

Charles Dickens Museum

Audio transcript: An Invitation to Dickens's birthday dinner

My Dear Harley,

This is my birth-day. Many happy returns of the day to you and me.

I took it into my head yesterday to get up an impromptu dinner on this auspicious occasion – only my own folks, Leigh Hunt, Ainsworth, and Forster. I know you can't dine here in consequence of the tempestuous weather on the Covent Garden shores, but if you will come in when you have done Trinculizing you will delight me greatly, and add in no inconsiderable degree to the "conwiviality" of the meeting.

Lord bless my soul!

Twenty seven years old. Who'd have thought it. I *never* did!

But I grow sentimental.

Always yours truly,

Charles Dickens