



英汉对照
世界文学丛书

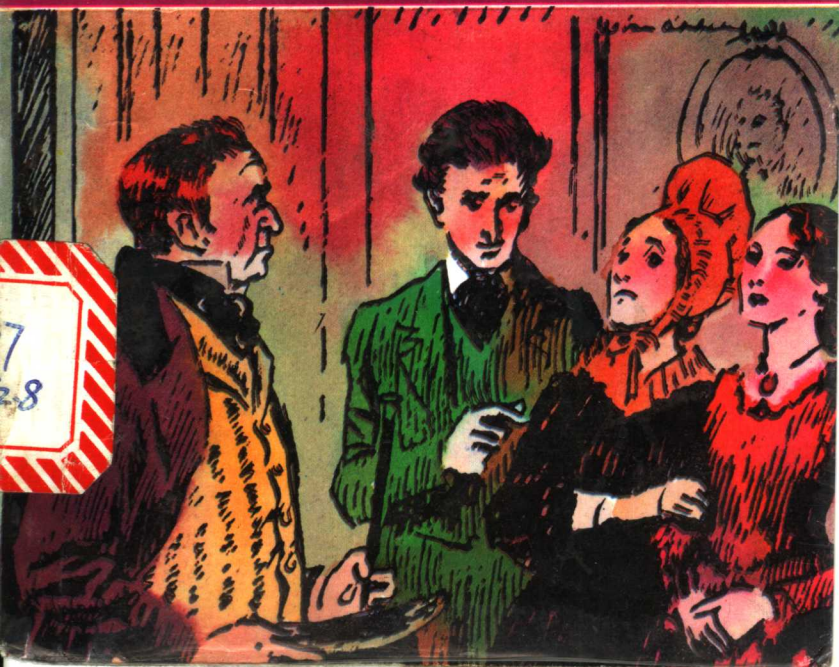
NICHOLAS
NICKLEBY

〔英〕狄更斯 原著

〔英〕马杰里·格林改写

简写本 ● 上海译文出版社

尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝



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译 者 的 话

狄更斯(1812—1870)是十九世纪英国的著名小说家，他的作品在全世界素享盛誉，也深受我国读者欢迎，经久不衰。这是人所共知的。《尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝》这部小说，象《奥列弗·特威斯特》一样(后者的英汉对照简写本，已以《雾都孤儿》的书名由上海译文出版社出版)，是他早期的名作之一。

狄更斯出身贫苦，自学成材，童年当过皮鞋油作坊的学徒，倍受屈辱。因此，他对中、下层社会的人物深具同情，而对社会上那些贪得无厌、残酷成性之徒，则深恶痛绝。本书通过主人公、教员尼古拉斯的生活经历，深刻揭露了当时英国教育制度中的黑暗面，以及社会上的种种不公正现象。杜塞博伊斯学堂的学店老板斯奎尔斯是一个典型人物，他以办学作为一种牟利手段，儿童们过着半饥不饱的生活，体罚成为教育的主要方法。尼古拉斯秉性耿直，疾恶如仇，与斯奎尔斯进行了坚决的斗争。他的伯父拉尔夫·尼克尔贝是一个高利贷者，诡计多端，只想积攒钱财，手段毒辣，无所不用其极，而另一个高利贷者阿瑟·格赖德则在他年近七十的时候，还阴谋与一位十九岁的少女结婚，目的是想

吞没她自己并不知道的、祖父留给她的的一笔遗产。狄更斯以他漫画家般的手笔，深刻勾画出了这些家伙的罪恶本性和嘴脸。

狄更斯的文笔生动活泼，妙趣横生，素以幽默家著称。但更为重要的是，他的作品往往以中、下层社会的人物作为主人公，如本书的主人公尼古拉斯就是一个普通人。另外，他对社会上的那些不幸者，则寄予无限同情。尼古拉斯出于自己强烈的正义感，不惜一切代价去拯救被人认为是孤儿的斯迈克和被迫要与格赖德结婚的玛德林·勃雷，置自己的困难与前途于度外。在狄更斯以前是没有什么作家以这种中、下层社会的小人物作为小说的主人公的。所以，狄更斯在英国文学史上又是个著名的革新家。

这本简写本，是由马杰里·格林改写的，概括了《尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝》一书的主要情节，在一定程度上保持了原著的文字特色，自1953年初版发行以来，已重版许多次，可见它是颇受读者欢迎的。把阅读简写本作为阅读原著的初阶，确实是学习英语的一个行之有效的方法。

本书注释力求能对读者有所助益，不过有些语法现象不是少数几句话所能解释的，因此读者必须随时借助于一些英语语法参考书。至于书后的词汇表，则由于广大读者程度不一，选词的针对性不可能很强，所注的词性和释义，也只局限于本书的范围，仅仅为读者提供若干方便而已。为了更好地了解单词的词义及其用法，读者应当养成查阅词典的

良好习惯。

由于译者水平有限，错误在所难免，尚望读者不吝指正。

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Nicholas Nickleby

尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝

(简写本)

CHAPTER 1

Introduces¹ the Nickleby Family

THERE are people enough in the world, Heaven knows², but a man may live in a large city and look in vain for³ the face of a friend.

Mr. Godfrey Nickleby found London a lonely place. He had not more than eighty pounds a year but he decided to marry late in life⁴, rather than live alone any more. When his wife had presented him with two sons, he found it harder than ever to manage with his small income.

But one morning there came a letter to tell him that his uncle, Mr. Ralph Nickleby, had left him five thousand pounds. This was news indeed, as this member of the family had taken very little notice of⁵ his poor nephew during his lifetime.

With some of this money, Mr. Godfrey Nickleby bought a small farm near Dawlish in Devonshire⁶. Here he retired to live a quiet life, taking

1. 这个标题是一句子, 省略了主语 This chapter, 故 introduces 用第三人称单数. 2. Heaven knows 确实无疑地(插入语, 用以加强语气). 3. look in vain for 找也找不到 (look for 寻找, in vain 徒然). 4. marry late in life 晚结婚(如到四、五十岁才结婚). 5. take notice of 对...关心. 6. Devonshire ['devnʃɪə] 德文郡(在英格兰南部).

第 一 章

介绍尼克尔贝一家

毫无疑问，世界上的人是够多的了，然而一个人生活在大都市里，往往费尽力气仍然找不到一张友善的面孔。

戈弗雷·尼克尔贝先生就发觉伦敦是一个令人感到孤独的地方。他年收入不超过八十英镑，但他后来还是决定结婚，尽管是晚了些，而不想再过单身生活。在他妻子为他添了两个儿子之后，他发觉要用自己微薄的收入来维持一家人的生计，经济上难免比以往更加拮据了。

可是一天早晨，他收到了一封信，信中说，他叔父拉尔夫·尼克尔贝先生给他留下了五千英镑遗产。这确实是一桩新闻，因为这位亲属生前对他这个可怜的侄子一向很少关心。

戈弗雷·尼克尔贝先生用其中的一部分钱在德文郡的多列希附近购置了一处小农庄。他退隐在那

care not to waste the rest¹ of his money, and growing as much as he could on his land.

When he died some fifteen years later, he was able to leave to his elder son Ralph three thousand pounds in cash, and to his younger son Nicholas one thousand and the small farm. The mother of the boys had died five years before this.

These two brothers had been to a school together in Exeter², where they stayed during the week. On their visits home they had often heard from their mother long tales of how their father had suffered in his days of poverty, and how rich and important his uncle had been.

To these tales the boys listened with very different feelings. Young Nicholas, who was timid and quiet, felt warned to avoid the great world and follow his father in a quiet country life. Ralph, the elder, felt only the attraction of two ideas: that riches³ are the only true source of happiness and power, and that it is right to get them by every possible means⁴. Even at an early age, Ralph put these ideas into practice⁵ by lending his pencils and toys at a good profit⁶, and it was not long before he was lending money too. His simple rule was “twopence for every half-penny”.

1. the rest 剩余部分(名词, 前面一定要用定冠词 the). 2. Exeter ['eksətə] 埃克塞特(英格兰西南部一城市). 3. riches 财富(名词, 必须用复数). 4. by every possible means 用一切办法. 5. put ... into practice 把...付诸实施. 6. at a (good) profit 获(厚)利.

儿过着宁静的生活，兢兢业业，不让浪费余下的钱财，并尽可能从这块土地上多种出一些庄稼来。

十五年后当他去世时，他得以留给他的长子拉尔夫三千英镑现款，留给幼子尼古拉斯一千英镑和那座小农庄。至于这两个孩子的母亲，早已在五年前去世了。

弟兄俩曾一同去埃克塞特上学，在学校寄宿。周末回家时，他们经常听母亲诉说他们的父亲在贫困的日子里怎样备受煎熬，以及他的叔父又如何富裕显赫。

两兄弟听了这些故事，感受却截然不同。弟弟尼古拉斯胆小文静，只感到人间可怕，一心想与世无争，并跟他父亲一样过宁静的乡间生活。哥哥拉尔夫则觉得只有两个念头颇有诱惑力，这就是：财富是幸福和权力的唯一真正的源泉；不择手段地去攫取它们是理所当然的。甚至在年幼时拉尔夫就照此身体力行，把铅笔和玩具借出去人得好处，不久他又开始靠出借钱来牟利。他信奉一条简单的准则，

From what we have said of this young gentleman the reader may think he is to be the hero of this story, but this is not so. On the death of his father, Ralph Nickleby had been working for a merchant in London. Here his love of money had filled his mind and time so much that he forgot his brother for many years.

As for Nicholas, he lived a single life on his farm until he grew tired of living alone. Then he married the daughter of a neighbour, who brought him a marriage gift of one thousand pounds.

When his son and daughter had grown to the ages of nineteen and fourteen, Mr. Nicholas Nickleby found that his money had been much reduced by the cost of their education. He began to wonder how he could increase what little he had left¹.

"Speculate with it," said Mrs. Nickleby.

"Spec-u-late, my dear?" said Mr. Nickleby, as though in doubt.

"Why not?" asked Mrs. Nickleby.

"Because, my dear, if we should lose it," answered Mr. Nickleby, who was a slow speaker, "if we *should*² lose it, we shall no longer be able to live, my dear."

"Rubbish!" said Mrs. Nickleby. "There's our son Nicholas³; he's growing up now and it's

1. what little he had left 他所留下的少许(钱) (what是关系代词, 等于that which, little修饰what). 2. 在这里, should表示较强语气的假设. 3. Nicholas 尼克尔贝的儿子,父子同名.

叫作：“半便士出，两便士进。”综上所述，读者可能认为这位青年绅士将是本书的主人公了；其实不然。在他父亲去世时，拉尔夫·尼克尔贝早已在伦敦经商。他在那儿一心只想积攒钱财，以致多年来早把他的亲兄弟忘得一干二净了。

至于尼古拉斯，他则在那座小农庄里过着简朴的生活，直到对单身生活感到厌倦。后来他娶了一家邻居的女儿，她给他带来一千英镑的陪嫁财礼。

当他的儿子和女儿分别长到十九岁和十四岁时，尼古拉斯·尼克尔贝先生发觉由于子女教育费用可观而使他的积蓄锐减。他开始盘算怎样才能使自己所余不多的钱财有所增加。

“用它去做投机生意，”尼克尔贝太太说。

“做投一机一生一意，亲爱的？”尼克尔贝先生说，似乎心存犹疑。

“为什么不呢？”尼克尔贝太太反问。

“亲爱的，要是我们蚀了，”这位说话迟钝的尼克尔贝先生回答说，“要是我们当真蚀了，我们就将活不成了，亲爱的。”

“废话！”尼克尔贝太太说。“想想我们的儿子尼古拉斯吧；他现在长大了，该成家立业了。还有凯