CHARLES DICKENS ****

CHAPTER I.

In the year 1775, there stood upon distance of about twelve miles from London-measuring from the Standard in Cornhill, or rather from the spot not arterwards. on or near to which the Standard used to be in days of yore-a house Maypole; which fact was 6 on- she rises at nine. the house, which, if not of those business and nobody else's .goodly proportions that Maypoles "Never you mind about the moon were wont to present in olden times, Don't you trouble yourself about her. was a fair young ash, thirty feet in You let the moon alone, and I'll let height, and straight as any arrow you alone.' that ever English yeoman drew.

The Maypole-by which term from not its sign-the Maypole was an old building, with more gable ends than a lazy man would care to count on a sunny day ; huge zig-zag chimneys, out of which it seemed as though even smoke could not choose but cop e in more than naturally fantastic shapes, imparted to it in its tortuous progress; and vast stables, gloomy, ruinous and empty. The place was said to have been built in the days of was a legend, not only that Queva shaded by the hand on which his ore-Elizabeth had slept there one night head rested, looked unsociable exough. while upon a hunting excursion, to booted and spurred, at some distance a mile of so from here?" wit in a certain oak-panelled room, from the fire also, and whose "Public-house?" said the landlord, turning of his back on Natur, a-floutmounting-block before the door, with arms and knitted brows, and from 'Public-house, father !" exclaimed caskets, and a-proving of one's self to next morning, while standing on a and doubtful folks, of whom there were a few samong the Maypole customers. The maturally and of course and doubtful folks, of whom there the middle height, and of course to an end; and therefore the middle height, and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course to an end; and therefore the maturally and of course. tomers, as unluckily there always are though of a somewhat slight figure, "Ay," said the stranger, tomers, as unluckily there always are in every little community, were inclined to look upon this tradition as rather apocryphal; but, whenever gracefully and strongly made. He ago stood in a park five timed, austrity, exclaimed, austrity, e as rather apocryphal; but, whenever the landlord of that ancient hostelry appealed to the mounting-block itself as evidence, and triumphantly pointed out that there it stood in the same out that there it stood in the same out that there it stood in the same of the bad condition of the roads. place to that very day, the doubters never failed to be put down by a was well and even richly attired, and what it is I can see for myself."

question related to the owner. What of his interrupter, and uttering the for so far as I can make out, you mean, and uttering the for so far as I can make out, you mean, it has been I don't care to know, and monosyllable in capitals, to apprise ask again?" never failed to be put down by a large majority, and all true believers was well and even richly attired, and without being over-dressed, looked a without being over-dressed, looked a The heir-apparent to the Maypole the vulgar say, with unbecoming and little brought down from his dignity Whether these and many other stor- gallant gentleman.

were old diamond-pane lattices, its windows short riding-cloak. Little of his face before—"and a worthy gentieman, know," added John, putting his pipe floors were sunken and uneven, its was visible, except the long dark too-hem ! floors were sunken and uneven. Its lashes which concealed his downcast ceilings blackened by the hand of time lashes which concealed his downcast Paying as little regard to this ad-better, for I ain't proud and am not importance plainly betokened him to

building, but the monotonous cooing, mouths at the stranger likewise. which never ceased to be raised by The sturdy landlord had a large pair closely round the time-worn walls them at the unknown customer.

have many good years of life in him their companions, regarded him of the

The evening with which we have to

spirit of prophecy thus descended was in a particularly awkward and dis-John Willet, a burly, large-headed concerted manner. Willet, a burly, large-headed concerted manner. man with a fat face which betokened profound obstinacy and slowness of apprehension, combined with a very strong reliance upon his own merits. It was John Willet's ordinary boast in his more placid moods, that if he minutes for consideration. were slow he was sure; which assertion could, in one sense at least, be by no means gainsaid, seeing that he was in everything unquestionably the reverse of fast, and withal one of the most dogged and positive fellows in existence-always sure that what he thought or said or did was right, and holding it as a thing quite settled and ordained by the laws of nature Providence, that anybody who said or did or thought otherwise must be inevitably and of necessity

Mr. Willet walked slowly up to the vindow, flattened his fat nose against he cold glass, and shadin, his eyes hat his sight might not be affected y the ruddy glow of the fire, looked broad. Then he walked slowly back a his old seat in the chimney—corner, alight shiver, such as a man might

years ago a vast number, both of his mind to bear upon the whole of travelle:s and stay-at-homes were his observation, and then made an- little clerk very readily assigned to time in this condition) by the emblem swer, in a tone which seemed to imreared on the roadside over against ply that the moon was peculiarly his "A highwayman !" whispered Tom

"Never you mind about the moon.

"No offence I hope ?" said the little man

henceforth is meant the house, and the observation had thoroughly pene-Again John waited leisurely until trated to his brain, and then replying "No offence as yet," applied light to his pipe and smoked in placid silence; now and then casting a sidelong look at a man wrapped in a locse riding-coat with huge cuffs, orand large metal buttons, who sat apart from the regular frequenters of

thoughts-to judge from his folded with his usual deliberation.

twittered in the eaves. There were whole power of his eyes into one fo- "Rough weather, indeed!" observed "No, you never are. When your ouinmore pigeons about the dreary stable cus, and brought it to bear upon the the strange man. fantails, tumblers, and pouters, were affected his fireside cronies, who all, perhaps not quite consistent with the as with one accord, took their pipes grave and sober character of the from their lips, and stared with open Haredale a daughter ?"

some among them all day long, suited of dull fish-like eyes, and the little it exactly, and seemed to lull it to man who had hazarded the remark rest. With its overhanging stories, about the moon (and who was the yonder ?" drowsy little panes of glass, and parish-clerk and the bell-ringer of front bulging out and projecting over Chigwell; a village hard by), had the pathway, the old house looked as little round black shiny eyes like if it were nodding in its sleep. In- beads; moreover this little man wore deed, it needed no very great stretch at the knees of his rusty black of fancy to detect in it other resem- breeches, and on his rusty black coat, blances to humanity. The bricks of and all down his long flapped waistwhich it was built had originally been coat, little queer buttons like nothing a deep dark red, but had grown yel- except his eyes; but so like them, low and discolored like an old man's that as they twinkled and glistered skin; the sturdy timbers had decayed in the light of the fire, which shone like teeth; and here and there the too in his bright shoe-buckles, he ivy, like a warm garment to comfort seemed all eyes from head to foot, it in its age, wrapt its green leaves and to be gazing with every one of It was a hale and hearty age wonder that a man should grow restthough, still : and in the summer or less under such an inspection as this, autumn evenings, when the glow of to say nothing of the eyes belonging the setting sun fell upon the oak and to short Tom Cobb the general chandchestnut trees of the adjacent forest, ler and post-office keeper, and long the old house, partaking of its lustre, Phil Parkes, the ranger, both of seemed their fit companion, and to whom, infected by the example of

flapped hat no less attentively. The stranger became restless : do, was neither a summer nor an haps from being exposed to this rakautumn one, but the twilight of a ing fire of eyes, perhaps from the naday in March, when the wind howled ture of his previous meditationsdismally among the bare branches of most probably from the latter cause, the trees, and rumbling in the wide for as he changed his position and chimneys and driving the rain against looked hastily round, he started to the windows of the Maypole Inn, gave find himself the object of such Feen such of its frequenters as chanced to regard, and darted an angry and susbe there at the moment an undeniable picious glance at the fireside group. reason for prolonging their stay, and It had the effect of immediately dicaused the landlord to prophesy that verting all eyes to the chimney, exthe night would certainly clear at cept those of John Willet, who findeleven o'clock precisely,-which, by a ing himself, as is were, caught in the remarkable coincidence, was the hour fact, and not being (as has been alat which he always closed his house. ready observed) of a very ready na-The name of him upon whom the ture, remained staring at his grest

"Well ?" said the stranger Well. There was not much in well. It was not a long speech. "I thought lord, after a pause of two or three

you gave an order," said the The stranger took off his hat, and

of sixty or thereabouts, much weath- easily be less.' er-beaten and worn by time, and the "Silence, sir !" ried his father. naturally hard expression of which "What a chap you are, Joe !" said was not improved by a dark handker- long Parkes. his head, and, while it served the mured Tom Cobb. purpose of a wig, shaded his torehead | "Putting himself forward and ringand almost his eyebrows. If it ing the very nose off his own father's were intended to conceal or divert attention from a deep gash, now healed metaphorically. into an ugly seam, which when it was | "What have I done ?" reasoned ditional relish for the warm blaze, first inflicted must have laid bare his poor Joe. the borders of Epping Forest, at a said, looking round upon his guests,— cheek-bone, the object was but indif- "Silence, sir !" returned his father, "It'll clear at eleven o'clock. No ferently attained, for it could scarce- "what do you mean by talking, when coner and no later. Not before and ly fail to be noted at a glance. His you see people that are more than complexion was of a cadaverous hue, two or three times your age, sitting "How do you make out that?" and he had a grizzly jagged beard of still and silent and not dreaming of said a little man in the opposite cor- some three weeks' date. Such was saying a word ?' of public entertainment called the ner. "The moon is past the full, and the figure (very meanly and poorly "Why, that's the proper time for clad) that now rose from the seat, me to talk, isn't it ?" said Joe, restrated to all such travellers as could John looked sedately and solemnly and stalking across the room sat belliousiy. strated to all such travellers as could | John looked sedately and solemnly down in a corner of the chimney, "The proper time, sir !" retorted neither read nor write (and sixty-six at his questioner until he had brought which the politeness or fears of the his father, "the proper time's no

Cobb to Parkes, the ranger.

"Do you suppose highwaymen don't dress handsomer than that ?" replied Parkes. "It's a better business than you think for, Tom, and highwaymen don't need or use to be shabby, take my word for it." Meanwhile, the subject of their

Meanwhile, the subject of their speculations had done due honor to the house by calling for some drink, which was promptly supplied by the him." said Parkes. which was promptly supplied by the landlord's son Joe, a broad-shoulder- "For the matter o' that, Phil!" namented with tarnished silver lace consider a little boy, and to treat ac- corner of his mouth, and staring at cordingly. Stretchiag out his hands to warm them by the blazing fire, the to warm them by the blazing fire, the the house, and wearing a hat flayped man turned his head towards the ment is a gift of Natur. If Natur has over his face, which was still fur her sharply over them said in a rock gifted a man with powers of argeysharply over them, said in a voice ment, a man has a right to make the

"What house is that which stands stand on false delicacy, and deny

one foot on the stirrup, the virgin the untasted liquor before him-were Joe, -where's the public-house with- be a swine that isn't worth her scatmonarch had then and there boxed occupied with other matters than the in a mile or so of the Maypole? He tering pearls before. and cuffed an unlucky page for some topics under discussion or the persons means the great house, the Warren— The landlord, pauding here for a very neglect of duty. The matter-of-fact who discussed them. This was a naturally and of course. The old red-

pressed his finger on his lips, and irreverent haste; "If, sir, Natur has by the stranger's surliness, "is Whether these and many other stories of the like nature, were true or untrue, the Maypole was really an old untrue, the Maypole was really an old untrue, the Maypole was really and a slowched attitude when the house was first rather glory in the same ? Yes sir house, a very old house, perhaps as old as it claimed to be, and perhaps older, which will sometimes happen with houses of an uncertain, as with houses of an uncertain, as with house of an uncertain of the house of an uncertain of the house of with houses of an uncertain, as with of pistols in a holster-case, and a he glanced in the same direction as and many a time, as I think you more ladies of a certain, age. Its windows short riding close Little of his few heavy worths.

and heavy with massive beams. Over eyes, but an air of careless ease and monitory cough, as to the significant going to tell you. and heavy with massive beams. Over the doorway was an ancient porch, and seemed to come stranger pursued his questioning and a general murmur from his three be the person referred to, and, obtained the doorway was an ancient porch.

prehend even these slight accessories, "I turned out of my way coming heads at the copper boiler, assured which were all handsome and in good here, and took the footpath that John Willet that they had had good crosses the grounds. Who was the experiences of his powers, and needed ther solicitation, gathered his large work? and sang many a good song, the song lady that I saw entering the formal sometimes—reposing on two Towards this roung gentleman the young lady that I saw entering the sometimes—reposing on two Towards this roung gentleman the carriage? His daughter ?"

fairy tale, guarded the entrance to er he had observed his silent neigh- man?" replied Joe, contriving in the in silence. bor. It was plain that John and the course of some arrangements about "It's all very fine talking," mut- from under a great fagot whose In the chimneys of the disused young gentleman had often met be- the hearth, to advance close to his tered Joe, who had been fidgeting in weight almost crushed it for the rooms, swallows had built their nests forc. Finding that his look was not questioner and pluck him by the his chair with divers uneasy gestures. Weight almost crushed it for the time, shot upward with a strong and for many a long year, and from ear- returned, or indeed observed by the sleeve, "I didn't see the young lady, liest spring to latest autumn whole person to whom it was addressed, you know. Whew! There's the wind I'm never to open my lips—" colonies of sparrows chirped and John gradually concentrated the again—and rain—well it is a night!" "Silence, sir!" roared his

more pigeons about the dreary stable cus, and brought it to bear upon the the strange man.

Solve the dreary stable cus, and brought it to bear upon the the strange man.

Solve the old room, with its heavy timbers blace she went. It was so unusual to catching at anything which according to the old room, with its heavy timbers blace she went. but the landlord could reckon up. The came to stare in course of time with catching at anything which seemed to your opinion's not wanted, and you're and panelled walls, look as if it were when I couldn't that I always heard wheeling and circling flights of runts, an intensity so remarkable, that it promise a diversion of the subject. not spoke to, don't you give an opin-

"No, no," said the young fellow,

monstrance, and affecting not to hear Second." it, his tormentor provokingly con-

before now. Perhaps she may be his presentative of church and state in That a mother's life is necessarily lee's Vegetable Pills are compounded daughter, though he is not married." that company, held himself bound to

for it presently, I know you will !" that I know of. I ask a few ques- maids, sir ?" said Mr. Willet. tions-as any stranger may, and not unnaturally-about the inmates of a clerk.

him no information, the young man anything else." house door.

While Joe was absent on this er- stranger, said,ed over the fire. After some time Geoffrey Haredale's niece." John Willet slowly shook his head, "Is her father alive?" said the By this it is not meant that a mar-and thereupon his friends slowly man carelessly. shook theirs; but no man withdrew his eyes from the boiler, or altered not alive, and he is not dead"the solemn expression of his counten-

ance in the slightest degree. At length Joe returned-very talka- way," said the landlord.

drawing a chair near the fire, and dict me, for I won't believe him," book or a pleasant friend are diverlooking round for sympathy. "He that John Willet was in amazing sions that every woman needs, and if has set off to walk to London,-all force to-night, and fit to tackle a she is deprived of them, she will sufthe way to London. His nag gone Chief Justice. lame in riding out here this blessed. The stranger suffered a short pause quence. For the present, the young Which is the most ancient tree afternoon, and comfortably littered to elapse, and then asked abruptly, mother should content herself with Elder. down in our stable at this minute : "What do you mean ?" and he giving up a good hot supper and our best bed, because Miss Hare-returned John Willet. "Perhaps the little feet have ceased to echo in

"Rather," replied Joe. "He'll not more than I think for. fo tell you hearts and minds could she conceive small, effect see.

disclosed the hard features of a man er be more in love, and may very

chief which was bound tightly round, "Such an inconsiderate lad!" mur-

"The proper time, sir !" retorted

"Ah, to be sure !" muttered Parkes, nodding gravely to the other two who nodded likewise, observing under their breaths that that was the point.

"The proper time's no time, sir," repeated John Willet; "when I was your age I never talked, I never wanted to talk. I listened and improved myself, that's what I did." proved myself, that's what I did."

ed, strapping young fellow of twenty, observed Mr. Willet, blowing a long, whom it pleased his father still to thin, spiral cloud of smoke out of the well suited to his appearance,- best of 'em, and has not a right to

ing of her, a-slighting of her precious

that he is so gifted; for that is a-

the doorway was an ancient porch, vaded the figure, and seemed to com- stranger pursued his questioning. cronies, and a general shaking of from his lips, after a very long to the complex contest.

"But if you mean to tell me that

ion's wanted, you give it. When "About the young lady-has Mr world's undergone a nice alteration since my time, certainly. My belief hinges of the stout oaken door, and fretfully, "he's a single gentleman— that there isn't such a thing as a though it would beat it in-by this Don't you see this talk is not relished tween a male baby and a man—and auspicious, Solomon Daisy began his that all the boys went out with his tale :-Regardless of this whispered re- blessed Majesty King George the

"That's a very true observation always excepting the young princes," "Single men have had daughters said the parish-clerk, who, as a re-

remarkable house in a neighborhood cording to the constitution of mer- love of husband and children and the those subject to biliousness who are which is new to me, and you are as cording to the constituion of mer- pleasures of home do not hold out in quest of a beneficial medicine. aghast and disturbed as if I were maids, so much of a mermaid as is sufficient allurement to compensate talking treason against King George, not a woman must be a fish. Ac- for a continual round of clubs, recep-Perhaps you can tell me why, sir, for cording to the constitution of young tions and theatre going, her career as (as I say) I am a stranger, and this princes, so much of a young prince a mother and home-maker will be a (if anything) as is not actually an failure, and to fail in the purpose for The latter observation was address- angel, must be godly and righteous, which God intended her, is the saded to the obvious cause of Joe Wil- Therefore, if it's becoming and godly dest blunder a woman can make.

rand, the older Willet and his three "If you had asked your question of Women of wealth and leisure are the companions continued to smoke with a grown-up person-of me or any of ones who should be able to rear their profound gravity, and in a deep sil- these gentlemen-you'd have had some children under ideal conditions, yet ence, each having his eyes fixed on a satisfaction, and wouldn't have wast- how can they do so when they are huge copper boiler that was suspended breath. Miss Haredale is Mr. almost strangers in their own house-mal? Mahogany.

"Not dead !" cried the other.

FOURTH MONTH RESURRECTION 30 DAYS
\$\dip \text{\tex}\text{\texi}}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\tex{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\tex ₩ 1905 ₩ Of the Feria. Fourth Sunday of Len Fourth Sunday of Lent. Of the Feria. S. Isidore. S. Vincent Ferer. S. Sixtus I., Pope Most Precious Blood. Of the Feria. Passion Sunday. Of the Feria. M. S. Leo I., Pope S. Julius I., Pope S. Hermenegild. Seven Dolours of B. V. Mary. Of the Feria. 15 Palm Sunday. Of the Feria. Of the Feria. Of the Feria. Holy Thursday Easter Sunday Easter Sunday. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Of the Octave. Ot the Octave. Of the Octave. Low Sunday. with electrical machinery should master this subject. PRACTICAL course is cheap, easily learned and of excellent value. ELECTRICITY Canadian Correspondence College, Limited

The man glanced at the parish in his mouth again, "so much the clerk, whose air of consciousness and be the person referred to, and, obabout to tell his story without fursudden glare, and illumining the figity than before.

(To Be Continued)

Mother and Child

What do you mean ?' said Joe, the nicest loyalty. "If it's godly and one of supreme self-sacrifice, every from roots, herbs and solid extracts adding in an undertone as he ap- righteous for boys, being of the ages woman should realize before she goes of known virtue in the treatment of proached him again, "You'll come in of boys, to behave themselves like to the altar; and unless she is willboys, then the young princes must be ing to accept her new responsibilities enfeebled by overwork or deranged "I mean no harm"—returned the boys and cannot be otherwise." with good heart and to be a mother through excesses in living. They rein the truest sense of the word, it quire no testimonial. Their excellent "Certainly I have," replied the were better for her to retrace her qualities are well known to all those steps while yet there is time. If the mend themselves to dyspeptics and

let's discomposure, who had risen and righteous in the young princes. There are, unfortunately, nowadays and was adjusting his riding-cloat (as it is at their ages) that they too many women who wish to dabble very easy to answer, either. The quespreparatory to sallying abroad, should be boys, they are and must be in all things save those that most Briefly replying that he could give boys, and cannot by possibility be deeply concern them. They attend meetings to discuss social betterment who gets the largest number of corbeckoned to Joe, and handing him a This elucidation of a knotty point and a broader field for women, forpiece of money in payment of his being received with such marks of getting that the while their own lit- game reckoning, hurried out attended by approval as to put John Willet into the ones are starving for the mother- Which is the most level tree young Willet himself, who taking up a good-humor, he contented himself love which is their right. In this re- Plane. a candle, followed to light him to the with repeating to his son his com- spect the children in the tenement mand of silence, and addressing the quarters are frequently more favored than the offspring of the rich.

holds ?

"No," rejoined the landlord, "he is all social intercourse, and become a recluse. On the contrary, she owes Blue gum. the duty to herself and to those with "Not dead in a common sort of whom she is so intimately connected, to be all that God intended her to tive and conciliatory, as though with The cronies nodded to each other, be, and He certainly did not select a strong presentiment that he was and Mr. Parkes remarked in an under- her for a nun, else she would have tone, shaking his head meanwhile as been called to the Cloister. A drive, "Such a thing as love is !" he said, who should say, "let no man contra- a walk, a few hours with a good fer mentally and physically in conse- Ash. such pleasures. There will, perhaps,

Household Helps 00 Carpet Sweepers

Bread Graters Washers Wringers Mangles Cake Moulds Det Water Dishes

Meat Cutters Raisia Seeders

Cor. KING & VICTORIA TOPONIO

of a higher destiny

A writer in the Youths' Companion too, sometimes—reposing on two grim-looking high-backed settles, which, like the twin dragons of some which, like the twin dragons of some or he had observed his silent neighthe following, which is worthy of

"You see," said a little girl who ure for a moment, seemed after- lived on a farm, "I've seen my mothwards to cast it into deeper obscur- er almost the whole time ever since I was born, I almost always could By this flickering light, which made do everything she did and go every built of polished ebony-the wind afterwards every word about what "Pretty well," returned the other, ion, and don't you speak. The roaring and howling without, now happened. Now, my cousin, who lives rattling the latch and creaking the in the city, doesn't do that way with her mother. They couldn't. Her is that there ain't any boys left- now driving at the casement as mother goes to too many places and does too many things that she says he's-be quiet, can't you, man? boy-that there's nothing now be- light, and under circumstances so are not for children, and it takes her so much time to do them that she wouldn't have time to tell about them, even if her daughter wanted to hear, which she doesn't much."

Naming the Trees

playing the following game, and will find some of the questions are not tions are given out on slips of paper, without the answers, and the one rect answers is the winner of the

Which is the brightest colored tree

Redwood. Which tree suggests the thoughts of the ocean? Beech. Which tree would we prefer on

very cold day ? Fir. Which tree contains a domestic ani-Which tree might very properly wear a glove ? Palm.

Which tree is a pronoun? Yew. Which is the most melancholy tree?

Which tree is a tale teller? Peach. Which tree is an insect? Locust. Which is the dandy among trees ?

Which tree is an invalid ? Pine. Which tree never is barefooted?

Which tree can best remember nur bers ? Date. Which tree has passed through fire

dale has gone to a masquerade up in there's more meaning in them words the home and the children are living vertising. Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil town, and he has set his heart upon seeing her! I don't think I could persuade myself to do that, heautiful as she is,—but then I'm not in love (at least I don't think I am), and that's the whole difference."

"He is in love, then?" said the stranger.

there's more meaning in their words the norm the parental gained the good name it now enjoys, roof. Then how much riper her judgment and more telling her efforts, but on its great merits as a remedy for bodily pains and ailments of the nothing to the outside world, she can respiratory organs. It has carried and that's the whole difference."

"He is in love, then?" said the strange man, gruffly; "but what the devil do ment and more telling her efforts, but on its great merits as a remedy for bodily pains and ailments of the nothing to the outside world, she can respiratory organs. It has carried alive, nor yet dead—then that he's not afford to miss the companionship its fame with it wherever it has not dead in a common sort of way—of her children with all its wonderful gone, and it is prized at the antithen that you mean a great deal possibilities. To mould their young small effect are