

Office of All the Year Round,
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N^o 26, Wellington Street, Strand, London.W.C.
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My dear Sir,

I have to thank you very much for your kind note, which I should have answered sooner but for the fact of its having been, unfortunately, mislaid.

It is some years, since my connection with waterside pursuits and the Metropolitan Amateur Regatta came to an end, and I am very rarely indeed at Putney now. In fact, except on the occasion of the University Boat Race, my old haunts know me no more.

Y^{rs} But if I have an opportunity

of availing myself of your kind
invitation, I will most assuredly not
let it pass.

Very faithfully yours

Charles Dickens

Thomas Bayly Esq.