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PREFACE.

THE narrow space within which it was necessary to confine these Christmas Stories when they were originally published, rendered their construction a matter of some difficulty, and almost necessitated what is peculiar in their machinery. I could not attempt great elaboration of detail, in the working out of character within such limits. My chief purpose was, in a whimsical kind of masque which the good humour of the season justified, to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land.



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CHRISTMAS
BOOKS. $\frac{335}{704}$

BY
CHARLES DICKENS.



With Illustrations

BY SIR EDWIN LANDSEER, R.A., MACLISE, R.A., STANFIELD, R.A.,
F. STONE, DOYLE, LEECH, AND TENNIEL.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

IN PROSE

BEING

A Ghost Story of Christmas