

Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby.

NEARLY every phase of London life will be found depicted in the ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY. Dickens had a special object in view when he wrote this valuable novel:—that of showing to the country the indignities and cruelties then practised in the existing boarding-schools. **DOTHE-BOYS-HALL**, that well-described Yorkshire boarding-school, where old Squeers starved and ill-treated his unfortunate pupils, and where Nicholas meets with poor Smike, shows what was the true state of the school system in those days—days before the authorities exercised the functions of the law to watch over and protect the helpless children who were sent to the various schools in the country. Since that time, and chiefly owing to this volume showing to the public the gross enormities practised by unprincipled people in those retreats, an inquiry has been made into the system upon which schools and seminaries are conducted, and the result has been that every follower of that arch old pedagogue, Squeers, has been brought to justice, and had to pay the penalty of his misdeeds.

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY is the high-souled hero of this capital story. In all his poverty and struggles for justice and freedom, he maintains the character of a kind, affectionate son, and a benevolent and worthy gentleman; he never swerves from his sense of duty, whatever consideration is represented to him, but always does that which he thinks is right to every person with whom he comes in contact. Smike is the poor unfortunate lad, upon whom Squeers, the schoolmaster, practices very great cruelties; whose various adventures in his struggles to gain a livelihood, along with Nicholas, are both very amusing and instructive. The great affection of these two, Nicholas and Smike, is full of profitable lessons. Old Squeers is quite a character for meanness, tyranny, and oppression, in **DOTHE-BOYS-HALL**, which once had many representatives, but now are very rare indeed. Miss Squeers is the would-be fine young lady, who would find a lover in Nicholas, and a husband too, but for his insight into human character, which prompts him to fight shy of an engagement with her. Lord Verisopht, Sir Mulberry Hawk, and Messrs. Pyke and Pluck, have many hale fellows of the same type to this day, in London. John Browdie, the Yorkshireman, is a good representative of the brusque, broad-spoken, honest young men who are to be found in that county. To add to the beauties of this volume by a further enumeration of the characters would be a vain attempt; for, to be thoroughly understood and appreciated, it must be carefully perused, and then the reader will acknowledge that the writer was one of the first geniuses of which our country can boast. This volume is the cheapest that has been issued from the press, and is complete and perfect in every respect.