

no 2.

It chanced that a sempstress at Cheadle  
At Church, once sat down on a needle.

But attached to the head  
Was a long piece of thread  
Which was pulled out at once by the  
Beadle.

Well, my boy, write again  
soon - very soon - I must not  
forget, though, to offer with all  
heartiness the Compliments of  
the Season & to wish you many  
many happy new years

Your affectionate friend

Alfred Austin

Xmas 1857

Barley of John's was there  
also - I am sorry to hear  
(only on selfish grounds) that  
Mr. Chuzzlewit is the work selected  
for examination - I should have  
preferred Pickleby - By the by,  
the Christmas No of H. Words is  
not all by Dickens, the middle  
portion being by Miss Collins.

I rather expect I shall  
go down to Folkestone in  
about a fortnight. My sister  
who lives there, is coming to town  
on Wednesday, & I shall probably  
return with her; but I will let  
you know my movements - I  
shall be very glad to visit  
some of the metropolitan Theatres  
with you, if we can manage it

I should expect from other reports that Robson's Burlesque is not so bad, as ~~the~~ Times would make it.

Don't go & see Melgalba Farkler. My old confederate in the Wizard's art tells me that his tricks are neatly done, but very palpable. Just very ~~new~~ new.

Do you like conundrums: -

Why is a turnip in a field like a widower?

Because its better half is below ground

Why is a washerwoman's nose like a Bishop's sleeve?

Because it is part of a laundress (Lawn dress)

Why is a quarter loaf dropped into the Bay of Biscay like a lobster?

Because it is {bread in the sea  
bread

Polms for Infant Minds.

The Cook of a Lady in Surrey  
A dinner once dressed in a hurry,

But managed to make  
An unpleasant mistake

By mixing Scotch snuff with the  
Curry