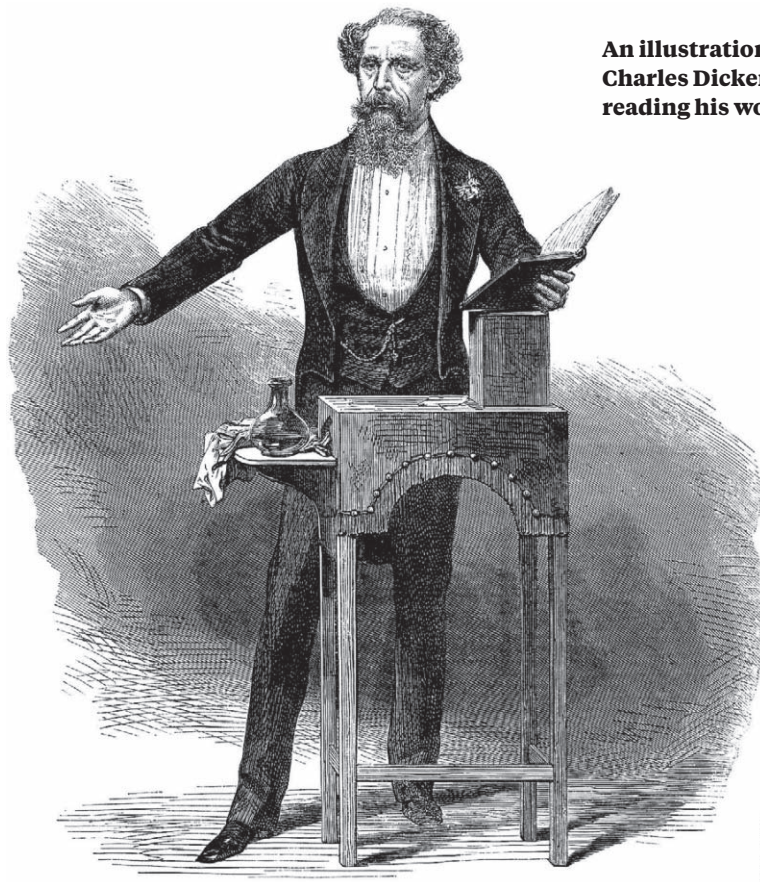


LOCAL HISTORY

149 Years Ago: On March 9, 1868, Charles Dickens was in Syracuse to give a reading of "A Christmas Carol" and "The Pickwick Papers" at Wieting Hall. Tickets cost \$2. After having seen places like Boston, Philadelphia, New York, and London, he wrote that Syracuse was, "The most wonderful, out-of-the-world place, which looks like it had begun to be built yesterday and were going to be imperfectly knocked together with a nail or two the day after tomorrow." Dickens also noted that the 40-year old Syracuse House where he lodged was "surprisingly bad" and commented sarcastically on its cuisine: "We had an old buffalo for supper and an old pig for breakfast and I don't know what for dinner at six." It was reported that he was not feeling well at the time, but expressed an interest in seeing the city's extensive salt works, no doubt Syracuse's most famous landmark in those years.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association



An illustration of Charles Dickens reading his work