

Pickwick papers is a classic novel written by the esteemed Charles Dickens. It is about a series of adventures taken by Mr. Pickwick, the chairman of the Pickwick Club and the main protagonist of the story, and his three club members, namely Mr. Trupman, Mr. Snodgrass, and Mr. Winkle.

The story started with a debate between the chairman of the Pickwick Club and its three members, before they embarked on a journey to Rochesters in 1827. Along the way, they jot down notes and made strange observations upon the coach man and by-passers. A stranger borrowed Mr. Winkle's coat without notifying the owner and made a disrespectful remark to a doctor. The next morning, a friend of the insulted doctor's sought the owner of the coat and confronted him and asked for a written apology. Mr. Winkle, the true owner of the coat, was confused at first, but later thought that he did it under the influence of alcohol. So, he arranged a duel at sunset, and asked Mr. Snodgrass to be his second. Fortunately, the doctor later realized Mr. Winkle was not the one he was after and apologized for his mistake. And the hope for bloody duel ended.

Rochester was a town of regiment, and a ceremony with firing guns was not a strange event there. But it was for the four explorers. The ceremony was complemented by a hilarious scene of Mr. Pickwick chasing his hat between the two firing regiments. Luckily, he was rescued by his fellow Mr. Tupman, who grabbed and put him in a carriage where they shared lunch with Miss Wardle, her three pretty nieces and a fat waiter boy. They got invited by Miss Wardle to visit Dingly Dell.

The journey to Dingley Dell was not a rosy one, they must walk most part of it as their coach horse went wild. However, the trouble of walking all the way was appeased by the hospitality of Mr. Wardle and his relatives; they played cards merrily and listened to a beautiful poem titled "Ivy Green", recited by one of his daughters. The party was concluded with a story named "Convict's Return." It was about an abusive drunkard Mr. Edmuds, his hard-toiled wife and a son who sought the bad company and apprehended for suspected robbery and was condemned to death, but it was reduced to fourteen years of transportations. He came back on foot to his village after having served his term, and looked for his devilish old father and strangled him to death.

The next morning, the four gentlemen went for rook shooting, where Mr. Tupman received a shot from Mr. Winkle, and the game of shooting was concluded with an accident. But that did not deter them from going to Muggleton to cheer for a game of wicket. Despite their earnest support, Dingley Dell lost terribly. At night, a mirthful dinner was held with both sides, and they met a stranger named Alfred Jingle, esquire of no hall, nowhere. Back home, the injured Mr. Tupman confessed to Miss Rachel Wardle that he loved her. But the secret was revealed to Mr. Wardle's mother by the fat waiter boy, who happened to see the couple kissing and hugging. But their discourse was again eavesdropped on by Mr. Jingle, the stranger, who happened to be nearby.

Mr. Jingle crawled and went directly to Miss Rachel and warned her that Mr. Tupman only wants her money and loves only her niece Emily, and asked her if it was true, will Miss Rachel have Mr. Jingle as her lover? On the other hand, he warned Mr. Tupman to stay close to the niece so as to avoid the old ones' suspicion. Then, he borrowed ten pounds from Mr. Tupman. He followed his advice for three days. It was obviously a very profitable scheme for Mr. Jingle.

The next day, Miss Rachel eloped with Mr. Jingle to Blue Lion, Muggleton, leaving the whole party furious. Mr. Wardle accompanied by Mr. Pickwick made a hasty chase but an unfortunate crash put them to a stop. The couple put up at a hotel, preparing to get married. But they found out by the two gentlemen and their attorney named Mr. Perker. A scene ensued, but just before they left, Miss Wardle threw a violent protest. The shrewd Mr. Perker asked Mr. Jingle to meet alone in the next room and offered him a hundred and twenty dollars, which he willingly accepted. Miss Wardle went back to Dingley Dell with his brother and Mr. Pickwick. Mr. Tupman, who could not face Miss Rachel departed from Dingley Dell, which was followed by his three friends. They were tragic to leave the hospitable host. The clergyman, Mr. Wardle, gave Mr. Pickwick a manuscript before he left the town. One night, he could not sleep, so, he read the manuscript which was about a madman, who tried to kill his wife and brother-in-law and thrown into the jail.

At one town, Mr. Pickwick found an interesting stone and bought it for ten shillings. They excavated and found out that it contained letters of old inscription, which delighted them a lot. The inscription on the stones made Mr. Pickwick an honorary member in seventeen societies,

he made a portrait of himself and hung it in the club. A man named Mr. Blotton tried to discredit but was regarded by society as an idle meddler.

Mr. Pickwick announced his intention to keep a male-servant, but Mrs. Bradle thought that she had been proposed and fell in paroxysm. Sam Weller was chosen to be his servant. Then, they went to a town named Eatanswill – which was a fake name given by the author not to insult its dwellers. It can be said that the town was a political one, evenly divided by two parties, namely The Blue and The Buff. They had their own outlets, Gazette advocating the Blues and Independent voicing the Buff. Mr. Perker, the attorney of Mr. Pickwick's, was acting as an agent of Mr. Samuel Slumkey, who was a representative of the Blues for the coming election. So, Mr. Pickwick was leaned to the Blues. The election began and the show of hand favored Mr. Slumkey, electing him as their town representative.

That night, Bagman with a lonely eye told a story about a traveling businessman, Tom smart, meeting a widow at an inn. The mysterious talking chair asked him to marry the widow, pointing him a letter that the tall man had already married and had six babes. He disclosed the letters to the widow and married her a few weeks later. Mr. Pickwick was later invited by Mr. Leo Hunter to a public breakfast, where he met Mr. Alfred Jingle, the swindler under the name of Mr. Fitz-Marshal. He followed him to Angel Inn at St. Edmund Bury, along with his servant, Sam. At the inn, Sam found out from a guy named Job that he was going to elope with a rich heiress of a boarding house. Mr. Pickwick hurriedly sneaked into the boarding house to warn her but luck did not favor him as he was caught by Mrs. Tomskin. He was deceived by Jingle and his servant called Job Totter.

An interesting turn of events showed its face when Mr. Pickwick received a legal letter informing him that he was being sued by Mrs. Bradle for a breach of marriage. He did not take it seriously and continued his daily pursuits, he even went to partridge shooting before he went to London to meet the lawyers of Mrs. Bradle. The lawyers of hers were one of the sharpest and smartest, and they meant business. So, he hurried back to fetch Mr. Perker to act as his lawyer. They run into Sam the elder, who told him the whereabouts of Mr. Jingle and his associate. Sam found Mr. Pecker's clerk in an inn and listened to the tales of old man about ghosts, inns and a queer client. They went to Whitechape, and stayed at an inn, where Mr. Pickwick bundled into the wrong room. Unfortunately, a lady was there. He was found out by the lady but there was no

shouting and screaming. That lady, namely Miss Witherfield, was proposed to by Mr. Peter Morgus, who pursued a duel. She did not want to injure both parties, so went to the magistrate and asked them to apprehend Mr. Pickwick. A commotion occurred when they were apprehended. They were charged with serious offenses, but Mr. Pickwick made a deal with the magistrate and exposed the true nature of Mr. Jingle the swindler, who was going to marry his daughter. There, Sam found his love and kissed her dearly.

The four gentlemen went back to Dingley Dell for Miss Wardle's wedding, they had jolly times and a fine Christmas. There they listened to the story of the goblin who stole a sexton. In the morning of Christmas, they went ice-skating, but the good time was interrupted when Mr. Pickwick fell into ice. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. One day, Mr. Pickwick went to meet Sargent Snubbin for the upcoming trial while Sam Weller wrote a Valentine letter, signed under the name of Pickwick. Mr. Weller the elder fought with Reverend Mr. Stiggin the red nose.

The Trial for the breach of marriage began, the eloquence of the lawyers of Mrs. Bardle swayed the juries and as a result, the verdict was in favor of the plaintiff and the judge ordered him to pay for the compensation to Mrs. Bradle. The indignant Mr. Pickwick refused to pay the fee as he believed that he had done nothing wrong to her.

At Bath, people said that Mr. Winkle had run away with Mrs. Dowler. Mr. Pickwick intrusted Sam to drag back Mr. Winkle by any means necessary. The misunderstanding was settled by Mr. Dowler himself. Sam mounted guard firmly till Mr. Pickwick arrived at the Bush Inn. Mr. W was in love with Miss Sawyer, and they met secretly.

Mr. Pickwick was apprehended for not paying the court fee and sent to debtors' prison, the Fleet. The debtor's prison was not as gloomy and miserable as other prisons. He even rented a private room for himself. He discharged Sam for the time being but the relationship between the master and his servant was so strong that Sam arranged a deal with his father to send him to prison. The whole crowd applauded Sam on his way to the Fleet. Mr. Pickwick met the former troublemakers, namely Mr. Jingle and Mr. Job.

A twist of fate had brought Mrs. Bradle to the debtor's prison by her very own lawyers. Mr. Pickwick remarked the following sentence: "the more they gain, the more they'll seek, and so the sooner be led into some piece of knavery that must end in a crash". Mrs. Bradle implored

him to pay for the court fee and he consented. As a result, they were freed from prison. Just before his release, Mr. Winkle had married Miss Allen incurring the wrath of his father and the relatives of hers. The couple begged him to calm their respective relatives. Mr. Pickwick and Sam went right away to Bob Sawyer's to appease Mr. Allen. After hours of serious discourse, he consented and hopped on the coach with Mr. Pickwick to see Mr. Winkle Senior. But they did not get any concrete answer.

The fortune favored Sam, his mother was dead and left him and his father a great fortune. They both agreed to invest in stocks. Mr. Winkle the elder came to his son and gave his blessing for his marriage. Emily was to marry Mr. Snodgrass and Sam to Miss Mary. Mr. Pickwick retired from his club and retreated to a quiet life; he was revered by the whole neighborhood. As in most novels, this one ends in marriage. There is one interesting point worth mentioning in this novel; not only the plot itself, but also the short tales related by its characters along the story were intriguing to read.

The Summary was written by "Thura Htoo."

4th July 2022