

thereof. She has a saucy tongue too, and "slangs" her "bloke." She has a sinewy appearance, and is usually so dirty that one cannot tell whether she is good-looking or the reverse. Her scraggly hair is always surmounted by a huge structure with nodding plumes. She is blowsy and lacking in smartness, has an impudent laugh and a hard manner. The costers of both sexes are industrious. They despise the idle, greasy brotherhood who swarm the seats on the park, or sleep on the floors of this, their green *salon*, often presenting a spectacle that might be appropriately called "After the Battle." The women who lie drunk on the grass with no underlinen and exposed bodies are rarely of the coster class. Objectionable as the costers are in many ways, one cannot think of London without them. They are as much a part of it as the paving-stones.

Equally as interesting a class are the omnibus drivers. If you sit in the front seat, perhaps your Jehu will tell you that he has just returned from India, where he served under Sir Havelock Allen and was with him when he died. He will tell you not to believe what these newspapers say, for Sir Havelock died by his own hand, and not by an enemy's. He will proudly point to the monument built to commemorate the fire of 1666, and tell you that it is caged in at the top in consequence of the mania for committing suicide from it. Perhaps he will even advise you to ascend it, whereupon you tell him how Dickens represents the man in the monument as laughing when two visitors pay their sixpences to go up, and saying, "They don't know how many steps it is. It is worth twice the money to stop below."

As you rattle down the Thames embankment, you question him about Cleopatra's Needle, the huge obelisk around whose base, prostrate nations seem to crouch. He unfolds how it was brought to England, and how someone told him that it came from the Temple of the Sun, and that Moses played around it, and Joseph was imprisoned under its shadow, and that it saw Abraham, the Hebrew, when he came down to Egypt. This,