

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1893.

QUAINT ENGLISH INNS.

PLACES THAT EVERYBODY HAS READ ABOUT IN NOVELS.

The Unicorn at Bowes—where Dickens went to investigate Squeers and his school—The Old Construction and Arrangements of Old Time Hostleries.

LONDON, JUNE 19.—Dead old Bowes, in northern Yorkshire, alongside what in former times was called the Great North Road, possesses one of the finest specimens of the ample roadside inns of the olden coaching days to be found in all England.

The village and this inn have always had for me the weirdest fascination of any provincial spot in Britain, though both hamlet and inn are now dreary and desolate beyond description. The old inn here, now called the Unicorn, was first known as the George.

He had letters to a yeoman of the place, soon to shine as one of the immortals of fiction as honest "John Browdie." He represented himself as agent of a poor widow desirous of placing her only boy in a quiet country school.

Investigations showed that the horrible picture drawn was not an exaggeration, and bore out Dickens' own statement in the original preface that "Mr. Squeers and his school are faint and feeble pictures of an existing reality, purposely subdued and kept down lest they should be deemed impossible."

If you came from London to Bowes over the same coach-road as did Nicholas Nickleby, when nearing the end of his dreary journey, "at about 6 o'clock that night, he and Mr. Squeers and the little boys and their united luggage were put down at the Georgia and New Inn."

It is the great Roman Road of England Watling, or Waitling, Street it is called. Away in the north of Yorkshire, a few miles above Catterick bridge, one stem of this highway goes on through Durham and Northumberland, and thence to Edinburgh.

It is difficult not to wander away from a description of the old Unicorn Inn, at Bowes, among the literary and antiquarian things of interest in its neighborhood. The inn itself must not be confounded, even under its old name of the George, with the George inn of Greta bridge, six miles nearer York, now used as a corn mill.

inn itself must not be confounded, even under its old name of the George, with the George inn of Greta bridge, six miles nearer York, now used as a corn mill. To disguise the exact location of Dotheboys hall, Dickens made Squeers (Shaw) travel with young Nickleby three miles from the George inn at Greta bridge to the supposititious "hall," followed by the "cart-load of infant misery."

The Unicorn, which seems to have completely escaped the attention of English antiquarians and travellers, is not only remarkable from its associations, in having been the most important inn near the border between York and Glasgow and Edinburgh in olden times, but in also being the largest of those ancient English roadside hostleries still extant which were called into existence by the necessities of travel in the old coaching days.

Its form is of a double quadrangle, each fully 100 feet square. The one next the street has its entire front open to the great inn-yard thus formed. The two sides abutting the street comprised respectively the inn proper—a long, two-storied and garreted stone structure, with a perfect maze of curious old rooms approached by outlandish stairs, entries and landings, and rendered additionally bewildering by countless niches, cupboards, alcoves and blind panels; and the other a huge brew-house, with dozens of graneries and store-rooms behind.

The quadrangle behind the inn-yard is formed by what remains of the ancient stone stables, where scores of pairs of post-horses could have found comfortable quarters and as many more carters' and packers' cattle have good shelter and care.

It has low oaken settles built stationary into wall and floor. Its huge fire-place is full of tiny cranes for steaming kettles. In one corner is an oaken bed, enclosed in a closet-like frame, where landlord or barman could not only retire at night completely from sight, but also lock himself in against uproar and disturbance; and the window of this room is a low, portly bow, in the centre of which, above a tiny stout shelf, is a single hinged pane.

A wonderful old curio is the Unicorn at Bowes, all unknown to the people of England in its shell. Its oaken timbers, as those in Raleigh's old home at Youghal, seem everlasting; but its moaning belfry, its empty stables, its trembling dove-cotes, its forlorn brew-house, its empty tap-room, its grass-grown inn-yard, and even its present occupancy by a strange creature half ploughman and half schoolmaster, who stares listlessly up and down the Great North Road for occasional victim in wandering bicyclist, less frequent literary tramp, or yokel from the near fields, all serve to emphasize by contrast the cheer and stirring days that once were here.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

SEEN AT THE ANTIPODES.

DISTINGUISHED ENGLISHMEN AT THE GOLD DIGGINGS.

Continuation of the Story of an Old Timer—Sir Charles Hotham's Visit to Bendigo—The Chinese Question and How It Was Settled.

Strangers when visiting the Victorian diggings always take in Ballarat and Bendigo. They are what London and Paris are to the American tourist.

Mr. Froude the historian and Lord Rosebury visited Bendigo a few years ago making themselves acquainted with its "lions" and resources as also did the Marquis of Normandy accompanied by Princes Albert and George of Wales.

The first opportunity that Bendigo had of giving an expression of loyalty to the crown was on the occasion of Sir Charles Hotham's visit in 1854—though I fear their enthusiasm at that time was tinged with a spirit of selfishness.

The diggers, to show their unity of purpose, held a mass meeting of 8,000 men or more, at which a memorial was drawn up for presentation to his Excellency stating their objection to the license tax, claimed an extension of the franchise, and that the lands be thrown open to the people as early as they could.

Notwithstanding the reasoning tone of His Excellency's address, he failed to keep his promise, as there was no mention of the diggers' grievances in his speech at the opening of the legislature, which took place shortly after; which fact was strongly commented on.

The Governor's course in this matter proved very damaging to his reputation, for in three months after, the miners' troubles culminated in the Ballarat riot, when the government, by force of public sentiment, was compelled to give way, and he, its head, a man of high spirit—sensitive, with an honest desire of doing right and to distinguish his regime, had to suffer the humiliation of being driven when it was his prerogative to lead.

As I have before said that the Chinese had a grievance also, however they managed their case, and succeeded without recourse to arms by coming the heathen Chinese dodge over the government. About the time I am writing of there was a strong agitation on the gold fields against the wholesale introduction of Chinese—they would land by ship loads.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

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carried to the courts he generally stood a chance to win, having his own countryman as interpreter and very often the sympathy of the court by reason of that characteristic trait of the English of being disposed to lean to the side of the weaker or oppressed—hence it became a saying that it was no use of a white man going to law with a Chinaman as one would stand no show against them.

POISONS IN PHOTOGRAPHY. Mr. Givan Answers the Questions of a "Progress" Correspondent. To the EDITOR OF PROGRESS:—In your last issue I noticed a number of questions by a correspondent signing himself a North Shore Amateur. I will answer them to the best of my ability and further, will be only too happy to give any information that I am able, on this subject which is so interesting to us.

1. Bi-chloride of mercury is intensely poisonous, I grain being fatal. A solution of it entering a cut or sore on the hands is very apt to cause death. The following chemicals, largely used in photography are also very poisonous, cyanide potassium, the salts of lead, and nearly all the acids.

HOW TO GETTEN GOOD NOVELS. For Less Than One-Third of Their Usual Price—Other Offers in this Direction.

1 Any reader who will send us one new subscriber at \$2 and \$1 additional may select any ten of the books in the list and they will be forwarded at once.

- J. M. Barrie. 161 Better Dead. 164 When a Man's Single. 165 Auld Licht Idylls. Walter Besant. 47 Armored of Lyonesse. 72 The Demoniac. 84 St. Katharine's by the Tower. William Black. 77 Stand Fast, Craig Royston! 134 Sabina Zembra. Clarence M. Boutelle. 143 The Man Outside. Miss M. E. Braddon. 91 The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. 95 Whose was the Hand? Charlotte Bronte. 128 Jane Eyre. Rhoda Broughton. 65 Alas! Robert Buchanan. 110 The Heir of Lianoe. Mrs. H. Lovett-Cameron. 25 A Lost Wife. Lady Colville Campbell. 4 Dorell Blake. Rosa Nouchette Carey. 19 The Search for Basil Lyndhurst. 26 Merle's Crusade. 62 Lover or Friend? 88 Mary St. John. 109 Not Like Other Girls. 154 Wood and Married. 155 The White. 160 Heriot's Choice. 162 Averil. 163 Our Bessie. Bertha M. Clay (Charlotte M. Bra n e). 15 Dora Thorne. 57 Weaker than a Woman. 59 A Woman's War. 82 Wife in Name Only. 132 The Duke's Secret. J. Maclaren Cobban. 54 Master of His Fate. Wilkie Collins. 23 Blind Love. 93 Miss or Mrs.? 116 The Legacy of Cain. 136 The Evil Genius. M. J. Colquhoun. 6 Every Inch a Soldier. Hugh Conway. 124 Living or Dead? Marie Corelli. 73 Wormwood. Oswald Crawford. 30 Sylvia Arden. B. M. Croker. 69 Two Masters. A. Conan Doyle. 92 The White Company. F. Du Boisgobey. 147 Fight for a Fortune. 151 A Mystery Still. "The Duchess." 22 A Troublesome Girl. 40 April's Lady. 83 A Little Irish Girl. 90 A Little Rebel. 92 The Duchess. 113 A Modern Circle. Sara J. Duncan. 84 An American Girl in London. Alex. Dumas, Jr. 10 Camille. Mrs. Ewing. 118 A Flat Iron for a Farthing. B. L. Farjeon. 114 The Tyrant of Richard Pardon. G. Manville Fenn. 161 The Mynn's Mystery. Jessie Fothergill. 37 A March in the Ranks. 43 The First Violin. 81 Keith and Kin. Mrs. Alexander Fraser. 2 Daughters of Belgravia. Lady G. Fullerton. 103 Ellen Middleton. Charles Gibbon. 9 A Dead Heart. 120 Was Ever Woman in this Humor Wood? Maxwell Gray. 82 In the Heart of the Storm. Major Arthur Griffith. 139 The Wrong Road. Thomas Hardy. 108 The Mayor of Casterbridge.

- Joseph Hatton. 49 By Order of the Czar. 145 The Abbey Murder. Nathaniel Hawthorne. 159 Scarlet Letter. W. Heimbürg. 104 Her Only Brother. F. W. Hume. 150 Mystery of a Hansom Cab. 158 Man that Vanished. Jerome K. Jerome. 64 Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow. 61 Three Men in a Boat. E. K. Johnson. 152 Tangles Unravelled. Mrs. Edward Kennard. 5 Matron or Maid. Rudyard Kipling. 46 Plain Tales from the Hills. 52 Soldiers Three. 56 Phanton 'Rickshaw. 78 The Light that Falg'd. Edna Lyall. 15 Knight Errant. 19 Donovan. 21 We Two. 21 Won by Waiting. 23 In the Golden Days. 24 Derrick Vangliam. 125 A Hardy Norseman. Justin McCarthy. 26 Roland Oliver. Hugh McCull. 3 Mr. Stranger's Sealed Packet. Frank Merryfield. 140 Molly's Story. David Christie Murray. 157 Old Eager's Hero. 153 One Traveller Returns. W. E. Norris. 45 The Baffled Conspirators. 74 Marcia. 119 Chris. Georges Ohnet. 1 The Rival Actresses. 7 Prince Serge Panine. 105 Dr. Rameau. "Ouida." 23 Sybil. 36 Gulliberry. 65 Ruffino. James Pagan. 44 The Burnt Million. F. C. Phillips. 29 Young Mr. Annsle's Courtship. 42 A Daughter's Sacrifice. 58 Margaret Byng. 99 Strange Adventures of Lucy Smith. 102 Jack and Three Jills. 106 The Dean and His Daughter. 106 Social Vicissitudes. F. W. Robinson. 60 The Keeper of the Keys. W. Clark Russell. 89 My Danish Sweetheart. Olive Schreiner. 80 Dreams. Adelaide Serpant. 67 The Great Mill Street Mystery. Anna Sewall. 48 Black Beauty. G. R. Sims. 141 Mary Jane's Memoirs. Hawley Smart. 135 Saddle and Sable. Robert Stevenson. 111 The Merry Men. 129 The Master of ballantrae. Tasma. 100 A Sydney Sovereign. 122 In Her Earliest Youth. Annie Thomas. 98 The Kiburns. 107 Love's a Tyrant. Count Lyoff Tolstoy. 71 Work While Ye Have the Light. Sophie Veitch. 121 The Dean's Daughter. Jules Verne. 138 Texar's Revenge. Mrs. Walford. 11 A Mere Child. Florence Warden. 112 A Witch of the Hills. 131 Scheherazade. Beatrice Whitty. 94 A Matter of Skill. 144 Awakening of Mary Fenwick. Oscar Wilde. 65 The Picture of Dorian Gray. John Strange Winter. 117 Beautiful Jim. The Author of "His Wedded Wife." 41 The Story of an Error. 58 A. Fatal Dover.