

## THE FUNERAL OF CHARLES DICKENS

It will be a gratifying surprise to the admirers of Charles Dickens to learn that his remains have been entombed in Westminster Abbey. Yesterday morning, Dickens was privately buried in "Poets' Corner." Through the influence of Dean Stanley, and owing to the universal wish that he should be laid to rest with the other worthies of English literature, the family consented to depart from the oft-expressed desire of the deceased to be buried near Rochester, and allow his remains to be removed to London. They, however, determined that the proceedings should be conducted as privately as possible, and when the body arrived at the Charing Cross Railway Station, at nine o'clock yesterday morning, no one was there to receive it but the friends who had been invited to take part in the ceremony. Mr. Dickens's well-known repugnance to ostentatious display was well known, and his wishes were faithfully observed. There were no trappings about the hearse or the three mourning coaches, and none of the mourners wore any but the plainest emblems of mourning. Even hatbands were dispensed with. The following relatives and friends occupied the coaches:—Mr. C. Dickens, jun. Mr. Harry Dickens, Miss Dickens, Mrs. C. Dickens, jun. Mrs. Austin (Mr. Dickens's sister), Miss G. Hogarth, Mr. John Forster, Mr. C. Collins, Mr. F. Beard, Mr. Ouvry, Mr. Wilkie Collins, and Mr. Edmund Dickens. The *cortège* proceeded along the Strand, down Charing Cross, Whitehall, and King-street to the Abbey door, where Dean Stanley and the clergy of the Abbey were in waiting. The service was read by the Dean. Beyond a voluntary played on the organ, there was no musical accompaniment. The coffin was of mahogany, and upon it were placed exotic ferns, a chaplet of camelias, and red and white roses. On the plate was the simple inscription: "Charles Dickens. Born 7th Feb. 1812. Died 9th June-1870." So recent was the determination of Mr. Dickens's family to permit the funeral to take place in the Abbey that it was not till midnight on Monday that the grave was prepared, when in fact a grave had already been dug in Rochester Cathedral. At Dickens's feet lie Sheridan and Samuel Johnson, and in their immediate vicinity are the coffins of Southey, Campbell, and Gray. Dickens's immediate neighbours to the right are Richard Cumberland, the essayist and dramatist, and Handel. To the left of Dickens are the coffins of Macaulay, Addison, and other eminent writers. A bust of Thackeray is placed on the wall above, and on the opposite side of the transept is the monument of Shakspeare.

The grave was kept open during the day, and when the circumstance became known thousands of visitors flocked to see it—members of Parliament, co-workers of Dickens in the field of letters, working men, and people of all classes, who desired to take a last look at the resting-place of one who had contributed so much to their enjoyment.