the obligation I have always owed him for the pleasure he has given me. And since in my searches about London I have found how little is left of what was made famous by his pen, another wish has grown — that of recording, before it is too late, the aspect of some of the few remaining inns, bridges, streets, courts, and houses in which he and his characters played their parts. That their demolition is going steadily on was made apparent to me in the summer of 1912, when I was engaged in a hunt for similar relics identified with the pen of Mr. Thackeray. And as these two great writers were contemporaries, my eager footsteps covered much of the ground they utilised in common.

That I may have reproduced nothing unknown to the lovers of Mr. Dickens is true; nor have I made record of everything that is left, much of it lying outside the range of my medium, a charcoal demanding above all else the quality of the picturesque. Then, again, London is far too big, and Mr. Dickens's pen was far too fertile for any one man to crowd into a single volume a tenth of its area or a tithe of his characters and their haunts.

INTRODUCTION

What I have most enjoyed in this labour of love has been the expressing in another form and through another medium than those used by my fellow-craftsmen, the wonderful velvet blacks, soft vapoury skies, and streaming silver-washed streets of London — an easy matter for any enthusiast, for London is charcoal, and charcoal is London.

And so I tender to you, my readers, in all humility not another book about Mr. Dickens with illustrations by the author, but a book of illustrations with some explanatory extracts from the Master's text, padded with some experiences of my own.

F. HOPKINSON SMITH.

EXCHANGE PLACE,
NEW YORK, August, 1914.

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