THE ORIGINAL MICAWBER.

SOME NOTES ON MR. JOHN DICKENS.

Percy Fitzgerald in The London Illustrated News.

This fresh and diverting character was, as we know, modelled directly from nature; and Dickens, indeed, might have answered—as Sam did Justice Stareleigh—"I rayther think it's my father!" Sam was threatened with committal if he did not point his parent out; but every one can point to Mr. John Dickens, "member of the Gallery," as the original of this sketch.

It used to be said that Mr. Micawber was a caricature, much overdrawn, not resembling anything we are likely to encounter in life. The truth is, the portrait was an exact copy, and, if anything, fell rather short of the original. The delightful portion of him was not his odd, fantastic speeches and quaint formulas, so much as the character, exhibited chiefly in odd views of pecuniary transactions; the essence being that an obligation could be satisfied by rotund and flowing phraseology, and the setting forth in a stately style his own indebtedness, as though he were proud of it.

As a letter-writer, Mr. Micawber, we know, revelled in such flourishings, and his most amusing peculiarities were exhibited when he found himself seated at his desk. In one or two places in his letters, Dickens, the son, has noted a characteristic speech or two of his sire, which might have been appropriately put into the mouth of Mr. Micawber. These paternal utterances the son relished hugely, and even revelled in.

Messrs. Conway Noel, autograph dealers in Birmingham, have a few relics of this amusing personage. Among these is a fragment of a little burlesque, styled "O'Thello," written by young Charles for the Theatre Royal Back Drawing-room. Its date is 1833, so it is fairly claimed to be the earliest scrap of the novelist's handwriting in existence. He was then only twenty-one years old. It is even more interesting from the fact that Mr. Micawber, or Mr. John Dickens, the sire, took a part in the little piece, that of "The Great Unpaid," who was "discovered at table on opening scene." "The Great Unpaid" was, of course, the Duke of Venice, under grotesque conditions.

G. U.—Begin the business!
(Brab. rushes in and says: "Ruin! Confusion!")
G. U.—What charge can warrant such a gross intrusion!
Brab.— Warrant.
G. U.—You're not warrant-ed
In making noise enough to wake the dead.
Tell us (first having made a proper bow),
What is the meaning of this precious row!
Brab.— Stol'n my daughter.
G. U.—Who has done this!
Brab.— O'Thello.
G. U.—Call the man in, and now command silence.
What can you say, sir, in your own defence!
Music: wait till he comes in, and music stops.)

Mr. Dickens, senior, presented this scrap to a friend, one Mr. Haydon, in the year 1842, indorsing it with much solemnity. "This page is from an unpublished travestie, written by Mr. Charles Dickens for private performance in his own family (1833), and it is in his own handwriting. 'The Great Unpaid' was your humble servant, John Dickens, Alphington, 6 June, 1842."

I have never hitherto seen a letter of the real John Dickens to put beside one of the racy epistles given in the novels. By a rare chance, however, one of these documents lately came into my possession. Nothing more "characteristical," as Elia has it, could be desired, and I am certain all lovers of "Boz" will welcome with pleasure the epistolary specimen of this choice character—

34 Edwards street, Portman Square,
14 February (sic), 1837.

Gentlemen: It has occurred to me that at a moment of some difficulty you may be willing to extend to me your obliging assistance. If not inconvenient, or inconsistent with your arrangements, will you do me the favor to deduct the Four Pounds I owe you from the enclosed Bill for £20, due 7th April, with fore shillings, the amount of the interest, and let me have the balance, £15 15s.? Do not suppose I ask this on any other footing than that of an act of obligation conferred on me, and I assure you, though small in amount, its effects to me are matters of grave consideration, because anything that should occasion my absence from my duties in the Gallery would be productive of fatal effects.

You may consider it an intrusion that I should apply to you in a moment of difficulty; and I feel it to be so; but, recollecting how your interests are bound up with those of my son, I flatter myself if you can confer a favor upon the father without transgressing any rule that you have laid down, and without inconvenience, you may feel disposed to do so.

I do not enhance it when I say that the favor, though small in amount, yet under the circumstances would be signal obligation conferred on,

Gentlemen, your obliged and obedient servant,
Messrs. Chapman and Hall. JOHN DICKENS.

This is a richly characteristic production, and has the true Micawberian flavor. There is nothing better in the novel than the proposal of the bill. The writer, it will be seen, owes the firm four pounds, and he asks them to "do him the favor" to deduct this sum from the rather problematic bill, and then—what is the point of the whole—"let him have the balance, £15 15s."—a delightful method of discharging his debt and incurring a new and more substantial one. "A moment of some difficulty," and the "withdrawal from the Gallery," which would have "fatal effects," are equally characteristic. Notable, too, is the hint as to the paper in question not being likely "to be met," or "taken up"—for he throws out that it is "an act of obligation conferred on me"; as well as the more significant hint that their "interests are bound up with those of my son." This seems to have had its effect, for we find the minutely calculated interest on the bill—"fore shillings"—altered in another hand and in a different ink to "3s. 4d." A pleasant touch is the iteration of the point of "inconvenience" to themselves, as though this were the only objection that could reasonably be presented by the firm, who would otherwise, he assumed, be eager to honor his paper. The displayed flourish at the close—"signal obligation conferred on, Gentlemen, your obliged, etc."—was a favorite form of Mr. Micawber's. The letter is indorsed on the back, "John Dickens, Esq.," in the writer's own hand, which seems mysterious—it looks as though it had been returned to him.

Fond as we are of Dickens curios, I doubt if there could be found any more quaintly attractive than this letter of Micawber-Dickens. As it hangs framed it seems to have a sort of vitality, to have flesh and blood. We hear the rolling accents and flourishes, the appeals and explanations to Traddles and Copperfield. "That bill, Sir, will not be met" has a new significance.

I believe there are no letters extant from Dickens to his father. But the same firm of autograph dealers are in possession of a small scrap, dated about 1838: "I will tell you further particulars of this inquiry when I have received (sic) your answer. I have scarcely a moment to spare, and can only add best love from Kate and the children to you, mother, and Augustus, and hope that mother reached home in safety.—Affectionately yours, Charles Dickens." This fragment was priced one pound, but we are assured that had it been complete it would have been worth a good deal of money.

There is a likeness of Dickens pere in Mr. Kitton's interesting "Pen and Pencil" collection, where he is portrayed as a full-faced, dignified-looking gentleman. When Micawber was put on the stage many years ago, the part was rendered with wonderful roundness and racy humor by Mr. Rowe, long since departed. The familiar Ally Sloper's head had a suggestion of this presentment.

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REAL ESTATE.

BUSINESS AT THE EXCHANGES.

The real estate market was fairly active yesterday. The most important sale was by William Kennedy, who sold by order of the Supreme Court in the suit of Mary E. Miles, against Harriet E. Haley and others, Nos. 54 and 56 West Nineteenth-st., two lots with three-story stable thereon; the plot is 50x[illegible]. Harriet E. and Dottie Haley, two of the parties interested, were the buyers for $73,250. Philip A. Smyth offered No. 114 Eldridge-st., three-story tenement house on a lot 19x[illegible]. It brought $14,500 from Peter Groth. James C. Rayor offered to close the estate of Ellen Carroll, deceased, No. 302 Cherry-st., a five-story brick tenement house on a lot 22x92. It brought $14,800 from Mandelbaum & Lowine.

John F. Meyer withdrew No. 255 West One-hundred-and-thirty-second-st., the house having been sold at private sale. No. 24 West Houston-st., was bid in at $25,500. No. 134 East Sixty-fifth-st., was also bid in at $16,700.

The sale advertised by R. V. Harnett & Co. at the Liberty-st. Exchange, of No. 313 Water-st., was adjourned.

RECORDED REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS—N. Y. CITY.

80th-st, No 187 West; H C Berger to J L Denig.	$25,000
65th-st, No 120 West; Thomas Kilpatrick to H Rogers	1
75th-st, n s, 100 ft w of 10th-ave, 19x102.2; Meyer Behal to B Cohen	22,500
Amsterdam-ave, e s, 82.2 ft s of 80th-st, 18.6x100; Laura Wheeler to R Dickinson	22,000
57th-st, n s, 300 ft w of 7th-ave, 50x100.5; Arthur J Horgan to R R Colgate	1
9th-ave, n w corner 42d-st, 20.5x62; Mary Conlon to F G Bain	1
81st-st, n s, 100 ft w of 10th-ave, 150x102.2; David Mars to Edward Hirsh	1
49th-st, No 244 East; Sarah Anstein to L Franz	8,250
2d-ave, w s, 62.2 ft n of 81st-st, 20x80; Max Borchardt to Jonas Siegel	29,100
88th-st, s s, 100 ft w of East End-ave, 25x100.8; John McLaughlin to M Hoffman	23,000
88th-st, s s, 225 ft w of East End-ave, 25x100.8; same to same	23,000
69th-st, No 342 East; Selig Littman to Reinhard Neumann	10,500
73d-st, n s, corner Lexington-ave, 34x102.2; Heilner A Wolf to P J Lovejoy	35,500
60th-st, n s, 235 ft w of 2d-ave, 20x100.5; H Erhman to Louis Lese	18,500
155th-st, n s, entire 9 the land Croton Aqueduct, 50x135; A H Shaller referee, to Sarah Lynch	8
Willis-ave, e s, 103 ft n of 148th-st, 22x100; Charles C Rickson and wife to Maria Muller	2,175
Brookline, w s, 404.1 ft n of 148th-st, 15x100; Frederick Foley and wife to Henry Heidelman	1
Railroad-ave, e s, 127.5 ft n of 148th-st, 25x75x irregular; E T Oldham, referee, to Lewis Z Finch	12,000
West Bronx-ave, n s, 76.6 ft w of Bagley-ave, 25x93.4; Frederick Rohrs and wife to F C Krumdieck	15,000
Willis-ave, n w corner 132d-st, 50x110; the Port Morris Land and Improvement Co to Bridget Cogg	4,000
Railroad-ave, e s, 100 ft n of 173d-st, 50x150; W P Burns and wife to George C Dressel	1
Same property; William Hagar et al to same	3,600
Same property; Noah Tebbetts, assignee, to William P Burns	5
3d-ave, s e corner 57th-st, 20x80; A Weinstein to Julia Edzar	31,250
57th-st, No 159 East; Katharine L W Tucker to Henry A Kreuger	35,000
4th-ave, s e corner 100th-st, 50.11x irregular; Pasquale Lenzi and wife to J P Leone	250,000
113th-st, s s, 145 ft e of 1st-ave, 25x100.10; Augustus C Bowen to Peter C Sullivan	12,500
111th-st, n s, 225 ft e of 5th-ave, 20x100.11; Francis J Rigney to M F Westergren	10,000
116th-st, n s, 475 ft w of 5th-ave, 24.4x100.11; Lucinda A Thompson to John Thompson	1
3d-ave, s e corner 98th-st, 50.9x88.9; Peter Schopp to Nicholas Mehlhoff	1
121st-st, s s, 143 ft w of 7th-ave, 15x100.11; William G Wood to Max Marx	1
Amsterdam-ave, s e corner 151st-st, 25x100; Jennie L Denig to H C Berger	55,000
127th-st, s s, 118 ft w of 7th-ave, 18x99.11; Charles H Nettleton to M C Lyons	17,500
St Nicholas-ave, s s, 99.11 n n 131st-st, 0.8x125; John H V Arnold to John C Barth	300
West 109th-st, n s, 100 ft e of Broadway, 18.8x90; Maria Schilling to M M M Cormack	1
27th-st, n s, 100.3 ft e of 7th-ave, 25.2x irregular; John G Morris and wife to Benjamin Stern	1
30th-st, No 27 West; William L Pierson et al to Catharine T Moulton	72,500
33d-st, s s, 330 ft w of 8th-ave, 20x98.9; Fanny Metzger to Charles Rohr, jr	1
Henry-st, No 213; Levy Nickowsky et al to Jacob Samuelson	34,000
Monroe-st, No 153; Levy Nickowsky and wife to Jacob Samuelson	19,000
Ames-st, No 13; Robert C Embree and another to Charles A Peabody	63,000
Fulton-st, No 159; same to same	101,250
49th-st, No 327 East; Richard Venkauer and wife to Benjamin Blumenthal	14,000
49th-st, n s, corner Cornelia-st, 23.10x76; Nathanael M Morris to Hypolit Rose	61,500
Delancey-st, n s, 75 ft from Bowery, 25x80; Laura N Hyman et al to Samuel Bernard	18,500
111th-st, s s, 175 ft e of Lenox-ave, 25x100.11; Max Marx to J R Stein	8,500
121st-st, s s, 143 ft w of 7th-ave, 15x100.11; Absalom Bennett to William G Wood	12,000
	13,000

RECORDED MORTGAGES.

Allen, John J, to Jas Long, n s Gansevoort, e of Marbledale, 5 years	$1,000
Bass, Lewis A, to Hy Hogeboom, e s Railroad-ave, n of 163d-st, 3 years	10,000
Bernard, Samuel, to Hermann Shannon, et al, n s Delancey-st, e of line of William Rahlen, 5 years	12,800
Blumenthal, Benjamin, to Emanuel Yankauer, 225 East 49th-st, 3 years	2,000
Blumenthal, Benjamin and wife to the United States of the Independent Order of True Sons of Israel, 5 years	7,000
Bowsky, Leopold, to Caroline Bartelmer, s s 111th-st, e of 3d-ave, 1 year	2,000
Campbell, John, and wife to Dennis Horgan, n s of 161st-st, w of Boulevard, 2 years	2,500
Carey, Mary A, to Hy Hogeboom, e s Railroad-ave, n of 163d-st, 3 years	10,000
Carr, Francis A and wife to James McLenahan, n w corner 126th-st and 2d-ave, 3 years	3,500
Connor, Michael, to Mary Mason, e s Lexington-ave, n of Lexington, 5 years	1,000
Coffey, Michael, to William Sellers, e s 7th-ave, n of 14th-st, 5 months	150,000
Crimmins, John D, to the National Life Insurance Company, N Y, n e corner 7th-ave and 99th-st, 1 year	2,000
Dinkelspiel, Leo, to Isaac Strauss, s s 42d-st, w of 10th-ave, 3 months	15,000
Dickinson, Elizabeth, to Louis Windmuller, e s 4th-ave, n of 8th-st, 3 years	1,000
Fisher, Andrew, to Henry Hoffman et al, exors, 3 years	3,000
Finger, John H and another, to George H Smith, n s 10th-st, w of Sixth-ave, 1 year	6,500
Franz, Louis, to Sarah Amstein, No 324 East Broadway, 2 years	8,500
Frederick, Elizabeth M, to the Harlem Savings Bank, s s 125th-st, e of 3d-ave, 1 year	18,000
Gaffney, Clarence W, and wife, to Fred J McGoldrick, s s 30th-st, e of 3d-ave, 2 mortgages, 2 years	45,000
Green, Gabriel L, and wife, to the Washington Life Insurance Co, n s Houghton, e of West-st, 4 years	7,400
Gern, Herman A, to the Harlem Savings Bank, n s 146th-st, w of Willow-ave, 1 year	2,500
Gough, Robert, to the Port Morris Land and Improvement Co, n s 149th-st, 3 years	1,500
Hertzel, George W, and wife, to Louisa L Jerome, n s 3d-ave, e of 25th-st, 1 year	7,000
Kerkmann, Dora, to Margaretha Schmitt, n s 101st-st, w of Courtlandt-ave, 1 year	6,000
Hoiner, John and wife to Adolph G Hupfel, n w corner 119th-st and Courtlandt-ave, 1 year	28,000
Kessel, Henry A, to Katharine L W Tucker, n s 44th-st, w of Lexington-ave, 3 years	12,000
Kind, Anton, and wife to the East River Savings Institution, n s 125th-st, n of 7th-st, 3 years	15,750
Lawson, Peter L, to Lawson Hooper and another, n e corner 73d-st and Lexington-ave, 1 year	2,750
Lese, Louis, to Rosa Moschowitz, n s 69th-st, w of 2d-ave, 3 years	6,500
Lyons, Margaret, to Chas H Nettleton, s s 127th-st, w of 7th-ave, 1 year	10,000
Lynch, Robt L, to Wm Mitchell, trustee, ex, w s Madison-ave, n of 84th-st, 3 years	24,500
Mutual trust to the Washington Life Insurance Company, N Y, 1 mortgage, 2 years	5,000
Mutual trust to the Washington Life Insurance Company, N Y, 1 mortgage, 2 years	5,000
Nous, Wm A, and another, to the New-York and Suburban Co-operative Building and Loan Association, w s Lexington-ave, n of Whitney-st, 1 year	1,500
Peters, Hermann, to National Shoe and Leather Bank, n s 6th-st, w of Avenue A, 3 years	30,000
Ring, Frank G, and wife to Mary Conlon, n w corner 3d-ave and 42d-st, 3 years	12,000
Ring, Frank G, and wife to Simon F Berkheimer, same property, demand	8,500
Sullivan, Daniel J, to Isaac Lichtmyer and another, s s 124th-st, w of Amsterdam-ave, 1 year, 1 mortgage	11,250
Sullivan, Bridget, and husband to Walter N Sullivan and another, executors, ex, s s 138th-st, e of 1st-ave, 1 year, 2 mortgages	6,000
Smith, Mary C, to the German American Real Estate Title Guarantee Company, s s 99th-st, w of 3d-ave, 3 years	4,700
Seligman, Isaac, and wife to Lucretia S Jones, s s 91st-st, e of 2d-ave, 2 years	3,250
Sutherland, Anna, to Doris A Williams and another, N Y Institution, 8 months	45,000
Tompkins, Wm H B, and wife to the Title Guarantee and Trust Company, 12 Harrison-st, 3 years	37,000
Tinken, Mary A, to the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, s s 52d-st, w of 9th-ave, 1 year	3,000
Weisgerber, Maurice F, to Francis J Bedlow, n s 111th-st, e of 3d-ave, 4 months	4,000

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Lowest interest,
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To be sold on Tuesday, April 25th, 1893, at 10 a. m., at the Court House, White Plains, N. Y. Particulars of GEO. R. READ, Auctioneer, 9 Pine-st., or EUGENE SMITH, Esq., Plaintiff's Attorney, 33 Pine-st.

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At a Great Sacrifice,
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PLOT 208x200, will divide. PARK-AVE. is 100 feet wide, running from centre of Newark to Llewellyn Park Gate, ORANGE MOUNTAINS. Finest driveway in New-Jersey. Elegant view of mountains. Avenue is SEWERED. SPRING WATER, GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHTS along avenue, edge of plot. The houses surrounding this property of the HIGHEST GRADE, making most desirable locality for gentleman's residence. PRICE will be made low for whole plot. Particulars of
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AT S. HOHARIE.—Residence of late J. G. Gothart; river bathing, boating, fishing, stable and carriage houses, fruit, garden, shrubbery, flowers and all accessories to country place; running spring water; ample road and grounds; partially furnished; rent for season; photo and particulars. Mr. WOOD, office, Grand Hotel, N. Y.

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