More Examples of Interesting Punctuation with some questions

[1] He had all the appearance of a leader making ready for an expedition. [2] Then, wheeling about, he led the way with his firm military tread, in those wonderful boots, carrying brown paper parcels, down the path, his children following him.

from Virginia Woolf. To the Lighthouse. London: Hogarth Press, 1927.

Discus how Woolf's punctuation enhances or supports the meaning delivered by the second sentence.
Then wheeling about he led the way with his firm military tread in those wonderful boots carrying brown paper parcels down the path his children following him. Re-punctuate this sentence as you see fit. When compared with Woolf's punctuation, how does yours change or shift the effect?

We come again before the Public for the FIFTH time; and presuming the plan and character of the *Boston Almanac* are now sufficiently known, we shall not devote much time or much room to the matter of a preface.

In the first place, however, we return our sincere thanks to the friends of the work for their very liberal patronage. This being done, we will simply state that no pains or expense has been spared to render this number equally attractive with any of its predecessors. A new map has been procured, which is considerably larger than the old one, admitting of larger lettering for names of streets, etc. The pages have been made a little longer, which enables us to give a blank line in the memorandum pages for each day of the month. A map of the various rail-roads, as they diverge from Boston, has also been inserted.

from S. N. Dickinson. *The Boston Almanac, for the Year 1840*. Boston: Tho. Groom, [1839].

This is an example of American punctuation c. 1840. Does it differ from the punctuation you would use today? If so, in what way? Would you describe it as primarily rhetorical or grammatical? Heavy or light?						
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