

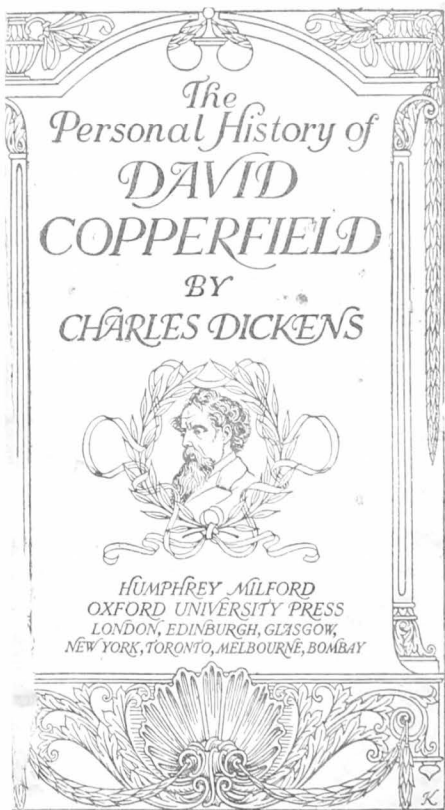


MY MAGNIFICENT ORDER AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE

*The*  
*Personal History of*  
**DAVID**  
**COPPERFIELD**  
*BY*  
**CHARLES DICKENS**



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## PREFACE

REMARKED in the original Preface to this Book, that I did find it easy to get sufficiently far away from it, in the sensations of having finished it, to refer to it with the composure which this formal heading would seem to require. My interest in it was so recent and strong, and my mind was so divided between pleasure and regret—pleasure in the achievement of a long design, regret in the separation from many companions—that I was in danger of wearying the reader with personal confidences and private emotions.

Besides which, all that I could have said of the Story to any purpose, I had endeavoured to say in it.

It would concern the reader little, perhaps, to know how sorrowfully the pen is laid down at the close of a two-years' imaginative task; or how an Author feels as if he were dismissing some portion of himself into the shadowy world, when a crowd of the creatures of his brain are going from him forever. Yet, I had nothing else to tell; unless, indeed, I were to confess (which might be of less moment still), that no one can ever believe this Narrative in the reading more than I believed it in the writing.

So true are these avowals at the present day, that I can now

only take the reader into one confidence more. Of all my books, I like this the best. It will be easily believed that I am a fond parent to every child of my fancy, and that no one could ever love that family as dearly as I love them. But, like most fond parents, I have in my heart of hearts a favourite child. And his name is DAVID COPPERFIELD.

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## CHARACTERS

- RICHARD BABLEY ("Mr. Dick"), a harmless lunatic.  
MR. BARKIS, a carrier.  
MR. CHILLIP, a doctor; a mild little man.  
DAVID COPPERFIELD, the hero of the story.  
MR. CREAKLE, an ignorant and ferocious schoolmaster.  
THE REV. HORACE CREWLER, a poor Devonshire clergyman.  
URIAH HEEP, a clerk in the office of Mr. Wickfield.  
MR. JORAM, the partner and son-in-law of Mr. Omer the undertaker.  
MR. JORKINS, a proctor; partner of Mr. Spenlow.  
LITTIMER, the confidential servant of James Steerforth.  
JACK MALDON, an idle, bold, handsome, needy libertine.  
MR. CHARLES MELL, an under-master at Mr. Creakle's school.  
MR. WILKINS MICAWBER, a jaunty, grandiloquent, recklessly good-natured, improvident man.  
MASTER WILKINS MICAWBER, his eldest son.  
MR. MILLS, the father of Julia Mills.  
MR. EDWARD MURDSTONE, the stepfather of David Copperfield.  
MR. OMER, a draper, tailor, undertaker, &c., at Yarmouth.  
DANIEL PEGGOTTY, a rough but kind-hearted fisherman.  
HAM PEGGOTTY, a boatman, boatbuilder, and fisherman; nephew to Daniel Peggotty.  
MR. QUINON, chief manager at Murdstone and Grinby's warehouse.  
MR. FRANCIS SPENLOW, one of the firm of Spenlow and Jorkins; the father of Dora Spenlow.  
JAMES STEERFORTH, a young man of great personal attractions and engaging manners; formerly a school friend of David Copperfield's.  
DR. STRONG, an amiable old gentleman, master of a school at Canterbury.  
MR. TIFFEY, an old clerk in the office of Spenlow and Jorkins.  
THOMAS TRADDLES, a schoolmate and friend of David Copperfield's.  
MR. WICKFIELD, a lawyer at Canterbury.
- MRS. CLARA COPPERFIELD, the mother of David Copperfield.  
MRS. CREAKLE, a quiet woman, ill-treated by her husband.  
MISS CREAKLE, daughter of the preceding.  
MRS. CREWLER, wife of the Rev. Horace Crewler.  
THE MISSES CAROLINE, LOUISA, LUCY, MARGARET, SARAH, and SOPHY CREWLER, daughters of the preceding.  
MRS. CRUPP, a stout woman, who lets furnished chambers.  
ROSA DARTLE, a lady living with Mrs. Steerforth as a companion.  
LITTLE EMILY, the niece and adopted daughter of Mr. Peggotty.  
MARTHA ENDELL, a young woman of evil reputation.  
MRS. GUMMIDGE, the widow of Mr. Peggotty's partner.  
MRS. HEEP, a widow; the mother of Uriah Heep.  
MRS. MARKLEHAM, the mother of Mrs. Annie Strong.  
MRS. EMMA MICAWBER, the wife of Wilkins Micawber.

- MISS EMMA MICAWBER, her daughter.  
MISS JULIA MILLS, the bosom-friend of Dora Spenlow.  
MISS MOWCHER, a fashionable hairdresser.  
MISS JANE MURDSTONE, sister to Edward Murdstone.  
MINNIE OMER, daughter of Mr. Omer; a pretty, good-natured girl.  
CLARA PEGGOTTY, servant to Mrs. Copperfield, and nurse and friend to David.  
MISS CLARISSA SPENLOW, the elder of two maiden sisters of Mr. Spenlow.  
MISS DORA SPENLOW, the only daughter of Mr. Spenlow; a timid, sensitive, artless little beauty, afterwards the "child-wife" of David Copperfield.  
MISS LAVINIA SPENLOW, the sister of Miss Clarissa Spenlow.  
MRS. STEERFORTH, mother of James Steerforth.  
MRS. ANNIE STRONG, the wife of Dr. Strong.  
MISS BETSEY TROTWOOD, an austere but kind-hearted lady; the great aunt of David Copperfield.  
AGNES WICKFIELD, daughter and housekeeper of Mr. Wickfield.