

## LETTER FROM CHARLES DICKENS TO MISS HOGARTH

Morrison's Hotel, Dublin.  
Wednesday, Twenty-fifth August, 1858.  
**BEGIN** my letter to you to-day though I don't know when I may send it. We had a very good house last night. For "Little Dombey," this morning, we have an immense stall let—already more than two hundred—and people are now fighting in the agent's shop to take more.

They were a highly excitable audience last night, but they certainly did not comprehend—internally and intellectually—comprehend—"The Chimes" as a London audience do. I am quite sure of it. I very much doubt the Irish capacity of receiving the pathetic; but of their quickness as to the humorous there can be no doubt. I shall see how they go along with "Little Paul" in his death, presently.

We meant, as I said in a letter to Katie, to go to Queenstown yesterday and back on the seashore. But there is always so much to do that we couldn't manage it after all. We expect a tremendous house to-morrow night as well as to-day. I have become a wonderful Irishman—must play an Irish part some day—and Arthur's only relaxation is when I enact "John and the Boots," which I consequently do enact all day long. The papers are full of remarks upon my white tie, and describe it as being enormous size, which is a wonderful delusion, because, as you very well know, it is a small tie. Generally, I am happy to report, the Emerald press is in favor of my appearance and likes my eyes. But one gentleman comes out with a letter at Cork, wherein he says that although only forty six I look like an old man. He is a rum customer, I think.

John has given it up altogether as to rivalry with the Boots, and did not come into my room this morning at all. Boots appeared triumphant and alone. He was waiting for me at the hotel-door last night. "What a sort of a hoose, sur?" he asked me. "Capital." "The Lard be praised for the 'onor o' Doobin!"

Arthur buys bad apples in the streets and brings them home and doesn't eat them, and then I am obliged to put them in the balcony because they make the room small faint. Also he meets countrymen with honeycomb on their heads, and leads them (by the buttonhole when they have one) to this gorgeous establishment and requests the bar to buy honeycomb for his breakfast; then it stands upon the sideboard uncovered and the flies fall into it. He buys owls, toots, and castles, and other horrible objects, made in bog-oak; and he is perpetually snipping pieces out of newspapers and sending them all over the world. While I am reading he conducts the correspondence, and his great delight is to show me seventeen or eighteen letters when I come, exhausted into the retiring-place. Berry has not got into any particular trouble for forty-eight hours, except that he is all over boils. I have perished the yeast, but ineffectually. It is indeed a sight to see him and John sitting in pay-boxes, and surveying Ireland out of pigeon-holes.

Some Evening before Bed-time  
Everybody was at "Little Dombey" to-day, and although I had some little difficulty to work them up in consequence of the excessive crowding of the place, and the difficulty of shaking the people into their seats, the effect was unmistakable and profound. The crying was universal, and they were extraordinarily affected. There is no doubt we could stay here a week with that one reading, and fill the place every night. Hundreds of people have been there to-night, under the impression that it would come off again. It was a most decided and complete success.

Here follows a dialogue (but it requires imitation), which I had yesterday morning with a little boy of the house—landlord's son, I suppose—about Plorn's age. I am sitting on the sofa writing, and find him sitting beside me.  
Inimitable. Hello, old chap.  
Young Ireland. Hal-loo!  
Inimitable. (In his delightful way). What a nice fellow you are. I am very fond of little boys.  
Young Ireland. Air yer? Yer's right.  
Inimitable. What do you learn, old fellow?  
Young Ireland. (Very interested). Inimitable, and I am a child, except in his brains. I learn words of three syllables, and words of two syllables, and words of one syllable.  
Inimitable. Get out your humber! You learn words of only one syllable.  
Young Ireland. (Laughs heartily). You may say it is in mostly words of one syllable.  
Inimitable. Can you write?  
Young Ireland. No yet. Things come by grays.  
Inimitable. Can you cipher?  
Young Ireland. (Very quietly). What's that?  
Inimitable. Can you make figures?  
Young Ireland. I can make a nought, which is say, being round.  
Inimitable. I say, old boy, wasn't it you I saw yesterday morning in the hall, in a soldier's cap?  
Young Ireland. (Coasting). Was it a very good Ireland. Yes.  
Inimitable. Yes.  
Young Ireland. Did it fit uncommon?  
Inimitable. Yes.  
Young Ireland. Dat was me!

There are two stupid old louts at the room, to show people into their places, whom John calls "them two old Paddies," and of whom he says, that he "never see nothing like them (snigger) hold idiots" (snigger). They bow and walk backwards before the grantees, and our men hustle them while they are doing it.  
We walked out last night, with the intention of going to the theatre; but the Piccolomini establishment (they were doing the "Lucia") looked so horribly like a very bad jail, and the Queen's looked so blackguardly, that we came back again, and went to bed. I seem to be always either in a railway carriage, or reading, or going to bed. I get so knocked-up, whenever I have a minute, to remember it, that then I go to bed as a matter of course.

I am looking forward to the last Irish reading on Thursday, with great impatience. But when we shall have turned this week, once knocked of Belfast, I shall see land, and shall (like poor Timber in the days of old) "keep up a good heart."  
Ever, my dearest Georgy, most affectionately,  
CHARLES DICKENS  
(Born February 7, 1812; died June 9, 1870.)

## SPENT NINE WEEKS IN THE WOODS

Fredericton, Jan. 28.—Henry Braithwaite, aged 78 years, returned this morning after nine weeks in the woods on the Southwest Miramichi. The search party sent out by his relatives to locate him was met by Guide Braithwaite coming out of the woods. He suffered severely from the cold, but came through without serious injury to his health. The weather made it impossible for him to trap.

## KILAUEA ACTIVE

Honolulu, Jan. 25.—Kilauea volcano, the largest active crater in the world, is manifesting unusual activity with the lava lake reported to be within eighteen feet of the top of the crater. Prof. T. E. Jagger, Jr., director of the volcano observatory, predicted to-day that the lava would overflow.  
Kilauea volcano is situated in the southern part of the island of Hawaii, approximately 120 miles from this city. Unusual activity of the volcano was reported in February, 1917. At that time it was reported the pit was a lake of fire of many acres in extent casting its glow at night many miles out to sea. A few months earlier the pit was said to have been inactive. The volcano enclosed in a circular wall two hundred to seven feet in height, is a black plain of about four square miles within which is the pit of Halemaumau.

## BAKERS GATHER AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—A deputation of bakers, thirty in number, from all parts of Canada, are in Ottawa to-day and will confer with Professor Harcourt, representing the Food Controller, this afternoon.  
The purpose of the conference is to decide upon a standard loaf based on the new standard flour which the mills must grind from this date forward.  
The loaf, it is proposed, shall be standard in weight, size, shape, and in grain contents. It is proposed that all fancy loaves shall be dropped.  
The question of a standard price will afterwards be considered. In fixing this, however, differing local conditions of delivery, etc., will have to be taken into consideration.

## LESSARD CONDUCTS INQUIRY

Ottawa, Jan. 24.—Major-General F. L. Lessard, C. B., is to preside over a court of inquiry which will report on the standing of Permanent Force officers and men now serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and those who have returned, or have been discharged from the C. E. F. Other members of the court are Brigadier-General R. A. Helmer, Lt.-Col. A. O. Lambert, Assistant Paymaster, and Major Gregor Barclay, D. A. A. G. It is understood that the court will consider matters appertaining to pay, promotion, and pensions.

## ARCTIC EXPLORER DEAD

Peabody, Mass., Jan. 28.—George A. White, the last survivor of the Greeley Relief Expedition to the Arctic in 1880, died at his home here to-day. He was a member of the party on the steamer *Fortress*. When the vessel was crushed in the ice, Mr. White and six others rowed 48 days in a small boat, until they succeeded in reaching the warship *Yonic*, which had accompanied the *Fortress* as far north as it could.

## THE ARMY OF 1914

LET us praise God for the Dead; the Dead who died in our cause. They went forth a little army: all its men were as true as steel. The horses of the enemy were hurled against them: they fell back, but their hearts failed not.  
They went forward again and held their ground: though their foes were as five to one. They gave time for our host to muster: the host of the men who never thought to fight. A great host and a mighty: worthy of the men who died to gain them time. Let us praise God for these men: let us remember them before Him all our days. Let us care for the widows and orphans: and for the men who came home maimed. Truly God has been with us: these things were not done without His help. O Lord our God, be Thou still our helper:—make us worthy of those who died.  
—ALFRED W. POLLARD

## NEWS OF THE SEA

—Washington, Jan. 28.—An American patrol boat was to-day reported to the Spanish steamer *Giralda* Saturday, a German submarine sank the vessel, which was of 4,400 tons. The crew was saved.

—Madrid, Jan. 28.—After pillaging the Spanish steamer *Giralda* Saturday, a German submarine sank the vessel, which was of 4,400 tons. The crew was saved.

—London, Jan. 28.—The steamship *Cork* has been torpedoed. Seven passengers and five members of the crew were lost. She was torpedoed without warning. The torpedo struck her amidships and she sank in five minutes. Many of the passengers were in their berths at the time. The survivors were landed at a port in western England. The *Cork*, 1,279 gross and 260 feet long, was built at Port Glasgow in 1899. She was owned in Dublin.

—Belfast, Jan. 27.—The Cunard line steamship *Andania* was torpedoed, but not sunk, off the Ulster coast this morning, says the *Irish Daily Telegraph*. The newspaper adds it is believed that no deaths resulted from the explosion.  
The *Andania* is a vessel of 13,405 tons. She was built at Greenock, Scotland, in 1913, and since then has made many trips between British and American ports.

—Paris, Jan. 28.—Forty lives were lost through the sinking of the French freight transport *Le Duce*, and the trawler *Keriban*, which struck mines on Jan. 23, within sight of Marseilles. *Le Duce* first came into contact with a mine, and the *Keriban* shortly after struck another near the same place. Aviators later discovered other mines in this region, which immediately was swept in an endeavor to clear them away. *Le Duce* was a vessel of 3,236 tons, built at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1900, and is owned by a French line.

## SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 15th, 1918.  
To the Friends of the Blind in Canada.—  
In view of the recent terrible explosion in Halifax, and the number of persons who have become totally or practically blind as a result of the same, the several organizations in Halifax for the care and training of the blind find themselves almost overwhelmed in meeting the new conditions which have arisen. Even before the disaster the resources of the Halifax School for the Blind, the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, the Maritime Association for the Blind, etc., etc., found it almost impossible with their limited resources to meet the demands upon them, but these demands have been suddenly increased by the necessity for providing shelter, care, and training for upwards of two hundred men, women, and children who lost their sight as a result of the recent disaster. Under these circumstances it is imperative that an appeal be made to all sympathetic and public spirited Canadians. The best and most effective way of making provision for these sightless people is immediately to increase the Blind Endowment Fund so that it may reach a total of \$500,000.00. The income arising from such an endowment fund will enable us to meet the problems of the blind in Halifax in a sympathetic and practical manner, and would bring to many a one now helpless and hopeless new opportunities to fit himself or herself for the battle of life. No greater need to help the blind has ever arisen in any part of the world and I believe that when the people of Canada fully appreciate the situation generous help will be forthcoming.  
The Blind Endowment Fund is in the hands of three trustees, namely, the President of the Board of Managers of the School for the Blind, Halifax; the Treasurer of the School for the Blind, and the Eastern Trust Co., of Halifax.

## A FEW TYPICAL CASES OF THE RECENT DISASTER MAY BE CITED

A woman of 31, now totally blind, is a patient in one hospital while her little daughter 9 years of age, totally blind is a patient in another. Two other children of this mother were killed in the explosion, and two were badly cut but will recover. The husband and father was killed at his work.  
In another family the mother, 35 years old, is totally blind, the father has lost one eye and a child aged 5 is totally blind. There were seven children in all in this family, of whom the remaining six are being cared for by aged grandparents. One of these children is tubercular.  
A young wife of 18, whose husband is in the army, is still in the hospital, four months pregnant, and frantic over practical blindness.  
In another family the mother was killed. The father, a discharged disabled soldier, who has lost one leg, was not injured in the explosion. When their two children, little girls, were seen in one hospital, one about 2 1/2 years old had one eye enucleated, a hand nearly severed by cuts, and bad cuts on the face; the other child, about 20 months old, had had to have both eyes enucleated; the visiting workers met the volunteer heretofore inexperienced in nursing, who had the night of the disaster, held these children during their operations.  
A mother, 45 years of age, now totally blind, had five children, of whom one is missing; one lost a leg, one is suffering from other serious injury, and one is totally blind. The father was probably killed, as he has been missing since the explosion. The child of their married daughter is also totally blind and badly mutilated.  
A mother, of 39, totally blind, had a child of ten blinded in the explosion who has since died. A second child, aged 12, has lost one eye. The husband, a soldier, is in the trenches overseas.  
Contributions towards the Blind Endowment Fund may be sent to Mr. G. W. BABBITT, Bank of Nova Scotia, St. Andrews, N. B., or to SIR FREDERICK FRASER, School for the Blind, Halifax.

## FIGHTING BATTLES FOR AMERICA

New York, Jan. 28.—Charles E. Fairchild, secretary of the treasury in President Cleveland's cabinet, told a

## GRANT AMNESTY TO CUBAN REBELS

Havana, Jan. 28.—With the Liberals absenting themselves from the Chamber, the Conservative members of the House of Representatives, in regular session this evening, passed a bill granting amnesty to all civilians who took part in the Liberal revolution of February, 1917. Fifty-four Conservatives were present, voting unanimously for the resolution, which has the support of President Menocal.  
Among those who would be liberated under that bill, if it passes Senate and is signed by the President, are former President Miguel Gomez and his son.

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## PORTRAITS OF CHIEF SUPERINTENDENTS

Fredericton, Jan. 25.—Portraits of all the chief superintendents of education of the province who held office previous to the present chief superintendent, Dr. W. S. Carter, have been secured by the department of education and now are at the education office. They will be hung on the walls of Dr. Carter's office. The portraits were secured at considerable trouble. Relatives selected the portraits from which the enlargements were made. Each portrait bears a brass plate with the name of the official represented and the dates of his occupancy of office. None of the former chiefs is now alive. Dr. Wm. Crockett, of this city, was the last to pass away. One of them, Dr. T. H. Rand, died suddenly under unusual circumstances at the centennial observance of the University of New Brunswick in 1900, while exercises were being conducted in the parliament buildings.

## WAR COUNCIL MEETS IN PARIS

Paris, Jan. 25.—Mr. Lloyd George and Viscount Milner, members of the British war council, are coming to Paris to confer with Premier Clemenceau, says Marcel Hutin in his newspaper, the *Echo de Paris*. Their visit will coincide with the meeting of the supreme war council at Versailles. "It is unnecessary to underline the importance of these deliberations," says M. Hutin.

## BRITISH CASUALTIES

London, Jan. 28.—British casualties reported during the week ending to-day were 8,588, divided as follows:  
Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 20; men, 1,714.  
Wounded or missing—Officers, 128; men, 6,721.

## CHINESE HIT BOLSHEVIKI

Harbin, Manchuria, Jan. 28.—The Chinese officials here have cut off all exports of goods to Russia, thus accentuating the food shortage in that country.

## MR. DONALD MACMASTER ON WAR AIMS

The Mayor (Councillor S. M. Slater) presided at a War Aims meeting, held in the Temperance Hall on Thursday evening, and addressed by Mr. Donald Macmaster, K. C., M. P. There was only a moderate attendance, although Mr. Macmaster expressed himself satisfied therewith and with the attentive hearing given a thoughtful and earnest address.  
The Borough Member (Sir Richard Cooper, Bart.), still unable to leave his bed, sent to the Mayor a letter, in which he said:  
"I would like to convey the simple message that, whilst our position in the war is fraught with peril and will call for yet greater sacrifices from those of us who have stayed at home than we have yet been called upon to bear, I would appeal, with all the force that I can command, to all classes in this country to refuse to listen at the present juncture to any talk of peace negotiations, which, however favorable, can mean only a German victory. The Allies have got their teeth at the throat of Germany, and I have never, during the whole war, been so confident that victory is awaiting the Allies, if we will only hold out until next summer, than I am at the present moment. I cannot resist the conviction that the economic situation of the Central Powers is a very grave one, and that the blockade of the Allies will bring defeat on the enemy before the submarine can hope to reduce this country to such a state that we might be compelled to sue for peace. After such great national sacrifices as we have already made, we must stick it out to the end, because victory is in sight, and thereby give the only fitting acknowledgement to the remarkable and heroic sacrifices which so many thousands of our brave men have made."

In welcoming Mr. Macmaster, the Mayor informed the meeting that he was a distinguished Canadian, and was for some years a member of the Canadian House of Commons. He was now Member of the British House of Commons for the Chertsey Division of Surrey. In these circumstances, the Mayor thought Mr. Macmaster's point of view would be a unique one, and he observed that he was one of those men who had lost a son in the war. The Mayor urged that we should keep our minds steadily fixed on the ultimate issue, pointing out that unless we secure peace with honor, this country would not be worth living in.

## THE ANOMALY OF IRELAND

Mr. Macmaster opened by saying he was sincerely grateful that Sir Richard Cooper would recover his health and soon be restored to public life. Frankly, he considered that our position, though not one to be discouraged at, was a very serious one indeed. Owing to the release of enemy forces from the Russian Front, there was no telling where the next attack might be made in increasing numbers. The submarine danger was also a serious one, but fortunately patriotism was prevailing, and he believed we should be able to keep up a supply of shipping; while also he had great faith in our inventors, and believed we might be able to overcome the submarine in his own field—under the sea. Holding that we had not been able to retaliate sufficiently against the Germans in the air, he urged that, cost what it would, we must have a superior air force, for the decisive battle of this war might be fought in the air. As to what were our war aims, the speaker considered these were created by the war being forced upon us. It was a battle for existence; that was our war aim. (Applause.) We must defeat the enemy or perish. Only by victory could we attain peace and security for the world. When we had won the war we could revise the map of Europe, and settle other conditions of war. How were we to win? First, he emphasized the necessity of unity and steadfastness. We must also practice economy and sacrifice in every direction, and do all possible for increased production. Remarking that we must pull together, he asked whether England, Scotland, and Wales having contributed their sons, the day had not arrived when our sister kingdom, Ireland, should send the full force of its manhood into the fight. (Applause.) It was perfectly anomalous that we should see Ireland enjoying a greater measure of prosperity than ever before, and at the same time hundreds of thousands of young men in the villages and countryside doing nothing to win the war. We knew what magnificent soldiers Irishmen were, and of course many of them volunteered; but there were at least a quarter of a million, or three hundred thousand, available if we had only the moral courage to put the law into force and say they must serve. It was utterly unwarrantable that one section should have the protection of the law, and that an army should be retained for that purpose, while it was doing nothing towards the prosecution of the war. (Applause.)

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the speaker, on the motion of Mr. Millerchip, who declared that queues would be unnecessary if food were equitably distributed, seconded by Mr. Power, and Mr. Macmaster having replied, the proceedings closed with the National Anthem.—*Walsall Observer*, Dec. 15, 1917.

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