

THE LIFE

OF

Charles de Kees




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W.P. Frith, R.A.

R. Graves, A.R.A.

CHARLES DICKENS.

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BY JOHN FORSTER.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

1842—1852.

LONDON:
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.
1873.

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LONDON:
BRADBURY, EVANS, AND CO., PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.


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CORRECTIONS MADE IN THE LATER EDITIONS OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



A NOTICE written under date of the 23rd December, 1871, appeared with the Tenth Edition. ‘Such has been the rapidity of the demand for successive impressions of this book, that I have found it impossible, until now, to correct at pages 11, 66, and 76 three errors of statement made in the former editions; and some few other mistakes, not in themselves important, at pages 75, 80, and 81. I take the opportunity of adding, that the mention at p. 62 is not an allusion to the well-known “Penny” and “Saturday” magazines, but to weekly periodicals of some years’ earlier date resembling them in form. One of them, I have since found from a later mention by Dickens himself, was presumably of a less wholesome and instructive character. “I used,” he says, “when I was at school, to take in the *Terrific Register*, making myself unspeakably miserable, and frightening my very wits out of my head, for the small charge of a penny weekly; which, considering that there was an illustration to every number in which there was always a pool of blood, and at least one body, was cheap.” An obliging correspondent writes to me upon my reference to the Fox-under-the-hill, at pp. 42-3: “Will you permit me to say, that the house, shut up and almost ruinous, is still to be found at the bottom of a curious and most precipitous court, the entrance of which is just past Salisbury-street. . . . It was once, I think, the approach to the halfpenny boats. The house is now shut out from the water-side by the Embankment.” I proceed to state in detail what the changes thus referred to were.

The passage about James Lamert, beginning at the seventh line of p. 11, now stands: ‘His chief ally and encourager in these displays was a youth of some ability, much older than himself, named James Lamert, stepson to his mother’s sister and therefore a sort of cousin, who was his great patron and friend in his childish days. Mary, the eldest daughter of Charles Barrow, himself a lieutenant in the navy, had for her first husband a commander in the navy called Allen; on whose death by drowning at Rio Janeiro she had joined her sister, the navy-pay clerk’s wife, at Chatham; in which place she subsequently took for her second husband Doctor Lamert, an army-surgeon, whose son James, even after he had been sent to Sandhurst for his education, continued still to visit Chatham from time to time. He had a turn for private theatricals; and as his father’s quarters were in the ordnance-hospital there, a great rambling place otherwise