

新思路大学英语泛读教材

主 编 杨 林
副主编 刘 洁 任春生 李艳玲

英美小说 导读详注



English Fictions
with Chinese Annotations



國防工業出版社
National Defense Industry Press

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内 容 简 介

本书共由8个单元组成,精选了英美经典小说中既具有代表性又非常有意思的8篇作品,每一单元均由导读、选读、注释三部分组成。导读提纲挈领,选读展示作品精华,注释详细贴切,以帮助读者正确理解,让读者一边去体会小说中人物的喜怒哀乐,一边在不知不觉中提高英文水平。本书既有利于教师系统讲解,同时也方便学生自学。

本书适合于具有一定英语水平并欲提高英美文学素养的读者,可作为高校非英语专业本科生的选修课教材,同时也可作为英语专业高年级学生的泛读教材。

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P 前言 reface

文学是最能表现语言魅力的艺术种类。学习英语,如果不阅读英文原著,就很难真正领悟其语言的精髓。但是,对于浸染在中国文化中的英文学习者来讲,英文原著中有许多典故及文化隐含需要他们花很大的力气才能搞懂。而且,原著中的语言均带有作者鲜明的个性,即不仅表现出作者个人的语言风格、个人的生活环境,而且还表现出个人的学识。因而,本书不仅对所选作品中的语言进行了详细的注解,还充分呈现了英文小说中的文化特色。

本书精选8篇小说。在狄更斯的圣诞故事中,《圣诞欢歌》在英美是被人们广泛阅读的小说之一。狄更斯将圣诞与鬼神紧紧地联系在一起,其构思堪称精巧。华盛顿·欧文的《睡谷的传说》及《瑞普·凡·温克》充分展示了欧文的语言天才及故事大师的风采。前者讲了鬼怪的故事,后者讲了“天上一天,地上十年”的传奇。马克·吐温在《百万英镑》中一如既往地展现了他幽默大师的风采,构思巧妙,语言犀利。霍桑的小说往往给人一种压抑感,他的《教长的黑色面纱》准确地反映了这种文风。《死者》是詹姆斯·乔伊斯短篇小说集《都柏林人》中的一篇比较有名的小说。小说所表现的人物感情细腻,语言描写生动。安迪森的《我是个傻瓜》讲述了一个小孩在赛马场上的懵懂的爱情,朴实中透着浪漫。由于篇幅所限,只选了麦尔维尔《比利·巴德》中的部分章节。

英语学习实际上是提供一种了解世界文化的途径,是人们完善自我所必需的。在英美文学的宝库中,有一大批遗产,丰富了人类对自我、对世界的认识。而小说就是这种遗产中不可或缺的一部分。

由于作者水平有限,书中不足之处在所难免,还望读者多提意见。

参编本书的人员有杨林、刘洁、任春生、李艳玲、常秦、朱沅沅、高契、张彩虹、智慧、张文涛、杨惠英、赵陶、雷小峰,排名不分先后。

编者

目 录 contents

Unit 1	Christmas Carol	1
	圣诞欢歌	1
Unit 2	The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	75
	睡谷的传说	75
Unit 3	Rip Van Winkle	105
	瑞普·凡·温克	105
Unit 4	The 1,000,000 Bank-Note	124
	百万英镑	124
Unit 5	The Minister's Black Veil	146
	教长的黑色面纱	146
Unit 6	The Dead	162
	死者	162
Unit 7	I'm a Fool	203
	我是个傻瓜	203
Unit 8	Billy Budd	216
	比利·巴德	216

告 白

Unit 1 Christmas Carol

圣诞欢歌

朱沅沅
导 读

查尔斯·狄更斯于 1812 年出生在英格兰南部朴次茅斯的一个中产阶级家庭，他 5 岁的时候全家搬到了东南部的查塔姆，并在那里度过了他最愉快的童年时光。从 1822 年到 1860 年狄更斯一直在伦敦生活，之后，他永久地在查塔姆附近的乡下定居。狄更斯的祖父是一个家庭佣人，他的父亲是海军出纳室的一名职员，收入颇丰，但由于出手阔绰，他最终于 1824 年因债务问题被捕入狱，这不仅给家人带来了经济上的窘迫，也使作为长子的狄更斯被迫中断学业，开始在工厂做手工活。这段经历对狄更斯日后的文学创作有深刻的影响，他笔下的许多人物都来自这段短暂的屈居社会底层生活带给他的灵感。

狄更斯于 1827 年离开学校，先后做过法律顾问、办公室职员、法庭速记员、议会和报社的记者。这些工作经历使他深切体会到议会和法律界的腐朽。在 1833 年，他开始给报纸和杂志投稿，这些故事和描述性短文引起了关注，后来他受邀给著名的雕刻家配幽默连载故事，几周后，《匹克威克外传》连载的第一期问世使他一举成名。在接下来的几十年文学生涯中，狄更斯创作了许多脍炙人口的小说，包括《雾都孤儿》、《圣诞欢歌》、《大卫·科波菲尔》、《荒凉山庄》、《双城记》、《远大前程》等。这使他成为英国维多利亚时期最伟大的小说家。

狄更斯以前的任何时代里没有一个作家在有生之年像他一样受欢迎。他的作品脍炙人口，无论是穷人还是富人，甚至于女王都对他的作品爱不释手。当时，他的作品以连载的形式刊登在报纸、杂志上。因为狄更斯的语言诙谐、生动，表现出对下层人民深切的同情，他塑造的人物形象都非常鲜活，这吸引着读者纷纷猜测人物的命运和情节的发展走向。狄更斯则常常根据读者的反应给人物命运安排各种各样的转机。同时，在作品中狄更斯对下层人民表现出深切的同情，他运用反讽、夸张的语言揭露了社会现实，批判了诸如济贫院、大法官庭等腐朽的社会机构，暴露了工业社会带来的环境污染、物欲横流、人心异化等问题。狄更斯对现实无情的揭露和批判使他成为 19 世纪文坛一股巨大的力量，他的小说中体现的道德教化作用使他成为了社会良知的代言人。

《圣诞欢歌》是《圣诞故事集》的第一部作品。它是在 1847 年由狄更斯在几个星期内完成的。这也开创了一个新的文学门类。有人把狄更斯的生活观称为“圣诞哲学”，他不仅希望圣诞精神在一年中的每一天都盛行，而且他在生活中和作品中体现的圣诞节情结

使他深受读者喜爱。这部作品很快受到广大读者的欢迎,并且使圣诞精神深入人心。萨克雷对此评论说:“这使全国人民受益,让每一个读者亲身感受到它的恩惠。”从1847年到1867年狄更斯每年完成一个圣诞故事,《圣诞欢歌》是其中最具震撼力的作品。也正因为它的成功,这部作品被译成多种文字,多次出版,成为英美学生的必读书目,也深受各国读者的喜爱。

《圣诞欢歌》的主人公是一个吝啬的老头儿——埃比尼泽·斯克鲁奇。他是一个醉心于金钱并毫无人情味的商人,没有什么能触动他的内心:他咒骂祝福他圣诞快乐的外甥;像铁公鸡一样拒绝前来募捐的绅士;在寒冷的冬天也不让雇员多加一块煤球;整天抱着自己的存折聊以自慰。当他的合作人马莱的鬼魂出现时,他的内心仍然硬如铁石。直到他从马莱身上感到了地狱的恐怖气息,斯克鲁奇才受了震动。平安夜出现的三个精灵带斯克鲁奇回到过去、现在和未来的一些场景,让他对自己拜金带来的后果——被人唾弃、遗忘、孤零零地死去——产生畏惧,并决心痛改前非,在圣诞节这天洗心革面,开始了新生活。在这部作品中狄更斯的语言幽默、犀利,而且他大量地引用了《圣经》中的人物和事件,同时他还多次借用莎翁戏剧中的对白,充分显示了作者非同凡响的文学造诣。在短短的五节之中,作者不仅塑造了被广为流传的吝啬鬼——斯克鲁奇这一形象,也突出了维多利亚时代物欲对人们内心捆绑的社会问题。

Stave¹ One Marley's Ghost

Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge² signed it. And Scrooge's name was good upon Change³ for anything he chose to put his hand to. Old Marley was as dead as a doornail⁴.

Mind! I⁵ don't mean to say that I know of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a doornail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile; and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it, or the country's done for. You will, therefore, permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a doornail.

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge

1 stave 原指一组诗行或诗句的一节,同 stanza。Stave One 指颂诗的第一节,即故事的第一部分。

2 这本书的主人公,全名为 Ebenezer Scrooge,为人极其吝啬,其名可译为埃比尼泽·斯克鲁奇,也有人译为爱本利者·斯克鲁奇。因为这个人物塑造得非常成功,后来 scrooge 在英文中引申为“吝啬鬼”。

3 前缀 Ex-省略,指众所周知的伦敦交易所(the Royal Exchange)。

4 As dead as a doornail, 出自英国古代民谣,意为“死僵了”、“肯定死了”,莎士比亚在《亨利四世》(Henry IV)中也用了这个比喻;类似表达:as dead as a coffin-nail/ a herring/ (Julius) Caesar。

5 “I”为本故事的第一人称叙述者(first-person narrator),他不是故事人物,却能直接叙述人物内心活动,并对其发表评论。他也能穿梭于不同场所,类似于全知叙述者(omniscient narrator)。

and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee¹, his sole friend, and sole mourner. And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral, and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain².

The mention of Marley's funeral brings me back to the point I started from. There is no doubt that Marley was dead. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate. If we were not perfectly convinced that Hamlet's father³ died before the play began, there would be nothing more remarkable in his taking a stroll at night, in an easterly wind, upon his own ramparts, than there would be in a breezy spot—say St Paul's Churchyard, for instance—literally to astonish his son's weak mind.

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley. The firm was known as Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people new to the business called Scrooge Scrooge, and sometimes Marley, but he answered to both names. It was all the same to him.

Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone⁴, Scrooge! a squeezing, wringing, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.⁵ The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.⁶ A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days⁷, and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no

1 “residuary legatee”,即“剩余遗产继承人”。

2 这句话讽刺斯克鲁奇是毫无人情味的生意人。即使在朋友的葬礼上,他也不难过,反而惦记着葬礼的花费。前一句反复使用 sole(唯一的),说明斯克鲁奇与马莱的关系甚密,但可悲的是,多是经济关系。而马莱凄惨的葬礼与他和斯克鲁奇的关系产生反讽效果。to be cut up; to be disappointed/ depressed, “沮丧,失望”。

3 莎士比亚的悲剧《哈姆雷特》在开场的时候,丹麦王子哈姆雷特在城墙上吊唁他被害的父亲,这时父亲的鬼魂向他显现,并告诉他是他的叔父毒死了国王,又篡权、娶了他的母亲。此处提到《哈姆雷特》剧中显现的亡灵为马莱的鬼魂出现作了铺垫。

4 此处把斯克鲁奇比作“一只紧紧地握着磨石的手”,tight-fisted 有“吝啬的”之意。在下一句中作者连用了表示“压榨”、“抢夺”、“攫取”的动词,把斯克鲁奇贪婪成性的特点描写得惟妙惟肖。

5 该句可译为:“他刚硬又锋利,好像打火石一般,可惜却从来没有哪根钢棍在它上面擦出过慷慨的火花。他好似一只自我封闭的牡蛎,孤独而且神秘兮兮。”

6 该句描写斯克鲁奇冷若冰霜的外貌,渲染出他内心的冷漠。“他内心的冷漠使他苍老的面容雪上加霜。他的尖头鼻子像被冻伤了,脸颊也打起了褶子,眼睛中布满了血丝,薄薄的嘴唇透出青色;他的步伐变得僵硬,说起话来又狡诈又尖刻。”

7 作者以幽默的笔触、夸张的手法讽刺了斯克鲁奇的冷漠。不论是三伏天(dog-days)还是圣诞节时的冷天,他都把事务所搞得冷冰冰的。接下来的几段中描写了吝啬的斯克鲁奇如何盘剥他的雇员,不给他提供充足的煤球生火。

wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty.¹ Foul weather didn't know where to have² him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often 'came down' handsomely³, and Scrooge never did.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, 'My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?' No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life enquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and, when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, 'No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!'⁴

But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge.⁵

Once upon a time—of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve—old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather; foggy withal⁶; and he could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The City clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already—it had not been light all day—and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that, although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.⁷

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open, that he might keep his eye upon

1 该句可译为：“没有哪一阵狂风刮得比他更让人心灰意冷，没有哪一场大雪落得比他对人更居心叵测，没有哪一场人们祈盼已久的降雨会比他更小气。”

2 该句 have 的用法较特殊。to have somebody 的含义是“把……置于不利状态”（如 Your opponent in the debate had you on every issue. 你的对手在争论中使你在每个问题上都处于下风。）该句可译为：“恶劣的天气也不知道怎样才能打败他。”

3 “‘came down’ handsomely”是俚语，表示“出手大方”。

4 作者用拟人的手法讽刺斯克鲁奇的人缘极差，即使盲人的狗都认得出他狠毒的目光。evil eye 即“凶眼”，按照国外迷信的说法，此眼若目视他人会使人招来灾祸。

5 该句可译为：“挤身于熙熙攘攘的生活道路上，斯克鲁奇总是拒所有人的怜悯之心于千里之外，知道内情的人都对他的举动说声‘呸’。”

6 19 世纪由于工业的发展，伦敦的大雾臭名昭著，狄更斯在他的多部小说中都对其有夸张的描写。由于浓雾，对面的房子看起来也是影影绰绰（phantoms）的。“withal”的意思是“此外”、“而且”。

7 “hard by”意思是“在近处”，“on a large scale”意思是“大规模地”。该句可译为：“黑云压顶而来，把人们的视线弄得模模糊糊，可能会让人觉得自然力近在咫尺，正在大规模酝酿，马上就要爆发了。”

his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part¹. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.²

'A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!' cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

'Bah!' said Scrooge. 'Humbug!'³ He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

'Christmas a humbug, uncle!' said Scrooge's nephew. 'You don't mean that, I am sure?''I do,' said Scrooge. 'Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough.'

'Come, then,' returned the nephew gaily. 'What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose⁴? You're rich enough.'

Scrooge, having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment⁵, said, 'Bah!' again; and followed it up with 'Humbug!'

'Don't be cross, uncle!' said the nephew.

'What else can I be,' returned the uncle, 'when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmastime to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books, and having every item in'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will,' said Scrooge indignantly, 'every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart⁶. He should!'

'Uncle!' pleaded the nephew.

1 "part"意思是“分开”。该句可译为：“他们两个人有必要终止合同。”

2 "comforter", “羊毛围巾”。在寒冷的房间里仅仅披上羊毛围巾对于保暖是无济于事的。作者联系起了安徒生童话《卖火柴的小女孩》。小女孩在寒冷的街头以烛火取暖,并最终在幻想的温暖中安详地死去。该句可译为：“他试图靠近烛火取暖,可惜他想象力不够丰富,这样取暖并没有成功。”反讽的语言犀利地指出斯克鲁奇让他周围的人痛不欲生。

3 Bah, “呸”; Humbug, “胡扯”。

4 该句中的“dismal”, “morose”指人“阴郁”和“郁闷”。下文的“cross”指人“易怒”、“性情乖戾”。

5 “on the spur of the moment”, “一时冲动地”, “立刻”。

6 “该句可译为:“如果我能得偿所愿,我要把到处乱窜嘴里说着‘圣诞快乐’的白痴和他的布丁一起煮了,还要把冬青叶刺入他的心脏,再把他埋了。他一定是这种下场!”

‘Nephew!’ returned the uncle sternly, ‘keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.’

‘Keep it!’ repeated Scrooge’s nephew. ‘But you don’t keep it.’

‘Let me leave it alone, then,’ said Scrooge. ‘Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!’¹

‘There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say,’ returned the nephew; ‘Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmastime², when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys³. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it!’

The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded. Becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.

‘Let me hear another sound from *you*,’ said Scrooge, ‘and you’ll keep your Christmas by losing your situation!’ ‘You’re quite a powerful speaker, sir,’ he added, turning to his nephew. ‘I wonder you don’t go into Parliament.’

‘Don’t be angry, uncle. Come! Dine with us tomorrow.’

Scrooge said that he would see him—Yes, indeed he did. He went the whole length of the expression, and said that he would see him in that extremity first⁵.

‘But why?’ cried Scrooge’s nephew. ‘Why?’

‘Why did you get married?’ said Scrooge.

‘Because I fell in love.’

‘Because you fell in love!’ growled Scrooge, as if that were the only one thing in the world more ridiculous than a merry Christmas. ‘Good-afternoon!’⁶

‘Nay, uncle, but you never came to see me before that happened. Why give it as a

1 斯克鲁奇以为圣诞节一定给他的侄子带来不少物质方面的好处,但是从接下来的回答中可以看出,他的侄子认为圣诞节给人带来不少益处,但绝不是物质利益。

2 Christmastime 又作 Christmastide, 即“圣诞节期”,是庆祝耶稣基督诞生的节期,自圣诞节前夜持续至元旦,在英国直至1月6日。

3 破折号后可译为:“这是一个美好的时节,充满仁爱、宽恕、慈善、欢乐的时节。这也是漫长的一年中,我所知道的,人们愿意自由地敞开封闭心扉的时节,并且人们想到那些比他们卑微的人,就像是一同走向坟墓的同路人,而不是另一个旅途上的另一种生物。”

4 这句话是斯克鲁奇对鼓掌的职员说的,威胁他如果再敢出声,就辞掉他。

5 这是一个委婉的表达,意思是“看见他被咒骂”。

6 斯克鲁奇下了逐客令,相当于说 goodbye。

reason for not coming now?’

‘Good-afternoon,’ said Scrooge.

‘I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot we be friends?’

‘Good-afternoon!’ said Scrooge.

‘I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. We have never had any quarrel to which I have been a party.¹ But I have made the trial in homage to Christmas, and I’ll keep my Christmas humour to the last.² So A Merry Christmas, uncle!’

‘Good-afternoon,’ said Scrooge.

‘And a Happy New Year!’

‘Good-afternoon!’ said Scrooge.

His nephew left the room without an angry word, notwithstanding. He stopped at the outer door to bestow the greetings of the season on the clerk, who, cold as he was, was warmer than Scrooge; for he returned them cordially³.

‘There’s another fellow,’ muttered Scrooge, who overheard him; ‘my clerk, with fifteen shillings a week, and a wife and family, talking about a merry Christmas. I’ll retire to Bedlam⁴.’

This lunatic⁵, in letting Scrooge’s nephew out, had let two other people in. They were portly gentlemen, pleasant to behold, and now stood, with their hats off, in Scrooge’s office. They had books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.

‘Scrooge and Marley’s, I believe,’ said one of the gentlemen, referring to his list.

‘Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr Scrooge, or Mr Marley?’

‘Mr Marley has been dead these seven years,’ Scrooge replied. ‘He died seven years ago, this very night.’

‘We have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner,’ said the gentleman, presenting his credentials.

It certainly was; for they had been two kindred spirits⁶. At the ominous word ‘liberality’ Scrooge frowned, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back.

‘At this festive season of the year, Mr Scrooge,’ said the gentleman, taking up a

1 该句可译为：“我们之间从来没有过任何争吵。”

2 “make the trial”相当于“make an effort”。“in homage to somebody/something”，即“向……表示敬意”(pay homage to something)。“humour”指“心情”。该句可译为：“既然我已经努力要对圣诞节表示敬意，我要把这份圣诞节里的好心情维持到底。”

3 “them”指该句中的“greetings”。职员感到很冷，但却比斯克鲁奇要热心，接受了斯克鲁奇侄子的节日问候，也热诚地问候他。

4 “Bedlam”是 Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem 的缩写，是英格兰一所精神病医院（现在是一所战争纪念馆）。bedlam 一词泛指所有精神病院，有时也指骚乱情景。斯克鲁奇讽刺别人对圣诞节高谈阔论，他自己忍无可忍要隐退到疯人院去了。

5 叙述者(narrator)称斯克鲁奇为“疯子”，对他毫不同情。

6 kindred spirits 是“志趣相投的人”。这里讽刺斯克鲁奇和他的合伙人已故的马莱都是一毛不拔，下一句就证明了这一点：“一听到‘慷慨’这个词，斯克鲁奇就感到不祥，皱起了眉头，表示反对，把那份身份证明书递了回去”。

pen, 'it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.'¹

'Are there no prisons?' asked Scrooge.

'Plenty of prisons,' said the gentleman, laying down the pen again.

'And the Union workhouses²?' demanded Scrooge. 'Are they still in operation?'

'They are. Still,' returned the gentleman, 'I wish I could say they were not.'

'The Treadmill and the Poor Law³ are in full vigour, then?' said Scrooge.

'Both very busy, sir.'

'Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course,' said Scrooge. 'I am very glad to hear it.'

'Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude,' returned the gentleman, 'a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?'

'Nothing!' Scrooge replied.

'You wish to be anonymous?'

'I wish to be left alone,' said Scrooge. 'Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off⁴ must go there.'

'Many can't go there; and many would rather die.'

'If they would rather die,' said Scrooge, 'they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population⁵. Besides—excuse me—I don't know that.'

'But you might know it,' observed the gentleman.

'It's not my business,' Scrooge returned. 'It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good-afternoon, gentlemen!'

Seeing clearly that it would be useless to pursue their point, the gentlemen with-

1 来访的两位绅士恳请斯克鲁奇为穷苦人募捐,但是斯克鲁奇却以监狱、联合贫民习艺所、贫民法等济贫措施来搪塞。

2 "workhouse"指17世纪—19世纪的一个机构,它给在英格兰、荷兰和美洲殖民地的乞丐提供就业机会并且维持体弱者的生存。

3 Poor Law即《贫民法》,指英国历史上为救济贫民颁发的法律。

4 "be badly off"指"生活贫困"。

5 托马斯·马尔萨斯(1766年—1834年)(英国著名人口统计学家)宣称"过剩人口"是指那些不能维持生计的穷人,自此,英国人就担心人口过剩,这里也是对这一人口学说的讽刺。

drew. Scrooge resumed his labours with an improved opinion of himself, and in a more facetious temper than was usual with him.¹

Meanwhile the fog and darkness thickened so, that people ran about with flaring links², proffering their services to go before horses in carriages, and conduct them on their way. The ancient tower of a church³, whose gruff old bell was always peeping slyly down at Scrooge out of a Gothic window in the wall, became invisible, and struck the hours and quarters in the clouds, with tremulous vibrations afterwards, as if its teeth were chattering in its frozen head up there. The cold became intense. In the main street, at the corner of the court, some labourers were repairing the gas-pipes, and had lighted a great fire in a brazier, round which a party of ragged men and boys were gathered, warming their hands and winking their eyes before the blaze in rapture. The water-plug⁴ being left in solitude, its overflowings suddenly congealed, and turned to misanthropic ice. The brightness of the shops, where holly springs and berries crackled in the lamp heat of the windows, made pale faces ruddy as they passed. Poulterers' and grocers' trades became a splendid joke: a glorious pageant, with which it was next to impossible to believe that such dull principles as bargain and sale had anything to do.⁵ The Lord Mayor, in the stronghold of the mighty Mansion House, gave orders to his fifty cooks and butlers to keep Christmas as a Lord Mayor's household should; and even the little tailor, whom he had fined five shillings on the previous Monday for being drunk and bloodthirsty in the streets, stirred up tomorrow's pudding in his garret, while his lean wife and the baby sallied out to buy the beef.

Foggier yet, and colder! Piercing, searching, biting cold. If the good St Dunstan had but nipped the Evil Spirit's nose with a touch of such weather as that, instead of using his familiar weapons, then indeed he would have roared to lusty purpose. The owner of one scant young nose, gnawed and mumbled by the hungry cold as bones are gnawed by dogs, stooped down at Scrooge's keyhole to regale him with a Christmas carol; but, at the first sound of.

‘God bless you, merry gentleman, May nothing you dismay!’⁶

Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action that the singer fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog, and even more congenial frost.

At length⁷ the hour of shutting up the counting-house arrived. With an ill-will

1 该句可译为:“斯克鲁奇继续干他手头的活儿,心里洋洋得意,情绪比平时倒要轻松许多。”

2 “flaring links”是“火把”。

3 哥特式教堂。

4 water-plug 是“防火栓”。

5 这句话可翻译为:“家禽店和食品店的生意非常滑稽,就像一个精彩的玩笑,这里成了盛大的展览馆,简直难以相信讨价还价和做生意这些无聊的内容会和它有什么关系。”next to impossible,“几乎不可能”;have something/anything/nothing to do with...“和……有/有任何/没有关系”。

6 斯克鲁奇毫无怜悯之心的本质再一次暴露无疑。流落街头的人饥寒交迫,想给他唱圣诞颂歌并从他这里得到点施舍,却被这个气势汹汹的人吓跑了。

7 At length 相当于 at last, finally。

Scrooge dismounted from his stool, and tacitly admitted the fact to the expectant clerk in the tank, who instantly snuffed his candle out, and put on his hat.¹

‘You’ll want all day tomorrow, I suppose?’ said Scrooge.

‘If quite convenient, sir.’

‘It’s not convenient,’ said Scrooge, ‘and it’s not fair. If I was to stop half a crown for it, you’d think yourself ill used, I’ll be bound?’²

The clerk smiled faintly.

‘And yet,’ said Scrooge, ‘you don’t think me ill used when I pay a day’s wages for no work.’

The clerk observed that it was only once a year.

‘A poor excuse for picking a man’s pocket every twenty-fifth of December!’ said Scrooge, buttoning his greatcoat to the chin. ‘But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning.’

The clerk promised that he would; and Scrooge walked out with a growl. The office was closed in a twinkling, and the clerk, with the long ends of his white comforter dangling below his waist (for he boasted no greatcoat), went down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of boys, twenty times, in honour of its being Christmas Eve, and then ran home to Camden Town as hard as he could pelt, to play at blindman’s-buff.³

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker’s book, went home to bed.⁴ He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and have forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough; for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.⁵

1 盼望下班的职员和不愿给员工放假的斯克鲁奇之间形成强烈的反差:“ill-will”、“tacitly”体现了老板斯克鲁奇的狡诈、没有人情味,“expectant”、“instantly”说明处在被剥削地位的雇员不得不察言观色、小心谨慎地听命于老板。

2 该句可译为:“要是我因此扣掉你半个克朗,我敢肯定,你会觉得吃亏吧。”“ill-used”是“受虐待”、“受欺负”;“I’ll be bound”表示“我敢肯定”。

3 这句话体现了职员下班后轻松、快乐的心情,与下一段中斯克鲁奇沉闷的生活形成鲜明的对比。“in a twinkling”是“眨眼之间”、“转瞬”,体现了职员盼望下班的急切心情。括号中的话解释了这个职员没有厚外套,所以只戴了白色的长围巾。

4 这句话的意思是:“斯克鲁奇百无聊赖地读了所有的报纸,又自我陶醉地欣赏了自己的银行存折,才上床睡觉。”

5 该句可译为:“迷雾和严寒弥漫在房子漆黑的破门前,好像掌管天气的神灵坐在门槛上哀伤地沉思一样。”

Now, it is a fact that there was nothing at all particular about the knocker on the door, except that it was very large. It is also a fact that Scrooge had seen it, night and morning, during his whole residence in that place; also that Scrooge had as little of what is called fancy about him as any man in the City of London¹, even including—which is a bold word—the corporation, aldermen, and livery. Let it also be borne in mind that Scrooge had not bestowed one thought on Marley since his last mention of his seven-years'-dead partner that afternoon. And then let any man explain to me, if he can, how it happened that Scrooge, having his key in the lock of the door, saw in the knocker, without its undergoing any intermediate process of change—not a knocker, but Marley's face.

Marley's face. It was not in impenetrable shadow, as the other objects in the yard were, but had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar². It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look; with ghostly spectacles turned up on its ghostly forehead. The hair was curiously stirred, as if by breath or hot air; and, though the eyes were wide open, they were perfectly motionless. That, and its livid colour, made it horrible; but its horror seemed to be in spite of the face, and beyond its control, rather than a part of its own expression.³

As Scrooge looked fixedly at this phenomenon, it was a knocker again.

To say that he was not startled, or that his blood was not conscious of a terrible sensation to which it had been a stranger from infancy, would be untrue.⁴ But he put his hand upon the key he had relinquished⁵, turned it sturdily, walked in, and lighted his candle.

He *did* pause, with a moment's irresolution, before he shut the door; and he *did* look cautiously behind it first, as if he half expected to be terrified with the sight of Marley's pigtail sticking out into the hall. But there was nothing on the back of the door, except the screws and nuts that held the knocker on, so he said, 'Pooh, pooh!' and closed it with a bang.

The sound resounded through the house like thunder. Every room above, and every cask in the wine-merchant's cellars below, appeared to have a separate peal of echoes of its own. Scrooge was not a man to be frightened by echoes. He fastened the door, and walked across the hall, and up the stairs; slowly, too; trimming his candle as he went.

You may talk vaguely about driving a coach and six up a good old flight of stairs, or through a bad young Act of Parliament⁶; but I mean to say you might have got a hearse

1 该句的意思是：“斯克鲁奇实在是缺乏想象力，就好像伦敦城里的任何人一样。”

2 马莱的脸浮现在门环上，作者把它比作龙虾。这个短语可译为：“好像一只黑暗地窖里烂掉的龙虾一样。”

3 该句可译为：“这副模样，再加上他青灰的脸色，实在是非常恐怖。但是这种恐怖却不仅限于这张脸的某种神情，而是超出了它的控制。”

4 该句可译为：“要是说他没有被吓一跳，或者说他的血液里没有感觉到自他是婴儿起从未有过的恐怖感，那就是说谎。”

5 这句话中包含一个定语从句“(that) he had relinquished”，它所修饰的词是“hand”，可译为：“他把刚才缩回去的手又伸到钥匙上。”

6 此处是说楼梯非常宽，能容一辆六匹马拉的马车通过，为下文提到的灵车(hearse)做铺垫。

up that staircase, and taken it broadwise, with the splinter-bar towards the wall, and the door towards the balustrades; and done it easy¹. There was plenty of width for that, and room to spare; which is perhaps the reason why Scrooge thought he saw a locomotive hearse going on before him in the gloom. Half a dozen gas-lamps out of the street wouldn't have lighted the entry too well, so you may suppose that it was pretty dark with Scrooge's dip.

UP Scrooge went, not caring a button for that. Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it. But, before he shut his heavy door, he walked through his rooms to see that all was right. He had just enough recollection of the face to desire to do that.

Sitting-room, bedroom, lumber-room. All as they should be. Nobody under the table, nobody under the sofa; a small fire in the grate; spoon and basin ready; and the little saucepan of gruel (Scrooge had a cold in his head) upon the hob. Nobody under the bed; nobody in the closet; nobody in his dressing-gown, which was hanging up in a suspicious attitude against the wall. Lumber-room as usual. Old fireguard, old shoes, two fish baskets, washing-stand on three legs, and a poker.

Quite satisfied, he closed his door, and locked himself in; double locked himself in, which was not his custom. Thus secured against surprise, he took off his cravat; put on his dressing-gown and slippers, and his nightcap; and sat down before the fire to take his gruel.

It was a very low fire² indeed; nothing on such a bitter night. He was obliged to³ sit close to it, and brood over it, before he could extract the least sensation of warmth from such a handful of fuel. The fireplace was an old one, built by some Dutch merchant long ago, and paved all round with quaint Dutch tiles⁴, designed to illustrate the Scriptures⁵. There were Cains and Abels⁶, Pharaoh's daughters⁷, Queens of Sheba⁸, Angelic messengers descending through the air on clouds like feather-beds, Abrahams⁹, Belshazzars¹⁰, Apostles putting off to sea in butter-boats, hundreds of figures to

1 该句中分号后面的句子可译为：“可是我想告诉你们，可以让一辆灵车通过那段楼梯，而且是横着过去，就是让马车的横木朝着墙壁，车后的门朝着楼梯扶栏，这可以很容易就做到。”这是作者的一个荒诞的想象。拿着蜡烛(dip)，走在漆黑的楼梯上，斯克鲁奇头脑中也想象出了一个运动的灵车(locomotive hearse)，这说明他已经被吓得魂飞魄散。

2 “low fire”指“微火”。

3 “be obliged to”意思是“不得不”。

4 “Dutch tile”是“彩砖”。

5 “scripture”指手稿，但是当首字母大写时，特指《圣经》中的经文。该句可译为：“这个陈旧的壁炉是很久以前的荷兰商人建造的，壁炉的周围铺着精巧的荷兰碎花瓷砖，拼成《圣经》里的各种图案。”

6 该隐(Cain)和亚伯(Abel)是亚当(Adam)这个上帝所造的第一个人的两个儿子，此处用了名词的复数，说明不止一幅该隐和亚伯的图画。

7 法老(Pharaoh)是古代埃及国王的称谓。

8 示巴(Sheba)为古国名，在阿拉伯南部，以香料、宝石出名。

9 亚伯拉罕(Abraham)，犹太民族的祖先。

10 伯沙撒王是尼布甲尼撒二世之子，古代巴比伦最后一位国王。