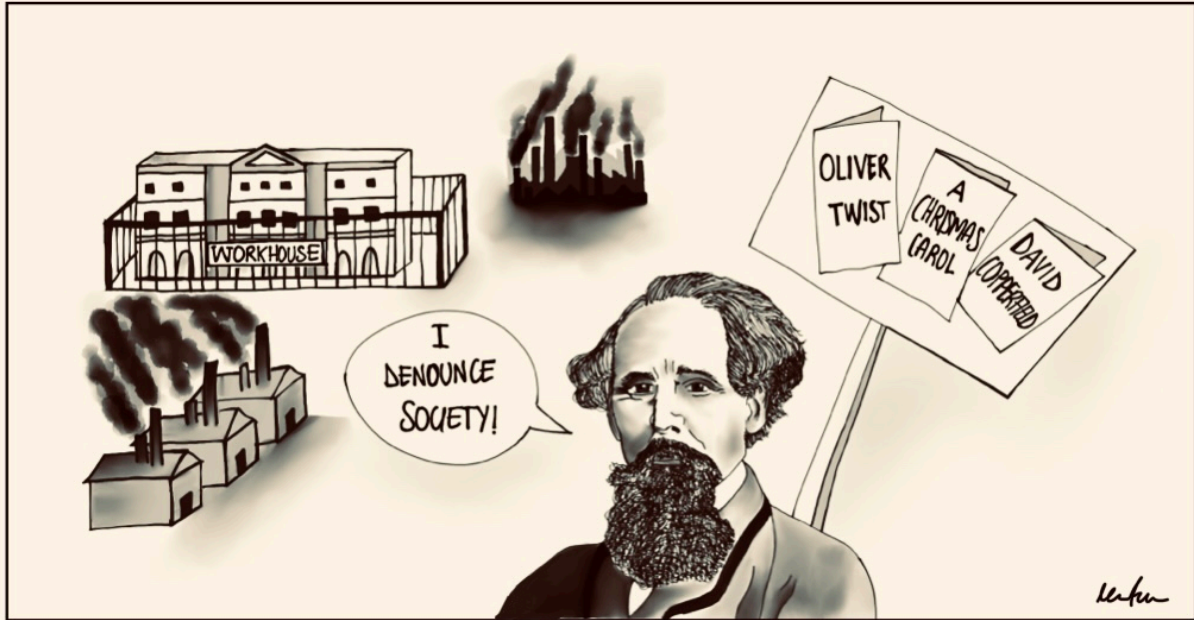


The Daily News.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY. 16 AUGUST, 1854

A NEW SOCIAL NOVEL, WEAPON OF DENOUNCIATION



In the last few days there has been a lot of talk about the last novel "Hard Times" by Charles Dickens, the editor of this newspaper.

We already know this work because it was published in installments on "Household Words", but it has only recently been printed as a volume. Charles Dickens is well known for his social novel that are reporting tools of our society. In his books he critically talks about some problems of the current age. We all know some of these in which he attacks workhouses, houses for paupers and orphans, exploitation of children and the world of industry. Among the most famous works there are "Oliver Twist", "David Copperfield" and "A Christmas Carol". Also in "Hard Times" he wants to underline and bring to public attention a social problematic: the utilitarianism. He strikes this philosophy which is very much shared in our country and he doesn't agree with Jeremy Bentham's idea "the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest number of people" as the ultimate aim

for the individual and society. In this book Dickens is particularly interested on focusing on school education in order to show us how our children are growing up without imagination in a society that ask them only facts ("Now, what I want is Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life"). He also criticizes the statistic as a form of knowledge that only has the goal of power. As I said at the beginning, this novel soon became the main topic of the public opinion debate. For now, the readers are divided, on the one hand there are those who are supporting and appreciating the book, considering it a great work, on the other hand there are those who criticizing both the author and his work. One thing is certain, you may or may not share the way Dickens denounces society but there is something wrong in our reality and we have to be aware about it and react accordingly also for those who are unable to do it.