

of relatives. But his writings will influence posterity for ages.

Many and diverse are the criticisms which have, from time to time, been showered upon the various works of our author. Supercilious shallowness has patronised him, or pronounced him low, as the humor seized it. Pedantic writing masters have measured his characters with the rule and tape line of their schools, and made them overdrawn or deficient as to them seemed fit. The best commentary on his works is their success, which has been unparalleled. Journalists have decried *Pickwick*; but while they were decrying, people slipped into the book-stalls and bought *Pickwick*; which was a better comment—at least it was a more satisfactory one to the author. His popularity has already outlived even the names of many of his earlier critics; and affords their only claim to remembrance to others. It bids fair to perform the same kindness to his later ones. It is absurd to characterize certain creations of genius as deficient in art or untrue to nature, and consequently incapable of pleasing, when the creations themselves promptly disprove the assertion by giving universal satisfaction. If it be true that certain forms and rules must be complied with in order that success in the creation of characters may be obtained, then if the full measure of success be obtained, it follows that