Mr. Bounderby - Analysis

The text entitled Mr. Bounderby is an extract from Hard Times by Charles Dickens, precisely from chapter two.
The narrator starts the sequence with the question "who was Mr. Bounderby?", the intelligent reader should notice that he used the past of the verb, that could imply that the character changed personality. Mr. Bounderby was a close and intimate friend of Mr. Gradgrind (a teacher who bases his all life on facts and calculations) so probably he was "devoid of sentiments" and all based on apparently and reality. Charles Dickens provides a deeply and articulated description of the character, he was a very rich man who has done the best and more remunerated jobs, but on the higher side he was also a big man with a voice that sounds robotic and a steadily stare, he seems the stereotype of the classical Victorian man, all focal used in religion and moralities. Mr. Bounderby is a character without emotions or feeling, indeed the novelist describe hem as someone made from "coarse material" to represent the low presence of humanity. The skin of the face, the big and puffed face, was all stretched and so he had his eyes opened an his eyebrows lifted; the narrator used the narrative strategy of the grotesque to ridicule the character and to highlight the strict appearance and probably behavior he has.; the description of his eyes, always opened seems to represents a man that wants to see and to know everything, who does not want to loose control over everything.  The reader proceeds with the description of the personality of Mr. Bounderby, he was and expansive person, ready to start a conversation over his old times, and how his life changed; his stories that never interested to anyone were told in a way that underlined his proud of the man he became. As regards his appearance, he seemed much older than he was, the novelist made a comparison with his close friends and told the readers that he looked older also if he was younger by some years.  The reason of it can be found in the further description, he had jot had much hair and the few he had were all on disorder and moved by the wind. The novelist provides a description of a man that does not cure his appearance, that may be a contraposition with his formal and rigid figure already described. After the long description of the character of Mr. Bounderby, the narrator starts to tells the story; the main character is in a drowning-room of a villa called "Stone Lodge" near the fire to warm himself, the situation seems a very warm and familiar one. However the narrator specificate that he was standing near the fire because he was cold, because of the humidity of the place and to have a dominant presence over his interlocutor. The interlocutor was Mrs. Gradgrind's wife and they were talking about Mr. Bouderby close birthday. The main character starts to tell his interlocutor about the story of his tenth birthday, his is a story that provides a feeling of sadness but also pity in the reader. As a child he had never wore a pair of shoes or socks, the intelligent reader should notice that was a very poor children; as the reader goes on with the story this condition is made clear, Mr. Bouderby tells that he spent his birthday in a "ditch" and in a "pigsty", the two words convey the feeling of a very dirty and adverse place, especially for a young boy. With the expression "not that a ditch was new to me, for I was born in a ditch" the narrator emphasizes that he was used to live in forbidding place all alone. Charles Dickens goes on with the description of the interlocutor, she is a women, a little and thin one, in opposition with the big man of Mr. Bounderby; she is represented as a feeble and weak one, the intelligent reader has the feeling that she is elegant and rich, and that is emphasized by the expression “she hoped it was a dry ditch”. The protagonist however describe the ditch as one full of dirty water and dingy. The women considered that it was a place where a little boy could get a cold; indeed Mr. Bounderby confirms that he has everything possible inflammated. Charles Dickens emphasizes the difficult situation of the protagonist when he was young, the narrator uses the narrative technique of the grotesque to make the reader partial identify with the subject and make the reader fell pathos. The novelist goes on with the atrocious situation of the man; he himself said that he was so dirty and ragged that no one would ever touch him even with a pair of tongs. The end of the text presents the typical Puritan vision of the word, that with hard job and diligence everyone will make better the situation; Mr. Bounderby fells proud of himself for being able to turn upside down his economic situation and to change his whole life.