

HUMOR OF DICKENS.—As for the charities of Mr. Dickens, multiplied kindnesses which he has conferred upon us all; upon our children; upon people educated and uneducated; upon the myriads here and at home, who speak our common tongue; have not you, have not I, all of us, reason to be thankful to this kind friend who has soothed and charmed so many hours, brought pleasure and sweet laughter to so many homes; made such multitudes of children happy; endowed us with such a sweet store of gracious thoughts, fair fancies, soft sympathies, hearty enjoyments? There are creations of Mr. Dickens, which seem to me to rank as personal benefits; figures so delightful that one feels happier and better for knowing them, as one does for being brought into the society of very good men and women. The atmosphere in which

these people live is wholesome to breathe in; you feel that to be allowed to speak to them is a personal kindness; you come away better for your contact with them; your hands seem cleaner from having the privilege of shaking theirs. Was there ever a better charity sermon preached in the world than Dickens' Christmas Carol? I believe it occasioned immense hospitality throughout England; was the means of lighting up hundreds of kind fires at Christmas-time; caused a wonderful outpouring of Christmas good-feeling, an awful slaughter of Christmas turkeys, and roasting and basting of Christmas beef. As for this man's love of children, that amiable organ at the back of his honest head must be perfectly monstrous. All children ought to love him. I know two that do, and read his books ten times for once that they

JOLLY OLD SAINT NICHOLAS.

FROM "SCHOOL CHIMES."
PER. S. BRAINARD'S SONS, CLEVELAND.

Lively.



1. Jol - ly old Saint Nich - o - las, Lean your ear this way! Don't you tell a
 2. When the clock is strik - ing twelve, When I'm fast a - sleep, Down the chimney,
 3. John - ny wants a pair of skates; Su - sy wants a dolly; Nel - ly wants a



sin - gle soul What I'm going to say; Christmas Eve is com - ing soon;
 broad and black, With your pack you'll creep; All the stockings you will find
 sto - ry - book; She thinks dolls are folly; As for me, my - lit - tle brain



Now, you dear old man, Whisper what you'll bring to me; Tell me if you can.
 Hanging in a row; Mine will be the shortest one; You'll be sure to know.
 Is - n't ve - ry bright; Choose for me, Old San - ta Claus, What you think is right.



peruse the dismal preachments of their father. I know one who, when she is happy, reads Nicholas Nickleby; when she is unhappy, reads Nicholas Nickleby; and when she has finished the book, reads it over again. This candid young critic, at ten years of age, said: "I like Mr. Dickens' books much better than your books, papa"—and frequently expressed her desire that the latter author should write a book like one of Mr. Dickens' books. Who can? Every man must say his own thoughts in his own voice, in his own way; lucky is he who has such a charming gift of nature as this, which brings all the children in the world trooping to him, and being fond of him. ** One might go on, though the task would be endless and needless, chronicling the names of kind folks with whom this kind genius has made us familiar. Who

does not love the little Marchioness, and her friend Mr. Richard Swiveller? Who does not venerate the chief of that illustrious family who, being stricken by misfortune, wisely and greatly turned his attention to "coals," the accomplished, the Epicurean, the dirty, the delightful Micawber? I may quarrel with Mr. Dickens' art a thousand and a thousand times, I delight in and wonder at his genius; I recognize in it—I speak with awe and reverence—a commission from that Divine Beneficence, whose blessed task we know it will one day be to wipe away every tear from every eye. Thankfully I take my share of the feast of love and kindness which this gentle, and generous and charitable soul has contributed to the happiness of the world. I take and enjoy my share, and say a grateful benediction for the meal.—*Thackeray.*