

every line of the author is one of the charms of a hakespeare novel. He is a link of sympathy between the reader and characters. In our pity All works of fiction are not novels of character; some lack the element of truthfulness and depend on the incidents for the interest. These are romances, intimate and are often vicious, as in the sensational novel where we have fictitious

Writing sentiment, excessive coloring, unnatural obstacles overcome by equally unnatural power or prowess, unreality, giddy show, and second easy victory—all enervating to the morose peculiar nature. There is a worse variety than, when still, of which the dime novel may be lect; their a type, of these the prevailing qualities ars: when have been characterized as follows:— (1) physical strength either in English a two-fold brutalists of fist and club or the American of knife and revolver; (2) money one turn taken from parsimonious fathers by the l laughter son; (3) home-life stupid and dull, and , disgra the boy joins the vagabond and swell too great mob; (4) transgression of law a manly of respect and noble deed, the hero always escapes eart bleed by some sharp lawyer.

Novels proper are not open to any of these objections. The very essence of works like those of Dickens is the truthful and careful fidelity to nature and morality.

Novels are of two kinds, pictorial and ethical.

I. Pictorial are

1. Historical,
2. Descriptive,
3. Social,
4. Professional.

II. Ethical are either reformatory or creative. A novel may possess more species than one characteristic but they are nan hear classified by predominant features, for fully it most works of fiction are constructed with nore full some aim in view, and that will decide n, the tendency.

The ethical is the highest type of king its novel. It aims at giving more than nt. The historical truth or real life; it philoso- ough hiphizes on facts to solve problems of life itself and theories or ideals of society. If der; h this is done for some definite phase of s upper progress, it is the reformatory novel, of rsonality this nature are many of Dickens' novels.

The creative novel of character is the highest of all. It is a study of human life not for any one reform but profoundly in view of its many issues. It must have a decidedly moral flavor. Character in all its varieties is the test of a novelist's power, and this power we see in all Dickens' works. In fact he combines and alternates every sort of interest in his novels.

Let us now take a rapid glance at some of Dickens' novels. His earliest productions of any note were the celebrated sketches by Boz, which at once gave him a stand among the best writers of the day. Their wonderful humour and truthfulness attracted universal attention. Their striking characteristics were those that are seen in his novels, overflowing fun and humor, unequalled sensibility to peculiarities of character, of speech, of manners and of appearance, ease of personification, astonishing quantity of grotesque names. Every one wondered who the author could be. In reference to this the following epigram was current:

"Who the dickens Boz could be,  
Puzzled many a learned elf;  
But time unveiled the mystery,  
And Boz appeared as Dickens' self."

His next attempt was the famous Pickwick Papers, beginning as a series of sketches, but afterwards assuming the form and pretensions of a novel of character. Its success was immense. He was at once recognized as a genius of the first rank. At the conclusion of the series he received \$17,000 as his share of the profits, while the publishers cleared over \$100,000. This remarkable success was achieved in the face of the keenest competition from such novelists as Ainsworth, Bulwer, Disraeli, Hood, Lover, Miss Mitford, Mrs. Trollope and Thackeray; the latter then writing for mere bread in Fraser's Magazine.

One of the remarkable features of his writings was the field he had chosen to display his power of delineating character. Guided by his genial and sociable instincts, he chose to devote his literary labours to the welfare of the