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Utica Morning Herald
AND DAILY GAZETTE.

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VOLUME XXVII. UTICA, N. Y., FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 1874. NUMBER 238.

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ASSESSORS' NOTICE—Notice is hereby given that the Assessors of the City of Utica have so applied the Assessment Roll of the Second Ward of the said City for the year 1874, as far as the same has been done at this time, and that copies thereof are left with Adam Schrecht, one of their number, in the

City Treasurer's Office, City Hall,

where the same may be examined by any person interested until the

THIRD TUESDAY OF AUGUST, 18TH,

and on that day the Assessors will meet to review their assessment.

All complaints must be filed before said day with Adam Schrecht, at said rooms, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 12 M. and 2 P. M. and 5 P. M. Except that complaints will be heard Saturday's from 2 to 5 P. M. in said hours.

MICHAEL SHIELDS,	1st	Ward.
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WILLIAM DAVIS,	3d	"
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Utica, August 1, 1874. Assessors.

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PROPOSALS.—Theo. S. Faxton, Esq., wishes to contract for the work required to be done on the excavation of the Faxton Hospital. Also, for the stone coping. Those wishing to make estimates can see the specifications and obtain information relating to the same at the office of A. J. Lathrop, No. 28 (second story) on the Gardner Block, for two weeks from date. A. J. LATHROP, Utica, July 29, 1874. Architect. jy30d2w

NOTICE.—The names of 24 persons to serve as Grand Jurors, and the names of 36 persons to serve as Petit Jurors, at a Circuit Court and Court of Oyer and Terminer to be held in and for the County of Oneida at the Court House in the city of Utica, on Monday, the 28th day of September, 1874, will be drawn at the Sheriff's office of said county, in the city of Utica, on Tuesday, the 18th day of August, 1874, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon. Dated Utica, July 28, 1874. JAMES B. PADDON, Clerk. jy29d10t27

NOTICE.—The names of 36 persons to serve as Petit Jurors, at a County Court and Court of Sessions, to be held in and for the County of Oneida, at the Court House in the city of Utica, on Monday, the 7th day of September, 1874, will be drawn at the Sheriff's office of said county, in the city of Utica, on Tuesday, the 25th day of August, 1874, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Dated Utica, July 28, 1874. JAMES B. PADDON, Clerk. jy29d10t27

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Utica Morning Herald
AND DAILY GAZETTE.

LITERARY MATTERS.

New Books.

FORSTER'S LIFE OF CHARLES DICKENS. Philadelphia: J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. Utica: N. HOLLISTER.

Never was a biography looked for with more eagerness, and never were the qualities of a true biographer more needed than when Charles Dickens died. Well nigh every home in the civilized world felt bereft, and the sense of bereavement everywhere called for a fitting memorial of his life to crown the legacy which he left. It called for a picture by a master hand of the master artist himself to be placed among the multitude of his creations. Hence the great expectations excited when it was announced that his bosom friend and intimate correspondent, John Forster, was to tell the story of the life of Dickens. One after another the volumes came out; but each one was read with the hope that the next would be better. The great audience was vomitakably disappointed. Adverse criticism overtook the biographer, and it was natural that the third and last volume should be awaited with highest curiosity and anticipation.

In both preceeding volumes, and partially in the present one, the author has been unfortunate in attempting too much. He has attempted to write a life of Dickens, properly so-called, to give a gossipy history of his novels, to present a collection of his letters and to write his own biography. Besides these things he has also attempted to write an apology for his famous friend. Each one of these departments deserves a special treatment, and the result of their combination can not properly be called a biography. Yet I, is no more than fair to judge a book by its contents, and to compare it with the standard which the author himself set up.

In the chapter entitled "Personal Characteristics," Mr. Forster makes a general response to his critics. This was his design:

To give to these memoirs what was attainable of the value of autobiography, letters to myself, covering all the important incidents in the life to be retraced, were used, with few exceptions, exclusively; and though the exceptions are much more numerous in the present volume, this general plan has guided me to the end. Of the charge of obtruding myself, to which their publication has exposed me, I can only say that I studied nothing so hard as to suppress my own personality, and have to regret my ill success where I supposed I had even too perfectly succeeded.

There can be no doubt that his readers will thank him for the publication of these letters. Nothing in the work throws as much light upon the character and life of Dickens when we was behind the scenes as they. They reveal the man; accusing or excusing, they are certainly unimpeachable. It is not in these letters that the author obtrudes himself, but it is when he interpolates long discussions in literature, with illustrations from Scott and Shakespeare, and when he gives us cut and dried estimates of Dickens' novels in nearly every chapter. A collection of these dissertations would make a small literary text-book. And this is more truly an intrusion, because we know that he is the apologist and biassed defender of him whose works he estimates. In national history we demand first of all impartiality, and if possible neutrality. A history produced by a partial historian is almost valueless. How much more then in the history of a single individual is personal partisanship to be avoided. And when the professed object of a work is not the championship of somebody, this is almost an impertinence.

That the reputation of Dickens as a novelist and as a man has declined, since his death, is not, therefore, the fault of Mr. Forster. He rightly refrains from dwelling in detail upon that unhappy passage in the novelist's career, when he put away his wife. But even here the part of the advocate is foremost. In one letter Dickens says: "Shall I ever, I wonder, get the frame of mind back as it used to be then? I find that the skeleton in my domestic closet is becoming a pretty big one." Then follows a long letter in which Mr. Dickens deplores the lack of congeniality between himself and his wife, and in which he "claims no immunity from blame." Then amid brilliant successes, and every adulation that an almost adoring public could give, amid the uproar of applause and the excitement of public readings, we learn that "thence forward he and his wife lived apart." This act posterity will never forgive. We also find an elaborate apology for the exposure to all the world of the weaknesses of his own father in the person of Micawber and for the unscrupulous caricature of his near but eccentric friend Leigh Hunt, in the person of Skimpole. Mr. Forster presents examples of previous authors who have done the same thing as a vindication of Mr. Dickens. Whatever Mr. Forster may say, the letters of Mr. Dickens lead us to the unavoidable conclusion that he was persevering to selfishness in his search, for effective scenes, incidents, and characters. We can not help the impression when we read those expressions of elation at sight of a monstrosity or of a unique tableau among the lowly and suffering, that the feeling of satisfaction at the possession of material for another marvelous chapter was uppermost. In his estimate of Mr. Dickens as a novelist, the biographer finds almost nothing to criticise, and his verdict is therefore of far less worth than we should otherwise expect from that source. His ample and appreciative and almost invariably truthful, however, though he ignores even the notorious faults of his author, and leaps into the arena with alacrity to defend him against the attacks of M. Taine and Henry Lewes. He tells us that "his leading quality was Humor" but he only reluctantly admits that sometimes "humor was not his servant but his master."

This volume is more valuable and interesting than the others for several reasons. Though the same general plan and treatment are retained it is evident that the author has profited by criticism. As heretofore the policy of presenting those points likely to please the popular taste is continued, and, including as it does the journey to America and the glowing scenes of Dickens' life, the volume before us is peculiarly attractive. We find the same rich typography and fine engravings as in the others, the same portrait and autographic specimens, and among the latter a fac-simile from the last page of Edwin Drood. The volume treats of the last eighteen years of Dickens' life. The quoted letters are less numerous and copious than in the other volumes, and less irrelevant. These eighteen years include much that was paramount in the life of Mr. Dickens. He then wrote "David Copperfield," which contests with "Nicholby" for the first place when considered as a whole, and in which the entire subjective nature of the man finds vent. Beside this, he also wrote during this time "Bleak House," "Hard Times," "Little Dorrit," "Great Expectations," "Our Mutual Friend," and "Edwin Drood." Nearly all his domestic troubles then occurred, and he then began and ended a series of public readings unexampled for their success by any venture in the history of literature. It was then he re-visited America, and began his last unfinished book. The first signs of decline in mental vigor were then noticed, the first revolt of an overworked brain.

Almost contemporary with the consciousness of failing powers came the craving to give public readings. In his forty-second year he said that "hypochondriacal whisperings told him that he was overworked." Very soon thereafter he submitted his project of giving public readings to his friends, who nearly all opposed it; but nothing could prevail and he read his "Christmas Carol," at Birmingham, to nearly six thousand people. He may have been conscious of waning fancy and invention, and sought this means of a new excitement. He never after lost his love of reading his books to the world. He gave three series in England before coming to America. They were one continual round of travel, excitement and fatigue. Snatching hurried sleep and meals, hurrying from stage or railway carriage to the reading desk, making speeches, and eating public dinners, he made the tour of the large towns of England. His profits were enormous and he measured his success by the number of the "turn-aways," instead of the size of the audience. The receipts from each reading varied from two to four hundred pounds. This was the prelude to his American tour and it was no wonder that that virgin field was fascinating. This project was also opposed by his friends, but Dickens overruled them, and the result of that decision Americans will not soon forget. The following is an exhibit of the financial results of the tour summarized in a letter from Mr. Dickens to Mr. Forster:

The expenses in America, to the day of our sailing, were £39,949; roughly £39,000, or £13,000. The preliminary expenses were £614. The average price of gold was nearly 40 per cent., and yet my profit was within a hundred or so of £20,000. Supposing me to have got through the present engagement in good health, I shall have made, by the Readings *in two years*, £33,000; that is to say, £13,000 received from the Chappells, and £20,000 from America. These figures are, of course, between ourselves; but don't you think them rather remarkable?

The entire narrative of Mr. Dickens' last visit to America is made up of correspondence, letters to the author and to some of Mr. Dickens' relatives; and it will not be found the least interesting part of the volume. In three chapters we have accounts of his residence on the continent. In 1853 he re-visited Switzerland and Italy, spending the three following summers at Boulogne, and the years 1855-6, in Paris. These chapters are the least interesting because they are to a very great extent irrelevant. They consist entirely of letters from the points visited to Mr. Forster, and were they compiled separately they would make a very readable and sketchy book. They show what an inimitable foreign correspondent Mr. Dickens would have made, but they add little or nothing more to our knowledge of the writer. Racy criticism of French peculiarities, easy discussions of European politics, piquant accounts of travel incident and unequaled word-paintings of landscape and Alpine very pleasant reading, but the earnest searcher after the story of Dickens' life will skip these chapters. One chapter is devoted to a very charming description of Gadshill Place, the residence of Mr. Dickens from 1858 until his death. It is accompanied by illustrations, and the story of the fitting up of the place, its gardens, chalet, and furniture will be enjoyed. His relations with *Household Words* and *All the Year Round* are described, and here, as elsewhere, is a repetition of his unvarying experience, that whatever covers contain his magic words the public demand exceeds the supply.

Before he began to write "Little Dorrit," Dickens instituted a custom which was new to him, and which denoted his sense of weakening power. He began to keep a book of memoranda for reference in his work. He jotted down all sorts of odd sights, experiences, and fancies. Among these hints we recognize some which have already been elaborated in his novels, but most of them were never used. Possibly some were fancies for the remainder of "Edwin Drood." These are specimens.

The old child. That is to say, born of parents advanced in life, and observing the parents of other children to be young. Taking an old tone accordingly.

A thoroughly filthy character—perverting everything. Making the good, bad—and the bad, good.

The man who marries his cook at last, after being so desperately knowing about the sex.

Among these memoranda is a list of characteristic "available names," both of personages and books.

The chapter on "Dickens as a Novelist," is chiefly a defense of him against adverse criticism: but there is much genuine appreciation of his real genius and power. The remainder of the book is devoted to the American visit, the last readings on his return, to his last book, his personal characteristics and death. We are told that Charles Dickens was not a bookish man. He carried little of authorship into social intercourse. He enjoyed his popularity without egotism, and he also enjoyed his own books most heartily. Several of his letters are quoted to show that he was a Christian. He was most liberal to contributors to his publications, and one of his greatest pleasures was to recognize unusual merit. He never shut himself up in seclusion to do his work, and he was much interested in the minutiæ of domestic life. He was a child among children, a man among men. Carlyle calls him "a good, the gentle, high-gifted, ever friendly, noble Dickens—every inch of him an Honest Man."

On the eighth of June, 1870, he wrote all day in the chalet at Gadshill. After luncheon, he returned to his work and wrote what were to be the last sentences of all the literature he gave the world. He found then narrates the closing moments of his life:

He was late in leaving the chalet; but before dinner, which was ordered at six o'clock, with the intention of walking afterward in the lanes, he wrote some letters, among them one to his friend, Mr. Charles Kent, appointed to see him in London next day, and dinner was begun before Miss Hogarth saw with alarm a singular expression of trouble and pain in his face. "For an hour," he then told her, "he had been very ill;" but he wished dinner to go on. These were the only coherent words uttered by him. They were followed by some that fell from him disconnectedly of quite other matters; but at these later he had risen, and his sister-in-law's help alone prevented him falling where he stood. Her effort then was to get him on the sofa, but after a slight struggle he sank heavily on his left side. "On the ground" were the last words he spoke. It was now a little over ten minutes past six o'clock. His two daughters came that night with Mr. Beard, who had also been telegraphed for, and whom they met at the station. His eldest son arrived early next morning, and was joined in the evening (too late) by his younger son from Cambridge. All possible medical aid had been summoned, but all human help was unavailing. There was effusion on the brain; and though stertorous breathing continued all night, and until ten minutes past six on the evening of Thursday the 9th, he had never been a glean of hope during the twenty-four hours. He had lived four months beyond his 58th year.

It will be remembered that Dickens read in Syracuse in March, 1868, and passed through Utica, eastward, during a vernal trouble in the Mohawk. Thus he speaks in one of his letters of his visit in Utica:

On Tuesday afternoon the train gave in, as under circumstances utterly hopeless, and stopped at a place called Utica, the greater part of which was under water, while the high and dry part could produce nothing particular to eat. Here some of the wretched passengers passed the night in the train, while others stormed the hotel. I was fortunate enough to get a bed room, and garnished it with an enormous jug of gin punch; over which the manager and I played a double dummy rubber. At six in the morning we were knocked up to "come aboard and try it." At half-past six we were knocked up again with the tidings, that it was of no use coming aboard or trying it." At eight all the bells in town were set a going to summons us to get aboard instantly. And so we started through the water at four miles an hour, seeing nothing but drowned farms, barns adrift like Noah's arks, deserted villages, broken bridges and all manner of ruin.

—An unknown man, aged about 35, was killed by the cars at Buffalo, Wednesday.

Periodicals.

The first of the August Welsh magazines to reach us is *Y Cwfaill*. It opens with a paper on the "Favorable Phases and Tendencies of the Age," read before the last Calvinistic Methodist General Assembly at Racine, in May, 1873, by Rev. M. A. Ellis, one of the editors. Mr. Ellis is a brilliant writer, with a florid style, and a tendency to exaggeration. The time that has elapsed since the paper was written, has played sad havoc with some of the author's roseate conclusions. Still, it is such a fine piece of composition, that one will pardon much to its logic for the sake of its rhetoric, and wish the facts were more encouraging. The most noticeable essay is the fourth installment of Rev. J. T. Lloyd on the "Will." The author treats of certainly as distinguished from fatalism and chance. A few quotations will show his line of argument.

By certainty in its present connection we mean, that the fulfillment of all man's acts are under the guidance of the settled laws of his mind; or, in other words, certain without being necessary. * * * The story of man's life, from beginning to end, was accurately written in God's mind, the day he was created. * * * Reader, God knows from eternity how you will act under all circumstances. He knows now what thoughts and purposes hide in the depths of your soul, perhaps some of them acted out in twenty years; and do you think that you will then entertain different thoughts and purposes? * * * God governs the world according to a plan formed far back in eternity; and in forming it all man's acts, both good and bad, were taken into account. Consequently, our acts are governed by a scheme formed in the foreknowledge of their occurrence.

The papers giving reminiscences of noted characters of the Calvinistic denomination are very interesting and valuable. This number contains the second installment about Rev. John Jones, Treffynon.

Rev. John Elias used to preach at Treffynon once each summer, when multitudes from the surrounding country, as well as the Welsh residents of the town, would gather to hear the great man from Mon. One time, it happened that John Jones was there preaching the Sunday following. During the morning sermon, he said, "Well, the Cuckoo was here last Sunday; and indeed it sang so sweetly as to charm us all. Multitudes came together to hear the Cuckoo. In the afternoon he went down to Eagillt, and the road was black with people anxious to hear the Cuckoo. Very good! I don't blame them; I went there myself and was as pleased as any one with the sweet sounds of the Cuckoo's singing. But who is here to-day? Robin redbreast, you see. No body will come down to Eagillt to-night with Robin. I know, No, Robin can go there all alone, can't he? But do you know, you ought to be more respectful to Robin. The Cuckoo comes here but once a year, in the summer; but Robin stays over winter. Remember Robin, dear people." And many people remembered robin by going with him to Eagillt in the afternoon.

The magazine contains the usual amount of denominational intelligence. It is issued in this city from the press of T. J. GRIFFITHS, and is typographically very neat.

—*Y Cenhadwr* comes from the neighboring hills of Steuben, looking bright and cheery, with an attractive table of contents, and but little to distinguish it as a Congregational journal. It opens with an article on "Learning Christ," by Rev. J. P. Williams, showing those traits in the Savior's life wherein we should especially follow Him. Next comes a vigorous and well-written article on "Our duty toward the liquor traffic." It is a temperate but very earnest plea for prohibitory laws. The venerable Ll. R. Powell gives some recollections of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, where he was for many years pastor, and which is a very old Welsh settlement. We have two of the compositive articles at the recent Ystradfod at Remsen. Being both on the same subject, we hope there is no ill-feeling at the bottom of the publication. *Y Cenhadwr* always shows good judgment in the selections from Old Country magazines, and those in this number are no exception.

THE BEECHER-TILTON SCANDAL.

More Gossip, Opinions and Facts.

The following is the letter written by MOULTON to Mr. BEECHER in reply to the latter's first letter asking Mr. MOULTON to appear before the committee:

No. 49 REMSEN STREET, BROOKLYN, Aug. 4, 1874.

My Dear Mr. Beecher: I received your note of July 24 informing me that you are making a statement and need the letters and papers in my hands, and asking me to send them to you for the purpose of having extracts or copies made from them as the case may be, that you may use them in your controversy with Mr. Tilton. I should be very glad to do anything that I may do, consistent with my sense of what is due to justice and right, to aid you; but if you will reflect that I hold all the important papers intrusted to me at the desire and request, and in the confidence of both parties to this unhappy affair, you will see that I can not in honor give them or any of them to either party to aid him as against the other. I have not given or shown to Mr. Tilton any documents or papers relating to your affairs, since the renewal of your controversy which had been once adjusted. I need not tell you how deeply I regret your position as does each to the other after my long and, as you, I have no doubt, fully believe, honest and faithful effort to have you otherwise. I will secretly hold all the papers and information I have until both parties shall request me to make them public, or to deliver them into the hands of either or both, or to lay them before the committee, if I am compelled in a court of justice to produce them, if I can be so compelled. My regret that I am compelled to this course is softened by my belief that you will not be substantially injured by it in this regard, for all the facts are, of course, known to you, and I am bound to believe and assume that, in the statement you are preparing, you will only set forth the exact facts, and, if so, the documents when produced will only confirm, and can not contradict, what you may state, so that you will suffer no loss.

If, on the contrary—which I can not presume—you desire the possession of the documents in order that you may prove your statement in a manner not to be controverted by the facts set forth in them, to the disadvantage of Mr. Tilton, I should be then aiding you in doing that which I can not believe the strictest and firmest friendship for you calls upon me to do. With grateful recollections of your kind confidence and trust in me, I am very truly yours, F. D. MOULTON.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Brooklyn, N. Y.

WHY MISS ANTHONY IS SILENT.

The Chicago *Tribune*, yesterday, published the following letter from a well-known female reformer in that city concerning the connection of Miss ANTHONY with the BEECHER-TILTON matter:

Three years ago the past winter, in January, I saw Miss Susan Anthony for the first time of my life. On that occasion she urged me very strongly to become identified with the suffrage movement in this city. I