

博士論文報告

Dickens in the Late-Victorian Context: Socio-Cultural, Politico-Economical, and Literary History in  
*Bleak House, Great Expectations* and ‘Sikes and Nancy’

中村隆

(1) ‘Is it possible,’ whispered my guardian, as we put a chair for the little creature, and got her to sit down with her load: the boy keeping close to her, holding to her apron, ‘that this child works for the rest? *Look at this!* For God’s sake *look at this!*’

It was a thing to *look at*. The three children close together, and two of them relying solely on the third, and the third so young and yet with an air of age and steadiness that sat so strangely on the childish figure. (*BH*, ch. 15, 188, my italics)

(2) . . . a strange thing happened to my fancy. . . . and I saw a figure hanging there by the neck. . . . the face was Miss Havisham’s, with a movement going over the whole countenance as if she were trying to call to me. (*GE*, vol. I, ch. VIII, 65)

(3) ‘I think I shall be out of this on Monday, sir,’ he said to Wemmick.

‘Perhaps,’ returned my friend, ‘but there’s no knowing.’

‘I am glad to have the chance of bidding you good-by, Mr. Wemmick,’ said the man, stretching out his hand between two bars.

‘Thankye,’ said Wemmick, shaking hands with him. ‘Same to you, Colonel.’ . . . ‘By-the-by; you were quite a *pigeon-fancier*.’ The man looked up at the sky. ‘I am told you had a remarkable breed of *tumblers*. Could you commission any friend of yours to bring me a pair, if you’ve no further use for ’em?’

‘It shall be done, sir’

‘All right,’ said Wemmick, ‘they shall be taken care of. Good afternoon, Colonel. Good-by!’ (*GE*, vol. II, ch. XIII, 261-62, my italics)

(4) In this context, it is noteworthy that tumblers are no ordinary pigeons but specifically developed, precious birds which ‘fanciers’ valued highly in the mid-Victorian period. Pigeon-fanciers of the day gathered, for instance, in the ‘London Pigeon Clubs’, as Darwin has shown in his illustrious book. To be strict, there were two kinds of tumbler: ‘the short-faced tumbler’ and ‘the common tumbler’, both of them artificially developed to acquire ‘the singular and strictly inherited habit of flying at a great height in a compact flock, and tumbling in the air head over heels’ (Darwin 82). (Takashi Nakamura 80-81)

(5) ‘Then, Herbert, estimate; *estimate it in round numbers*, and put it down.’ (*GE*, vol. II, ch. XV, 275; my italics)

(6) ‘The ground belongs to me. It is the only possession I have not relinquished. Everything else has gone from me, little by little, but I have kept this. It was the subject of the only determined resistance I made in all the wretched years.’ (*GE*, vol. III, ch. XX, 479)

(7) Because a limited corporation had its own legal personality, *each shareholder was liable only for the capital he had invested in the business, not for all of his – and his family’s – holdings* to ‘the last shilling and acre,’ as the law of partnership had mandated. . . . As a consequence of this legislation, by 1862

England had the most permissive company law in the world. By the second half of the 1850s and early 1860s, England's joint-stock companies and corporations provided an extremely important source of monies for commercial expansion and capital improvements. (Poovey, 157, my italics)

(8) When the hysterical woman became sick, she no longer played *the role of the self-sacrificing daughter or wife*, as did the anorexic. Instead, she demanded service and attention from others. The families of hysterics found themselves reorganized around the patient, who had to be constantly nursed, indulged with special delicacies, and *excused from ordinary duties*. . . . (*Female Malady* 133, my italics)

(9) At the instant that he brought the loop over his head before slipping it beneath his arm-pits, looking behind him on the roof he threw up his arms, and yelled, 'The eyes again!' Staggering as if struck by lightning, he lost his balance and tumbled over the parapet. The noose was at his neck; it ran up with his weight; tight as a bowstring, and swift as the arrow it speeds. He fell five-and thirty feet, and hung with his open knife clenched in his stiffening hand!!! ('Sikes and Nancy' 245-46, the italicized part of this quotation is trebly or four times underlined by Dickens in the manuscript)

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図1 Ford Madox Brown, *Work* (1852-65)



図2 Dickens's public reading in March 1870.



図3 サルペトリエール病院のシャルコー(1887)