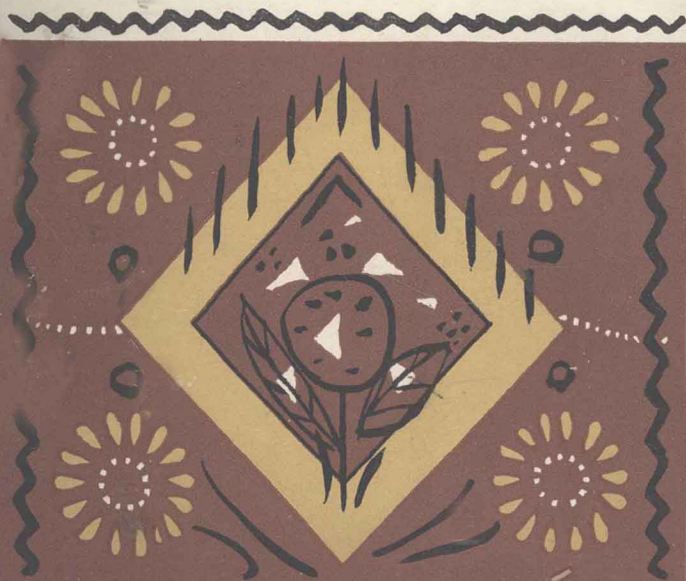


Mark Twain

THE MAN THAT
CORRUPTED HADLEYBURG

and Three Other Tales

败 坏 哈 德 兰 堡 的 人



英语文学注释读物

THE MAN THAT
CORRUPTED HADLEYBURG
and Three Other Tales

敗坏哈德兰堡的人

〔美〕 Mark Twain 著

徐燕謀 注释
任治稷



商务印书馆

1979 年·北京

英语文学注释读物
败坏哈德兰堡的人
〔美〕Mark Twain 著
徐燕谋 任治稷 注释

商务印书馆出版
(北京王府井大街36号)

新华书店北京发行所发行
北京第二新华印刷厂印刷

787×1092 毫米 1/32 3⁵/₈ 印张 80 千字
1963 年 10 月第 2 版 1979 年 3 月北京第 5 次印刷
印数 16,801—117,800 册
统一书号: 9017·93 定价: 0.31 元

作者簡介

馬克·吐溫 (Mark Twain, 1835—1910) 是美國的批判現實主義作家。他原名薩繆爾·蘭亨·克利曼斯 (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), 出生於密蘇里州一個律師的家庭, 先後曾做過印刷所學徒、排字工人、領航員、金礦礦工、新聞記者等。豐富的生活經歷對他的創作很有幫助。

在舊金山從事新聞工作的時期, 馬克·吐溫結識了當時的短篇小說家勃·哈特 (Bret Harte)。從哈特那里他學到了寫短篇小說的技巧。1867 年, 他發表第一部作品《加拉維拉斯著名的跳蛙及其他特寫》。在這部短篇小說集里, 作者首次顯示了他卓越的幽默。同年, 他以新聞記者的身份旅行歐洲, 以後寫成《傻瓜出國記》(1869)。這部作品雖然諷刺了美國資產階級的庸俗和愚蠢, 但也流露出作者對美國的資產階級民主還存在着不實際的幻想。

十九世紀七十年代, 美國資本主義進入壟斷階段。他與查理·華納合作寫了《鍍金時代》(1873), 揭露了美國政府機關和投機家狼狽為奸、追求暴利、搜刮民財的卑鄙勾當。由於這本書, 引起了資產階級報章雜誌的惡毒攻擊。馬克·吐溫在這以後一段時期里不得不把他的題材限制於對童年和青年時代的回忆。1876 年他寫成了《湯姆·莎耶歷險記》。在這本小說里, 作者通過天真無邪的孩子的眼睛, 讓我們看到了美國小鎮的呆滯生活, 同時, 對宗教和當時的教育制度也作了諷刺和批判。

在八十年代里, 馬克·吐溫寫了許多優秀作品。在《王子和貧兒》(1881) 一書里, 作者利用英國的歷史題材影射了美國當時的社會現實。這種借歷史題材寫現實生活的手法, 在 1889 年出版的《在亞瑟王朝廷里的康涅狄克州美國人》一書中得到了發展。在《哈克貝利·費恩歷險記》(1884) 里, 作者對黑人表示了深刻同情。在美國文學史中, 黑人第一次被賦予了高尚的人格。作者通過小說中的主人公哈克貝利·費恩的流浪生活, 揭示了一幅廣闊的美國的社會生活圖畫, 對一切黑暗和丑惡進行了有力的

抨击。但是，馬克·吐溫对现实的批判态度在《在亚瑟王朝廷里的康涅狄克州美国人》一书中才得到了充分的显示。在这部作品里，作者通过一个美国人梦游六世紀的英国亚瑟王朝的奇遇，狠狠地抨击了美国当时社会的黑暗和罪恶，揭露了宗教为統治阶级利用来麻醉人民的騙人实质，并且大胆地鼓动人民起来为推翻压在他們头上的剝削者进行流血的革命。

九十年代是美国资本主义进入帝国主义并在世界上与老牌帝国主义爭夺霸权的时期。这时，馬克·吐溫对美国民主繁荣的幻想已經破灭。他的笔調也由早期的輕松幽默轉入猛烈的抨击和辛辣的諷刺。这一时期他写了許多短篇小说，最著名的有《敗坏哈德兰堡的人》(1899) 和《三万元的遗产》(1904) 等。这些作品无情地嘲笑了资本主义社会中的金元崇拜。此外，为了更有效地打击美帝国主义对殖民地的掠夺，馬克·吐溫还写了許多政論小品文。他那辛辣尖刻的笔鋒与十八世紀英国諷刺作家斯威夫特 (Jonathan Swift) 的政論小冊子有异曲同工之妙。他的著名的政論文有：《給坐在黑暗中的人》(1901)、《使用私刑的合众国》(1901) 等。

馬克·吐溫的語言风格以爽朗奔放著称，不拘泥于传统的规范，一扫过去美国作家跟着英国作家亦步亦趋的文风，发奋为雄，自拓疆宇，創造了大量采用民間俚俗語言的典范。美国当代作家海明威 (Ernest Hemingway) 曾經說过：“现代的美国文学都源出于馬克·吐溫的一本书，这本书叫做《哈克貝利·費恩历险記》。”这句话虽然有些夸张，却也表示了馬克·吐溫对现代美国文学影响的巨大。

CONTENTS

THE MAN THAT CORRUPTED HADLEYBURG (徐燕謀注释).....	1
ROGERS (任治稷注释).....	78
A MYSTERIOUS VISIT (任治稷注释).....	87
IS HE LIVING OR IS HE DEAD? (任治稷注释).....	96

THE MAN THAT CORRUPTED HADLEYBURG¹

I

It was many years ago. Hadleyburg was the most honest and upright town in all the region round about. It had kept that reputation unsmirched² during three generations, and was prouder of it than of any other of its possessions. It was so proud of it, and so anxious to insure its perpetuation,³ that it began to teach the principles of honest dealing to its babies in the cradle, and made the like teachings the staple of their culture⁴ thenceforward through all the years devoted to their education. Also, throughout the formative years⁵ temptations were kept out of the way of the young people, so that their honesty could have every chance to harden and solidify, and become a part of their very bone. The neighboring towns were jealous of this honorable supremacy, and affected to sneer at Hadleyburg's pride in it and call it vanity; but all the same they were obliged to acknowledge that Hadleyburg was in reality an incorruptible town; and if pressed⁶ they would also acknowledge that the mere fact that a young man hailed from⁷ Hadleyburg was all the recommendation he needed when he went forth from his natal town to seek for responsible employment.

1. Hadleyburg: 馬克·吐溫杜撰的英國市鎮名。 2. unsmirched: 不受沾污; 清白。 3. perpetuation: 永存。 4. staple of their culture: 他們教養的主要內容。 5. formative years: 性格形成時期; 童年。 6. if pressed: 是 if they were pressed 的省略。 7. hailed from: 來自。

But at last, in the drift of time, Hadleyburg had the ill luck to offend a passing stranger — possibly without knowing it, certainly without caring, for Hadleyburg was sufficient unto itself, and cared not a rap¹ for strangers or their opinions. Still, it would have been well to make an exception in this one's case, for he was a bitter man and revengeful. All through his wanderings during a whole year he kept his injury in mind, and gave all his leisure moments to trying to invent a compensating satisfaction for it. He contrived many plans, and all of them were good, but none of them was quite sweeping² enough; the poorest of them would hurt a great many individuals, but what he wanted was a plan which would comprehend the entire town, and not let so much as one person escape unhurt. At last he had a fortunate idea, and when it fell into his brain it lit up his whole head with an evil joy. He began to form a plan at once, saying to himself, "That is the thing to do—I will corrupt the town."

Six months later he went to Hadleyburg, and arrived in a buggy at the house of the old cashier of the bank about ten at night. He got a sack out of the buggy, shouldered it, and staggered with it through the cottage yard, and knocked at the door. A woman's voice said "Come in," and he entered, and set his sack behind the stove in the parlor, saying politely to the old lady who sat reading the *Missionary Herald*³ by the lamp:

"Pray keep your seat, madam, I will not disturb you."

1. cared not a rap: 一点也不关心. 2. sweeping: 能一网打尽的; 彻底的; 广泛的. 3. the *Missionary Herald*: 美国教会出版的报纸名.

There—now it is pretty well concealed; one would hardly know it was there. Can I see your husband a moment, madam?”

No, he was gone to Brixton, and might not return before morning.

“Very well, madam, it is no matter. I merely wanted to leave that sack in his care, to be delivered to the rightful owner when he shall be found. I am a stranger; he does not know me; I am merely passing through the town to-night to discharge a matter which has been long in my mind. My errand is now completed, and I go pleased and a little proud, and you will never see me again. There is a paper attached to the sack which will explain everything. Good night, madam.”

The old lady was afraid of the mysterious big stranger, and was glad to see him go. But her curiosity was roused, and she went straight to the sack and brought away the paper. It began as follows:

“TO BE PUBLISHED; or, the right man sought out by private inquiry—either will answer.¹ This sack contains gold coin weighing a hundred and sixty pounds four ounces—”

“Mercy on us,² and the door not locked!”

Mrs. Richards flew to it all in a tremble and locked it, then pulled down the window-shades and stood frightened, worried, and wondering if there was anything else

1. either will answer: 两个办法中任何一个都行. 2. Mercy on us: 是 God have mercy on us 的省略.

she could do toward making herself and the money more safe. She listened awhile for burglars, then surrendered to curiosity and went back to the lamp and finished reading the paper:

I am a foreigner, and am presently going back to my own country, to remain there permanently. I am grateful to America for what I have received at her hands during my long stay under her flag, and to one of her citizens—a citizen of Hadleyburg—I am especially grateful for a great kindness done me a year or two ago. Two great kindnesses, in fact. I will explain. I was a gambler. I say I was. I was a ruined gambler. I arrived in this village at night, hungry and without a penny. I asked for help—in the dark; I was ashamed to beg in the light. I begged of the right man. He gave me twenty dollars—that is to say, he gave me life, as I considered it. He also gave me fortune; for out of that money I have made myself rich at the gaming-table. And finally, a remark which he made to me has remained with me to this day, and has at last conquered me; and in conquering has saved the remnant of my morals; I shall gamble no more. Now I have no idea who that man was, but I want him found, and I want him to have this money, to give away, throw away, or keep, as he pleases. It is merely my way of testifying my gratitude to him. If I could stay, I would find him myself; but no matter,¹ he will be found. This is an honest town, an incorruptible town, and I know I can trust it without fear. This man can be

1. no matter: 是 it is no matter 的省略。

identified¹ by the remark which he made to me; I feel persuaded that he will remember it.

And now my plan is this: If you prefer to conduct the inquiry privately, do so. Tell the contents of this present writing to any one who is likely to be the right man. If he shall answer, 'I am the man; the remark I made was so-and-so, apply the test—to wit:² open the sack, and in it you will find a sealed envelope containing that remark. If the remark mentioned by the candidate tallies with³ it, give him the money, and ask no further questions, for he is certainly the right man.

But if you shall prefer a public inquiry, then publish this present writing in the local paper—with these instructions added, to wit: Thirty days from now, let the candidate appear at the town-hall at eight in the evening (Friday), and hand his remark, in a sealed envelope, to the Rev. Mr. Burgess (if he will be kind enough to act); and let Mr. Burgess there and then destroy the seals of the sack, open it, and see if the remark is correct; if correct, let the money be delivered, with my sincere gratitude, to my benefactor thus identified.

Mrs. Richards sat down, gently quivering with excitement, and was soon lost in thinkings—after this pattern: "What a strange thing it is!... And what a fortune for that kind man who set his bread afloat upon the waters!⁴...

1. identified: 認明. 2. to wit: 就是 (= that is to say). 3. tallies with: 符合. 4. set his bread afloat upon the waters: 援引《旧約·传道书》: "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." 有行好事得好报的意思. 尼罗河每年泛滥, 古代河旁农民在河水泛滥的时候, 投种子于水中, 水退以后, 土质很肥, 种子在土中生根, 滋长得特别茂盛.

If it had only been my husband that did it!¹—for we are so poor, so old and poor!...” Then, with a sigh—“But it was not my Edward;² no, it was not he that gave a stranger twenty dollars. It is a pity, too; I see it now...” Then, with a shudder—“But it is *gambler's* money! The wages of sin;³ we couldn't take it; we couldn't touch it. I don't like to be near it; it seems a defilement.”⁴ She moved to a farther chair... “I wish Edward would come, and take it to the bank; a burglar might come at any moment; it is dreadful to be here all alone with it.”

At eleven Mr. Richards arrived, and while his wife was saying, “I am so glad you've come!” he was saying, “I'm so tired—tired clear out;⁵ it is dreadful to be poor, and have to make these dismal journeys at my time of life. Always at the grind,⁶ grind, grind, on a salary—another man's slave, and he sitting at home in his slippers, rich and comfortable.”

“I am so sorry for you, Edward, you know that; but be comforted: we have our livelihood; we have our good name—”

“Yes, Mary, and that is everything. Don't mind my talk—it's just a moment's irritation and doesn't mean anything. Kiss me—there, it's all gone now, and I am not complaining any more. What have you been getting? What's in the sack?”

1. If it had only been my husband that did it! 但願做這好事的是我丈夫!

2. Edward: 銀行出納員 Richards 的名字。婦女對丈夫往往稱名不稱姓。 3. the wages of sin: 指賭徒所得的金錢。(援引《新約·羅馬人書》: “The wages of sin is death.”). 4. defilement: 沾辱。 5. tired clear out: 很疲乏 (clear 在這裡作副詞用, 等於 quite)。 6. at the grind: 從事艱苦單調的工作。

Then his wife told him the great secret. It dazed him for a moment; then he said:

“It weighs a hundred and sixty pounds? Why, Mary, it’s forty thousand dollars—think of it—a whole fortune! Not ten men in this village are worth that much.¹ Give me the paper.”

He skimmed² through it and said:

“Isn’t it an adventure! Why, it’s a romance; it’s like the impossible things one reads about in books, and never sees in life.” He was well stirred up now; cheerful, even gleeful. He tapped his old wife on the cheek, and said, humorously: “Why, we’re rich, Mary, rich; all we’ve got to do is to bury the money and burn the papers. If the gambler ever comes to inquire, we’ll merely look coldly upon him and say: ‘What is this nonsense you are talking? We have never heard of you and your sack of gold before’; and then he would look foolish, and—”

“And in the meantime, while you are running on with your jokes, the money is still here, and it is fast getting along toward burglar-time.”

“True. Very well, what shall we do—make the inquiry private? No, not that: it would spoil the romance. The public method is better. Think what a noise it will make! And it will make all the other towns jealous; for no stranger would trust such a thing to any town but Hadleyburg, and they know it. It’s a great card³ for us. I must get to the printing-office now, or I shall be too late.”

1. Not ten men in this village are worth that much. 这样富的人我們村子里还不到十个呢。 2. skimmed: 很快地閱讀。 3. a great card: 一张王牌。

“But—stop—stop—don’t leave me here alone with it, Edward!”

But he was gone. For only a little while, however. Not far from his own house he met the editor-proprietor¹ of the paper, and gave him the document, and said, “Here is a good thing for you, Cox—put it in.”²

“It may be too late, Mr. Richards, but I’ll see.”

At home again he and his wife sat down to talk the charming mystery over; they were in no condition for sleep. The first question was, Who could the citizen have been who gave the stranger the twenty dollars? It seemed a simple one; both answered it in the same breath:

“Barclay Goodson.”

“Yes,” said Richards, “he could have done it, and it would have been like him, but there’s not another in the town.”

“Everybody will grant that, Edward—grant it privately, anyway. For six months, now, the village has been its own proper self once more—honest, narrow, self-righteous,³ and stingy.”

“It is what he always called it, to the day of his death—said it right out publicly, too.”

“Yes, and he was hated for it.”

“Oh, of course; but he didn’t care. I reckon he was the best-hated⁴ man among us, except the Reverend Burgess.”

“Well, Burgess deserves it—he will never get another

1. editor-proprietor: 报館老板兼編輯。 2. put it in: 把它登在報上。

3. self-righteous: 自以為是的。 4. best-hated: 為人深惡痛絕的。

congregation here. Mean as the town is,¹ it knows how to estimate *him*. Edward, doesn't it seem odd that the stranger should appoint Burgess to deliver the money?"

"Well, yes—it does. That is—that is—"

"Why so much *that-is-ing*? Would *you* select him?"

"Mary, maybe the stranger knows him better than this village does."

"Much *that* would help Burgess!"³

The husband seemed perplexed for an answer; the wife kept a steady eye upon him, and waited. Finally Richards said, with the hesitancy of one who is making a statement which is likely to encounter doubt:

"Mary, Burgess is not a bad man."

His wife was certainly surprised.

"Nonsense!" she exclaimed.

"He is not a bad man. I know. The whole of his unpopularity had its foundation in that one thing—the thing that made so much noise."

"That 'one thing,' indeed! As if that 'one thing' wasn't enough all by itself."

"Plenty. Plenty. Only he wasn't guilty of it."

"How you talk! Not guilty of it! Everybody knows that he *was* guilty."

"Mary, I give you my word—he was innocent."

"I can't believe it, and I don't. How do you know?"

"It is a confession. I am ashamed, but I will make

1. Mean as the town is: 这市鎮虽然鄙陋。(連接詞 *as* 放在形容詞或副詞后的倒裝句中往往作“虽然”解。) 2. Why so much *that-is-ing*? 你为什么要求連說 *that is* 呢? (*that-is* 在这里作为動詞用). 3. Much *that* would help Burgess! 那也帮不了 Burgess 多少忙! (因为 Burgess 在市鎮上名誉不很好.)

it. I was the only man who knew he was innocent. I could have saved him, and—and—well, you know how the town was wrought up¹—I hadn't the pluck² to do it. It would have turned everybody against me. I felt mean, ever so mean; but I didn't dare; I hadn't the manliness to face that."

Mary looked troubled, and for a while was silent. Then she said, stammeringly:

"I—I don't think it would have done for you to³—to—One mustn't—er—public opinion—one has to be so careful—so—" it was a difficult road, and she got mired;⁴ but after a little she got started again. "It was a great pity, but—Why, we couldn't afford it, Edward—we couldn't indeed. Oh, I wouldn't have had you do it for anything!"

"It would have lost us the good-will of so many people, Mary; and then—and then—"

"What troubles me now is, what *he* thinks of us, Edward."

"He? *He* doesn't suspect that I could have saved him."

"Oh," exclaimed the wife, in a tone of relief. "I am glad of that! As long as he doesn't know that you could have saved him, he—he—well, that makes it a great deal better. Why, I might have known that he didn't know, because he is always trying to be friendly with us, as

1. wrought up: 激动; 兴奋. 2. pluck: 勇气. 3. I don't think it would have done for you to: 我想你当时就是说了出来也不见得会完蛋, (to 下面應該是 make the confession). 4. it was a difficult road, and she got mired: 直譯应为: "路很难走, 她陷入了泥濘." 实际的意义是: "她心里矛盾重重, 很难表达, 因此說話吞吞吐吐."

little encouragement as we give him.¹ More than once people have twitted² me with it. There's the Wilsons, and the Wilcoxes, and the Harknesses, they take a mean pleasure in saying, '*Your friend Burgess,*' because they know it pesters³ me. I wish he wouldn't persist in liking us so; I can't think why he keeps it up."

"I can explain it. It's another confession. When the thing was new and hot,⁴ and the town made a plan to ride him on a rail,⁵ my conscience hurt me so that I couldn't stand it, and I went privately and gave him notice, and he got out of the town and stayed out till it was safe to come back."

"Edward! It the town had found it out—"

"*Don't!* It scares me yet, to think of it. I repented of it the minute⁶ it was done; and I was even afraid to tell you, lest your face might betray it to somebody. I didn't sleep any that night, for worrying. But after a few days I saw that no one was going to suspect me, and after that I got to feeling glad I did it. And I feel glad yet, Mary—glad through and through."

"So do I, now, for it would have been a dreadful way to treat him. Yes, I'm glad; for really you did owe him that, you know. But, Edward, suppose it should come out yet, some day!"

"It won't."

1. as little encouragement as we give him: 虽然我們并不鼓励他。(按照語法, 第一个 as 可省, 第二个 as 作“虽然”解。) 2. twitted: 責备。 3. pesters: 使人烦恼。 4. When the thing was new and hot: 当这件事刚发生的时候。 5. to ride him on a rail: 叫他骑木杠(美国一种私刑)。 6. the minute = as soon as.