

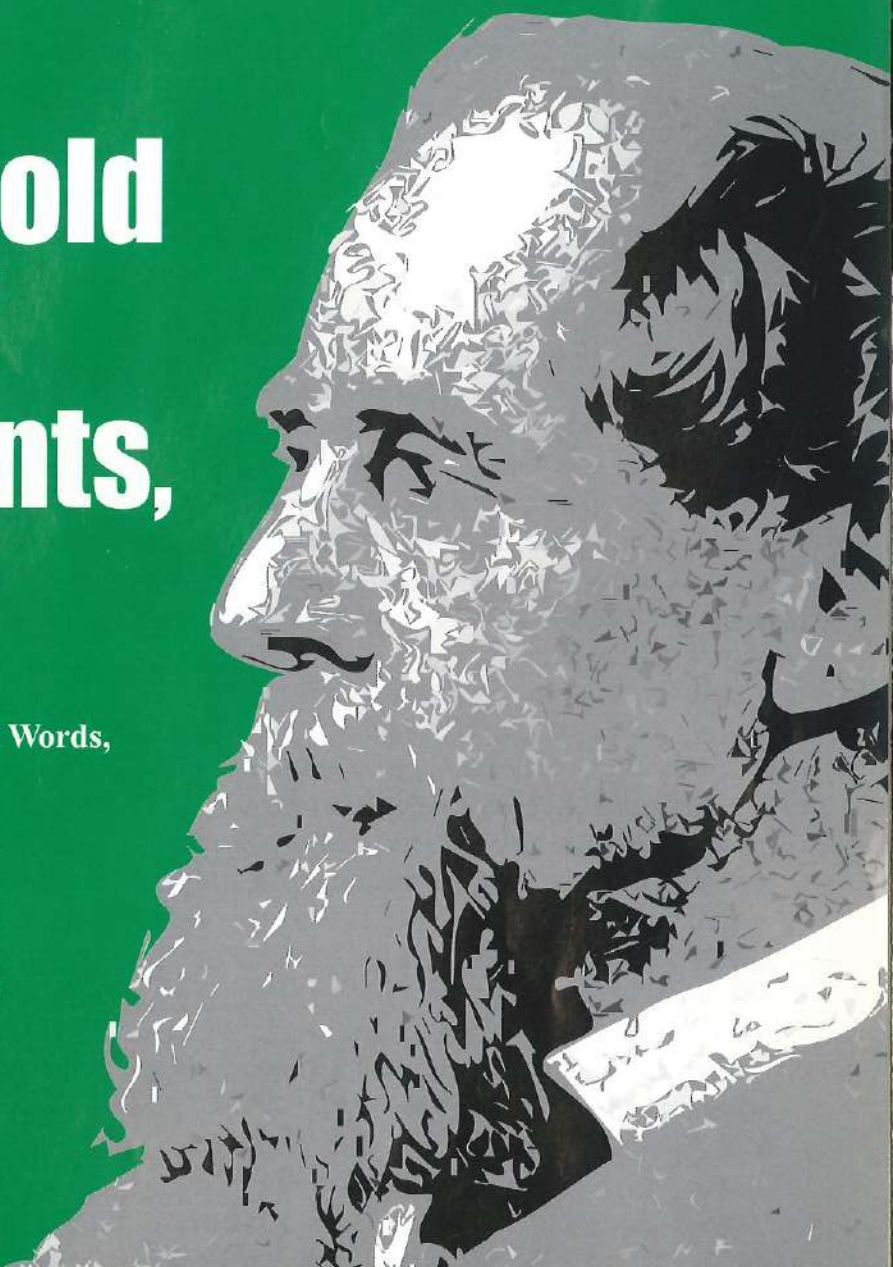
The Household Narrative of Current Events, 1850–1855,

Being a Monthly Supplement to Household Words,
Conducted by Charles Dickens

Volume 1: Household Narrative 1850 & 1851

Volume 2: Household Narrative 1852 & 1853

Volume 3: Household Narrative 1854 & 1855



ディケンズ主宰の *Household Words* の姉妹版である *The Household Narrative* と極めて入手困難な *The Household Words Almanac* を復刻。
ヴィクトリア朝最盛期の1850年代の現実そのものを映し出した第一次資料

Supplement: *The Household Words Almanac*, 1856–1857

別冊解説：松村 昌家 (大手前大学名誉教授)・田中 孝信 (大阪市立大学教授)

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ヴィクトリア朝ジャーナリズムの新たな鉱脈

The Household Narrative • The Household Words Almanac の復刻に寄せて

松村 昌家 大手前大学名誉教授

The Household Narrative of Current Events は、チャールズ・ディケンズ主宰の週刊誌として知られる *Household Words* の姉妹版である。

1850年3月30日付けで *Household Words* が創刊されてからまもなくディケンズは、月末ごとにこの週刊誌の月間合併号を出すことを思い立ち、それに合わせてやはり彼自身の主宰により、*Household Words* と同じ体裁の月刊サブリメンタリ・ナンバーを発行することにした。そして *Household Narrative of Current Events* が誕生したのである。

Household Words が創作と評論を主眼とした週刊誌であったのに対し、*Household Narrative of Current Events* は、その誌名にも標されているように、国の内外における「今日の諸問題」に関する情報を読者に提供することを目的とした。

1850年から1855年までの全6巻を通して取り扱われている“*narrative*”の題目は、大別して次のとおり。1.「三つの王国」(巻頭評論、前半3巻のみ)、2.議会と政治、3.社会と衛生と市政の進展、4.法律と犯罪、5.事件と災害、6.海外と植民地、7.文学と美術。

まず注目したいのは、この雑誌がディケンズの作家活動の最盛期、彼のジャーナリズムへの野心と情熱がほとばしり出していた頃の産物であったことだ。そしてもう一つ重要なのは、この雑誌に盛りこまれた時事問題が、1850年代の最盛期におけるヴィクトリア朝の現実そのものを映し出しているということである。

1850年代は、イギリスの歴史のなかであらゆる面で、とりわけ活気に満ちた、際立った10年間であった。「賢明な人は誰でも、青年期を生きたい10年間として1850年代を選ぼう」と、G. M. ヤングは、彼の名著『ある時代の肖像』のなかで言っているくらいである。

しかし、小説家としてのディケンズの1850年代は、『荒涼館』(1852-53)という今までにない重苦しい小説をもって始まっている。興味深いのは、この小説の出現と密接にかかわる二つのトピックが、*Household Narrative* 第1巻に語られているということである。

一つは、『荒涼館』を通じて不朽の名を残した道路掃き少年ジョーの原型となった、ジョージ・ルビーの話、そしてもう一つは、最も恐るべき環境汚染の根源となっていた、貧民共同墓地に関する問題である。ディケンズの作品世界と本誌に盛りこまれた「今日の諸問題」との相関性については、いずれ「解説編」で論じられるようになるだろうが、*Household Narrative* の興味は、それらの諸問題が、決してディケンズの作品との関連性だけで尽きるものではないことを、強調しておきたい。

各巻頭にまとめられた目次に目を通してみよう。そこには、先にあげた七つの大項目のもと、全巻平均約5ページにわたって、「今日の諸問題」に関する「膨大な見出し」(“a copious Index”)がびっしり詰まっているのである。それはおのずから「その年に起こったあらゆる出来事の完全なクロニクルをなすであろう」と、*Household Narrative* の発刊の辞には述べられている。そしてそこにはさらに、「年ごとのあらゆる出来事に注意深く目を配り、編纂と要約には十分に意をつくし、体系的な配列を工夫することによって、利用の便が図られている。

提示された膨大な情報に、全読者はきっと興味をもたれることであろう」という抱負が述べられているのである。(Household Words、1850年4月13日号)

この抱負はそっくりそのまま、ヴィクトリア朝の歴史、文学、社会、経済等々の研究に携わるすべての研究者に向けられたメッセージとして受け入れてよいと、私は思うのである。

ディケンズは、1855年12月を最後に *Household Narrative* の刊行が中断したあと、月刊 *Household Words Almanac* の刊行に乗り出した。1856年1月から翌年12月までの2か年のオールマナックで、それぞれ27ページと28ページから成り、価格は4ペンス。その巻頭言には、「このオールマナックにおいて、われわれは、古来の方式を多分に取り入れつつ…太陽と月の運行を見極めると同時に、小鳥たちの歌にも注意を向けて、最も親しみ深い鳴き声を最初に聞ける日々を記し…見なれた花々の咲き始める日々注目する」とある。

オールマナックは、もともと天文学と占星術による予言を売物にして発達してきたのであった。17世紀以来イギリスには、オールマナックの文化史が形成されていたが、ディケンズが最も意識したのは、おそらくチャールズ・ナイトの *The British Almanac* と *The Companion to the Almanac* であろう。1828年に創刊されてから1880年代ごろまで続刊されて、一年中の季節や出来事から生ずるあらゆる問題についての情報源として最も重宝されていたのである。他に G. クルックシャンクの *Comic Almanac* (1835-53) などを視野に入れると、*Household Words Almanac* の発行の背景はさらに広がり、ますます興味が深まる。

ディケンズのジャーナリズムに注意が向けられはじめてから久しい。その間 *Household Words* の陰に隠れたままになっていた *Household Narrative* と、その存在さえほとんど知られていなかった *Household Words Almanac* が、同時に復刻されることになった。一人のディケンジアンとして、またヴィクトリア朝研究仲間の一員として、1850年代ジャーナリズムの新たな鉱脈の発掘に向けて胸をはずませているのである。



had been in business for a long time as a dramatic book-seller, but had failed, and that misfortune preyed upon his mind. Although she was in straitened circumstances, she was not reduced to beg charity at a police-office.—Sir P. Laurie said he had no doubt the newspapers would set her right with the public.

Two smart young women, sisters, named Bridget and Julia Connolly, were charged at Oxydon Sessions with *slaughtering a Fox Trotter* on the lands of Mr. Fuller, farmer, Addiscombe, on Sunday morning, the 6th, and carrying away the carcass. As two police constables were going their rounds that morning, they met the girls, and, observing something bulky on their persons, they questioned them as to what they had about them. They said, nothing but their hat-things; but the officers, not satisfied with this, overhauled them, and found on each a half-carass of mutton. They in consequence conveyed them to the station-house, and some time after they found the hide, head, and entrails of a sheep in a field belonging to Mr. Fuller. On comparing the mutton with the skin no doubt could remain they both belonged to one and the same animal; and as little doubt remained that the prisoners were its butchers, as a sharp clasp-knife was found on each, with a part of the fresh suet and fat attached to them.

At the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh, on Saturday the 6th, Andrew Forrest, a youth of eighteen, was tried for the *Murder of a Gamekeeper*, named Kirby, at Cambuslang. There was no doubt, from the youth's confession as well as other evidence, that he killed the man; the trial turned upon the question whether he did it wilfully. Forrest was out with a gun, intending to pouch; on the road he encountered Kirby, who had two dogs in a leash, one a very fierce creature, a cross between a Newfoundland and a bull-dog. Some altercation ensued, and probably the savage dog seized Forrest's leg, for it was wounded by a dog; then the youth fired—as he said, at the dog; but the man was killed. The dog might have torn the prisoner after he had fired; or, on the contrary, the lad's story might be true. The Lord Justice Clerk summed up very favourably for the accused; severely censuring the gamekeeper's practice of leaving about the savage dog. The Jury returned a verdict of "Not proven."

In the Bankruptcy Court, two *Seizings Bill Transactions* were exposed on Monday, the 7th, when William Thomas Ferris, professing a builder and carpenter, applied for his certificate. He was opposed by Mr. Walter Lockhart Scott, the grandson of Sir Walter Scott, as creditor for more than 600*l.* of costs incurred in defending an action brought by Ferris on a bill of exchange fraudulently obtained. The bankrupt's name will be recollected as that of the plaintiff in actions against Mr. Scott and the Reverend Mr. Curzon, tried some eighteen months ago. Bills had been fraudulently obtained without the payment of consideration, and then Ferris had been used as the "respectable tradesman into whose hands the bills had come honestly for full consideration," to sue for the amount. Mr. Scott successfully defended the action against himself, and exposed the transactions of the gang of swindlers who obtained the bill from him. Commissioner Goulburn was convinced that Ferris had been art and part in the conspiracy from commencement to close; the certificate was therefore refused.

An appalling case of *Sudden Death* occurred at the Central Criminal Court on Monday, the 7th, during the trial of Samuel Gieves Harvey, a tall, powerful man, for an assault on James Dodsley Tawney. Mr. Tawney was a slender, diminutive attorney; Harvey was a stout horse-dealer: the two frequently met each other at Messrs. Osborn and Co.'s stables in Gray's Inn Lane. Mr. Tawney had, on behalf of clients, taken legal measures against Harvey—sued him for debts, and opposed his discharge in the Insolvent Court; and Harvey had been much exasperated. The two meeting at Osborn's, Harvey charged Mr. Tawney with getting up the opposition, and wanted to know who were the opposing creditors. The solicitor declined to tell him. The defendant went out, and returned in a short time with two hunting-whips, one of them loaded at the end with iron, and the other a piano cane one. The defendant offered Mr. Tawney the latter, saying, "Take

that." This was declined, and the defendant went out. Mr. Tawney waited a short time, thinking he would go away; he then went towards his gig, which had been waiting for him; and he observed the defendant standing with the heavy hunting-whip in his hand. As he was about to get into his gig, Harvey attacked him behind, beat him on the back and shoulders, and tried to beat him on the head, but the prosecutor held up his hands and warded off the blows. Mr. Danks, one of the partners, came up and laid hold of the defendant, and the defendant threw him away from him, and continued his violence. Mr. Tawney had just succeeded in getting into the gig, when the defendant struck him on the back of the head; the blow stunned him for a moment, and his horse ran off, but was soon stopped by some cabmen in the King's Road. When this assault took place, Harvey well knew that his victim was suffering from a disease of the heart. As the prosecutor was about to leave the witness-box, he fell senseless. Two surgeons immediately attended him. Mr. Ballantine, who appeared for the prisoner, was unable to offer any defence. The Recorder briefly addressed the Jury, and Recorder said he would not pass sentence at present on Harvey for his aggravated assault: if Mr. Tawney should die, he would have to meet a more serious charge. This had hardly been said when the surgeons announced that Mr. Tawney had died, as he lay on the floor of the witness-box. The Recorder ordered Harvey to be detained. An inquest was held on the body of Mr. Tawney, on Thursday. The evidence showed the ill health that he had suffered for years; his medical attendant stated that he had warned the deceased's relatives that he would die suddenly. Death had been caused by congestion of the brain, resulting from a altercation between Mr. Tawney and Harvey. The Jury returned a verdict, that James Dodsley Tawney died from congestion of blood on the brain, produced by disease of the heart; and that he had been cruelly and brutally assaulted by Harvey. Sentence of imprisonment for twelve months was passed on Harvey, by the Recorder, on the 11th. He regretted that the result of the medical inquiry respecting the immediate cause of Mr. Tawney's death would prevent Harvey's trial for a more serious offence.

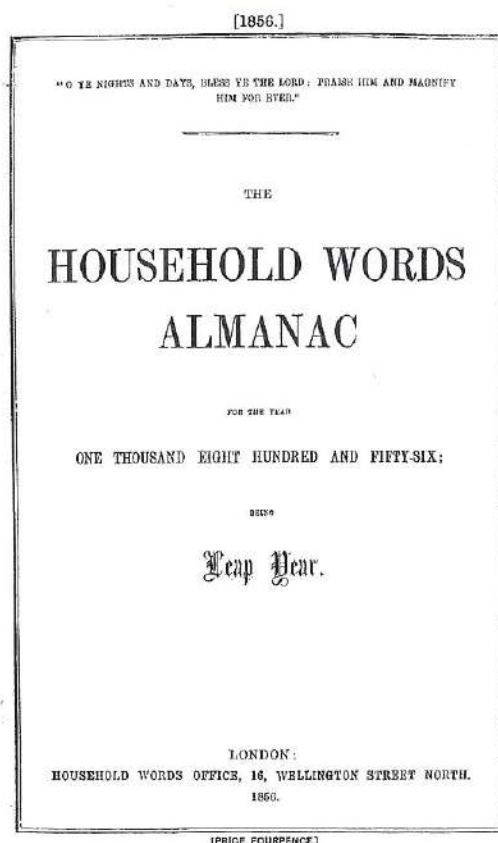
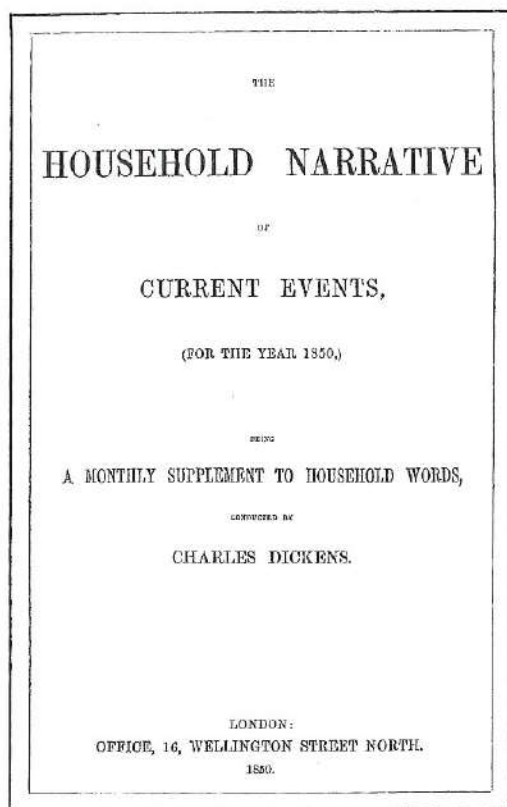
A boy named George Ruby, who appeared about 14 years of age, was put in the witness-box at Guildhall, on the 8th, to *Give Evidence in a Case of Assault* on a police-officer, when the following dialogue took place:—Alderman Humphrey: Well, do you know what you are about? Do you know what an oath is? Boy: No. Alderman: Can you read? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you ever say your prayers? Boy: No; never. Alderman: Do you know what prayers are? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you know what God is? Boy: No. Alderman: Do you know what the devil is? Boy: I've heard of the devil, but I don't know him. Alderman: What do you know? Boy: I knows how to sweep the crossings. Alderman: And that's all? Boy: That's all. I sweeps a crossing. The Alderman said that in all his experience he had never met with anything like the deplorable ignorance of the poor unfortunate child in the witness-box.

At the Hereford City Sessions on the 8th, the Recorder, in his *Charge to the Grand Jury*, said, it appeared to him a very serious circumstance that there should be at the present sessions a greater number of prisoners by one-half than at any previous sessions since he had had the honour of sitting as recorder. He was further sorry to say that some of the offences charged were of a very serious description. He had compared the present calendar with the calendars at other sessions for boroughs. At the last Maidstone Sessions, a few days ago, where the population amounted to at least 20,000, the number of prisoners was five only. At Dover, where the jurisdiction comprehended, not only the large town of Dover but much of the adjacent district, and also Margate, there were only eight prisoners for trial. At Canterbury, situated on the great highway to the Continent, and a large thoroughfare for people of all descriptions, with a population of 20,000, the number of prisoners for

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Jo, the Crossing-Sweeper



The Household Narrative 各号の内容構成

- The Three Kingdoms (editorial, 1850-52 only)
- Narrative of (Parliament and) Politics
- Narrative of Law and Crime
- Narrative of Accident and Disaster
- Social, Sanitary, and Municipal Progress
- Personal Narrative (incl. Obituary of Notable Persons)
- Colonies and Dependencies
- Narrative of Foreign Events
- Narrative of Literature and Art
- Commercial Record

ディケンズが主宰した *Household Words*、*The Household Narrative*、 そして *The Household Words Almanac* について。

チャールズ・ディケンズが企画・編集・経営した雑誌 *Household Words* は1850年に創刊されました。ディケンズは、創刊後まもなくして姉妹版である月刊誌 *The Household Narrative* を刊行します。内容は、当時のあらゆる出来事に注意深く目を配り編纂、要約された記録であり、ヴィクトリア朝最盛期である1850年代の文化・社会研究にとって第一級資料です。

また、ディケンズは、1855年12月を最後に *The Household Narrative* の刊行を中断し、翌年より年鑑 *The Household Words Almanac* を刊行します。その後、*Household Words* は1859年に廃刊。All the Year Roundとして新たに刊行されていきます。

ディケンズ主宰の総合的雑誌 *Household Words*、*All the Year Round* は、多くの大学図書館にて所蔵されています。この度の姉妹版である *The Household Narrative*、現在では、極めて入手困難な *The Household Words Almanac* をお揃えいただくことでディケンズ主宰の雑誌を網羅的に所蔵することとなります。

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