



Mark Twain

Collected Tales, Sketches,
Speeches, & Essays
1852-1890

MARK TWAIN

COLLECTED TALES, SKETCHES,
SPEECHES, & ESSAYS
1852-1890



THE LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Volume arrangement, notes, and chronology copyright © 1992 by
Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., New York, N.Y.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced commercially
by offset-lithographic or equivalent copying devices without
the permission of the publisher.

Copyright 1967, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1979, 1981

by The Mark Twain Foundation.

Published by arrangement with the University of California Press
and Robert H. Hirst, General Editor of the Mark Twain Project.

See Acknowledgments in the Note on the Texts.

“Taming the Bicycle” from *What Is Man? and Other Essays* by
Mark Twain. Copyright 1917 by the Mark Twain Company; copy-
right renewed 1945 by Clara Clemens Samassoud. Reprinted by
permission of HarperCollins Publishers Inc. “A Cat-Tale” from
Letters from the Earth by Mark Twain, edited by Bernard DeVoto.

Copyright 1946, 1959, and 1962 by the Mark Twain Company;
copyright renewed by the Mark Twain Company. Printed by per-
mission of HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

The paper used in this publication meets the
minimum requirements of the American National Standard for
Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed
Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48—1984.

Distributed to the trade in the United States
and Canada by the Viking Press.

Library of Congress Catalog Number: 92-52657

For cataloging information, see end of Index.

ISBN 0-940450-36-4

First Printing

The Library of America—60

Manufactured in the United States of America

Contents

1852

The Dandy Frightening the Squatter	1
Historical Exhibition—A No. 1 Ruse	3
Editorial Agility	7
Blabbing Government Secrets!	9

1859

River Intelligence	11
------------------------------	----

1861

Ghost Life on the Mississippi	14
---	----

1862

Petrified Man	19
-------------------------	----

1863

Letter from Carson City	20
Ye Sentimental Law Student	25
All About the Fashions	28
Letter from Steamboat Springs	32
How to Cure a Cold	37
The Lick House Ball	43
The Great Prize Fight	49
A Bloody Massacre Near Carson	57
“Ingomar” Over the Mountains	59

1864

Miss Clapp’s School	62
Doings in Nevada	67

Those Blasted Children	72
Washoe.—“Information Wanted”	78
The Evidence in the Case of Smith vs. Jones	83
Whereas	91
A Touching Story of George Washington’s Boyhood	97
The Killing of Julius Cæsar “Localized”	102
Lucretia Smith’s Soldier	108

1865

Important Correspondence	113
Answers to Correspondents.	121
Advice for Good Little Boys	163
Advice for Good Little Girls	164
Just “One More Unfortunate”	166
Real Estate versus Imaginary Possessions, Poetically Considered	168
Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog	171
“Mark Twain” on the Launch of the Steamer “Capital”	178
The Pioneers’ Ball	184
Uncle Lige	186
A Rich Epigram	188
Macdougall vs. Maguire	189
The Christmas Fireside	191

1866

Policemen’s Presents	195
What Have the Police Been Doing?	196
The Spiritual Séance	199

A New Biography of Washington	205
Reflections on the Sabbath	208

1867

Barnum's First Speech in Congress.	210
Female Suffrage: Views of Mark Twain	214
Female Suffrage	224
Official Physic	228
A Reminiscence of Artemus Ward	231
Jim Wolf and the Tom-Cats	235
Information Wanted	238
The Facts Concerning the Recent Resignation	240

1868

Woman—an Opinion	247
General Washington's Negro Body-Servant	249
Colloquy Between a Slum Child and a Moral Mentor	253
My Late Senatorial Secretaryship	257
The Story of Mamie Grant, the Child-Missionary	262
Cannibalism in the Cars	269
Private Habits of Horace Greeley	278
Concerning Gen. Grant's Intentions	282

1869

Open Letter to Com. Vanderbilt.	285
Mr. Beecher and the Clergy	291
Personal Habits of the Siamese Twins.	296
A Day at Niagara	300
A Fine Old Man	307

Journalism in Tennessee	308
The Last Words of Great Men.	315
The Legend of the Capitoline Venus	319
Getting My Fortune Told	325
Back from "Yurup"	329

1870

An Awful- - -Terrible Medieval Romance	332
A Mysterious Visit	340
The Facts in the Great Land-Slide Case	345
The New Crime	350
Curious Dream	356
About Smells	365
The Facts in the Case of the Great Beef Contract	367
The Story of the Good Little Boy Who Did Not Prosper	374
Disgraceful Persecution of a Boy.	379
Misplaced Confidence	383
Our Precious Lunatic	384
A Couple of Sad Experiences	388
The Judge's "Spirited Woman"	396
Breaking It Gently	398
Post-Mortem Poetry.	399
Wit-Inspirations of the "Two-Year-Olds"	403
The Widow's Protest	407
Report to the Buffalo Female Academy	408
How I Edited an Agricultural Paper Once	412
The "Tournament" in A.D. 1870	418

Unburlesquable Things	421
The Late Benjamin Franklin	425
A Memory	428
Domestic Missionaries Wanted	432
Political Economy	434
John Chinaman in New York	440
The Noble Red Man	442
The Approaching Epidemic.	447
A Royal Compliment	449
Science vs. Luck	452
Goldsmith's Friend Abroad Again	455
Map of Paris	471
Riley—Newspaper Correspondent	477
A Reminiscence of the Back Settlements.	481
A General Reply	484
Running for Governor	490
Dogberry in Washington.	495
My Watch—An Instructive Little Tale	497

1871

The Facts in the Case of George Fisher, Deceased	500
The Tone-Imparting Committee	507
The Danger of Lying in Bed	510
One of Mankind's Bores	514
The Indignity Put upon the Remains of George Holland by the Rev. Mr. Sabine	517
A Substitute for Ruloff	522
About Barbers.	524

A Brace of Brief Lectures on Science	528
The Revised Catechism	539
1872	
The Secret of Dr. Livingstone's Continued Voluntary Exile	541
How I Escaped Being Killed in a Duel	543
1873	
Poor Little Stephen Girard	547
Foster's Case	549
License of the Press.	551
Fourth of July Speech in London	556
The Ladies	559
1874	
Those Annual Bills	562
The Temperance Insurrection	563
Rogers.	568
A Curious Pleasure Excursion.	573
A True Story, Repeated Word for Word as I Heard It	578
An Encounter with an Interviewer	583
1875	
The "Jumping Frog." In English. Then in French. Then clawed back into a civilized language once more, by patient, unremunerated toil.	588
Experience of the McWilliamses with Membranous Croup	604
Some Learned Fables for Good Old Boys and Girls	611
Petition Concerning Copyright	632

"Party Cries" in Ireland	633
The Curious Republic of Gondour	634

1876

A Literary Nightmare	639
The Facts Concerning the Recent Carnival of Crime in Connecticut	644
[Date, 1601.] Conversation, as it Was by the Social Fireside, in the Time of the Tudors	661
The Canvasser's Tale	667
The Oldest Inhabitant—The Weather of New England	673

1877

Francis Lightfoot Lee	677
My Military History	679
The Captain's Story	683
The Invalid's Story	688
Whittier Birthday Speech	695

1878

Farewell Banquet for Bayard Taylor	700
About Magnanimous-Incident Literature	703

1879

The Great Revolution in Pitcairn	710
Some Thoughts on the Science of Onanism	722
A Presidential Candidate	725
The Babies. As They Comfort Us in Our Sorrows, Let Us Not Forget Them in Our Festivities	727

The New Postal Barbarism	730
Postal Matters	733
1880	
A Telephonic Conversation	738
Reply to a Boston Girl	742
Edward Mills and George Benton: A Tale	747
Mrs. McWilliams and the Lightning	753
"Millions In It"	761
A Cat Tale	763
1881	
The Benefit of Judicious Training	773
Dinner Speech in Montreal	776
Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrims	781
Etiquette	786
1882	
Advice to Youth	801
The Stolen White Elephant	804
On the Decay of the Art of Lying	824
Concerning the American Language	830
Woman—God Bless Her	834
The McWilliamses and the Burglar Alarm	837
1883	
On Adam	844
Why a Statue of Liberty When We Have Adam!	847
1884	
Turncoats	849
Mock Oration on the Dead Partisan	852

1885	
The Character of Man.	854
On Speech-Making Reform.	859
The Private History of a Campaign that Failed	863
1886	
The New Dynasty	883
Our Children	891
Taming the Bicycle	892
1887	
Letter from the Recording Angel	900
Dinner Speech: General Grant's Grammar	906
Consistency.	909
Post-Prandial Oratory	917
A Petition to the Queen of England	922
1888	
American Authors and British Pirates	927
1889	
Yale College Speech.	936
The Christening Yarn	938
To Walt Whitman	940
1890	
On Foreign Critics	942
Reply to the Editor of "The Art of Authorship"	945
An Appeal Against Injudicious Swearing	947

<i>Chronology</i>	949
<i>Note on the Texts</i>	998
<i>Notes</i>	1025
<i>Index of Titles</i>	1073

The Dandy Frightening the Squatter

About thirteen years ago, when the now flourishing young city of Hannibal, on the Mississippi River, was but a "wood-yard," surrounded by a few huts, belonging to some hardy "squatters," and such a thing as a steamboat was considered quite a sight, the following incident occurred:

A tall, brawny woodsman stood leaning against a tree which stood upon the bank of the river, gazing at some approaching object, which our readers would easily have discovered to be a steamboat.

About half an hour elapsed, and the boat was moored, and the hands busily engaged in taking on wood.

Now among the many passengers on this boat, both male and female, was a spruce young dandy, with a killing moustache, &c., who seemed bent on making an impression upon the hearts of the young ladies on board, and to do this, he thought he must perform some heroic deed. Observing our squatter friend, he imagined this to be a fine opportunity to bring himself into notice; so, stepping into the cabin, he said:

"Ladies, if you wish to enjoy a good laugh, step out on the guards. I intend to frighten that gentleman into fits who stands on the bank."

The ladies complied with the request, and our dandy drew from his bosom a formidable looking bowie-knife, and thrust it into his belt; then, taking a large horse-pistol in each hand, he seemed satisfied that all was right. Thus equipped, he strode on shore, with an air which seemed to say—"The hopes of a nation depend on me." Marching up to the woodsman, he exclaimed:

"Found you at last, have I? You are the very man I've been looking for these three weeks! Say your prayers!" he continued, presenting his pistols, "you'll make a capital barn door, and I shall drill the key-hole myself!"

The squatter calmly surveyed him a moment, and then, drawing back a step, he planted his huge fist directly between the eyes of his astonished antagonist, who, in a moment, was floundering in the turbid waters of the Mississippi.

Every passenger on the boat had by this time collected on

the guards, and the shout that now went up from the crowd speedily restored the crest-fallen hero to his senses, and, as he was sneaking off towards the boat, was thus accosted by his conqueror:

“I say, yeou, next time yeou come around drillin’ key-holes, don’t forget yer old acquaintances!”

The ladies unanimously voted the knife and pistols to the victor.

May 1, 1852

Historical Exhibition — *A No. 1 Ruse*

A young friend gives me the following yarn as fact, and if it should turn out to be a double joke, (that is, that he imagined the story to fool me with,) on his own head be the blame:

It seems that the news had been pretty extensively circulated, that Mr. Curts, of the enterprising firm of Curts & Lockwood, was exhibiting at their store, for the benefit of the natives, a show of some kind, bearing the attractive title of "Bonaparte crossing the Rhine," upon which he was to deliver a lecture, explaining its points, and giving the history of the piece, the price being "one dime per head, children half price." Well, the other day about dusk, a young man went in, paid his dime, "saw the elephant," and departed, apparently "with a flea in his ear," but the uninitiated could get nothing out of him on the subject; he was mum—had seen the varmint, and that was the full extent of the information which could be pumped out of him by his enquiring friends.

Well, everybody who saw the sight seemed seized with a sudden fit of melancholy immediately afterwards, and dimes began to grow scarce. But pretty soon Jim C——, with a crowd of eager boys at his heels, was seen coming down the street like half a dozen telegraphs. They arrived at the store, gasping and out of breath, and Jim broke out with:

"Mr. Curts—want—to see—that—show! What's—price!"

"Oh, we let boys see it at half price—hand out your five cents."

Jim had got done blowing by this time, and threw down his money in as great a hurry as if life and death depended upon the speed of his movements, saying:

"Quick! Mr. Curts, I want to see it the worst kind."

"Yes, Oh yes; you want to see 'Bonaparte crossing the Rhine,' do you," said Abram, very deliberately.

"Yes, that's it—that's what I want to see," said Jim, who was so anxious to see the show that he could scarcely stand still.

"Well, you shall see it," said the worthy exhibitor, with a

wise look, at the same time dropping the five cents into the money drawer, "and I hope by this show to impress upon your young minds, this valuable piece of history, and illustrate the same in so plain a manner that the silliest lad amongst you will readily comprehend it."

The juvenile audience was now breathless with expectation, and crowded around with eager looks, and not the slightest movement on the part of the learned lecturer was overlooked by them, as he drew from a drawer a piece of bone about three inches long, and holding it up before the wondering boys, he slowly and deliberately commenced his lecture, or explanation:

"My young friends, you now perceive——"

"Yes sir," interrupted Jim with mouth, eyes and ears wide open.

"As I was saying," continued Mr. Curts, "you now see before you the 'Bonaparte'—the '*Bony-part*,' you understand, the '*bony part*' of a hog's leg (house shakes with laughter from the crowd which had now assembled, but Jim did not join in the general merriment, but looked very sober, seeming to think there was very little about it to laugh at, at least on his side) yes, boys," said Abram, as grave and solemn as a judge about to pass sentence, "this is the bony-part of a hog's leg."

"Is-is a-a-that all!" gasped poor Jim, beginning to look blue about the gills.

"Oh no," said the lecturer, "this is merely a part of the exhibition," and he took from a shelf a piece of meat skin about as large as a piece of paper i. e. the size of a dollar bill, and presenting it to view he proceeded with the lecture.

"Now, my young hearers this you see is the 'Rhine'—yes," he continued, as solemnly as before, "this is the 'Rhine,'—properly speaking, the hog's rind—a piece of hog's rind."

When the laugh had subsided, Mr. C. again went on with the explanation:

"Now, young gentlemen, draw near and give me your attention a moment, for this is the most interesting part of the exhibition," and old Abram looked and spoke, if possible, still more wise and solemn than before; then slowly passing the piece of bone back and forth across the skin, he said, "you see, boys this is the '*bony part crossing the rind*,' very lucidly