

The Letters of Charles Dickens: Supplement – I

The Editor of the *Dickensian* celebrated in the Summer number the successful completion of the British Academy-Pilgrim edition of Dickens's letters and outlined details of how the project will continue. New letters of Dickens and better texts of known letters have already appeared in two supplements, to Volumes VII and XII, and such letters, besides new information and corrections, will need still to be published. Eventually, Oxford University Press will produce a supplementary volume, though that is likely to be some years away: on present evidence, perhaps twenty new letters, some slight, surface in a year. To give access to new material and allow corrections, a supplement – this is the first – will be published once or twice a year in *The Dickensian*, the basis of eventual volume publication. The editorial group consists of Margaret Brown and Angus Easson, from the Pilgrim editorial team, and Michael Slater and Malcolm Andrews. Graham Storey, General Editor of the Pilgrim edition, is Consultant Emeritus. We are deeply grateful to Mark Charles Dickens, owner of the copyright in Dickens's letters, for giving us permission to use unpublished material.

The supplements will conform in presentation, including, it is hoped, detail of annotation, to the published volumes.

The contents of the supplements, as with previous Addenda and Corrigenda, are:

- (1) Letters that have come to light since publication of Volume XII. Some are wholly new; others provide a fuller text, sometimes a correct dating, replacing a former catalogue extract, summary, or mention. Envelopes, whether or not related to existing letters, are also included.
- (2) Additional notes to existing letters. These may entail substitution for original notes.
- (3) Corrections of original errors and omissions in the earlier volumes, whether in texts or in editorial material (including indexes).

References (at the top left of each entry) to the earlier volumes are by page and line, every printed line below the running head being counted. Where appropriate, note and column number are included.

ANGUS EASSON

I,505.19.1.

To MR MEREWETHER,¹
[?JANUARY 1837- 31 JANUARY 1839]

Extract in Clive Farahar & Sophie Dupré catalogue, 1998; MS 1 p. *Date*: CD edited
Bentley's Miscellany from Jan 37 to 31 Jan 39.

The Editor of Bentley's² *Miscellany* presents his compts. to Mr. Merewether; and in reply to his note, addressed to the publisher, begs to say that any...

¹Unidentified.

²Richard Bentley (1794-1871; *DNB*), one of the most prominent of Victorian publishers: see Vol. I, p. 164*n*; for CD's stormy relationship with him see Vol. I, *passim*.

VI,755.13.

To MR GIBSON,¹ 7 SEPTEMBER 1852

Text from digitised facsimile in Joseflebovicgallery website, April 2002.

Dover, Seventh September / 1852

Mr. Charles Dickens presents his compliments to Mr. Gibson and begs to acknowledge the receipt at Newcastle² of Mr. Gibson's very obliging note. His constant occupation has prevented him from availing himself of Mr. Gibson's kind proposal, and even from answering the note until now—his first leisure moment.

¹Unidentified.

²CD was in Newcastle on 27 Aug for a performance by the Amateurs in aid of the Guild of Literature and Art; they performed *Mr Nightingale's Diary* and Lytton's *Not So Bad as we Seem*: see Vol. VI, pp. 746-9 and *nn*. They were on tour between 22 Aug and 4 Sep: see *ibid.*, pp. 730-2.

VIII,141.8.

To DR LANE,¹ 1 JULY 1856

Extract in Clive Farahar and Sophie Dupré catalogue 1998; MS 2 pp.; addressed Dr Lane.

OFFICE OF HOUSEHOLD WORDS,
1 July 1856

Telling Dr Lane that he has been in Paris and is passing the summer out of London,² and consequently am only this morning in receipt of your note. It is unfortunately not within my power to advance the interests of that most deserving case³ which you kindly advocate, with the Literary Fund,⁴ because I have of late strongly objected to some points in the management of that Institution and my commendation is not over likely to be received with favor. But I do not doubt that such a claim ought to be recognised there and I have a strong belief that it will be....I therefore counsel you to address a letter to...Octavian Blewitt⁵...briefly stating the case and begging him to give you the necessary forms and information....

¹Unidentified.

²CD spent the summer at Boulogne, but returned to London 30 June-3 July and for a few days in Aug.

³Untraced.

⁴For CD's report in 1855 on proposed changes to the Royal Literary Fund, see Vol. VII, pp. 639*n* and 649*n*; and for the Annual meeting held in Mar 56 see Vol. VIII, p. 60 and *n*.

⁵Secretary of the Royal Literary Fund.

VIII.354.22.

To MR WELLS,¹ 16 JUNE 1857

Extract in the *Morning Post*, 12 Oct 1857; quoted by William Blanchard Jerrold in his letter to the Editor, dated 10 Oct 57.²

Gadshill, June 16

I, too, was excessively mortified and indignant to see that nonsense (I forget where) about poor dear Jerrold, and his not having 'left a sixpence.' But we all have to bear our share of such dunderheaded small talk; and I don't think it practicable to contradict this obscure stupidity now. It is clearly not for us to contradict it, who take such pains in every movement, from the smallest to the least, associated with our departed friend, to place him on a footing apart from all solicitation. In inviting artists to sing, actors to play, and the Queen herself to come to one of the performances, I have invariably said in all the letters that what we put forward 'in remembrance' of him is to speak for itself, and no entreaty or representation is to be made to any human being. If this print of a jackass' hoof should last so long, it is rubbed out in a moment, when our little campaign is over, by a well-considered few lines from William Jerrold to the *Times*, or from me, if he would prefer it, simply stating the truth.

¹Not identified.

²William Blanchard Jerrold, eldest son of Douglas Jerrold; his letter is an angry response to CD's letter to *The Times*, 6 Oct, justifying the Committee's efforts to raise money for Mrs Jerrold and her daughter. Jerrold felt it was a slight on his father's memory and maintained that, contrary to reports that he died penniless, he had provided for them. He quotes the above letter ('directed to be submitted to me'), as proof of CD's change of mind. For letters referring to the death of Jerrold and the initiation of the Jerrold Fund, see Vol. VIII, pp. 344-366; for CD and Arthur Smith's two letter to *The Times*, see *ibid.*, pp. 423 and 463 and *nn*.

IX.70.9. *Replaces catalogue extract (aa)*

To JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD,¹ 31 MAY 1859

Text from digitised facsimile in eBay website (Gideon Antiques), April 2002.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
Friday Thirty First May 1859

Dear Mr. Hollingshead

I have given your letter my best consideration and I hope that you will believe that it would be a pleasure to me to accept the request it prefers, if my existing arrangements here reasonably admitted of my doing so. But they do not. Without entering into details that would make the fact as plain to you as it is to myself, I beg you to receive the assurance from me.

^a At all times, I should be most ready and willing to make money matters easy to your convenience – to discuss with you on any subjects

that may arise in your mind – to make your work as certain, as useful, and as agreeable to you as it *can* be made. I hope my desire to render our connexion both profitable and pleasant to you in all ways will, – for the time at all events, – so express itself as to serve in place of your proposed arrangement.^{2a}

Let me add that I do not see any objection to your now collecting your contributions to Household Words.³

Believe me always / Faithfully Yours

J. Hollingshead Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹John Hollingshead (1827-1904; *DNB*), writer and journalist: see Vol. VIII, p. 389 and *n*.

²i.e. a formal contract; Hollingshead wrote more than 30 articles for *AYR* 1859-61.

³His first collection was *Under Bow Bells*, published Oct 59. CD asked him not to publish his *AYR* articles at that time: see Vol. IX, p. 102 and *n*.

IX,396.1. To JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD,¹ 25 MARCH 1861

Text from digitised facsimile in Crouse Autograph Collection website, 2002.

3 Hanover Terrace, Regents Park
Monday Twenty Fifth March 1861

Dear Mr. Hollingshead

I shall be at the office on Wednesday from half past 10 until 1. If you can make it convenient to favour me with a call, I shall be glad to advise with you concerning the Brough² Fund dinner.

Faithfully yours always

CHARLES DICKENS

¹See last.

²Robert Barnabas Brough (1828-60; *DNB*), writer: see Vols VII, p. 680*n* and VIII, p. 582*n*. He had died in Manchester on 26 June 60; CD was a trustee of the Fund for Brough's family and £690 was raised for Mrs Brough and her children from four dramatic performances; an interim balance sheet was prepared for the Trustees, 25 Mar 61: see Vol. IX, p. 277 and *n*. No doubt the dinner was part of the fund-raising programme.

IX,37.14. *Replaces catalogue extract*

To E. [?V]. WILLIAMS,¹ 28 APRIL 1865

Text transcribed from digitised facsimile in eBay website (University Archives), Jan 2002.

Gad's Hill, Twenty Eighth April 1865

Sir,

In reply to your letter, I beg to say that I do not think that the point to which you call my attention is one coming within the province of a chairman at a Public Dinner.² The principle is a very sound one, but always has to be considered with a reference to the number of members a Society is likely to be composed of, and also the [*] amount of [**]³ it is likely to require. For these reasons I regard it as belonging to the administration of the Body and deem that your suggestion would be more appropriately addressed to the President of the Institution than to the

President of the Dinner.

I am Sir / Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Not identified; possibly Sir Edward Vaughan Williams (1797-1875; *DNB*), barrister, judge of court of common pleas, 1846; privy councillor, 1865.

²CD was Chairman of the Newsvendors' Benevolent Dinner on 9 May and of the Newspaper Press Fund Dinner on 29 May: see K. J. Fielding, *The Speeches of CD*, pp. 337-348.

^{3*} Three words not clear from computer image.

XI.84.26. *To CHARLES ELLIS*,¹ 17 AUGUST 1865

Text from digitised facsimile in Inkwellgallery website, Mar 2002.

GAD'S HILL PLACE,
HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.
Thursday, Seventeenth August, 1865

Dear Mr. Ellis

Please send me another quarter cask of sherry.

Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Charles Ellis (1824-1908; see Vol. V, p. 490*n*), with George Ellis, wine merchants to the Queen: see Vol. XII, p. 160 and *n*.

XI.476.1. *To THOMAS ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE*,¹
8 NOVEMBER 1867

Extract in Heritage Bookshop catalogue, 2002; addressed T. A. Trollope; dated 8 Nov 67.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
8 November 1867²

*Thanking Trollope for his kind note and reminding him that he has already sent his love via Trollope's brother Anthony.*³

¹Thomas Adolphus Trollope (1810-92; *DNB*): see Vol. IX, p. 35*n*; on 28 Nov 66 had married, as his second wife, Fanny, Ellen Ternan's eldest sister.

²CD was about to set off to America on his reading tour (9 Nov). He had already given Wills Trollope's address in Italy as a contact for Ellen: see Vol. XI, pp. 474-5.

³Anthony Trollope (1815-82; *DNB*), writer: see Vol. X, p. 258 and *n*.

XII.43.20. *To JOHN D. BALDWIN*,¹ 9 FEBRUARY 1868

Text from digitised facsimile in Raabautographs website, Apr 2002.

Baltimore²
February 9, 1868

In reply to your obliging letter I beg to say that, having no means of

reference at hand, I cannot answer the questions it propounds to me. For the same reason I have no present suggestions to offer to the body of gentlemen you represent who doubtless have before them and fresh in their memories most of the materials towards forming their conclusions on good authority.

¹Neither Baldwin nor the subject of his letter discovered.

²CD spent from Sun 9 to Wed 13 Feb in Baltimore during his American reading tour (Dec 67-Apr 68); he gave two readings in the Concordia Opera House: on Mon he read *Dr Marigold* and the *Trial*; on Tues he read *Nickleby* and *Boots*.

XII.439.11. To JOHN CHAMBERLAIN,¹ 17 NOVEMBER 1869

Extract in N, III, 751.

Gad's Hill Place
17th November, 1869

I send you the Speech corrected.²

The enigmatical concluding sentence would (I think) never have had any mystery about it, if its proper capital letters, according to my emphasis, had been printed thus:-

My faith in the people
governing is on the whole infinitesimal;
my faith in The People governed is,
on the whole, illimitable.³

¹John Henry Chamberlain (1831-83), Hon. Secretary, Birmingham and Midland Institute; architect: see Vol XII, pp. 279-80.

²CD's speech as Chairman of the Institute, at the Annual Inaugural Meeting on 27 Sep; he had agreed to its publication by the Council and offered to correct the proofs: see *ibid.*, p. 435.

³The speech, which embodied CD's 'political creed' had been published in the press without the capital letters and had been widely criticised for what was seen as his 'anti-liberalism': see *ibid.*, p. 419.

The Editors would like to thank Alan Sutcliffe for drawing their attention to a number of the letters now published above.