

## BOOK NEWS

### Novel Sheds New Light Upon Life of Dickens

Probably the most popular writer of the 19th Century was the author of "David Copperfield," Charles Dickens. He was the most widely read novelist of the century both in England and America, and one of the best beloved. From his novels written about the poor and lowly folk of London Dickens has always been considered a champion of the unfortunate.

A new novel, "This Side Idolatry," by C. E. Bechhofer Roberts ("Ephesian"), soon to be published, is based on the life of Dickens, and incorporated in the novel is much new, unused or unrecognized material about his life.

Charles Dickens' life was vastly different from his writings, according to Mr. Roberts. His treatment of his wife, his publishers and the poor with whom he came in contact, leads one naturally to suspect that Dickens may have been hypocritical. After Mrs. Dickens had given birth to ten children, she and Dickens were separated. That fact is well known. The reason for the separation, according to Forster, the biographer of Dickens, was that Mrs. Dickens became insane. Such was not the case, the reader gathers from the novel, "This Side Idolatry." Dickens, always extravagant, urged petty economics on his wife; his attention to other women hurt her; and his irresponsibility worried her constantly. With his publishers, after he became popular, he was unscrupulous and broke oral and written contracts with seemingly no thought of ethics.

He who had visited his own father in prison and had written so feelingly about the horrors of English jails, once sent a young girl to prison for using coarse language. Many characters in his books were taken from his own circle of relatives and friends, who were often hurt and angered by his exaggeration of their characteristics.

This and much more new knowledge about Dickens is revealed in "This Side Idolatry," all of which cannot fail to interest Dickensians everywhere.

### Get Wealth of Material for Tennessee Memorial

Many curious and interesting photographs and documents are being sent to the Bobbs-Merrill company for use in the Memorial volume of "The Cavalier of Tennessee," by Meredith Nicholson. Bobbs-Merrill is still in the market to receive anything pertaining to Andrew Jackson and his period which can be incorporated into the volume. The book will be large in size, and when completed will be exhibited over the country before it is sent to The Hermitage, Jackson's old home at Nashville, Tennessee, where it will be on display permanently.

#### SALVAGE

Three things in my house are my own. Not the dark pictures whose blood runs in my veins, Nor the vines that I trained round the windows, Nor even the books. But the curve of a shabby armchair that molded itself on your body, And the echoes of songs that you sang, And the square of sun That comes as it came, first in the morning,

When you had opened the window. This poem by Beatrice Ravenel is one of the many lovely things to be found in Addison Hibbard's new anthology, "The Lyric South." (Macmillan \$2.25).

#### ENJOYS VACATION

Having finished her new novel, "Scarlet Sister Mary," Julia Peterkin has gone on a vacation to her summer home at Murrels Inlet on the South Carolina coast. It was from this place that Theodosia Burr set sail and never returned. Mrs. Peterkin's second novel, "Scarlet Sister Mary," will be published this fall.

Judge C. T. Northrop, accompanied by his grandson, Wilfred Hodson, and Mrs. Hodson, left last week to drive to New York. They drove first to Detroit and went from Detroit to Buffalo by boat. Their trip will take them two weeks.

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL**  
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