

THE PIQWIC PAPERZ

Bi Charlz Dickenz

THE POSCHUMOUS PAPERZ OV THE PIQWIC CLUB

CHAPTER I. THE PIQWICKEYANZ

The ferst ra ov lite which ilumianz the gloome, and converts intoo a dazzling brilleyancy dhat obscurity in which the erleyer history ov the public carere ov the imortal Piqwic wood apere too be involvd, iz deriavd from the peroozal ov the following entry in the Traanzacshonz ov the Piqwic Club, which the edditor ov these paperz feelz the hiyest plezhure in laying befoer hiz rederz, az a prooffe ov the caerfool atenshon, indefattigabel ascijuwity, and nice discriminaishon, widh which hiz cerch among the multifareyous documents confided too him haz bene conducted.

'Ma 12, 1827. Josef Smiggherz, Esq., P.V.P.M.P.C. [Perpetchuwal Vice-Prezident--Member Piqwic Club], presiding. The following rezolueshonz unannimously agrede too:--

'Dhat this Asoasheyaishon haz herd red, widh felingz ov unmin'gheld satisfacshon, and unqwaulifide aprooval, the paper comunicated bi Samuwel Piqwic, Esq., G.C.M.P.C. [Genneral Chaerman--Member Piqwic Club], entiteld "Speculaishonz on the Soers ov the Hampsted Pondz, widh sum Observaishonz on the Thheyory ov Tittelbats;" and dhat this Asoasheyaishon duz heerbi retern its wormest thanx too the ced Samuwel Piqwic, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., for the same.

'Dhat while this Asoasheyaishon iz deeply cencibel ov the advaantagez which

must acroo too the cauz ov ciyens, from the producshon too which dha hav just adverted--no les dhan from the unwerede recerchez ov Samuwel Piqwic, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., in Horncy, Higate, Brixton, and Camberwel--dha canot but entertane a liavly cens ov the inestimabel bennefits which must inevvitably rezult from carreying the speculaishonz ov dhat lerned man intoo a wider feeld, from extending hiz travvelz, and, conceqwently, enlarging hiz sfere ov observaishon, too the advaansment ov nollej, and the diffuezhon ov lerning.

'Dhat, widh the vu just menshond, this Asoasheyaishon haz taken intoo its cereyous concideraishon a propozal, emmanating from the afoerced, Samuwel Piqwic, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., and thre uther Piqwickeyanz herinnaafter naimd, for forming a nu braanch ov United Piqwickeyanz, under the titel ov The Coresponding Sociyety ov the Piqwic Club.

'Dhat the ced propozal haz receevd the sancshon and aprooval ov this Asoasheyaishon.

'Dhat the Coresponding Sociyety ov the Piqwic Club iz dhaerfoer heerbi constichuted; and dhat Samuwel Piqwic, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., Tracy Tupman, Esq., M.P.C., Augustus Snodgraas, Esq., M.P.C., and Nathanyel Winkel, Esq., M.P.C., ar heerbi nomminated and apointed memberz ov the same; and dhat dha be requested too forword, from time too time, authhenticated acounts ov dhare gernese and investigaishonz, ov dhare observaishonz ov carracter and mannerz, and ov the whole ov dhare advenchuerz, tooghether widh aul tailz and paperz too which local cenery or asoasheyaishonz ma ghiv rise, too the Piqwic Club, staishond in Lunden.

'Dhat this Asoasheyaishon corjaly reccognizez the principel ov evvery member ov the Coresponding Sociyety defraying hiz one traveling

expenchez; and dhat it cese no obgecshon whautevver too the memberz ov the
ced sociyety pershuwing dhare inqwiresse for enny length ov time dha
plese, uppon the same termz.

'Dhat the memberz ov the afoerced Coresponding Sociyety be, and ar
heerbi informd, dhat dhare propozal too pa the postage ov dhare
letterz, and the carrage ov dhare parcelz, haz bene deliberated uppon bi
this Asoasheyaishon: dhat this Asoasheyaishon concidderz such propozal
werthy
ov the grate miandz from which it emmanated, and dhat it heerbi cignifise
its perfect aqweyescens dharin.'

A cazhuwal observer, adz the secretery, too whose noats we ar indetted
for the following acount--a cazhuwal observer mite poscibly hav
remarct nuthhing extrordnary in the bauld hed, and cercular
spectakelz, which wer intently ternd toowordz hiz (the secretarese)
face, juring the reding ov the abuv rezolueshonz: too dhose whoo nu
dhat the gigantic brane ov Piqwic wauz werking beneeth dhat foerhed,
and dhat the beming ise ov Piqwic wer twincling behiand dhose
glaacez, the cite wauz indede an interesting wun. Dhare sat the man whoo
had traist too dhare soers the mity pondz ov Hampsted, and adgitated
the ciyentiffic werld widh hiz Theyory ov Tittelbats, az caam and
unmuivd
az the depe wauterz ov the wun on a frosty da, or az a sollitary spescimen
ov the uther in the inmoast rececez ov an erthhen jar. And hou much moer
interesting did the spektakel becum, when, starting intoo fool life and
animaishon, az a cimultainyous caul for 'Piqwic' berst from hiz
followerz, dhat ilustreyous man sloly mounted intoo the Winzor chare,
on which he had bene preveyously ceted, and adrest the club himcelf
had founded. Whaut a studdy for an artist did dhat exiting cene present!
The elloqwent Piqwic, widh wun hand graisfooly conceeld behiand hiz
cote tailz, and the uther waving in are too acist hiz glowing
declamaishon; hiz ellevated posishon reveling dhose tiats and gaterz,

which, had dha cloadhd an ordinary man, mite hav paast widhout observaishon, but which, when Piqwic cloadhd them--if we ma use the expreshon--inspiard involluntary au and respect; surounded bi the men whoo had vollunteerd too share the perrilz ov hiz travvelz, and whoo wer destiand too partiscipate in the gloerese ov hiz discuvverese. On hiz rite sat Mr. Tracy Tupman--the too susceptibel Tupman, whoo too the wizdom and

expereyens ov machurer yeez superadded the enthuseyazm and ardor ov a

boi in the moast interesting and pardonabel ov human weecnecez--luv. Time and feding had expanded dhat wuns romantic form; the blac cilc waistcote had becum moer and moer devellopt; inch bi inch had the goald wauch-chane beneeth it disapeerd from within the rainj ov Tupmanz vizhon; and gradjuwaly had the capaishous chin encroacht uppon the borderz

ov the white cravat: but the sole ov Tupman had none no chainj--admiraishon ov the fare cex wauz stil its rooling pashon. On the left ov hiz grate leder sat the powettic Snodgraas, and nere him agane the spoerting Winkel; the former powetticaly envellopt in a mistereyous blu cloke widh a canine-skin collar, and the latter comunicating adishonal luster too a nu grene shooting-cote, plad neckerchefe, and cloasly-fitted drabz.

Mr. Piqwix oraishon uppon this ocaizhon, tooghether widh the debate dharon, iz enterd on the Traanzacshonz ov the Club. Boath bare a strong afinnity too the discushonz ov uther cellebrated boddese; and, az it iz aulwase interesting too trace a resemblans betwene the proceedingz ov grate men, we traansfer the entry too these pagez.

'Mr. Piqwic observd (cez the cecretary) dhat fame wauz dere too the hart ov evvery man. Powettic fame wauz dere too the hart ov hiz frend Snodgraas; the fame ov conqwest wauz eeqwaly dere too hiz frend Tupman;

and the desire ov ernal fame in the spoerts ov the feeld, the are, and

the wauter wauz uppermoast in the brest ov hiz frend Winkel. He (Mr. Piqwic) wood not deni dhat he wauz influwenst bi human pashonz and human felingz (cheerz)--poscibly bi human weecnecez (loud crise ov "No"); but this he wood sa, dhat if evver the fire ov celf-importans broke out in hiz boozom, the desire too bennefit the human race in prefferens efecchuwaly qwencht it. The prase ov mankiand wauz hiz swing;

filanthropy wauz hiz inshurans office. (Veyement chering.) He had felt sum pride--he acnollejd it frely, and let hiz ennemese make the moast ov it--he had felt sum pride when he presented hiz Tittelbaishan Theyory too the werld; it mite be cellebrated or it mite not. (A cri ov "It iz," and grate chering.) He wood take the acershon ov dhat onnorabel Piqwickeyan whoose vois he had just herd--it wauz cellebrated; but if the fame ov dhat tretese wer too extend too the farthest confianz ov the none werld, the pride widh which he shood reflect on the authorship ov dhat producshon wood be az nuthhing compaerd widh the pride widh which

he looct around him, on this, the proudest moment ov hiz existens. (Cheerz.) He wauz a humbel individjuwal. ("No, no.") Stil he cood not but fele dhat dha had celected him for a cervice ov grate onnor, and ov sum dain'ger. Travveling wauz in a trubheld state, and the miandz ov coachmen wer uncetteld. Let them looc abraud and contemplate the ceenz which wer enacting around them. Stage-cochez wer upcetting in aul direcshonz, horcez wer bolting, boats wer overterning, and boilerz wer bersting. (Cheerz--a vois "No.") No! (Cheerz.) Let dhat onnorabel Piqwickeyan whoo cride "No" so loudly cum forword and deni it, if he cood. (Cheerz.) Whoo wauz it dhat cride "No"? (Enthuseyaastic chering.) Wauz it sum vane and disapointed man--he wood not sa habberdasher (loud cheerz)--whoo, gellous ov the prase which had bene--perhaps undeservdly--bestode on hiz (Mr. Piqwix) recerchez, and smarting under the censhure which had bene heept uppon hiz one febel atempts at rivalry, nou tooc this vile and calumnyous mode ov--

'MR. BLOTTON (ov Auldgate) rose too order. Did the onnorabel
Piqwickeyan
alude too him? (Crise ov "Order," "Chare," "Yes," "No," "Go on," "Leve
of," etc.)

'MR. PIQWIC wood not poot up too be poot doun bi clammor. He had
aluded
too the onnorabel gentelman. (Grate exiatment.)

'MR. BLOTTON wood oonly sa then, dhat he repeld the on. gents
fauls and scurrilous acuzaishon, widh profound contempt. (Grate
chering.) The on. gent. wauz a humbug. (Imens confuezhon, and loud
crise ov "Chare," and "Order.")

'Mr. A. SNODGRAAS rose too order. He throo himcelf uppon the chare.
(Here.) He wisht too no whether this disgraisfool contest betwene too
memberz ov dhat club shood be aloud too continnu. (Here, here.)

'The CHAERMAN wauz qwite shure the on. Piqwickeyan wood widhdrau
the
expreshon he had just made uce ov.

'MR. BLOTTON, widh aul poscibel respect for the chare, wauz qwite shure
he
wood not.

'The CHAERMAN felt it hiz imperrative juty too demaand ov the
onnorabel
gentelman, whether he had uezd the expreshon which had just escaipt him
in a common cens.

'MR. BLOTTON had no hesitaishon in saying dhat he had not--he had
uezd
the werd in its Piqwickeyan cens. (Here, here.) He wauz bound too

acnollej dhat, personaly, he entertaind the hiyest regard and esteme for the onnorabel gentelman; he had meerly concidderd him a humbug in a Piqwickeyan point ov vu. (Here, here.)

‘MR. PIQWIC felt much grattifide bi the fare, candid, and fool explanaishon ov hiz onnorabel frend. He begd it too be at wuns understood, dhat hiz one observaishonz had bene meerly intended too bare a Piqwickeyan construcshon. (Cheerz.)’

Here the entry terminaits, az we hav no dout the debate did aulso, aafter ariving at such a hily satisfactory and intelligibel point. We hav no ofishal staitment ov the facts which the reder wil fiand recorded in the next chapter, but dha hav bene caerfooly colated from letterz and uther MS. authorritese, so unqweschonably genuwine az too justifi dhare narraishon in a conected form.