

EVERYDAY ENGLISH SNACK  
CLASSIC SHORT STORIES

# 每天读点英文 经典短篇小说全集

马钟元◎主编

典藏英文全集

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# 每天读点英文 经典短篇小说全集

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(天津外国语学院)

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# 前言

## Preface

文学源于生活，却又高于生活，它像一面镜子，折射出生活的方方面面。只不过反映到文学的世界里，生活变成一种被艺术化了的真实，高度凝练而又颇具代表意义。作家们在想象的空间，以主观性感知和诗艺性创造为手段，达到对社会生活内涵实蕴的精准把握。纵观世界文坛，真可谓名家辈出，佳作无穷，而短篇小说宛若这文坛上的朵朵奇葩，争奇斗艳，绽放着经久绵远的魅力。《每天读点英文经典短篇小说全集》的编者们恰恰是秉承这样的初衷，完成了这本全集的编写工作。

本书最大的特点就是“全”：首先，从入选作家及作品来看，以英美知名作家经典短篇为主，如欧·亨利的《最后一片藤叶》、马克·吐温的《竞选州长》、爱德加·爱伦·坡的《黑猫》、凯特·肖邦的《一小时的故事》、福克纳的《献给爱米莉的玫瑰》、托马斯·哈代的《儿子的否决》、舍伍德·安德森的《鸡蛋》、凯瑟琳·曼斯菲尔德的《苍蝇》、弗吉尼亚·伍尔夫的《邱园纪事》等。此外，笔者还精心挑选了法国、俄国及奥地利的几位在世界范围内都颇有影响力的名家之作，如莫泊桑的《一家人》、契诃夫的《变色龙》、卡夫卡的《饥饿艺术家》等脍炙人口的名篇佳作均在收录之列。其次，从入选作品的题材上来看，不仅有广为人知的普通叙事类故事，还有很多实践派或现代派创作手法的上乘之作，如意识流小说、哥特式恐怖小说，并且为了兼顾更广泛的读者群体，笔者还精心挑选了几篇语言简单流畅、故事情节明晰的寓言故事，如王尔德的《夜莺与玫瑰》和《快乐王子》，读来扣人心弦、发人深醒。

本书的第二大特点就是编排上的匠心独具：为了方便广大读者阅读欣赏，我们选择中英文对照的形式，并对文中的历史人物、背景知识加以注释说明，对生僻单词也都一一做了注解。所选作品语言或幽默或简约，风格或豪放或清婉。每篇文章前都附有作家简介和故事梗概，帮助读者进入语境，却也只是点到为止，以免喧宾夺主，干预读者阅读。本书译者均为多年从事英语语言文学教学与研究的专业教师，虽不能说呕心沥血，却也是竭尽所能地把每一篇作品都处理得贴切妥当，使译著语言风格与原文一脉相承，读来朗朗上口，为每一位读者提供愉快的阅读体验。

鉴于以上两大特点，该书不仅适合英语语言文学专业的学生用作学习辅助阅读材料，同时，也适合各个层次、各个年龄阶段的非专业读者用作消遣之资。全集中所选作品无不为名家名篇，既贴近生活，又高于生活。待茶余饭后或月满西楼之时，一杯香茗、一盏清灯，信手翻

来一睹经典之美，徜徉在文学语言营造的声光影像中，体会大美，感知真纯，无疑是一种美妙的享受。只有愉快的阅读体验才能实现事半功倍的效果。读者在丰富文学知识，提高文学素养的同时，更能通过阅读原文，品鉴译著，轻松学习到更多的单词、短语或常用语法现象，以此来提高对两种语言的理解和驾驭能力。

此外，生命的酸甜苦辣，尘世的人情百态都是相通的，故事里或悲或喜，或惊或恐，或成或败都具有一定的借鉴意义：卡夫卡笔下的饥饿艺术家，痴迷于赖以生存的饥饿表演，也曾喧嚣一时、风光无限，但当饥饿表演被社会和时代残忍淘汰时，艺术家却无法适应改变、另谋职业，而是宁愿放弃尊严、枯守在稻草铺就的铁笼里，像动物一样渴求世人的关注和同情，只可惜好运如长江东逝之水再不回头，最终郁郁而死。在当今社会这样的悲剧人物何尝不是大有人在？而在《麦琪的礼物》中，黛拉和吉姆这对贫贱夫妻，为了给对方一份完美的圣诞礼物，各自割爱，卖掉最宝贵的长发和怀表，这份充满自我牺牲的真挚情感怎能不令世人动容？爱伦·坡的恐怖小说虽读来令人毛骨悚然，却也淋漓尽致地展示出这样一条真理——一切罪恶行为其实都有灵魂层面的深刻原因，恨与恶其实本就存在，但只有被艺术化夸大了之后，才能真正被人们看到，才能真正地被人们理解，这恐怕也是恐怖小说自产生至今，虽然鲜血淋淋，令人感到触目惊心，确也深受读者喜欢的一个重要原因所在；那个手刃黑猫，并把妻子尸骸巧妙匿藏在地窖墙壁中间的“我”不就是这样一个人不寒而栗的代表者吗？杰克·伦敦的《生命的法则》更是塑造了一个垂暮之年的老人，被部落遗弃在冬日的雪原，孤苦等待死神的到来，天地如一，万物如一，追忆似水年华，重温驼鹿与狼群拼死搏斗的惨烈场面，安然接受了生命永恒的法则，读来怎能不让人扼腕叹息？而福斯特的《安德鲁斯先生》则用诙谐幽默的语言坦白地告诉世人，原来人们笃信的一切神灵，都和人一样会自私、会嫉妒、会报复，那神的本质究竟是什么？信仰的力量又到底何在？更让读者感动的是，向来倡导“为艺术而艺术”的唯美主义作家奥斯卡·王尔德，却以一个父亲对待孩子的虔诚，用简单易懂的寓言创造了一个又一个寓意深刻的童话故事，如《快乐王子》中，悲天悯人的快乐王子一次次牺牲自己，雪中送炭，救苦救难，最后，当周身最后一片金箔剥落殆尽，眼中的宝石也不见踪影的时候，竟然被那些城市的领导者们当做碍眼之物轰然推倒，可熔炉中化不掉的是一颗千金不换的、世界少有的真心。读者在品读百态人生的同时，也能洞悉人生的大义。再加之，西方国家有自己独特的文化，每一位作家的作品中都会或多或少涉及到一定的文化现象，通过阅读小说，读者也能更为透彻地了解文化方面的知识。

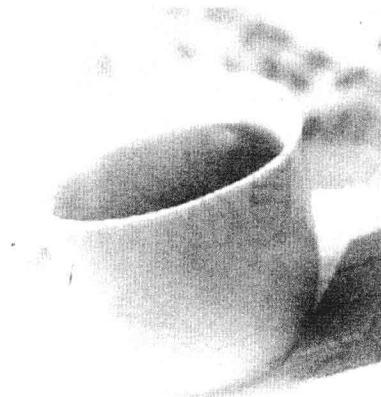
全书的编纂工作，由天津外国语大学滨海外事学院英语系主任马钟元教授组织编写，凭借着多年的英语教学经验和对文学，特别是英美文学的深入研究成果，马钟元教授带领他的教师团队，完成本书的精选、整理、翻译和注释等工作。在编写过程中，虽力争精益求精，奈何时间紧迫，译者经验有限，恐有不当不足之处，敬请广大读者加以指正。

《每天读点英文经典短篇小说全集》编委会

2012年5月



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马克·吐温

# 世间哈哈镜

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## 竞选州长

马克·吐温(Mark Twain)

马克·吐温原名萨缪尔·朗赫恩·克莱门斯(Samuel Langhorne Clemens)，1835年生于美国密苏里州的佛罗里达村一个贫穷的律师家庭，四岁时随家迁居到密西西比河边的小镇汉尼伯尔。他是美国著名的幽默大师、小说家、作家、演说家、19世纪后期美国批判现实主义文学的杰出代表。他曾被推崇为“美国文坛巨子”，被誉为美国文学史上的林肯。威廉·福克纳称他为“第一位真正的美国作家，我们都是继承他而来”。马克·吐温的创作风格融幽默与讽刺于一体，他的作品不仅仅是嘲笑人类的弱点，而且是以夸张的手法，将它放大了给人看，从而希望人类变得更完美，更理想。他的代表作品有《汤姆索亚历险记》《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》《傻瓜威尔逊》《王子与贫儿》《镀金年代》等，以及一系列脍炙人口的短篇小说，如《卡拉韦拉县臭名昭著的跳蛙》《竞选州长》等。

《竞选州长》是作者根据其1868年在纽约采访州长竞选时的素材所写的一篇政治讽刺小说。作者以极其夸张的笔触，艺术地再现了美国社会中竞选的种种虚伪和欺骗。作者以“我”的自白和大量的新闻报道、匿名信等方式，犀利、夸张、含蓄地表达了其对政治的不满和谴责。

A few months ago I was **nominated**<sup>①</sup> for Governor of the great State of New York, to run against Stewart L. Woodford and John T. Hoffman, on an **independent ticket**<sup>②</sup>. I somehow felt that I had one prominent advantage over these gentlemen, and that was, good character. It was easy to see by the newspapers, that if ever they had known what it was to bear a good name, that time had gone by. It was plain that in these latter years they had become familiar with all manner of shameful crimes. But at the very moment that I was exalting my advantage and joying in it in secret, there was a muddy **undercurrent**<sup>③</sup> of discomfort “riling” the deeps of my happiness—and that

几个月之前，我以独立候选人的身份被提名为纽约州州长候选人，与斯图尔特·L·伍德福德先生和约翰·T·霍夫曼先生竞选。从某种程度上，我觉得自己有超过这两位先生的显著优势，那就是我的性格好。从报纸上很容易看出，如果说这两位先生也曾经拥有过什么好的名声，那也是过去的事情了。很显然，最近这些年，他们已经精通了去犯各种各样的无耻罪行。与此同时，虽然我对自己的优势暗自庆幸，但总觉得有一股浑浊的潜流“刺戮”着我的愉快心情，那就是我得忍受

① nominate v. 提名

② independent ticket n. 独立候选人

③ undercurrent n. 暗流，潜流

was, the having to hear my name bandied about 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 Woodford and Hoffman are, and then see if 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 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**<sup>①</sup> before:

"**PERJURY**<sup>②</sup>. —Perhaps, now that Mr. Mark Twain is before the people as a **candidate**<sup>③</sup> for Governor, he will **condescend**<sup>④</sup> to explain how he came to be convicted of perjury by thirty-four witnesses, in Wakawak, Cochin China, in 1863, the intent of which perjury was to rob a poor native widow and her helpless family of a meagre plantain patch, their only stay and support in their **bereavement**<sup>⑤</sup> and their **desolation**<sup>⑥</sup>. Mr. Twain owes it to himself, as well as to the great people whose **suffrages**<sup>⑦</sup> he asks, to clear this matter up. 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! 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 morning the same paper had this—nothing more:

我的名字和那些人的名字相提并论到处传播。我越来越不安，最后给我祖母写了封信，把这件事告诉她。她的回信又快又干脆，她说：“你一生没有做过一件亏心事——一件也没有。看看报纸吧——一看报纸你就会明白伍德福德和霍夫曼是什么样的人，然后看你是否情愿把自己降低到他们那样的水平，和他们一起竞选。”

这正是我所想的！那天晚上我一夜未眠，但是我不能打退堂鼓，我已经完全进入角色，必须继续战斗下去。早上当我一边吃早饭，一边无精打采地翻阅报纸时，我看到下面这样一段消息。说真的，我还从来没有这样惊慌失措过：

“伪证罪——现在马克·吐温先生已经成为竞选州长的候选人，他或许会屈尊解释一下曾经犯过的伪证罪，有34名证人可以证明这起罪行。1863年，在交趾支那的瓦卡瓦克，马克·吐温先生企图霸占当地一个穷寡妇的一小块香蕉种植地，那是寡妇一家孤儿寡母赖以活命的唯一资源。吐温先生对自己和对那些要求投票选举他的伟大人民，都有责任澄清此事的真相。他愿意这样做吗？”

我当时简直惊愕不已！竟会有这样残忍无情的指控——我从来就没有去过交趾支那，我从来就没听说过什么瓦卡瓦克！我也不知道什么香蕉种植地，就像我不知道什么是袋鼠一样！我不知道该怎么办好。我无助得快要发疯了。那一天日子白白溜过去，我什么也没做。第二天早晨，同样这家报纸没再多说什么，只有下面一句话：

① confounded *adj.* 惊慌失措的

② perjury *n.* 伪证

③ candidate *n.* 候选人

④ condescend *v.* 屈尊

⑤ bereavement *n.* 丧失（尤指亲友）

⑥ desolation *n.* 凄凉，孤寂

⑦ suffrage *n.* 投票

“SIGNIFICANT.—Mr. Twain, it will be observed, is suggestively silent about the Cochinchina perjury.”

[Mem.—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.—Will the new candidate for Governor deign to explain to certain of his fellow-citizens (who are suffering to vote for him!) 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**<sup>①</sup> for his own good, and so tarred and feathered him and rode him on a rail, 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. For I never was in Montana in my life.

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

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

“THE LIE NAILED!—By the sworn **affidavits**<sup>②</sup> of Michael O’Flanagan, Esq., 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 lamented grandfather of our noble standard-bearer, John T. Hoffman, was hanged for highway robbery, is a brutal and **gratuitous**<sup>③</sup> LIE, without a single shadow of foundation

“意味深长——大家会看到，吐温先生对交趾支那伪证罪一事将一直发人深省地保持沉默。”

(备忘——在以后的竞选活动中，这家报纸只要是提到我，就会冠以“臭名昭著的伪证犯吐温”的称号。)

接着在《公报》上登了这样一段话：

“需要查清——新州长候选人是否打算向急于给他投票的同胞们解释一下这样一件小事呢？在蒙大拿州野营时，与吐温先生住在同一个帐篷的伙伴们经常丢失小东西，最后，这些东西都在吐温先生身上和他的“行李箱”（他卷藏随身物品的报纸）里发现了。伙伴们为他着想，不得不给他一些友好的警告，于是在他身上涂满柏油，沾上羽毛，请他坐木桩。然后建议他让出铺位，永远别再回来。他愿意解释一下这件小事吗？”

难道还有比这更恶毒的攻击吗？我这辈子根本就没去过蒙大拿州！

(此后，这家报纸便习惯上叫我“蒙大拿州的小偷吐温”。)

我于是变得一拿起报纸就有些心惊肉跳的，就如同你想睡觉时拿起一床毯子却总担心里面会钻出一条响尾蛇。一天，我看到这样一段消息：

“谎言已被揭穿——根据五方位区的迈克尔·奥弗拉纳根先生，沃特街的吉特·彭斯先生和约翰·艾伦先生三位的宣誓书，现已证实，马克·吐温先生曾恶意中伤的我们尊贵的领袖约翰·T·霍夫曼先生的祖父，曾因拦路抢劫而被处以绞刑一说，纯属粗暴无礼之谎言，毫无事实根据。有道德的人对这种诽谤亡人，玷污其美名，以此达到政治上成功的无耻手段极为沮丧。当我们

① admonition *n.* 警告

② affidavit *n.* 宣誓书

③ gratuitous *adj.* 无缘无故的，无理由的

in fact. It is disheartening to virtuous men to see such shameful means resorted to achieve political success as the attacking of the dead in their graves and defiling their honored names with **slander**<sup>①</sup>. 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**<sup>②</sup> upon the traducer. But no—let us leave him to the agony of a lacerating conscience—(though if passion should **get the better of**<sup>③</sup> the public and in its blind fury they should do the traducer bodily injury, it is but too obvious that no jury could convict and no court punish the perpetrators of the deed). ”

The ingenious closing sentence had the effect of moving me out of bed with despatch 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—I had never even heard of him or mentioned him, up to that day and date.

[I will state, in passing, 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.—Mark Twain, who was to make such a **blighting**<sup>④</sup> speech at the mass meeting of the Independents last night, didn’t come to time! 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**<sup>⑤</sup> and pretend that they did not know what was the real reason of the absence of the abandoned creature whom they denominate

想到这一卑劣留言必然会使死者无辜的亲友蒙受极大悲痛时，几乎要被迫煽动起这些被侮辱的义愤填膺的公众，立即对诽谤者施以非法的报复。但是我们不这样做——还是让他因良心受到谴责而去痛苦吧！（不过，如果义愤战胜公众的理智，使他们因为盲目的狂怒而对诽谤者进行人身伤害，很明显，任何陪审团都不可能判此事件的凶手们有罪，法庭也不可能对他们进行惩罚。）”

最后这句巧妙的话很起作用。当天晚上，当“被侮辱的义愤填膺的公众”从前门进来时，我吓得赶紧从床上爬起来，从后门溜走。他们满怀正义的愤慨，来时捣毁了我的家具和门窗，走时把能拿动的财物全部带走。但是，我可以手按《圣经》起誓，我从来没有诽谤过霍夫曼州长的祖父。而且到那天看到报纸的那刻之前，我从来没有听说过他，更别说提到过他。

（我顺便提一句，此后，刊登上述新闻的那家报纸总是称我为“拐尸犯吐温”。）

下一篇引起我注意的报纸上的文章是下面这段：

“好个候选人——马克·吐温先生原定于昨天晚上在独立党民众大会上做一次中伤对方的演讲，却未能履行义务。他的医生来电报说他被几匹狂奔的拉车的马撞倒，腿部两处受伤。伤者卧床不起，极度痛苦，等等，以及许多诸如此类的废话。独立党的党员只好竭力轻信这一拙劣的托辞，假装不知道他们提名为候选人的这个放荡不羁的家伙未曾出席大会的真正原因。昨天晚上有人看到



① slander *n.* 诽谤

② vengeance *adj.* 报复，报仇

③ get the better of 战胜，占上风

④ blighting *adj.* 破坏性的

⑤ subterfuge *n.* 托辞，借口

their standard-bearer. A certain man was seen to reel into Mr. Twain's hotel last night in state of beastly **intoxication**<sup>①</sup>. 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 thunder-tones: '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 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 Twain" in the next issue of that journal without a pang—notwithstanding I knew that with monotonous **fidelity**<sup>②</sup> the paper would go on calling me so to the very end.]

By this time **anonymous**<sup>③</sup> 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.—POL PRY.

And this:

"There is things which you have done which is unbeknowns to anybody but me. You better trot out a few dols. to yours truly or you'll hear thro' the papers from."—HANDY ANDY.

That is about the idea. I could continue them till the reader was **surfeited**<sup>④</sup>, if desirable.

Shortly the principal Republican journal "convicted" me of wholesale bribery, and the leading Democratic paper "nailed" an **aggravated**<sup>⑤</sup> case of blackmailing to me.

一个喝得酩酊大醉的人摇摇晃晃走进吐温先生下榻的旅馆。独立党人责无旁贷有必要证明那个烂醉如泥的人不是马克·吐温本人。我们终于把他们抓住了！此事岂能避而不答。人们以雷鸣般的呼声询问：‘那个人是谁？’”

不可思议，绝对不可思议，我的名字竟然真的与这个丢脸的嫌疑联系在一起。我已经有整整三年没有喝过啤酒、葡萄酒，或是任何烈性酒了。

（你可见局势对我的影响，当这家报纸在下一期上大胆的称我为“精神错乱的酒疯子吐温”，而且我知道它会一直这样称呼下去时，竟丝毫没有感到痛苦。）

那个时候，匿名信占了我所接收的邮件的大部分。那些信一般是这样写的：“被你从你寓所门口一脚踢开的那个要饭的老婆婆，现在怎么样了？”——爱管闲事的人。

也有这样写的：

“你干的有些事除了我之外没人知道。你最好拿出点钱来孝敬一下在下，不然那些事就会见报。”——顺手牵羊的人。

大致都是这类内容。如果还想听，我可以一直引用下去，直到读者感到恶心为止。

不久，共和党最主要的报纸“判”我犯了太多的贿赂罪，而民主党最主要的报纸则把一桩性质恶劣的敲诈案“钉”在我头上。

① intoxication *n.* 喝醉

② fidelity *n.* 忠诚

③ anonymous *adj.* 匿名的

④ surfeited *adj.* 厌烦的

⑤ aggravated *adj.* 使恶化的



[In this way I acquired two additional names: “Twain, the Filthy Corruptionist,” and “Twain, the Loathsome Embracer.”]

By this time there had grown to be such a clamor for an “answer” to all the dreadful charges that were laid to me, that the editors and leaders of my party said it would be political ruin for me to remain silent any longer. As if to make their appeal the more imperative, the following appeared in one of the papers the very next day:

“BEHOLD THE MAN!—The Independent candidate still maintains Silence. Because he dare not speak. Every accusation against him has been amply proved, and they have been endorsed and re-endorsed by his own eloquent silence till at this day he stands forever convicted. Look upon your candidate, Independents! Look upon the Infamous Perjurer! the Montana Thief! the Body-Snatcher! Contemplate your incarnate Delirium Tremens! your Filthy Corruptionist! your Loathsome Embracer! Gaze upon him—ponder him well—and then say if you can give your honest votes to a creature who has earned this dismal array of titles by his hideous crimes, and dares not open his mouth in denial of any one of them!”

There was no possible way of getting out of it, and so, in deep humiliation, I set about preparing to “answer” a mass of baseless charges and mean and wicked falsehoods. But I never finished the task, for the very next morning a paper came out with a new horror, a fresh **malignity**<sup>①</sup>, and seriously charged me with burning a lunatic asylum with all its inmates because it obstructed the view from my house. This threw me into a sort of panic. Then came the charge of poisoning my uncle to get his property, with an imperative demand that the grave should be opened. This drove me to the verge of **distraction**<sup>②</sup>. On top of this I was accused of employing toothless and

(这样,我又获得了两个称号:“下流的贿赂犯吐温”和“令人作呕的讹诈犯吐温”。)

这时候舆论如此沸腾,叫我对那一切扣在我头上的可怕的罪名进行“答复”,以致我所在党的主笔和领导们都说如果我再继续保持沉默,我会在政治上彻底完蛋。好像是要使他们的控诉显得迫在眉睫似的,就在第二天,有一家报纸登出了下面这么一段:

“盯住此人——独立党的候选人还在保持缄默。因为他根本不敢反驳。一切对他的指控都得到了充分的证明,很明显他的缄默态度一再承认了这些罪状,到今天他再也翻不了供了。独立党的党员们,请看看你们的这位候选人吧!好好看看这位臭名昭著的伪证犯,这位蒙大拿州的小偷,这位拐尸犯!仔细看看这个精神错乱的酒疯子的化身!你们的下流的舞弊分子!这个令人作呕的讹诈犯!盯住他——把他打量清楚——然后再决定。像这样一个犯下了滔天罪行,获得一大串骇人的头衔而不敢张嘴否认其中任何一个的败类,你们是否愿意把自己规规矩矩的选票投给他。”

我想要摆脱这一切简直是不可能的。于是,在深感羞辱之余,我准备要答复那一大堆毫无根据的指控和那些卑鄙恶毒的谎言。然而我未能完成这个工作,因为就在第二天早上,又有一家报纸登出了一个旨在恶意中伤的新的恐怖事件,严厉指控我烧了一家疯人院,里面所有被收容的病人全部被烧死,因为这家疯人院妨碍了我家住宅的视线。这使我陷入了极度的恐慌。接着,又是一个控诉,说我曾经为了得到我叔父的财产而把他毒死了,并提出要求说马上要挖开坟墓验尸。这把我逼



① malignity *n.* 恶毒

② distraction *n.* 精神涣散



incompetent old relatives to prepare the food for the foundling hospital when I was warden. I was wavering—wavering. And at last, as a due and fitting climax to the shameless persecution that party rancor<sup>①</sup> had inflicted upon me, nine little toddling children of all shades of color and degrees of raggedness were taught to rush on to the platform at a public meeting and clasp me around the legs and call me PA!

I gave up. I hauled down my colors and surrendered. I was not equal to the requirements of a Gubernatorial campaign in the State of New York, and so I sent in my withdrawal from the candidacy, and in bitterness of spirit signed it,

“Truly yours,”

“Once a decent man, but now

“MARK TWAIN, I. P., M. T., B. S., D. T., F. C., and L. E.”

得简直就要崩溃了，除此之外，他们又给我加了一个罪名，指责我在孤儿院当院长的时候雇用我那些掉光了牙齿虚弱无能的亲戚担任烹饪工作。我开始动摇了，动摇了。最后，党派竞争的深仇恶恨对我的无耻迫害终于水到渠成般发展到一个高潮：九个各种肤色、衣衫褴褛、刚蹒跚学步的孩子，在一个公开集会上被人教唆着闯到讲台上来，紧紧抱住我的双腿，叫我爸爸！

我放弃了竞选。我自愧不如甘拜下风。我达不到纽约州州长竞选的要求，于是我提交了退出竞选的声明。由于满怀辛酸，信末我签署了这样的落款：

你们忠实的朋友——从前的正经人，现在的伪证犯、小偷、盗尸犯、酒疯子、舞弊分子和讹诈犯的马克·吐温。

（王春莹 译）

① rancor *n.* 深仇，怨恨

## 订婚的消息

阿诺德·本涅特(Arnold Bennett)

阿诺德·本涅特(1867—1913)，英国作家。其父亲是律师，幼年家境贫苦。1902~1913年，本涅特侨居法国巴黎，开始发表以波尔斯利、汉桥、克尼普、朗肖、特恩希尔这五座工业城镇为背景的系列小说。他的代表作品有小说《五镇的安娜》(1902)，《老妇人的故事》(1908)，短篇小说集《五镇的故事》(1905)，戏剧《里程碑》(1912)。本涅特受左拉和巴尔扎克的影响，善于描写平凡的生活琐事，并在平淡的描述中揭示生活的真谛。

本文选自本涅特的短篇小说集《五镇的故事》。作者用轻松的笔墨描述了母子之间的亲情。寡居的母亲萨拉和她已成年的儿子菲利普各自有了心上人，但是为了不伤害到亲情，都羞于向对方提及。最终，母亲的未婚夫，她多年的朋友尼克森告诉菲利普，他母亲萨拉应允了他的求婚。这让菲利普意识到自己多年对母亲生活的忽略，深感惭愧。

My mother never came to meet me at Bursley station when I arrived in the Five Towns from London; much less did she come as far as Knype station, which is the great traffic centre of the district, the point at which one changes from the express into the local train. She had always other things to do; she was "preparing" for me. So I had the little journey from Knype to Bursley, and then the walk up Trafalgar Road, amid the familiar high chimneys and the smoke and the clayey mud and the football posts and the Midland accent, all by myself. And there was leisure to consider anew how I should break to my mother the tremendous news I had for her. I had been considering that question ever since getting into the train at Euston, where I had said goodbye to Agnes; but in the atmosphere of the Five Towns it seemed just slightly more difficult; though, of course, it wasn't difficult, really.

每次我从伦敦回到五镇，母亲从不会到波尔斯利车站来接我；她更不会到耐普车站来，那是这一地区的重要交通枢纽，先前这里的邮政快车改成了地方火车。她总有别的事情；她为我回家做准备。因此，我得一个人度过一段从耐普到波尔斯利的短暂旅途，然后走到特拉法尔格路，经过那些熟悉的高耸烟囱和烟雾、泥地和足球场，随处都是英格兰中部的口音。所以我有充裕的时间来重新考虑该怎样向母亲吐口说出那条重大的消息。我在欧斯顿登上火车，同艾格尼丝告别，就开始考虑这个问题了。但是，在五镇的氛围里，似乎有点儿更难于开口。尽管，当然了，这并不是真有多麻烦。

You see, I wrote to my mother regularly every week, telling her most of my doings. She knew all my friends by name. I dare say she formed in her mind notions of what sort of people they were. Thus I had frequently mentioned Agnes and her family in my letters. But you can't write even to your mother and say in cold blood: "I think I am beginning to fall in love with Agnes," "I think Agnes likes me," "I am mad on her," "I feel certain she likes me," "I shall propose to her on such a day." You can't do that. At least I couldn't. Hence it had come about that on the 20th of December I had proposed to Agnes and been accepted by Agnes, and my mother had no suspicion that my happiness was so near. And on the 22nd, by a previous and unalterable arrangement, I had come to spend Christmas with my mother.

I was the only son of a widow; I was all that my mother had. And lo<sup>①</sup>! I had gone and engaged myself to a girl she had never seen, and I had kept her in the dark! She would certainly be extremely surprised, and she might be a little bit hurt—just at first. Anyhow, the situation was the least in the world delicate.

I walked up the whitened front steps of my mother's little house, just opposite where the electric cars stop, but before I could put my hand on the bell my little plump mother, in her black silk and her gold brooch and her auburn<sup>②</sup> hair, opened to me, having doubtless watched me down the road from the bay-window, as usual, and she said, as usual kissing me—

"Well, Philip! How are you?"

And I said—

"Oh! I'm all right, mother. How are you?"

I perceived instantly that she was more excited than my arrival ordinarily made her. There

你看，我总是每周给母亲写信，告诉她我都忙些什么。她知道我所有朋友的名字。我敢说她在脑子里勾画出那些人的样子。因此我不断地在信中向她提到艾格尼丝以及她的家庭。但是，你不能给母亲写那样的信，并且冷冷地说：“我想自己是爱上艾格尼丝了”，“我爱她爱得发疯了”，“我感觉她也爱我”，“我该找一天向她求婚”。你不能这样做。至少，我做不到。因此，十二月二十日那天，我向艾格尼丝求婚，她接受了，而母亲却没想到我这么快就要得到幸福了。二十二日，为了一个先前定好的，不能更改的安排，我回来同母亲共度圣诞节。

我是一个寡妇的独生儿子，我是母亲的一切。可是，你瞧瞧！我私自同一个她从未见过的姑娘订了婚，而她全然不知！她一定会非常吃惊，也许她会感觉有点儿受伤——仅仅是刚知道的时候。不管怎样，这种情形是全世界最难处理的。

我踏上母亲那所小房子泛白的前门台阶，就在电车停靠地点的对面，我的手还没按门铃，母亲就打开了门，她个子矮小，身材略胖，红褐色头发，穿着黑丝裙，别着金胸针，毫无疑问，她是从飘窗看到了我。像往常一样，她吻了我。

“哦，菲利普！你好吗？”

然后，我说——

“哦！我很好，母亲。你怎么样？”

我即刻感觉到她的兴奋要多于我的到来所带给她的。在她微笑的眼睛里有泪水，她像一个年轻

① lo int. 看哪，瞧

② auburn adj. 赤褐色的