









# LITTLE DORRIT

---

With Illustrations by  
HABLÔT KNIGHT BROWNE ('PHIZ')



THE STORY OF THE PRINCESS

CLEARTYPE EDITION

THE WORKS OF  
CHARLES DICKENS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



LITTLE DORRIT  
PARTS ONE AND TWO

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DEDICATED  
TO  
CLARKSON STANFIELD, R.A.  
BY  
HIS ATTACHED FRIEND



# CONTENTS

*Little Dorrit*

## BOOK THE FIRST—POVERTY

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. SUN AND SHADOW . . . . .	1
II. FELLOW TRAVELLERS . . . . .	14
III. HOME . . . . .	27
IV. MRS. FLINTWINCH HAS A DREAM . . . . .	39
V. FAMILY AFFAIRS . . . . .	42
VI. THE FATHER OF THE MARSHALSEA . . . . .	53
VII. THE CHILD OF THE MARSHALSEA . . . . .	63
VIII. THE LOCK . . . . .	74
IX. LITTLE MOTHER . . . . .	84
X. CONTAINING THE WHOLE SCIENCE OF GOVERN- MENT . . . . .	97
XI. LET LOOSE . . . . .	117
XII. BLEEDING HEART YARD . . . . .	127
XIII. PATRIARCHAL . . . . .	136
XIV. LITTLE DORRIT'S PARTY . . . . .	158
XV. MRS. FLINTWINCH HAS ANOTHER DREAM . . . . .	169
XVI. NOBODY'S WEAKNESS . . . . .	178

CHAPTER	PAGE
XVII. NOBODY'S RIVAL . . . . .	192
XVIII. LITTLE DORRIT'S LOVER . . . . .	201
XIX. THE FATHER OF THE MARSHALSEA IN TWO OR THREE RELATIONS . . . . .	210
XX. MOVING IN SOCIETY . . . . .	220
XXI. MR. MERDLE'S COMPLAINT . . . . .	234
XXII. A PUZZLE . . . . .	242
XXIII. MACHINERY IN MOTION . . . . .	251
XXIV. FORTUNE-TELLING . . . . .	266
XXV. CONSPIRATORS AND OTHERS . . . . .	282
XXVI. NOBODY'S STATE OF MIND . . . . .	292
XXVII. FIVE-AND-TWENTY . . . . .	304
XXVIII. NOBODY'S DISAPPEARANCE . . . . .	316
XXIX. MRS. FLINTWINCH GOES ON DREAMING . . . . .	324
XXX. THE WORD OF A GENTLEMAN . . . . .	332
XXXI. SPIRIT . . . . .	347
XXXII. MORE FORTUNE-TELLING . . . . .	362
XXXIII. MRS. MERDLE'S COMPLAINT . . . . .	371
XXXIV. A SHOAL OF BARNACLES . . . . .	381
XXXV. WHAT WAS BEHIND MR. PANCKS ON LITTLE DORRIT'S HAND . . . . .	390
XXXVI. THE MARSHALSEA BECOMES AN ORPHAN . . . . .	403

### BOOK THE SECOND—RICHES

I. FELLOW-TRAVELLERS . . . . .	411
II. MRS. GENERAL . . . . .	426
III. ON THE ROAD . . . . .	430

# CONTENTS

ix

CHAPTER	PAGE
IV. A LETTER FROM LITTLE DORRIT . . . . .	445
V. SOMETHING WRONG SOMEWHERE . . . . .	449
VI. SOMETHING RIGHT SOMEWHERE . . . . .	464
VII. MOSTLY, PRUNES AND PRISM . . . . .	479
VIII. THE DOWAGER MRS. GOWAN IS REMINDED THAT IT NEVER DOES . . . . .	490
IX. APPEARANCE AND DISAPPEARANCE . . . . .	501
X. THE DREAMS OF MRS. FLINTWINCH THICKEN .	516
XI. A LETTER FROM LITTLE DORRIT . . . . .	524
XII. IN WHICH A GREAT PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE IS HOLDEN . . . . .	529
XIII. THE PROGRESS OF AN EPIDEMIC . . . . .	543
XIV. TAKING ADVICE . . . . .	558
XV. NO JUST CAUSE OR IMPEDIMENT WHY THESE TWO PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE JOINED TO- GETHER . . . . .	569
XVI. GETTING ON . . . . .	585
XVII. MISSING . . . . .	591
XVIII. A CASTLE IN THE AIR . . . . .	601
XIX. THE STORMING OF THE CASTLE IN THE AIR .	608
XX. INTRODUCES THE NEXT . . . . .	623
XXI. THE HISTORY OF A SELF TORMENTOR . . . .	632
XXII. WHO PASSES BY THIS ROAD SO LATE . . . .	641
XXIII. MISTRESS AFFERY MAKES A CONDITIONAL PROMISE RESPECTING HER DREAMS . . . . .	648
XXIV. THE EVENING OF A LONG DAY . . . . .	660
XXV. THE CHIEF BUTLER RESIGNS THE SEALS OF OFFICE . . . . .	670

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXVI. REAPING THE WHIRLWIND . . . . .	679
XXVII. THE PUPIL OF THE MARSHALSEA . . . . .	688
XXVIII. AN APPEARANCE IN THE MARSHALSEA . . . . .	702
XXIX. A PLEA IN THE MARSHALSEA . . . . .	720
XXX. CLOSING IN . . . . .	729
XXXI. CLOSED . . . . .	751
XXXII. GOING . . . . .	760
XXXIII. GOING! . . . . .	767
XXXIV. GONE . . . . .	777

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## *Little Dorrit*

THE STORY OF THE PRINCESS . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>	
LITTLE MOTHER . . . . .	<i>Facing Page</i>	96
MR. F'S AUNT IS CONDUCTED INTO RETIREMENT	“ “	152
THE BROTHERS. . . . .	“ “	212
MISS DORRIT AND LITTLE DORRIT . . . . .	“ “	224
FIVE-AND-TWENTY. . . . .	“ “	314
THE PENSIONER ENTERTAINMENT . . . . .	“ “	358
RIGOUR OF MR. F'S AUNT . . . . .	“ “	512
MR. BAPTIST IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SEEN SOMETHING . . . . .	“ “	550
RECEPTION OF AN OLD FRIEND . . . . .	“ “	602
THE NIGHT . . . . .	“ “	622
FLORA'S TOUR OF INSPECTION . . . . .	“ “	656
IN THE OLD ROOM . . . . .	“ “	710
THE THIRD VOLUME OF THE REGISTERS . . . . .	“ “	786





## P R E F A C E S

### PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

I HAVE been occupied with this story, during many working hours of two years. I must have been very ill employed, if I could not leave its merits and demerits as a whole, to express themselves on its being read as a whole. But, as it is not unreasonable to suppose that I may have held its various threads with a more continuous attention than any one else can have given to them during its desultory publication, it is not unreasonable to ask that the weaving may be looked at in its completed state, and with the pattern finished.

If I might offer any apology for so exaggerated a fiction as the Barnacles and the Circumlocution Office, I would seek it in the common experience of an Englishman, without presuming to mention the unimportant fact of my having done that violence to good manners, in the days of a Russian war, and of a Court of Enquiry at Chelsea. If I might make so bold as to defend that extravagant conception, Mr. Merdle, I would hint that it originated after the Railroadshare epoch, in the times of a certain Irish bank, and of one or two other equally laudable enterprises. If I were to plead anything in mitigation of the preposterous fancy that a bad design will sometimes claim to be a good and an expressly religious design, it would be the curious coincidence that it has been brought to its climax in these pages, in the days of the public examination of late Directors of a Royal British Bank. But, I submit myself to suffer judgment to go by default on all these counts, if need be, and to accept the assurance (on good authority) that nothing like them was ever known in this land.

Some of my readers may have an interest in being informed whether or no any portions of the Marshalsea Prison are yet standing. I did not know, myself, until the sixth of this present month, when I went to look. I found the outer front courtyard, often mentioned in this story, metamorphosed into a butter-shop; and I then almost gave up every brick of the jail for lost. Wandering, how-

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