



Hard Times by CHARLES DICKENS is set in a fictitious place called Coketown and recounts the story of Thomas Gradgrind and his family. As an educationalist, Mr. Gradgrind raises his children, Tom and Louisa, on the principle of Facts and never allows them to engage in fanciful or imaginative pursuits. Louisa agrees to marry a much older man, a friend of her father, Josiah Bounderby. However as she matures, Facts lose their hold on her life and she begins to wonder if there are more important things in life. She is preyed upon by the worthless idler, James Harthouse, and is tempted by him to leave Josiah Bounderby and elope with him. Louisa instead flees James Harthouse and finds refuge at her father's house. Tom, unscrupulous and frivolous, robs his brother-in-law's bank and is saved only through Sissy Jupe.

The end of the novel thus brings an utter devastation of Facts and finds the Gradgrind family living a life that includes simplicity and Fancy.



Maple Press Pvt. Ltd.

A-63, Sector-58, Noida-201301 (U.P.) India
Tel: (0120) 4553581, 4553583
Email: info@maplepress.co.in
Website: www.maplepress.co.in

classics

₹ 175
US\$ 3.95
UK£ 5.95

www.maplepress.co.in

ISBN: 978-93-50330-02-9



9 789350 330029



HARD TIMES

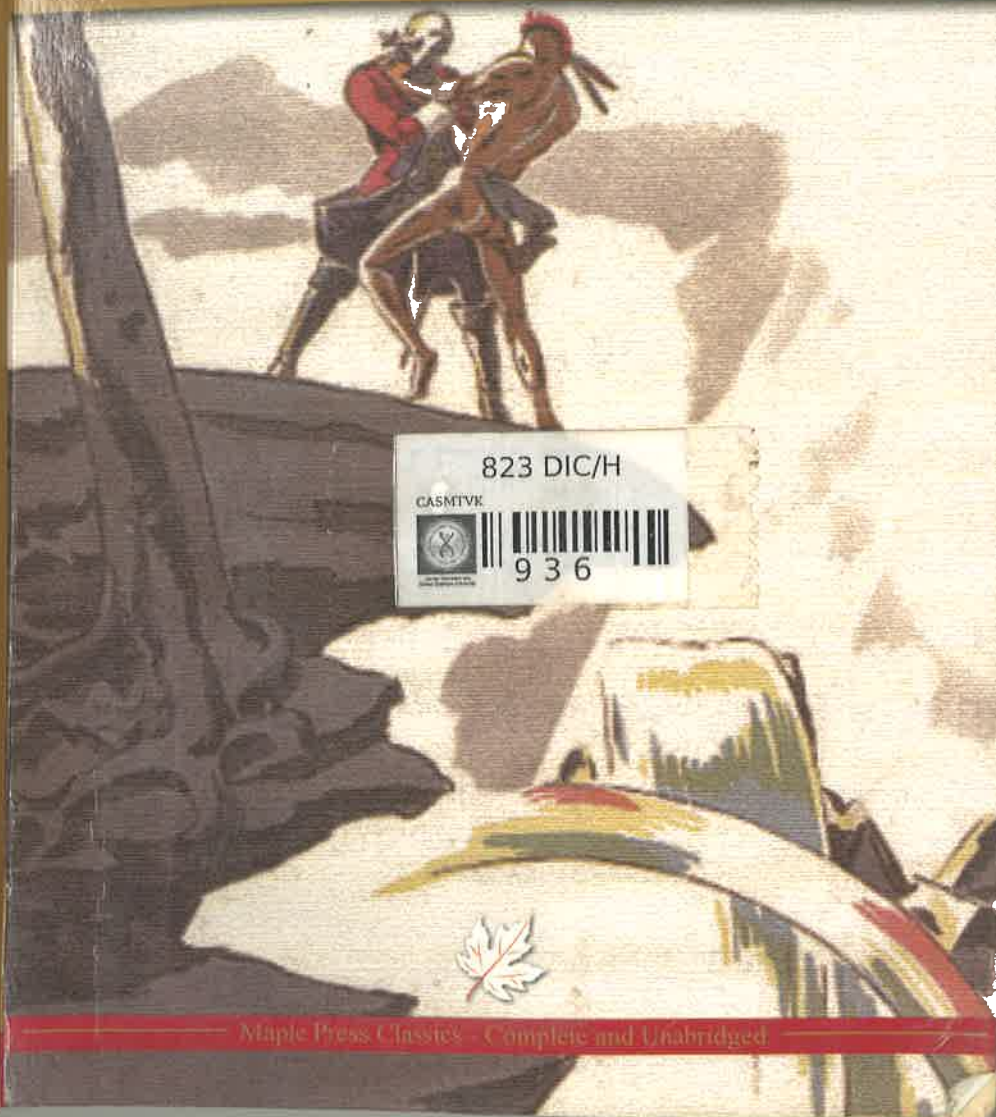
823 DIC/H

936



HARD TIMES

CHARLES DICKENS



823 DIC/H

CASMTVK



936



Maple Press Classics - Complete and Unabridged

HARD TIMES



Charles Dickens



MAPLE PRESS



Hard Time

Author : **Charles Dickens**

Copyright © Publisher

No part of this book may be reproduced in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronics, mechanical, photocopying, recording and or without permission of the publisher.

Published by : **Maple Press Pvt. Ltd.**
A-63, Sector-58
Noida, (U.P.) – 201 301
☎ (0120) 4553581, 4553583
Email : info@maplepress.co.in
Website : www.maplepress.co.in

CONTENTS

BOOK-I : SOWING

1. <i>The One Thing Needful</i>	9
2. <i>Murdering the Innocents</i>	11
3. <i>A Loophole</i>	18
4. <i>Mr. Bounderby</i>	24
5. <i>The Keynote</i>	33
6. <i>Sleary's Horsemanship</i>	40
7. <i>Mrs. Sparsit</i>	56
8. <i>Never Wonder</i>	64
9. <i>Sissy's Progress</i>	71
10. <i>Stephen Blackpool</i>	80
11. <i>No Way Out</i>	87
12. <i>The Old Woman</i>	96
13. <i>Rachael</i>	102
14. <i>The Great Manufacturer</i>	112
15. <i>Father and Daughter</i>	119
16. <i>Husband and Wife</i>	128

BOOK-II : REAPING

1. <i>Effects in the Bank</i>	137
2. <i>Mr. James Harthouse</i>	153
3. <i>The Whelp</i>	163
4. <i>Men and Brothers</i>	170
5. <i>Men and Masters</i>	179
6. <i>Fading Away</i>	187
7. <i>Gunpowder</i>	202

8. <i>Explosion</i>	217
9. <i>Hearing the Last of it</i>	232
10. <i>Mrs. Sparsit's Staircase</i>	242
11. <i>Lower and Lower</i>	248
12. <i>Down</i>	259

BOOK-III : GARNERING

1. <i>Another Thing Needful</i>	267
2. <i>Very Ridiculous</i>	274
3. <i>Very Decided</i>	286
4. <i>Lost</i>	297
5. <i>Found</i>	309
6. <i>The Starlight</i>	320
7. <i>Whelp-Hunting</i>	332
8. <i>Philosophical</i>	346
9. <i>Final</i>	354

Book-I SOWING