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## **PARKINSON, JOSEPH CHARLES (1833-1908)**

Joseph Charles Parkinson began his professional life working at Somerset House's Inland Revenue department. From 1864, Parkinson was a prolific *Daily News* contributor arguing for poor law reform, the preservation of commons, and the abolition of public executions. He was a special correspondent on the 1866 Atlantic Cable expedition and, along with Nicholas Woods, wrote a musical play that was performed to celebrate the end of the work. In 1869, he was special correspondent in Egypt for the inauguration of the Suez Canal and contributed reports to the *Daily News* on 'The Ocean Telegraph to India'. In the 1870s, Parkinson concentrated on editing. From 1871, he edited *All the Year Round* (Dickens having died in June 1870 and bequeathed the publication to his son Charles Dickens Junior), and contributed occasional pieces to *The World* from 1894-1900. In 1889, Parkinson joined the Institute of Journalists. He was also an active Freemason, a member of the Prince of Wales Chapter and the Universal Lodge, through which he had initially befriended Alfred Dickens (brother of Charles), and Edmund Yates. He was associated with the Royal Literary Fund and acted as its treasurer. Parkinson also wrote a several memoirs, reflections and occasional publications, such as *Places and People: being studies from the life* (1869) and *The Ocean Telegraph to India* (1870). After his retirement from journalism, Parkinson involved himself in industrial projects, becoming chairman of the Wankowa-Brelikow Company, and investing in the Alexandra Docks and Railway Company, and the Galician oilfields. He died in London on 24 October 1908. **AD**

### *References:*

- Bright, Charles. *Submarine Telegraphs*. London: Crosby, Lockwood and Son, 1898.  
'Joseph Charles Parkinson'. *Scoop Database*. 23 November 2013. <http://www.scoop-database.com>
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