

It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times, it was the age
of wisdom, it was the age of
foolishness, it was the epoch of belief,
it was the epoch of incredulity, it was
the season of Light, it was the season of
Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it
was the winter of despair, we had
everything before us, we had nothing
before us, we were all going direct to
Heaven, we were all going direct the
other way - in short, the period was so
far like the present period, that some of
its noisiest authorities insisted on its
being received, for good or for evil, in
the superlative degree of comparison
only.