

would tend to take up his time and distract his attention. It is quite likely that he will feel compelled to pursue the same course in America, and to decline without exception the offers of hospitality which will undoubtedly be extended to him from all sides. This is, perhaps, unfortunate, for—to not to speak of private disappointments—Mr. DICKENS is an acute observer at all times, and our hotels are not the best places to study American character." When this was brought to my notice it seemed instructive. Then I was glad that I was not a lecturer seeking engagements, or I should have known as little of the United States and its people as Mr. DICKENS. Such a notice was an affront to American courtesy to strangers for whom respect had been conceived. Mr. DICKENS's fate was to be taken from platform to platform, like Jumbo, or a giant, or a midge of remarkable proportion—clandestinely; and when he had shown himself to persons who had paid to see him, he was withdrawn into a committee-room, his face wiped, and his hair combed, a little egg and sherry beaten up and administered to him, and then he was secretly transferred to a sleeping car, and no more seen till he rose through the trapdoor of the next stage on which he had to appear. If Mr. DOLBY's unblushing notice had never appeared he would have been quite safe from intrusions of hospitality. As soon as it is known that a visitor's business is to make money, American gentlemen look upon him from a purely commercial point of view, and would regard an invitation given to him as interfering with the receipts of the agents who owned him, since many who would see him privately might be content with that pleasure, and not take seats for his readings. As Mr. DICKENS was already rich, it does not seem worth while that he should appear before a great people who had genuine admiration for him, as a mere collector of dollars. He would not have lost a thousand dollars if he had gone among them as an English gentleman. It is true that the American nation is no great friend of authors, since it "nationalises" their copyrights, to use the new Georgian jargon. Still one could wish that since our favourite novelist had published for circulation "Notes on American" manners, he had presented them with a personal sample of English quality which they might look upon with respect.