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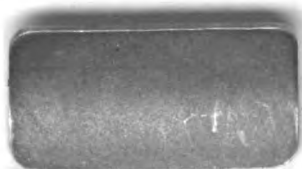
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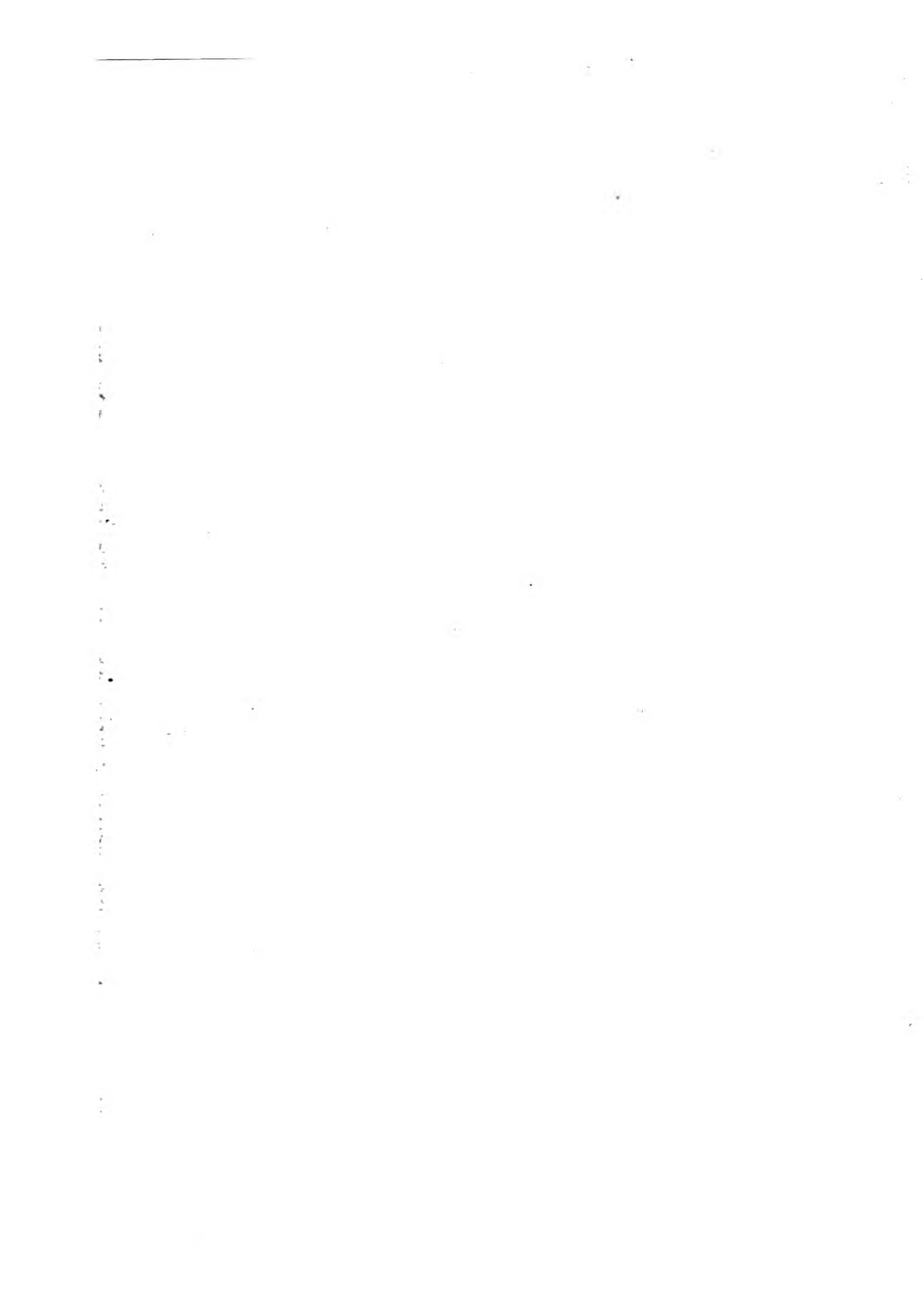
CHARACTERS
FROM
DICKENS

by CLAUD LOVAT FRASER



Journal 100





*Limited to 350 copies
for sale in Great Britain*

No. 4.2.....

**CHARACTERS
FROM
DICKENS**



Characters
from
Dickens

Drawn by Claud Lovat Fraser



London J.C. & E.C. Jack L^d
35 Paternoster Row, E.C.
and Edinburgh

**PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY
THOMAS NELSON AND SONS, LTD.**





LIST OF PLATES

Mr. Pickwick and Mr. Jingle

Mr. and Mrs. Mantalini

Horatio Sparkins

Fagin and Oliver Twist

Dick Swiveller

Sarah Gamp

Barnaby Rudge

Captain Cuttle

Mr. Micawber and David Copperfield

Gold Digger

Mr. Pecksniff

Mr. Bounderby

Little Dorrit and Arthur Clennam

Sydney Carton

Uncle Pumblechook

Silas Wegg

Grewgious

Captain Doubledick







Foreword

IT was for my friend Edwin Jack of Edinburgh that Lovat Fraser, in the first six months of his art career, made his earliest published essay in design—the three book covers for “The English Year;” and it was due to the flair of Edwin Jack, who thought, with me, that Lovat’s work was being too much concentrated on the decorating of booklets by the lesser poets, that Lovat was persuaded to try his ‘prentice hand upon creating the characters evolved by the genius of Dickens. The result was a gallery of line drawings, with colour, which are amongst the best things that Lovat wrought with the reed pen.

There were, indeed, few writers who could open the gate to the field for the tillage of Lovat’s quaint and whimsical fancy with more sympathetic hand than Charles Dickens. Lovat revelled in the characters that Dickens had created; it therefore came about that Edwin Jack called the young fellow’s quick decorative sense to a work which his imagination had already conquered, so that his skill of hand was agog to put his fancies into form at the asking. He plucked the leading character from each dramatic group, yet it is curious to note how at times he prefers to give us a lesser figure, as it is droll to find him once even nodding—over his beloved Dickens! From “Bleak House” we should expect to see poor Joe emerge, but whether Lovat’s memory played him false, or the book did not appeal to him, he dragged Pecksniff out of “Martin Chuzzlewit”—which he had already decorated with the immortal Sarah Gamp—and put him upon the cover of “Bleak House!” Again, knowing Lovat’s liking for the subtle atmosphere of “The Cricket on the Hearth,” one would expect to see Caleb Plummer step forth on to the cover of “Christmas Stories”—Lovat joyed in the struggle of Caleb Plummer to model and paint his toy animals “near nature” as he sat in his coat of sacking painting the large round black spots on the white piebald toy horse, his troubled artistry in having to make flies too large as compared with the elephants

FOREWORD

in Noah's Ark, and his perplexity in that the Carrier's wife would not let him pinch her dog Boxer's tail so as to get the sound of his barking dogs closer to Nature—yet, instead of Caleb Plummer, Lovat gives us the gallant uniformed figure of perhaps the least known of all the Dickens gallery, Captain Doubledick! But in the main we have here the outstanding characters that Dickens created for all time; and the lean figure of Jingle, just as he strides into the limelight at the very opening of the flower of Dickens's genius, in the green coat which had evidently once belonged to a smaller man, buttoned up to the chin to cover the absence of a shirt, with black stock to cover the absence of a collar, his scanty black trousers, strapped to the patched shoes, unable to disguise the soiled white stockings, his long black unkempt hair under the old "pinched-up hat," the bare wrists showing between coat-cuff and glove, and carrying his brown paper parcel which contained his whole wardrobe and worldly possessions, so with like "jaunty impudence and perfect self-possession" Jingle takes guardianship over Lovat's gallery of characters from Dickens, and pervades the whole scheme. Lovat was too young to have seen Henry Irving play his unforgettable part of Jingle, yet Lovat's Jingle might have stepped straight out over the footlights.

The very limitations under which Lovat worked, the designing of a character-study as decoration for the cover of each of the eighteen volumes of Dickens, brought out his best qualities; for he had mastered the fat black line of the reed pen, and it yielded him remarkable rhythm, which he enhanced with his simple washes of colour—a mastery that he did not live long enough to achieve with the finer pen line which he was employing when death took him. And perhaps the most tragic part of that early death lies in the fact, not widely known, that Lovat was in treaty with Edwin Jack to create what would undoubtedly have been his masterpiece—a complete series of characters, costumes, and scenes for the plays of Shakespeare—when the tireless fingers, blithe fancy, and teeming brain were suddenly stilled for ever.

HALDANE MACFALL.



M^r Pickwick and M^r Jingle

From
"The Pickwick Papers"





Mr and Mrs Mantalini

*From
"Nicholas Nickleby"*





Horatio Sparkins

from
"Sketches by Boz"

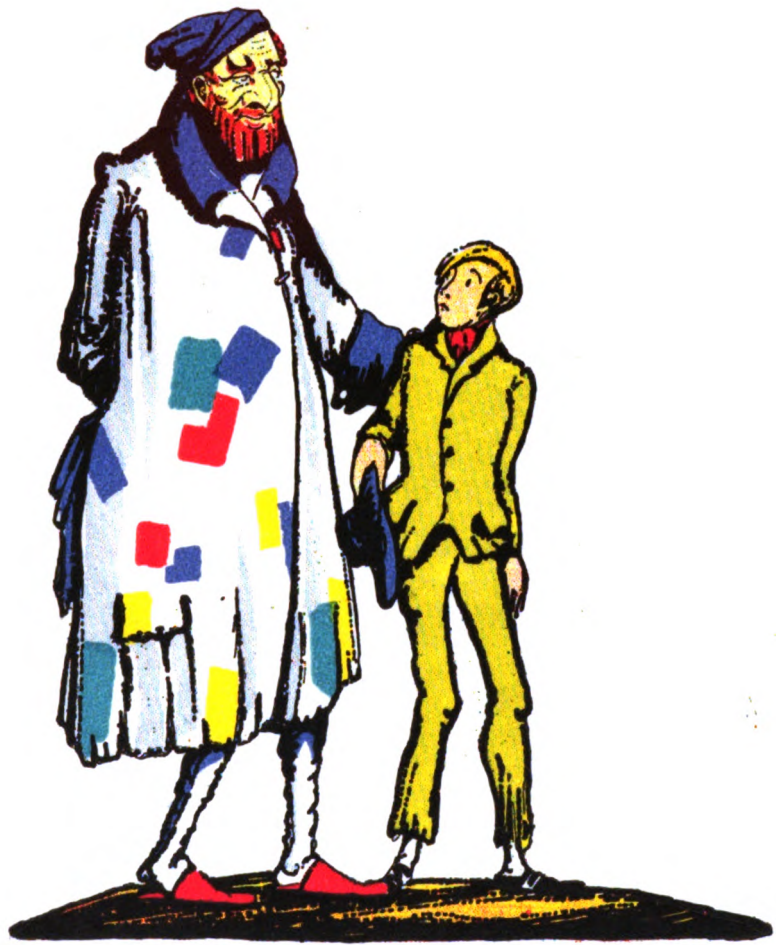




Fagin and Oliver Twist

from
"Oliver Twist"





Dick Swiveller

from
"The Old Curiosity Shop"





Sarah Gamp

from
"Martin Chuzzlewit"





Barnaby Rudge

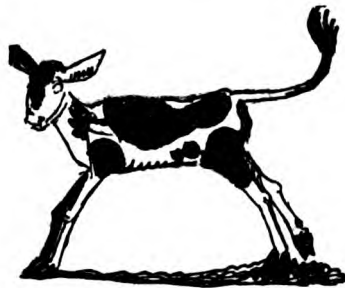
from
"Barnaby Rudge"





Captain Cuttle

from
"Dombey & Son"

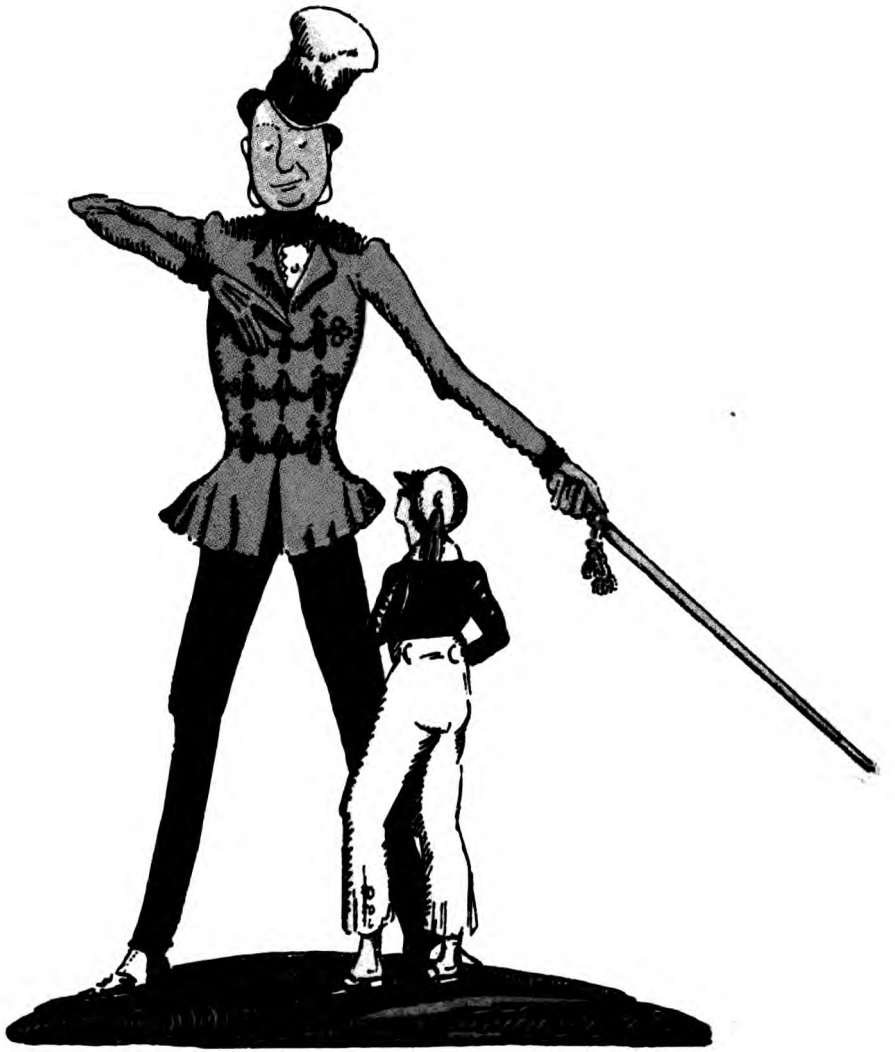


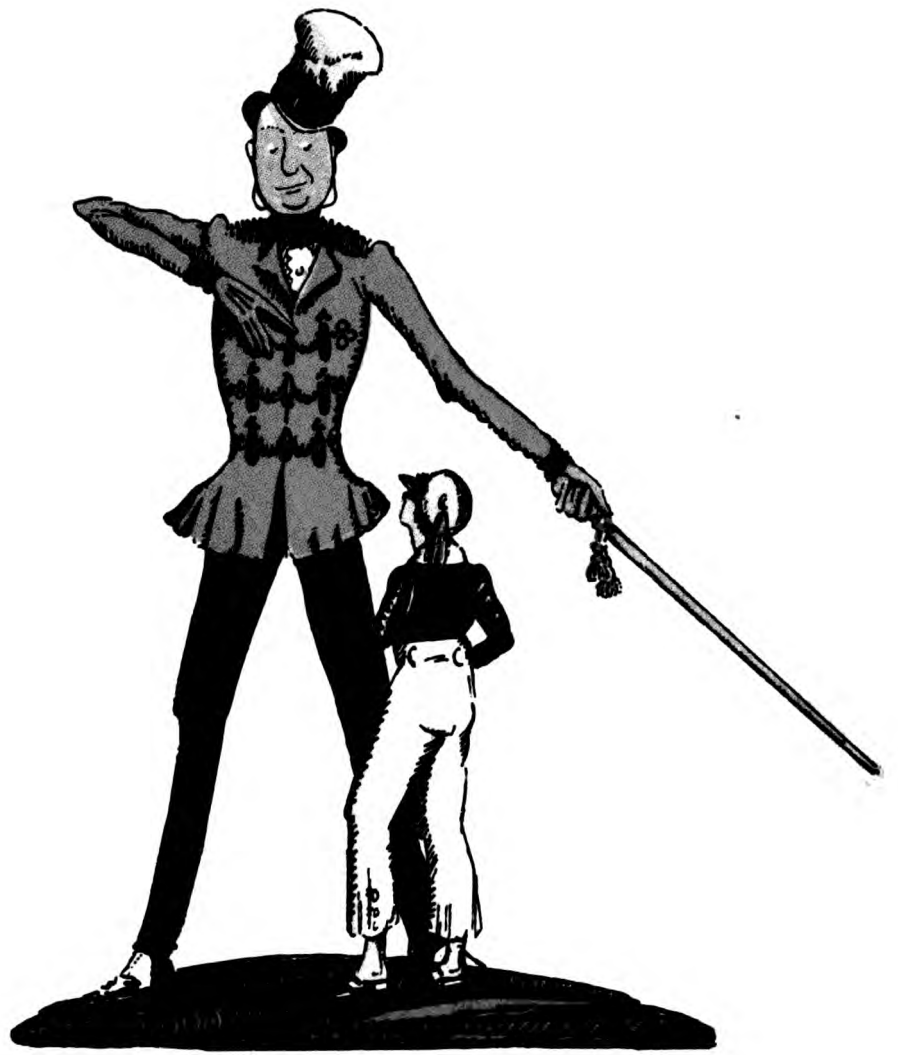


Mr Micawber and David Copperfield

*"David from
Copperfield"*







Gold Digger

from
"American Notes"





Mr Pecksniff

from
"Martin Chuzzlewit"

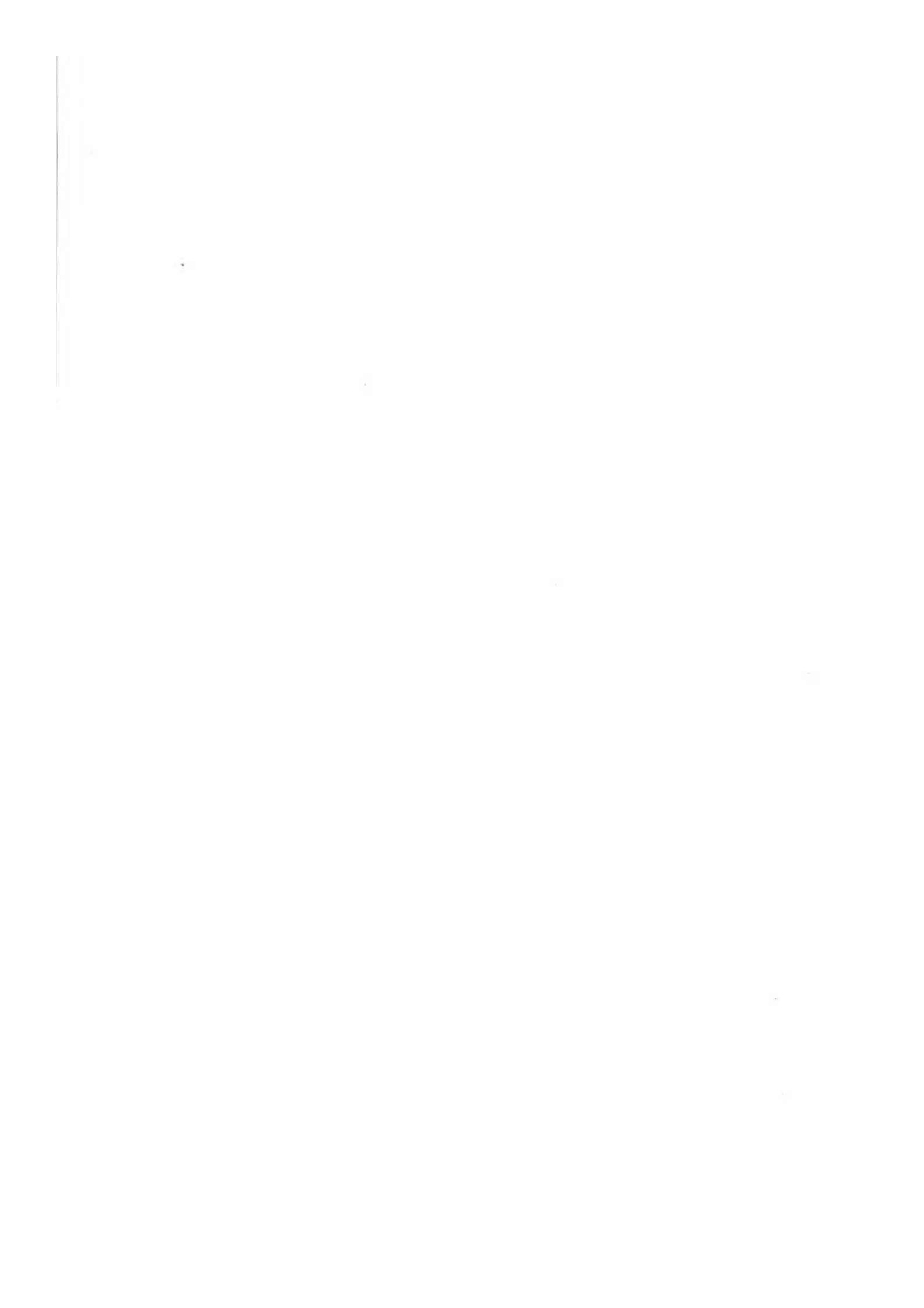




Mr Bounderby

*from
"Hard Times"*







Little Dorrit and Arthur Clennam

*from
"Little Dorrit"*





Sydney Carton

from
"A Tale of Two Cities"

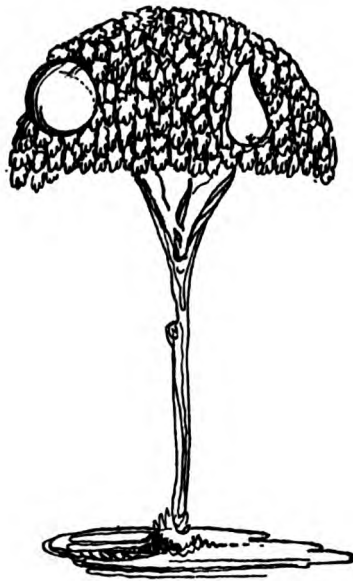




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Uncle Pumblechook

from
"Great Expectations"





Silas Wegg

From
"Our Mutual Friend"



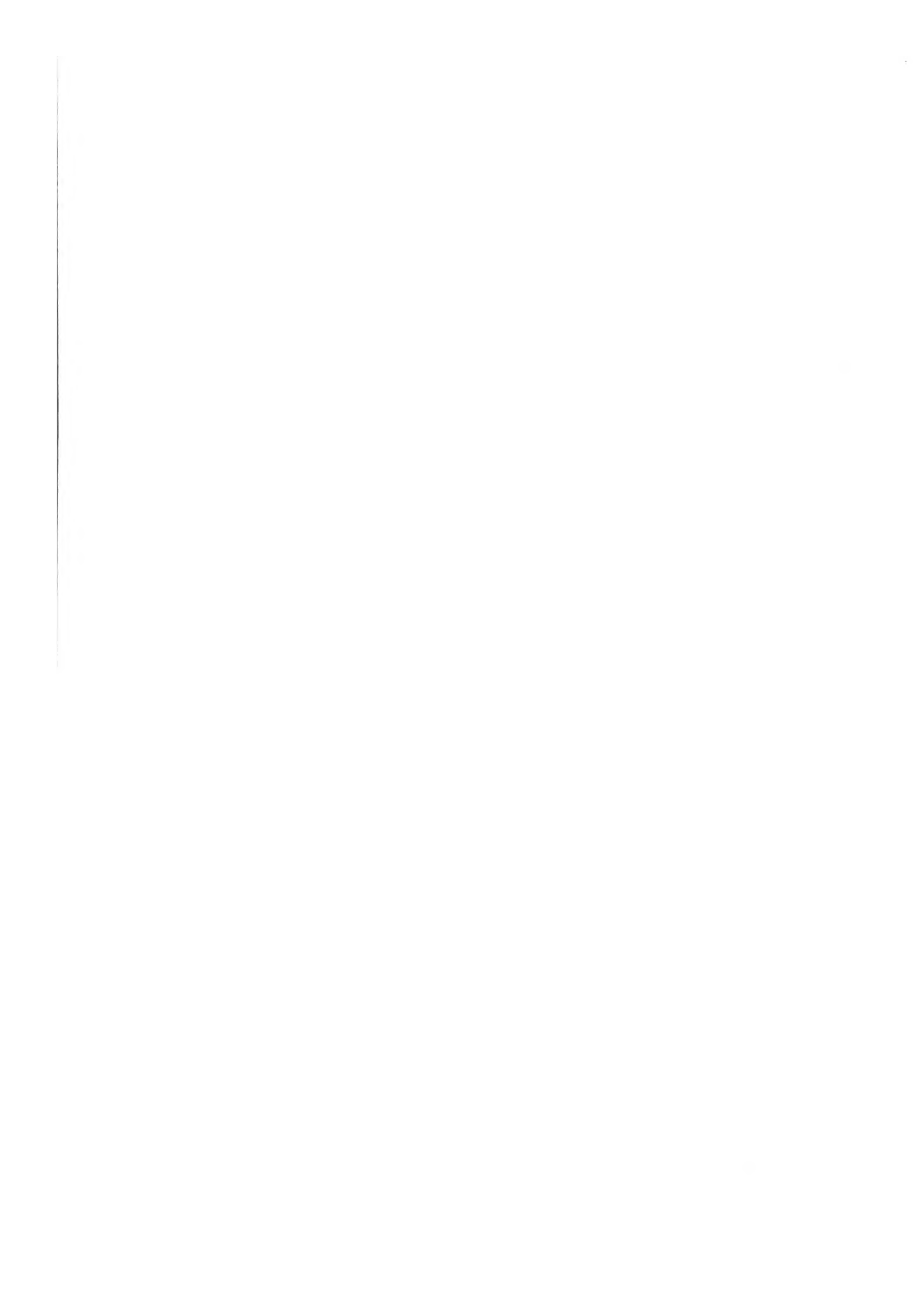


Grewgious

from
"Edwin Drood"



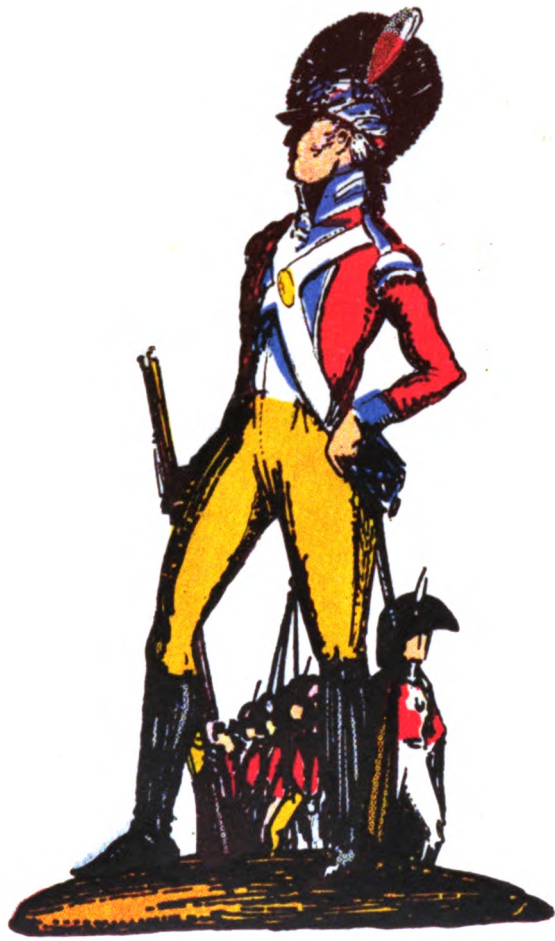




Captain Doubledick

from
"Christmas Stories"









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