

WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

CHARLES
DICKENS

*The Pickwick
Papers*



Complete and Unabridged

INTRODUCTION

The Pickwick Papers was Dickens's first novel and, although published in the first year of Queen Victoria's reign, it is widely regarded as the most famous of all pre-Victorian novels. It was originally serialised in monthly numbers from April 1836 to November 1837, and was first published in book form on 17 November 1837, when Dickens was only twenty-five years old. On the threshold of marriage to Catherine Hogarth, Dickens was obviously pleased with the commission to write the 'Pickwick Papers', and wrote to his fiancée that 'the emolument is too tempting to resist'. We owe a great debt to Providence, as the first two choices as writers either failed to reply or refused the commission. Chesterton was of the opinion that *The Pickwick Papers* was Dickens's greatest novel in the literary genre at which he excelled. Following the second number the illustrator changed from Robert Seymour to Robert William Buss for the third number, and thereafter to Hablot K. Browne (at first 'Nemo' and later 'Phiz') who thus began his illustrious partnership with Dickens.

From the fourth number onwards sales began to increase and with them commercial revenue from advertising, good reviews appeared, and the lovable London character of Sam Weller became a star. The sales, in fact, increased from four hundred copies of the first number to forty thousand of number fifteen. However, Sam and Mr Pickwick are a symbiosis and surely neither would have made such an impact without the other. The book is to all intents and purposes without a plot, but this serves only to play to Dickens's great strengths as a novelist and is perhaps unsurprising given the serial nature of its publication and the author's rapidly developing confidence and style during the period in which it was written. For it is in the portrayal not just of Mr Pickwick and Sam Weller, but of the whole Pickwickian crew: the rascally Jingle, Winkle, the kind and hospitable Mr Wardle, the unforgettable servant Job Trotter, the litigious Mrs Bardell, the drunkard Stiggins, and the struggling pair of medical students Bob Sawyer and Benjamin Allen. The adventures and cavorting of the Pickwickians in places such as Dingley Dell (the cricket match there is

featured along with a portrait of Dickens and his signature on the reverse of the current Bank of England ten-pound note), the parliamentary election at Eatanswill, the farcical duel, Christmas festivities, Mrs Bardell's lawsuit, and the grim description of the Fleet prison have entered the consciousness of all who love English literature in general and Dickens in particular.

Charles Dickens was born at Landport (Portsea), near Portsmouth, Hampshire, on 7 February 1812. He was the second of eight children. His father, John, was a clerk in the Naval Pay Office at Portsmouth. The Dickens family, although not poor by the standards of the time, lived through a series of financial crises and the accompanying social insecurity. Dickens's childhood was spent in Portsmouth, London and Chatham in Kent, where there was a large naval dockyard. In 1822, facing financial ruin, the family moved to London and, on 5 February 1824, Charles began work in a blacking warehouse at Hungerford Stairs where he was employed to label bottles for six shillings a week. A short time previously Charles's father had been arrested for debt and the family, except for Charles, had joined their father in Marshalsea Debtors' Prison. The combination of this family trauma and his own menial job profoundly affected Charles's life and view of the world and was to haunt him for the rest of his days. John Dickens was released after three months in prison by having himself declared an Insolvent Debtor. Charles was sent to school at the age of twelve, where he did well, and at the age of fifteen he began work in the office of a legal firm in Gray's Inn. Here he taught himself shorthand, and eighteen months later started as a freelance reporter in the court of Doctors' Commons. In 1829 Dickens fell deeply in love with Maria Beadnell and the affair dragged on inconclusively until the summer of 1833. Meanwhile, Dickens's career was prospering, with his rapid and accurate reporting of debates in the House of Commons for the Morning Chronicle, and good reviews for his literary work, which led to his being commissioned by the publishers, Chapman & Hall, to provide text in monthly instalments to accompany sporting plates by the artist Seymour. It was in this way that the hugely successful Pickwick Papers was published in 1836/7. In 1858 Dickens separated from his wife, by whom he had had ten children, and developed his friendship with a young actress called Ellen Ternan. Dickens's health, adversely affected by the strain of his very popular readings, which he instituted in 1858, and a demanding tour of America in 1867/8, began to fail in the late 1860s. He suffered a stroke at his home at Gad's Hill, near Rochester, Kent, on 8 June 1870, and died the next day.

FURTHER READING

K. J. Fielding: *A Critical Introduction* (revised edition 1966)

John Forster: *Life of Charles Dickens* 1872–1874

George Gissing: *Charles Dickens: A Critical Study* 1898

F. R. & Q. D. Leavis: *Dickens the Novelist* 1970

J. Hillis Miller: *Charles Dickens: The World of His Novels* 1958

CONTENTS

I	<i>The Pickwickians</i>	5
II	<i>The first day's journey, and the first evening's adventures; with their consequences</i>	9
III	<i>A new acquaintance. The stroller's tale. A disagreeable interruption and an unpleasant rencontre</i>	33
IV	<i>A field-day and bivouac. More new friends. An invitation to the country</i>	43
V	<i>A short one. Showing, among other matters, how Mr Pickwick undertook to drive, and Mr Winkle to ride; and how they both did it</i>	54
VI	<i>An old-fashioned card party. The clergyman's verses. The story of the convict's return</i>	63
VII	<i>How Mr Winkle, instead of shooting at the pigeon and killing the crow, shot at the crow and wounded the pigeon; how the Dingley Dell Cricket Club played All-Muggleton, and how All-Muggleton dined at the Dingley Dell expense: with other interesting and instructive matters</i>	76
VIII	<i>Strongly illustrative of the position, that the course of true love is not a railway</i>	89
IX	<i>A discovery and a chase</i>	100
X	<i>Clearing up all doubts (if any existed) of the disinterestedness of Mr Fingle's character</i>	108
XI	<i>Involving another journey, and an antiquarian discovery. Recording Mr Pickwick's determination to be present at an election; and containing a manuscript of the old clergyman's</i>	121
XII	<i>Descriptive of a very important proceeding on the part of Mr Pickwick; no less an epoch in his life, than in this history</i>	137
XIII	<i>Some account of Eatanswill; of the state of parties therein; and of the election of a member to serve in Parliament for that ancient, loyal, and patriotic borough</i>	142

XIV	<i>Comprising a brief description of the company at the Peacock assembled; and a tale told by a bagman</i>	158
XV	<i>In which is given a faithful portraiture of two distinguished persons: and an accurate description of a public breakfast in their house and grounds; which public breakfast leads to the recognition of an old acquaintance, and the commencement of another chapter</i>	174
XVI	<i>Too full of adventure to be briefly described</i>	187
XVII	<i>Showing that an attack of rheumatism, in some cases, acts as a quickener to inventive genius</i>	203
XVIII	<i>Briefly illustrative of two points; — first, the power of hysterics, and, secondly, the force of circumstances</i>	211
XIX	<i>A pleasant day, with an unpleasant termination</i>	220
XX	<i>Showing how Dodson and Fogg were men of business, and their clerks men of pleasure; and how an affecting interview took place between Mr Weller and his long-lost parent; showing also what choice spirits assembled at the Magpie and Stump, and what a capital chapter the next one will be</i>	233
XXI	<i>In which the old man launches forth into his favourite theme, and relates a story about a queer client</i>	247
XXII	<i>Mr Pickwick journeys to Ipswich, and meets with a romantic adventure with a middle-aged lady in yellow curl papers</i>	263
XXIII	<i>In which Mr Samuel Weller begins to devote his energies to the return match between himself and Mr Trotter</i>	277
XXIV	<i>Wherein Mr Peter Magnus grows jealous, and the middle-aged lady apprehensive, which brings the Pickwickians within the grasp of the law</i>	285
XXV	<i>Showing, among a variety of pleasant matters, how majestic and impartial Mr Nupkins was; and how Mr Weller returned Mr Job Trotter's shuttlecock as heavily as it came. With another matter, which will be found in its place</i>	299
XXVI	<i>Which contains a brief account of the progress of the action of Bardell against Pickwick</i>	316
XXVII	<i>Samuel Weller makes a pilgrimage to Dorking, and beholds his mother-in-law</i>	321
XXVIII	<i>A good-humoured Christmas chapter, containing an account of a wedding, and some other sports beside: which although in their way, even as good customs as marriage itself, are not quite so religiously kept up, in these degenerate times</i>	330

XXIX	<i>The story of the goblins who stole a sexton</i>	349
XXX	<i>How the Pickwickians made and cultivated the acquaintance of a couple of nice young men belonging to one of the liberal professions; how they disported themselves on the ice; and how their first visit came to a conclusion</i>	358
XXXI	<i>Which is all about the law, and sundry great authorities learned therein</i>	368
XXXII	<i>Describes, far more fully than the court newsman ever did, a bachelor's party, given by Mr Bob Sawyer at his lodgings in the Borough</i>	382
XXXIII	<i>Mr Weller the elder delivers some critical sentiments respecting literary composition; and, assisted by his son Samuel, pays a small instalment of retaliation to the account of the reverend gentleman with the red nose</i>	394
XXXIV	<i>Is wholly devoted to a full and faithful report of the memorable trial of Bardell against Pickwick</i>	409
XXXV	<i>In which Mr Pickwick thinks he had better go to Bath; and goes accordingly</i>	431
XXXVI	<i>The chief features of which, will be found to be an authentic version of the legend of Prince Bladud, and a most extraordinary calamity that befell Mr Winkle</i>	445
XXXVII	<i>Honourably accounts for Mr Weller's absence, by describing a soirée to which he was invited and went; also relates how he was entrusted by Mr Pickwick with a private mission of delicacy and importance</i>	455
XXXVIII	<i>How Mr Winkle, when he stepped out of the frying-pan, walked gently and comfortably into the fire</i>	466
XXXIX	<i>Mr Samuel Weller, being entrusted with a mission of love, proceeds to execute it; with what success will hereinafter appear</i>	478
XL	<i>Introduces Mr Pickwick to a new and not uninteresting scene in the great drama of life</i>	492
XLI	<i>What befell Mr Pickwick when he got into the Fleet; what prisoners he saw there; and how he passed the night</i>	503
XLII	<i>Illustrative, like the preceding one, of the old proverb, that adversity brings a man acquainted with strange bed-fellows. Likewise containing Mr Pickwick's extraordinary and startling announcement to Mr Samuel Weller</i>	514
XLIII	<i>Showing how Mr Samuel Weller got into difficulties</i>	527

XLIV	<i>Treats of divers little matters which occurred in the Fleet, and of Mr Winkle's mysterious behaviour, and shows how the poor Chancery prisoner obtained his release at last</i>	539
XLV	<i>Descriptive of an affecting interview between Mr Samuel Weller and a family party. Mr Pickwick makes a tour of the diminutive world he inhabits, and resolves to mix with it, in future, as little as possible</i>	551
XLVI	<i>Records a touching act of delicate feeling, not unmixed with pleasantry, achieved and performed by Messrs Dodson and Fogg</i>	565
XLVII	<i>Is chiefly devoted to matters of business, and the temporal advantage of Dodson and Fogg. Mr Winkle reappears under extraordinary circumstances. Mr Pickwick's benevolence proves stronger than his obstinacy</i>	574
XLVIII	<i>Relates how Mr Pickwick, with the assistance of Samuel Weller, essayed to soften the heart of Mr Benjamin Allen, and to mollify the wrath of Mr Robert Sawyer</i>	585
XLIX	<i>Containing the story of the bagman's uncle</i>	596
L	<i>How Mr Pickwick sped upon his mission, and how he was reinforced in the outset by a most unexpected auxiliary</i>	611
LI	<i>In which Mr Pickwick encounters an old acquaintance, to which fortunate circumstances the reader is mainly indebted for matter of thrilling interest herein set down, concerning two great public men of might and power</i>	624
LII	<i>Involving a serious change in the Weller family and the untimely downfall of the red-nosed Mr Stiggins</i>	637
LIII	<i>Comprising the final exit of Mr Jingle and Job Trotter; with a great morning of business in Gray's Inn Square. Concluding with a double knock at Mr Perker's door</i>	648
LIV	<i>Containing some particulars relative to the double knock, and other matters: among which certain interesting disclosures relative to Mr Snodgrass and a young lady are by no means irrelevant to this history</i>	659
LV	<i>Mr Solomon Pell, assisted by a select committee of coachmen, arranges the affairs of the elder Mr Weller</i>	673
LVI	<i>An important conference takes place between Mr Pickwick and Samuel Weller, at which his parent assists. An old gentleman in a snuff-coloured suit arrives unexpectedly</i>	684
LVII	<i>In which the Pickwick Club is finally dissolved, and everything concluded to the satisfaction of everybody</i>	695

THE PICKWICK PAPERS

Charles Dickens



WORDSWORTH CLASSICS

This edition published 1993 by
Wordsworth Editions Limited
Cumberland House, Crib Street
Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9ET

ISBN 1 85326 052 5

© Wordsworth Editions Limited 1993

Wordsworth® is a registered trade mark of
Wordsworth Editions Ltd

All rights reserved. This publication may not be
reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or
transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic,
mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise,
without the prior permission of the publishers.

Typeset by Antony Gray
Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Mackays of Chatham plc, Chatham, Kent

CHARACTERS

MALE

SAMUEL PICKWICK
Founder of the Pickwick Club

AUGUSTUS SNODGRASS

TRACY TUPMAN

NATHANIEL WINKLE
Members of the Corresponding Society of the Pickwick Club

BENJAMIN ALLEN,
a medical student

JACK BAMBER

ANGELO CYRUS BANTAM ESQ.

MASTER TOMMY BARDELL

CAPTAIN BOLDWIG

COLONEL BULDER

SERJEANT BUZFUZ

THE CHANCERY PRISONER

SIR THOMAS CLUBBER

MR DODSON, *an attorney*

MR DOWLER

DUBBLEY, *a police officer*

HORATIO FIZKIN ESQ.

MR FOGG, *an attorney*

DANIEL GRUMMER

JACK HOPKINS, *a medical student*

ANTHONY HUMM

MR LEO HUNTER

JEM HUTLEY (*Dismal Jemmy*)

MR JACKSON

ALFRED JINGLE,
a strolling actor

MR JINKS

JOE, *the fat boy*

MR LOWTEN

MR PETER MAGNUS

MR MALLARD

MR MARTIN

MR MILLER

MR MIVINS '*The Zephyr*'

MR JONAS MUDGE

MR MUZZLE

NEDDY

GEORGE NUPKINS ESQ.

DR PAYNE

MR SOLOMON PELL

MR PERKER

MR PHUNKY

MR POTT

MR RADDLE

MR TOM ROKER

BOB SAWYER, *a medical student*

DR SLAMMER

THE HON. SAMUEL SLUMKEY

MR SLURK

SMANGLE

JOHN SMAUKER

SERGEANT SNUBBIN	JOB TROTTER
MR JUSTICE STARELEIGH	MR TRUNDLE
THE REV'D MR STIGGINS,	MR WARDLE
<i>'The Shepherd'</i>	SAMUEL WELLER
LIEUT. TAPPLETON	TONY WELLER
MR WINKLE SENIOR	

Female

MISS ARABELLA ALLEN	MRS POTT
MRS MARTHA BARDELL	MRS MARY ANN RADDLE
MRS COLONEL BULDER	MRS SUSANNAH SANDERS
LADY CLUBBER	LADY SNUPHANUPH
MRS BETSY CLUPPINS	MISS EMILY WARDLE
MRS CRADDOCK	MISS ISABELLA WARDLE
MRS DOWLER	MISS RACHAEL WARDLE
MRS LEO HUNTER	MRS WARDLE
MARY, <i>a servant girl</i>	MRS SUSAN WELLER
MRS NUPKINS	MISS WITHERFIELD
MISS HENRIETTA NUPKINS	MRS COLONEL WUGSBY

Characters in the Introduced Stories

PRINCE BLADUD	OLD LOBBS
JOHN EDMUNDS	JACK MARTIN
MR EDMUNDS	NATHANIEL PIPKIN
GABRIEL GRUB	TOM SMART
HENRY	MRS EDMUNDS
GEORGE HEYLING	MARY HEYLING
MR JINKINS	KATE
JOHN, <i>a pantomime actor</i>	MARIA LOBBS

CHAPTER I

The Pickwickians

THE FIRST RAY OF light which illumines the gloom, and converts into a dazzling brilliancy that obscurity in which the earlier history of the public career of the immortal Pickwick would appear to be involved, is derived from the perusal of the following entry in the Transactions of the Pickwick Club, which the editor of these papers feels the highest pleasure in laying before his readers, as a proof of the careful attention, indefatigable assiduity, and nice discrimination, with which his search among the multifarious documents confided to him has been conducted.

'May 12, 1827. Joseph Smiggers, Esq., P.V.P.M.P.C.,* presiding. The following resolutions unanimously agreed to:—

'That this Association has heard read, with feelings of unmingled satisfaction, and unqualified approval, the paper communicated by Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C.,† entitled "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with some Observations on the Theory of Tittlebats"; and that this Association does hereby return its warmest thanks to the said Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., for the same.

'That while this Association is deeply sensible of the advantages which must accrue to the cause of science from the production to which they have just adverted, — no less than from the unwearied researches of Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., in Hornsey, Highgate, Brixton, and Camberwell, — they cannot but entertain a lively sense of the inestimable benefits which must inevitably result from carrying the speculations of that learned man into a wider field, from extending his travels, and consequently enlarging his sphere of observation, to the advancement of knowledge, and the diffusion of learning.

'That, with the view just mentioned, this Association has taken into its serious consideration a proposal, emanating from the aforesaid Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., and three other Pickwickians hereinafter named, for forming a new branch of United Pickwickians,

* Perpetual Vice-President — Member Pickwick Club.

† General Chairman — Member Pickwick Club.

under the title of The Corresponding Society of the Pickwick Club.

'That the said proposal has received the sanction and approval of this Association.

'That the Corresponding Society of the Pickwick Club is therefore hereby constituted; and that Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., Tracy Tupman, Esq., M.P.C., Augustus Snodgrass, Esq., M.P.C., and Nathaniel Winkle, Esq., M.P.C., are hereby nominated and appointed members of the same; and that they be requested to forward, from time to time, authenticated accounts of their journeys and investigations, of their observations of character and manners, and of the whole of their adventures, together with all tales and papers to which local scenery or associations may give rise, to the Pickwick Club, stationed in London.

'That this Association cordially recognises the principle of every member of the Corresponding Society defraying his own travelling expenses; and that it sees no objection whatever to the members of the said society pursuing their inquiries for any length of time they please, upon the same terms.

'That the members of the aforesaid Corresponding Society be, and are, hereby informed, that their proposal to pay the postage of their letters, and the carriage of their parcels, has been deliberated upon by this Association: that this Association considers such proposal worthy of the great minds from which it emanated, and that it hereby signifies its perfect acquiescence therein.'

A casual observer, adds the secretary, to whose notes we are indebted for the following account – a casual observer might possibly have remarked nothing extraordinary in the bald head, and circular spectacles, which were intently turned towards his (the secretary's) face during the reading of the above resolutions: to those who knew that the gigantic brain of Pickwick was working beneath that forehead, and that the beaming eyes of Pickwick were twinkling behind those glasses, the sight was indeed an interesting one. There sat the man who had traced to their source the mighty ponds of Hampstead, and agitated the scientific world with his Theory of Tittlebats, as calm and unmoved as the deep waters of the one on a frosty day, or as a solitary specimen of the other in the inmost recesses of an earthen jar. And how much more interesting did the spectacle become, when, starting into full life and animation, as a simultaneous call for 'Pickwick' burst from his followers, that illustrious man slowly mounted into the Windsor chair, on which he had been previously seated, and addressed the club himself had founded. What a study for an artist did that exciting scene present! The eloquent Pickwick, with one hand gracefully concealed behind his coat tails, and the other waving in air, to assist his glowing declamation;

his elevated position revealing those tights and gaiters, which, had they clothed an ordinary man, might have passed without observation, but which, when Pickwick clothed them – if we may use the expression – inspired voluntary awe and respect; surrounded by the men who had volunteered to share the perils of his travels, and who were destined to participate in the glories of his discoveries. On his right hand sat Mr Tracy Tupman – the too susceptible Tupman, who to the wisdom and experience of maturer years superadded the enthusiasms and ardour of a boy, in the most interesting and pardonable of human weaknesses – love. Time and feeding had expanded that once romantic form; the black silk waistcoat had become more and more developed; inch by inch had the gold watch-chain beneath it disappeared from within the range of Tupman's vision; and gradually had the capacious chin encroached upon the borders of the white cravat: but the soul of Tupman had known no change – admiration of the fair sex was still its ruling passion. On the left of his great leader sat the poetic Snodgrass, and near him again the sporting Winkle, the former poetically enveloped in a mysterious blue coat with a canine-skin collar, and the latter communicating additional lustre to a new green shooting coat, plaid neckerchief, and closely-fitted drabs.

Mr Pickwick's oration upon this occasion, together with the debate thereon, is entered on the Transactions of the Club. Both bear a strong affinity to the discussions of other celebrated bodies; and, as it is always interesting to trace a resemblance between the proceedings of great men, we transfer the entry to these pages.

'Mr Pickwick observed (says the Secretary) that fame was dear to the heart of every man. Poetic fame was dear to the heart of his friend Snodgrass; the fame of conquest was equally dear to his friend Tupman; and the desire of earning fame in the sports of the field, the air, and the water, was uppermost in the breast of his friend Winkle. He (Mr Pickwick) would not deny that he was influenced by human passions, and human feelings (cheers) – possibly by human weaknesses – (loud cries of "No "); but this he would say, that if ever the fire of self-importance broke out in his bosom, the desire to benefit the human race in preference effectually quenched it. The praise of mankind was his Swing; philanthropy was his insurance office. (Vehement cheering.) He had felt some pride – he acknowledged it freely, and let his enemies make the most of it – he had felt some pride when he presented his Tittlebatian Theory to the world; it might be celebrated or it might not. (A cry of "It is," and great cheering.) He would take the assertion of that honourable Pickwickian whose voice he had just heard – it was celebrated; but if the fame of that treatise were to extend to the furthest

confines of the known world, the pride with which he should reflect on the authorship of that production would be as nothing compared with the pride with which he looked around him, on this, the proudest moment of his existence. (Cheers.) He was a humble individual. (No, no.) Still he could not but feel that they had selected him for a service of great honour, and of some danger. Travelling was in a troubled state, and the minds of coachmen were unsettled. Let them look abroad and contemplate the scenes which were enacting around them. Stage coaches were upsetting in all directions, horses were bolting, boats were overturning, and boilers were bursting. (Cheers – a voice “No.”) No! (Cheers.) Let that honourable Pickwickian who cried “No” so loudly come forward and deny it, if he could. (Cheers.) Who was it that cried “No”? (Enthusiastic cheering.) Was it some vain and disappointed man – he would not say haberdasher – (loud cheers) – who, jealous of the praise which had been – perhaps undeservedly – bestowed on his (Mr Pickwick’s) researches, and smarting under the censure which had been heaped upon his own feeble attempts at rivalry, now took this vile and calumnious mode of –

‘MR BLOTTON (of Aldgate) rose to order. Did the honourable Pickwickian allude to him? (Cries of “Order,” “Chair,” “Yes,” “No,” “Go on,” “Leave off,” &c.)

‘MR PICKWICK would not put up to be put down by clamour. He *had* alluded to the honourable gentleman. (Great excitement.)

‘MR BLOTTON would only say then, that he repelled the hon. gent.’s false and scurrilous accusation, with profound contempt. (Great cheering.) The hon. gent. was a humbug. (Immense confusion, and loud cries of “Chair,” and “Order.”)

‘MR A. SNODGRASS rose to order. He threw himself upon the chair. (Hear.) He wished to know whether this disgraceful contest between two members of that club should be allowed to continue. (Hear, hear.)

‘THE CHAIRMAN was quite sure the hon. Pickwickian would withdraw the expression he had just made use of.

‘MR BLOTTON, with all possible respect for the chair, was quite sure he would not.

‘THE CHAIRMAN felt it his imperative duty to demand of the honourable gentleman, whether he had used the expression which had just escaped him in a common sense.

‘MR BLOTTON had no hesitation in saying that he had not – he had used the word in its Pickwickian sense. (Hear, hear.) He was bound to acknowledge that, personally, he entertained the highest regard and esteem for the honourable gentleman; he had merely considered him a humbug in a Pickwickian point of view. (Hear, hear.)

'MR PICKWICK felt much gratified by the fair, candid, and full explanation of his honourable friend. He begged it to be at once understood, that his own observations had been merely intended to bear a Pickwickian construction. (Cheers.)'

Here the entry terminates, as we have no doubt the debate did also, after arriving at such a highly satisfactory and intelligible point. We have no official statement of the facts which the reader will find recorded in the next chapter, but they have been carefully collated from letters and other MS. authorities, so unquestionably genuine as to justify their narration in a connected form.

CHAPTER II

The first day's journey, and the first evening's adventures; with their consequences

THAT PUNCTUAL SERVANT of all work, the sun, had just risen, and begun to strike a light on the morning of the thirteenth of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, when Mr Samuel Pickwick burst like another sun from his slumbers, threw open his chamber window, and looked out upon the world beneath. Goswell Street was at his feet, Goswell Street was on his right hand – as far as the eye could reach, Goswell Street extended on his left; and the opposite side of Goswell Street was over the way. 'Such,' thought Mr Pickwick, 'are the narrow views of those philosophers who, content with examining the things that lie before them, look not to the truths which are hidden beyond. As well might I be content to gaze on Goswell Street for ever, without one effort to penetrate to the hidden countries which on every side surround it.' And having given vent to this beautiful reflection, Mr Pickwick proceeded to put himself into his clothes, and his clothes into his portmanteau. Great men are seldom over scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire; the operation of shaving, dressing, and coffee-imbibing was soon performed: and in another hour, Mr Pickwick, with his portmanteau in his hand, his telescope in his great-coat pocket, and his note-book in his waistcoat, ready for the reception of any discoveries worthy of being noted down, had arrived at the coach stand in St Martin's-le-Grand.

'Cab!' said Mr Pickwick.

'Here you are, sir,' shouted a strange specimen of the human race, in