

Passage 1

. . . The city rather seemed to spring up about them, and encompass them of its own act. But there they were, in the heart of it; on 'Change, amongst the merchants; who hurried up and down, and chinked money in their pockets, and conversed in groups, and looked at their watches, and trifled thoughtfully with their great gold seals; and so forth, as Scrooge had seen them often.

Passage 2

. . . The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses were wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly. Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offences of smell and dirt, and life, upon the stragglng streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery.

-Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol" (1843) excerpt.