

**MRS. GAMP WITH THE  
STROLLING PLAYERS:  
AN UNFINISHED SKETCH**

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Mrs. Gamp with the strolling players: an unfinished sketch by Charles Dickens

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**CHARLES DICKENS**

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#### NOTE

**I**N 1847, while "Dombey & Son" was appearing in its monthly parts, Dickens, during his leisure planned a theatrical benefit for Leigh Hunt, then in destitute circumstances. The actors were to be amateurs, artists and authors, friends of Hunt. Among those associated with Dickens in the scheme were John Forster, Frank Stone, Augustus Egg, John Leech, George Cruik-

NOTE

shank, Douglas Jerrold, Mark Lemon, Dudley Costello, and George Henry Lewes. The plan had originally included several performances in London, but Hunt having been meanwhile granted a pension of two hundred pounds a year, the plan was modified, and the performances were limited to two, the first at Manchester on July 26th, and the second at Liverpool, July 28th. At both places Ben Jonson's comedy, *Every Man in His Humour*, was followed on the first night by *A Good Night's Rest*, and *Turning the Tables*, and on the second night by *Comfortable Lodgings, or Paris in 1750*.

The friends interested in the enterprise had hoped to raise five hundred