

DICKENS' CHARACTERISTICS.

His Habits at Home—Aversion to Good Bye—His "Readings."

His punctuality was a remarkable characteristic, and visitors used to wonder how it was that everything was done to the very minute.

There was a large meadow at the back of the garden in which, during the summer-time, many cricket matches were held.

His great neatness and tidiness have already been alluded to, as also his wonderful sense of order.

This was also the first thing he did upon his return home, after any absence.

"Another generation begins to peep above the table. I once used to think what a horrible thing it was to be a grandfather.

But as he so disliked the name of grandfather as applied to himself, these grandchildren were taught by him to call him "Venerables."

For, in remembrance of his love for all that is gay in color, none but the brightest flowers—and also some of the gorgeous American leaves, sent by a friend for the purpose—were laid upon the stone.

In a letter to "Pier," before his departure for Australia, Charles Dickens writes: "I hope you will always be able to say in after life, that you had a kind father."

Imagination. "It is in our imagination we are thus and thus." So says the unknown author of the "Unknown City," and with truth.

The other day I was creeping sideways, with my face to the wall, into Breiser's 25-cent dinner restaurant.

Carlyle's Portrait. Thomas Carlyle once complained that a portrait of him made him appear "a delirious looking mountebank, full of violence, awkwardness, arocity and stupidity."

A Drummer's Life. A leading New York dealer asserts that a drummer rarely lasts over a half-dozen years, at the end of which time he is generally worn out and must give place to some beginner who will renew the same experience.

Russian engineers claim that Sebastopol is stronger than ever, owing to its monster guns, torpedoes and improved earthworks.

Whitehall Times: Some people are so vindictive, that with one foot in the grave they will kick surrounding tombstones.

UNWHOLESOME SWEETS.

Adulterations of Candy—Chalk and Starch Largely Employed.

"Do you believe that much of the candy sold in this city is deleterious?" "I do. There is no disguising the fact that chalk and starch enter largely into the composition of candy."

"The best candy coloring comes from the town of Stuttgart, in Germany, and most of all the principal manufacturing establishments in the world purchase their colors there."

"What is the percentage sold in this city of good candy?" "I do not think over 50 per cent. is actually fit to be eaten. But then the manufacturer is not wholly to blame."

"We have. The dull season may be said to last from June till September. That is when the schools are closed and the children have gone into the country."

Pittsburg's Natural Gas. It is asserted that the supply and use of natural gas by the city of Pittsburg is so large that it promises to revolutionize some of the essential characteristics of that city.

The Times of India gives an account of a native cure of snake bite at Wallehwar. A Hindoo woman having been bitten on the ankle, her husband applied a bandage above the wound and sent for a famous Indian specialist in such matters.

The first car-load of oranges ever shipped direct from the orchard in Florida to Manitoba arrived recently at Winnipeg.

What Distance Did He Travel. An army of men twenty-five miles in length starts to walk fifty miles. At the moment of starting an orderly starts from his place at the extreme rear of the column.

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"Snide" Business.

The word "snide," which has come into general use, like many slang words, means more than the nearest English word to its meaning.

"Snide" is now applied to almost everything manufactured which is under quality. A "snide" buggy is one loosely constructed and painted up to look well but out of which the spokes will fly driving around the sharp turns.

There is scarcely a line of business in New York which has not its "snide" devotees. You see an advertisement for the sale of furniture in a private house, all described. You go there, and by carefully provided lights of gas or day you see what seems beautiful, but when you have bought it, you are surprised to find the next day another advertisement, and going there you will find another set of furniture like yours.

You are taken to a stable, apparently a private stable, standing among certain others belonging to gentlemen, and when the horses are brought out of the half-light there you are asked to get in before the doors are opened, and when the doors are opened the horses are touched up with the whip and they go to the park in style.

How is this heat maintained? Not by the miracle of a perpetual self-sustained flame, we may be sure. But then, by what fuel is such a fire fed? There can be no question of simple burning, like that of coal in the grate, for there is no source of supply adequate to the demand.

The state of Pennsylvania, for instance, is underlain by one of the richest coal-fields of the world, capable of supplying the consumption of the whole country at its present rate for more than 1,000 years to come.

We find by similar calculation that if the sun were itself one solid block of coal, it would have burned out to the last cinder in less time than man has certainly been on the earth. But during prehistoric times there has as surely been no noticeable diminution of the sun's heat, for the olive and the vine grow just as they did 3,000 years ago, and the hypothesis of an actual burning becomes untenable.

America's Wine Production. America promises to become the greatest wine-producing country in the world. Ten years from now our annual wine product will probably amount to 100,000,000 gallons.

Cleanly Rio Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro, says an American steamship captain, is now one of the cleanest and most healthy cities I know. It used to be one of the filthiest and most unhealthy. When Don Pedro came here in the centennial year, he carefully studied the sanitary regulations of American cities.

Potency of Voodoo Poisons. The Voodoo priests of Hayti use their knowledge of mysterious drugs for the purpose of getting victims. They know more of the secret properties of drugs than any one else.

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ELOQUENT WORDS.

The Sense of Duty Rather than the Love of Glory.

In his own house I had the honor of an interview with Humboldt. He rallied me on having contracted the habit of smoking in Germany, his knowledge on this head being derived from my little paper on a water jet, where the noise produced by the rupture of a film between the wet lips of a smoker is referred to.

Far from seeing in this address a display of egotism, you will, I believe, accept it as a fragment of the life of a brother who has felt the scars of the battle in which many of you are now engaged.

I asked two Prussian officers whom I met in the summer of 1871, at Pontresina, how the German troops behaved when going into battle—did they cheer and encourage each other? The reply I received was, "Never in our experience has the cry, 'Wir mussen siegen'—we must conquer—been heard from German soldiers, but in a hundred instances we have heard them resolutely exclaim, 'Wir mussen unser Pflicht thun'—we must do our duty."

Not once or twice in our rough island story the path of duty was that of glory. He that walks it only thirsts. For the right, and learns to deaden Love of self, before his journey closes. He shall find the stubborn thistle bursting into glossy purple which outcriden All voluptuous garden roses.

Statesmen in Bad Hats.

Most of the Washington "statesmen" wear very bad hats. Randall's is particularly bad, and that of Gen. Logan perfectly offensive. The former rambles through the corridors in an ancient "plug" that looks as if it had been battered all the way from Philadelphia.

Blaine generally strolls along in a slouch hat, pulled well over his eyes; Chandler always in a derby, while the sprightly Ingalls, of Kansas, carries an opera hat, which he can flop up and down to suit his convenience.

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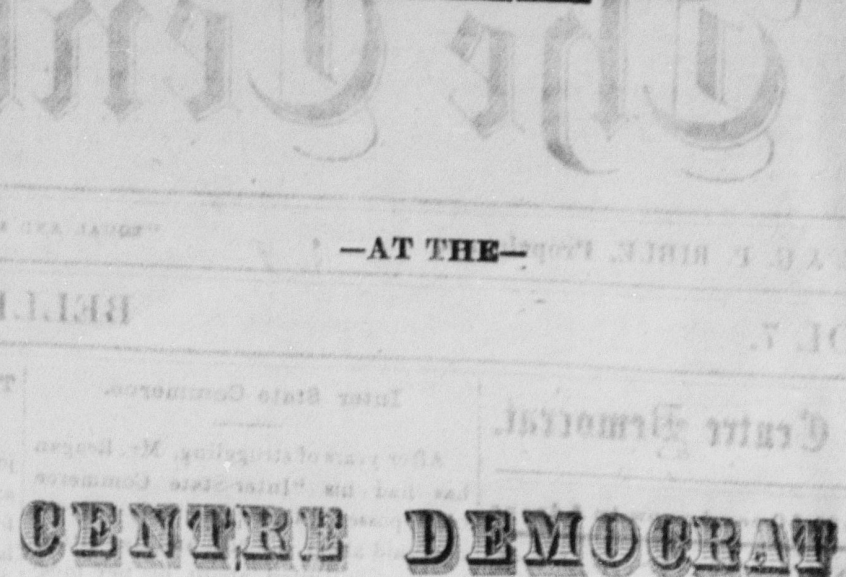
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