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DAVID COPPERFIELD



THE FRIENDLY WAITER AND I

CLEAR TYPE EDITION

THE WORKS OF
CHARLES DICKENS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



DAVID COPPERFIELD

BOOKS, INC.
NEW YORK BOSTON

The Personal History of David Copperfield the Younger
was first published as a volume in 1850, after having
been issued in twenty shillings monthly parts
from May 1849 to November 1850. This
Edition contains all the copyright
emendations made in the text as
revised by the Author in
1867 and 1868

TYPESET, NICKELTYPED, PRINTED, AND BOUND
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY
THE COLONIAL PRESS INC., CLINTON, MASS.

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THE HON. MR. AND MRS. RICHARD
WATSON
OF
ROCKINGHAM, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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David Copperfield

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David Copperfield

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PREFACES

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I DO not find it easy to get sufficiently far away from this Book, in the first sensations of having finished it, to refer to it with the composure which this formal heading would seem to require. My interest in it, is so recent and strong; and my mind is so divided between pleasure and regret—pleasure in the achievement of a long design, regret in the separation from many companions—that I am in danger of wearying the reader whom I love, with personal confidences, and private emotions.

Besides which, all that I could say of the Story, to any purpose, I have endeavoured to say in it.

It would concern the reader little, perhaps, to know how sorrowfully the pen is laid down at the close of a two-years' imaginative task; or how an Author feels as if he were dismissing some portion of himself into the shadowy world, when a crowd of the creatures of his brain are going from him for ever. Yet, I have nothing else to tell; unless, indeed, I were to confess (which might be of less moment still) that no one can ever believe this Narrative, in the reading, more than I have believed it in the writing.

Instead of looking back, therefore, I will look forward. I cannot close this Volume more agreeably to myself, than with a hopeful glance towards the time when I shall again put forth my two green leaves once a month, and with a faithful remembrance of the genial sun and showers that have fallen on these leaves of David Copperfield, and made me happy.

LONDON, *October*, 1850.

PREFACE TO THE 'CHARLES DICKENS' EDITION

I REMARKED in the original Preface to this Book, that I did not find it easy to get sufficiently far away from it, in the first sensa-

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