



SELECTED SHORT STORIES
OF
MARK TWAIN

马克·吐温短篇小说选读

英汉对照文学读物

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上 海 译 文 出 版 社

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注 释 者 的 话

马克·吐温(Mark Twain, 1835—1910), 原名塞缪尔·兰霍恩·克莱门斯(Samuel Langhorne Clemens), 十九世纪下半期美国著名的小说家。出生于密苏里州的一个小城镇上, 父亲是地方法官, 生活并不富裕。十二岁丧父后, 他只能自己谋生, 先后当过印刷所学徒, 排字工人, 水手, 金矿工人和新闻记者。丰富的生活经历为他后来从事文学创作奠定了坚实的基础。自1867年发表了成名作《跳蛙及其他故事》以后的四十多年中, 吐温写了多部长篇小说和许多短篇及政论, 著名的长篇小说有《镀金时代》(1873)、《汤姆·索耶历险记》(1876)、《哈克贝利·芬历险记》(1884)等。

吐温从创作活动开始直到逝世从未间断过短篇小说的创作。他的短篇小说不仅反映了广阔的社会画面, 而且具有独特的艺术风格, 是他全部文学创作的重要组成部分。吐温是个语言大师, 他的作品吸收了当代口语的特点, 简洁流畅, 读来亲切生动, 感人至深。同时, 他喜欢用俏皮、夸张的语言刻画人物, 达到塑造典型、揭示生活真理的目的。

本书所选的八个短篇是吐温各个创作时期的作品, 适于大学英语专业二年级以上学生或有同等英语水平者阅读。书后所附词汇表, 基本上以大学

英语专业二年级学生应掌握的词汇量为依据，并适当扩大选词范围。单词根据在本书出现时的上下文进行释义，注明词类，并根据《英语正音词典》（丹尼尔·琼斯编，伦敦，1972年版）注音。

1979年2月16日

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RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR

A few months ago I was nominated for Governor of the great State of New York, *to run against*¹ Mr. Stewart L. Woodford and Mr. John T. Hoffman *on an independent ticket*². I somehow felt that I had one prominent advantage over these gentlemen, and that was—*good character*³. It was easy to see by the newspapers that, if ever they had known *what it was to bear a good name*⁴, that time had gone by. It was plain that in these latter years they had become familiar with *all manner of shameful crimes*⁵. But at the very moment that I was exalting my advantage and joying in it in secret, there was a muddy undercurrent of discomfort “riling” the deeps of my happiness, and that was—the having to *hear my name bandied about*⁶ in familiar connection with those of such people. I grew more and more disturbed. Finally I wrote my grandmother about it. Her answer came quick and sharp. She said—

“You have never done one single thing in all your life to be ashamed of—not one. Look at the newspapers—look at them and comprehend what sort of characters *Messrs*⁷. Woodford and Hoffman are, and then see if

1. 与……竞选。 2. 原义是“作为无党派候选人”，但下文有作者

竞选州长

几个月前，我被提名为纽约州州长候选人，代表独立党参加竞选，对方是斯坦华脱·L·伍福特先生和约翰·T·霍夫曼先生。我总觉得自己名声不错，同这两位先生相比，这是我显著的长处。从报上很容易看出：如果说这两位先生也曾知道爱护名声的好处，那是以往的事情了。近年来他们显然已经把各种各样的无耻勾当看作家常便饭。当时，我虽然醉心于自己的长处，暗自得意，但是一想到我得让自己和这些人的名字混在一起到处传播，总有一股不安的混浊暗流在我愉快心情的深处“翻腾”。我心里越想越乱。末了我给我祖母写了一封信，把这件事告诉她。她回信又快又干脆，她说：

“你生平没有做过一桩亏心事——一桩也没有做过。你看看报纸——看一看就会明白，伍福特和霍夫曼先生是何等样人，看你愿不愿意把自己降低到他们

杜撰的 independent party (独立党) 和 party leader (党的领袖) 之说，此处只能相应地译为“代表独立党”。3. 声誉好。4. “it” 指 “to bear a good name”，作“有好的名声”解。5. 各种无耻罪行。注意：“manner” 作“种、类”解时，没有复数形式。6. 听到我的名字到处被人议论。“hear” 后接的是名词加过去分词构成的复合宾语。7. ['mesəz] = messieurs，现主要用作 Mr. 的复数形式。

you are willing to lower yourself to their level and enter a public canvass with them."

It was my very thought! I did not sleep a single moment that night. But after all I could not recede. I *was fully committed*⁸, and must go on with the fight.

As I was looking listlessly over the papers at breakfast, I came across this paragraph, and I may truly say I never was so confounded before:—

perjury
"PERJURY —Perhaps, now that Mr. Mark Twain is before the people as candidate for Governor, he will condescend to explain how he came to be convicted of perjury by thirty-four witnesses in *Wakawak*⁹, *Cochin China*¹⁰, in 1863, the intent of *which perjury*¹¹ being to rob a poor native widow and her helpless family of a meagre plantain-patch, their only stay and support in *their bereavement and desolation*¹². Mr. Twain owes it to himself, as well as to the great people whose suffrages he asks, to *clear this matter up*¹³. Will he do it?"

I thought I should burst with amazement! Such a cruel, heartless charge. I never had seen Cochin China! I never had heard of *Wakawak*! *I didn't know a plantain-patch from a kangaroo*!¹⁴ I did not know what to do. I was crazed and helpless. I let the day slip away without doing anything at all. The next

8. 完全卷入，无从解脱。

9. 一虚构地名。

10. ['kotʃin

的水平,跟他们一道竞选。”

我正是这个想法!那天晚上我一夜没合眼。但是我毕竟不能打退堂鼓。我既然已经卷了进去,只好干下去。

我一边吃早饭,一边无精打采地翻阅报纸。我看到这么一段消息,老实说,我从来没有这样惊惶过:

“伪证罪——一八六三年,在交趾支那的瓦卡瓦克,有三十四名证人证明马克·吐温先生犯有伪证罪,企图侵占一小片种植香蕉的地,那是当地一位穷寡妇和她一群孤儿靠着活命的唯一资源。马克·吐温先生现在既然在众人面前出来竞选州长,是否可以请他讲讲此事的经过。吐温先生不论对自己或是对其要求投票选举他的伟大人民,都有责任把此事交代清楚。他愿意交代吗?”

我当时惊愕得不得了!这样残酷无情的指控。我从来没有到过交趾支那!我从来没有听说过瓦卡瓦克这个地方!我不知道什么种植香蕉的地,就象我不知道什么是袋鼠一样!我不知道怎么办才好。我都气疯了,却又毫无办法。那一天我什么也没干

'[tʃaɪnə] 交趾支那. 11. 这个伪证。“which”是形容词,作“刚提到的那个”解。 12. 在他们孤苦凄凉的境遇中。 13. 澄清此事真相。“clear up”作“说明,解释清楚”解。 14. 我真不知香蕉园和袋鼠有什么区别!“know ... from...”作“把……与……辨别出来”解。

morning the same paper had this—nothing more.

“SIGNIFICANT. —Mr. Twain, it will be observed, is *suggestively silent*¹⁵ about the Cochin China perjury.”

发人深省地沉默

[*Mem.*¹⁶ —During the rest of the campaign this paper never referred to me in any other way than as “the infamous perjurer Twain.”]

Next came the Gazette, with this:—

“WANTED TO KNOW.¹⁷ — Will the new candidate for Governor deign to explain to certain of his fellow-citizens (*who are suffering to vote for him!*¹⁸) the little circumstance of his cabin-mates in Montana losing small valuables from time to time, until at last, these things having been invariably found on Mr. Twain’s person or in his ‘trunk’ (newspaper he rolled his traps in), they felt compelled to give him a friendly admonition for his own good, and so tarred and feathered him, and rode him on a rail¹⁹, and then advised him to leave a permanent vacuum in the place he usually occupied in the camp. Will he do this?”

Could anything be more deliberately malicious than that? First I never was in Montana in my life.

[After this, this journal customarily spoke of me as “Twain the Montana Thief.”]

15. 发人深省地沉默。 16. memento (Latin) 的缩写。此处作“记住，备忘”解。 17. 主语 “we” 省略。 18. 十分焦急地等

就这么过去了。第二天早晨，这家报纸没说别的，只有这么一句：

“值得注意——大家都会注意到：马克·吐温先生对交趾支那伪证案保持缄默，自有难言之处。”

[备忘——在这场竞选运动中，这家报纸此后凡提到我必称“臭名昭著的伪证犯吐温”。]

下一份是《新闻报》，登了这么一段：

“急需查究——吐温先生在蒙大那州野营时，与他同一帐篷的伙伴经常丢失小东西，后来这些东西一件不少都在吐温先生身上或“箱子”（即他卷藏杂物的报纸）里发现了。大家为他着想，不得不对他进行友好的告诫，在他身上涂满柏油，插上羽毛，叫他跨坐在横杆上，把他撵出去，并劝告他让出铺位，从此别再回来。这件小事是否请新州长候选人向急得难熬、要投他票的同胞们解释一下？他愿意解释吗？”

难道还有比这种控告用心更加险恶的吗？我一辈子也没有到过蒙大那州。

[从此以后，这家报纸按例管我叫“蒙大那小偷吐温”。]

着要投他的票的人。“be suffering to …”作“心急火燎地想要…”解。19. 让他坐木杠。这是当时美国侮辱人的一种私刑。把认为犯有罪行的人绑住，身上涂上柏油，粘上羽毛，让他跨坐在一根木棍上，抬着他游街示众。

I got to picking up papers apprehensively²⁰ —²¹ much as one would lift a desired blanket²² which he had some idea might have a rattlesnake under it. One day this met my eye:—

“THE LIE NAILED !²³ —By the sworn affidavits of Michael O’Flanagan, Esq.²⁴, of the Five Points, and Mr. Kit Burns and Mr. John Allen, of Water Street, it is established that Mr. Mark Twain’s vile statement that the lamented²⁵ grandfather of our noble standard-bearer, John T. Hoffman, was hanged for highway robbery, is a brutal and gratuitous lie, without a shadow of foundation in fact. It is disheartening to virtuous men to see such shameful means resorted to²⁶ to achieve political success as the attacking of the dead in their graves, and defiling their honoured names with slander. When we think of the anguish this miserable falsehood must cause the innocent relatives and friends of the deceased, we are almost driven to incite an outraged and insulted public to summary and unlawful vengeance upon the traducer. But no ! let us leave him to the agony of a lacerated conscience²⁷ (though if passion should get the better of²⁸ the public, and in its blind fury they should do the traducer bodily injury, it is but too obvious²⁹ that no jury

20. 我变得拿起报纸就提心吊胆。“get to”作“开始”解，后接动

于是，我拿起报纸总有点提心吊胆，好象你想睡觉，可是一拿起床毯，心里总是嘀咕，生怕毯子下面有条蛇似的。有一天，我看到这么一段消息：

“谎言已被揭穿！——根据五点区的密凯尔·奥弗拉纳根先生、华脱街的吉特·彭斯先生和约翰·艾伦先生三位的宣誓证书，现已证明：马克·吐温先生曾恶毒声称我们尊贵的领袖约翰·T·霍夫曼的祖父系拦路抢劫被处绞刑一说，纯属卑劣无端之谎言，毫无事实根据。用毁谤故人、以谰言玷污其美名的下流手段，来掠取政治上的成功，使有道德的人见了甚为痛心。我们一想到这一卑劣的谎言必然会使死者无辜的亲友蒙受极大悲痛时，恨不得鼓动起被伤害和被侮辱的公众，立即对诽谤者施行非法的报复。但是，我们不这样做，还是让他去经受良心的谴责吧。（不过，公众如果气得义愤填膺，盲目行动起来，竟对诽谤者施以人身上的伤害，显

名词。 21. = as much as; 就象。 22. 要想使用的毯子。 23. = THE LIE IS NAILED ! 在报纸标题中往往把构成被动语态的“to be”省略。 24. 先生。是“Esquire”的缩写，但它和 Mr. 不同，要放在人名之后。 25. 已故的。 26. 被采取，被使用(手段)。 27. 由于受良心谴责而感到的痛苦。“lacerated conscience”作“内疚”解。 28. 占……的上风，压倒。 29. 十分明显。“but too”作“简直太……”解。

could convict and no court punish the perpetrators of the deed).”

The ingenious closing sentence *had the effect of*³⁰ moving me out of bed *with despatch*³¹ that night, and out at the back door also, while the “outraged and insulted public” surged in the front way, breaking furniture and windows in their righteous indignation as they came, and taking off such property as they could carry when they went. And yet I can lay my hand upon the Book and say that I never slandered Governor Hoffman’s grandfather. *More*³²: I had never even heard of him or mentioned him *up to that day and date*³³.

[I will state, *in passing*³⁴, that the journal above quoted from always referred to me afterward as “Twain, the Body-Snatcher.”]

The next newspaper article that attracted my attention was the following: —

A SWEET CANDIDATE, — Mr. Mark Twain, who was to make such a blighting speech at the mass meeting of the Independents last night, didn’t *come to time*³⁵! A telegram from his physician stated that he had been knocked down by a runaway team, and his leg broken in two places—sufferer lying in great agony, and *so forth, and so forth*, and a lot more bosh of the same sort. And the Independents tried hard to *swallow the wretched subterfuge*³⁶, and pretend that they did not know what was

30. 起了……的作用。 31. 连忙，火速。 32. = what is more

然，对于肇事者，陪审员不可能判罪，法庭也不能加以惩处。)”

最后这句妙语大起作用，当天晚上“被伤害和被侮辱的公众”从前门冲了进来，吓得我赶紧从床上爬起来，打后门溜走。他们义愤填膺，来的时候捣毁家具和门窗，走的时候把能抄走的财物统统抄走。然而，我可以把手按在《圣经》上起誓：我从来没有诽谤过霍夫曼州长的祖父。不仅如此，在那之前，我从来没有听人说起过他，我自己也没有提到过他。

[要顺便提一下，刊登上述新闻的那家报纸此后总是称我为“盗尸犯吐温”。]

下一篇引起我注意的报上文章是这样写的：

“好一个候选人——马克·吐温先生原定于昨晚独立党民众大会上作一次毁损对方的演说，却未按时到会。他的医生打来一个电报，说是他被一辆疯跑的马车撞倒，腿部两处负伤，极为痛苦，无法起身，以及一大堆诸如此类的废话。独立党的党员们硬着头皮想把这一拙劣的托词信以为真，只当不

又，再者。 33. 直到那一天为止。 34. = by the way: 顺便。
35. 履行义务。 36. 虽有苦衷，但只好默认这一拙劣的托词。

the real reason of the absence of the abandoned creature whom they denominate their standard-bearer.

A certain man was seen to reel into Mr. Twain's hotel last night in a state of beastly intoxication. It is the imperative duty of the Independents to prove that this besotted brute was not Mark Twain himself. We have them at last! This is a case that admits of no shirking. The voice of the people demands in thundertones, 'Who was that man?'

It was incredible, absolutely incredible, for a moment, that it was really my name that was coupled with this disgraceful suspicion. Three long years had passed over my head since I had tasted ale, beer, wine or *liquor*³⁷ of any kind.

[It shows what effect the times were having on me when I say that I saw myself confidently dubbed "Mr. *Delirium Tremens*³⁸ Twain" in the next issue of that journal without a pang — notwithstanding I knew that with monotonous fidelity the paper would go on calling me so to the very end.]

By this time anonymous letters were getting to be an important part of my mail matter. This form was common: —

How about that old woman you kicked off your premises *which was begging*³⁹?

*Pol Pry*⁴⁰

37. 酒，主要用于指威士忌、朗姆等蒸馏的酒，针对上文提到各