

Novel Notes

Issue 3



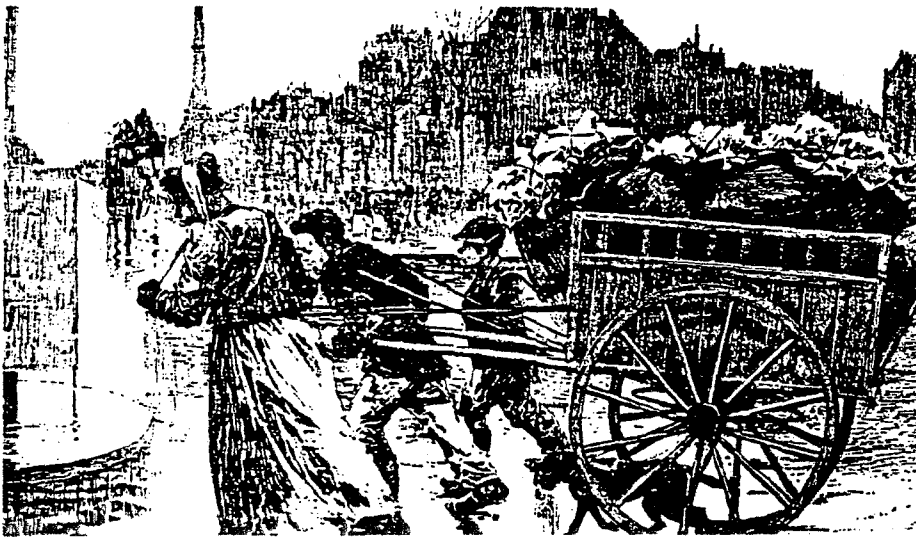
A Christmas Carol, Stave Two

HELP WANTED

APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE—APPLY NOW!

Parents, bring a boy to Dubby and Sons, and we'll take him off your hands and teach him a trade that will last his lifetime and yours. Watchful master; beatings only as necessary; separate cot; meat once a week. Full 7 years required; no early release from contract.

Boys age 9 and up wanted at the Hide and Hair Tannery. Lowest initial fees in London; strict training; meat once a month. Boy free at 21—sooner in event of death.



• PERSONAL EDITIONS •



What They Were Reading



What did the most popular author in Victorian England like to read? Personal Editions knows and tells. Dickens loved the classic writers, especially Daniel Defoe. One of Defoe's best-known novels was a favorite with young men, *Robinson Crusoe* or *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson*

Crusoe, of York, Mariner. Written by himself. It wasn't written by himself, of course, but Defoe based it on the account of a real sailor, Alexander Selkirk. For four and a half years, Selkirk lived alone on an island in the Pacific. *Robinson Crusoe* is a story of independence, courage, and adventure.

FOR YOUR READER'S LOG

How much can one person affect the happiness of someone else? As you read *Stave Two*, note how at least two characters contribute to the happiness or unhappiness of other characters.

The Word PLACE

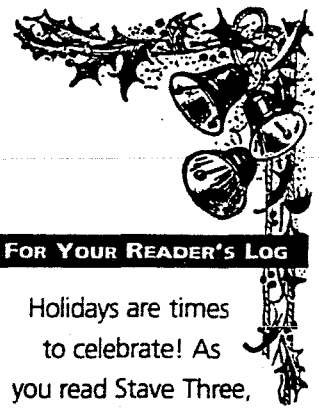
Another Way of Saying Money

These are some of the coins Scrooge was in the habit of keeping for himself:

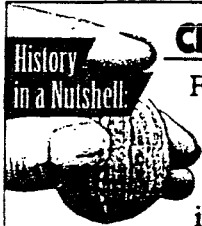
- sovereign = 20 shillings (1 pound, or a quid)
- half sovereign = 10 shillings
- crown = 5 shillings
- half crown = 2 1/2 shillings
- florin = 2 shillings
- shilling = 12 pence (a bob)
- sixpence = 6 pence
- twopence = 2 pence (tuppence)
- penny = 1 pence (a copper)
- halfpenny = 1/2 pence (ha'pence)
- farthing = 1/4 pence

Novel Notes

Issue 4



A Christmas Carol, Stave Two



CHRISTMAS TREES

Families in medieval Germany celebrated the Christmas season in their homes by displaying a wooden pyramid fitted with shelves and decorated with Christmas statuettes, candles, and a star. Then, on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve, families brought fir trees into their homes and decorated them with apples to symbolize the Garden of

Eden. The Germans called these trees Paradise trees; later, they added candles and tied wafers onto the branches. By the sixteenth century, the Paradise tree and the Christmas pyramid had merged into the traditional Christmas tree.

It took almost two hundred years for the Christmas tree to travel from Germany to England. It came in the early 1800s, along with Queen Victoria's German-born husband, Prince Albert.

What's Cookin' PUDDING!

It's pudding time again. Blood pudding, kidney pudding, black pudding, marrow pudding, suet pudding, bread and butter pudding, batter pudding, and roly-poly pudding are fine for the rest of the year, but at the end of December, we Londoners want our plum pudding!

This year make it easy for yourself. Why stuff your ground meat and spices into pork intestines when you can wrap your pudding in a cloth? Don't have an oven? No problem—you can boil or steam this pudding over your own fire. Add some sugar and dried fruit to your meat mix, pack it tightly, wrap it in a cloth, cook it till it's done, and you have a most nutritious dessert!

The Word PLACE

That's Punny

A **pun** is a play on the multiple meanings of a word (such as the *bark* of a dog and the *bark* of a tree) or on two words that sound alike but have different meanings (such as *sail* and *sale*). Dickens

makes a pun using Bob Cratchit's name and the name of a coin. In England, a *bob* was slang for a shilling. Since Scrooge pays Cratchit the small salary of fifteen shillings a week, the narrator observes that "Bob had but fifteen 'Bob' a week himself; he pocketed on Saturdays but fifteen copies of his Christian name. . . ."

FOR YOUR READER'S LOG

Holidays are times to celebrate! As you read Stave Three, jot down the details that most appeal to you about the celebrations you observe.



FOR RENT

SINGLE ROOM IN EAST END

Space for a family. One room with fireplace and grate will accommodate eating, sleeping, cooking. Top floor location; stairway and landing space available for visitors.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Small four-room house complete with kitchen, dining room-parlor, and two bedrooms. Water nearby.