

1931

## Autumn in New Mexico

Catherine MacLeod

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as the cast of "The Way of the World" or of "The Beaux Stratagem."

Added to the influence of the stage upon Dickens' selection of names for his characters is undoubtedly the influence of his social mission. The novelist employed his pen against the vices and people in society, which he detested. There is obvious social irony in the names of the two Miss Pecksniffs, Charity and Mercy. The satire in "La Fayette Kettle" and "Putnam Sniff" is thoroughly calculated to present the first 100 per cent Americans in a true light. The braggadocia of Mr. Buffum, of Colonel Groper, the bluster of Hannibal Chollop, the grasping shrewdness of Zephania Scadder is bitinglly accented in their names. And the influence of the irony and satire with which these names are infected may perhaps outlive the book in which they appear. Dickens as a social force, destructive of institutional slavery in the workhouses, asylums, prisons administered by the state, has never been rightly estimated. That task seems to lie neither in the province of literature nor in that of sociology. Yet it should be added to our sometimes laggard appreciation of the imaginative and intellectual performance of the mind which devised the names in "Martin Chuzzlewit."

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When smoke from a piñon fire  
 Covers an October sky  
 And autumn presses hard upon blue hills,  
 We should go together  
 (Conscious of saffron dusted chamisa  
 And golden litany of aspen)  
 Far beyond the edge of desert  
 Into the death of warm October,  
 Into the far cool shine.

CATHERINE MACLEOD.