



经典文库 英汉对照

SELECTED STORIES OF  
MARK TWAIN

# 马克·吐温中短篇小说选

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[美] 马克·吐温◎著 青 闰 李树德◎译

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## The £1,000,000 Bank-Note

When I was twenty-seven years old, I was a mining-broker's clerk in San Francisco, and an expert in all the details of stock traffic. I was alone in the world, and had nothing to depend upon but my wits and a clean reputation; but these were setting my feet in the road to eventual fortune, and I was content with the prospect.

My time was my own after the afternoon board, Saturdays, and I was accustomed to put it in on a little sail-boat on the bay. One day I ventured too far, and was carried out to sea. Just at nightfall, when hope was about gone, I was picked up by a small brig which was bound for London. It was a long and stormy voyage, and they made me work my passage without pay, as a common sailor. When I stepped ashore in London my clothes were ragged and shabby, and I had only a dollar in my pocket. This money fed and sheltered me twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four I went without food and shelter.

About ten o'clock on the following morning, seedy and hungry, I was dragging myself along Portland Place, when a child that was passing, towed by a nurse-maid, tossed a luscious big pear—minus one bite—into the gutter. I stopped, of course, and fastened my desiring eye on that muddy treasure. My mouth watered for it, my stomach craved it, my whole being begged for it. But every time I made a move to get it some passing eye detected my purpose, and of course I straightened up then, and looked indifferent, and pretended that I hadn't been thinking about the pear at all. This same thing kept happening and happening, and I couldn't get the

## 百万英镑

二十七岁那年，我是旧金山一位矿业经纪人的办事员，对证券交易的所有细节都非常内行。我孤身立世，除了自己的才智和清白名声外，无所依靠；不过，就是这些使我最终踏上了发财之路，而且我对自己的前程踌躇满志。

星期六下午收盘后，时间就归我自己支配了，我习惯划着小帆船到海湾上打发时光。有一天，我冒险划得太远，漂到了大海上。正当夜幕降临，快要失去希望时，一艘开往伦敦的双桅横帆船救起了我。航程漫漫，常有狂风暴雨。他们让我做普通水手，不拿工资干活，乘船旅行。到伦敦上岸时，我衣衫褴褛，口袋里只有一美元。这钱让我吃住了二十四小时。接下来的二十四小时，我就没吃没住了。

第二天上午大约十点，我衣衫褴褛，饿着肚子，沿着波特兰大街慢吞吞拖着身子前行，这时一个保姆牵着一个孩子路过，孩子把一只只咬过一口的甘甜美味的大梨扔进了排水沟。我当然停住了脚步，充满渴望的目光紧紧盯着那个泥乎乎的宝贝。看着它，我嘴里直流口水，肚子咕咕叫，整个身心都在渴望得到这个宝贝。但是，每当我去动手拣梨，总有过路人的眼睛察觉到我的意图，这时我当然会挺起身子，若无其事，假装根本没有在意那个梨。同样的情形出现了一次又一次，我就是拿不到那个梨。我正要不顾

pear. I was just getting desperate enough to brave all the shame, and to seize it, when a window behind me was raised, and a gentleman spoke out of it, saying: "Step in here, please."

I was admitted by a gorgeous flunkey, and shown into a sumptuous room where a couple of elderly gentlemen were sitting. They sent away the servant, and made me sit down. They had just finished their breakfast, and the sight of the remains of it almost overpowered me. I could hardly keep my wits together in the presence of that food, but as I was not asked to sample it, I had to bear my trouble as best I could.

Now, something had been happening there a little before, which I did not know anything about until a good many days afterwards, but I will tell you about it now. Those two old brothers had been having a pretty hot argument a couple of days before, and had ended by agreeing to decide it by a bet, which is the English way of settling everything.

You will remember that the Bank of England once issued two notes of a million pounds each, to be used for a special purpose connected with some public transaction with a foreign country. For some reason or other only one of these had been used and canceled; the other still lay in the vaults of the Bank. Well, the brothers, chatting along, happened to get to wondering what might be the fate of a perfectly honest and intelligent stranger who should be turned adrift in London without a friend, and with no money but that million-pound bank-note, and no way to account for his being in possession of it. Brother A said he would starve to death; Brother B said he wouldn't. Brother A said he couldn't offer it at a bank or anywhere else, because he would be arrested on the spot. So they went on disputing till Brother B said he would bet twenty thousand pounds that the man would live thirty days, anyway, on that million, and keep out of jail, too. Brother A took him up. Brother B went down to the Bank and bought that note. Just like an Englishman, you see; pluck to the backbone. Then he dictated a letter, which one of his clerks wrote out in a beautiful round hand, and then the two brothers sat at the window a

一切、勇敢面对一切耻辱去抓起那个梨，这时有人掀起了我后面的一扇窗，一位先生从里面说：“请进来。”

我被一个穿着华丽的仆人领进了一个豪华房间，那里坐着两位上了年纪的绅士。他们打发走仆人，让我坐下来。他们刚刚吃完早餐，看到剩菜剩汤，我简直难以忍受，在食物面前几乎难以保持理智，但他们没有请我品尝，我只好尽可能忍受痛苦。

这里不久前刚发生过一件事，我过了好多天后才知道，我现在就把它告诉你。那老哥俩为一件事一直面红耳赤争论两天了，最后他们同意通过打赌来决定，这是英国人解决一切问题的方式。

你会记得，英格兰银行曾经发行过两张一百万英镑的钞票，专门用于和外国进行公共交易时使用。由于某种原因，只有其中一张经使用后被注销；另一张仍躺在英格兰银行的金库里。而这哥俩聊着聊着，就猜想，要是—个非常诚实、聪明伶俐、在伦敦漂泊无友可依的外地人，除了一张百万英镑的钞票，身无分文，而且他无法证明这张钞票是他的，他的命运会是怎样——哥哥说这个人会饿死；弟弟说不会饿死。哥哥说，他不可能在银行或其他任何地方花掉那张钞票，因为他会当场被逮捕。所以，兄弟俩一直争执不休，后来弟弟说他愿打两万英镑赌，这个人靠那张百万英镑钞票无论如何能活三十天，也进不了牢房。哥哥同意打赌。弟弟就去英格兰银行买下了那张钞票。你明白，就像英国人那样，勇气十足。然后，他口述了一封信，他的一个职员用漂亮的正楷字体写出来；随后，兄弟俩在窗边坐了整整一天，守候合适人选，以便把这封信交给他。

他们看着一张张脸庞从窗前经过，虽诚实，但不够聪明；虽聪明，但不够诚实；许

whole day watching for the right man to give it to.

They saw many honest faces go by that were not intelligent enough; many that were intelligent, but not honest enough; many that were both, but the possessors were not poor enough, or, if poor enough, were not strangers. There was always a defect, until I came along; but they agreed that I filled the bill all around; so they elected me unanimously, and there I was now waiting to know why I was called in. They began to ask me questions about myself, and pretty soon they had my story. Finally they told me I would answer their purpose. I said I was sincerely glad, and asked what it was. Then one of them handed me an envelope, and said I would find the explanation inside. I was going to open it, but he said no; take it to my lodgings, and look it over carefully, and not be hasty or rash. I was puzzled, and wanted to discuss the matter a little further, but they didn't; so I took my leave, feeling hurt and insulted to be made the butt of what was apparently some kind of a practical joke, and yet obliged to put up with it, not being in circumstances to resent affronts from rich and strong folk.

I would have picked up the pear now and eaten it before all the world, but it was gone; so I had lost that by this unlucky business, and the thought of it did not soften my feeling towards those men. As soon as I was out of sight of that house I opened my envelope, and saw that it contained money! My opinion of those people changed, I can tell you! I lost not a moment, but shoved note and money into my vest pocket, and broke for the nearest cheap eating house. Well, how I did eat! When at last I couldn't hold any more, I took out my money and unfolded it, took one glimpse and nearly fainted. Five millions of dollars! Why, it made my head swim.

I must have sat there stunned and blinking at the note as much as a minute before I came rightly to myself again. The first thing I noticed, then, was the landlord. His eye was on the note, and he was petrified. He was worshiping, with all his body and soul, but he looked as if he couldn't stir hand or foot. I took my cue in a moment, and did the only rational thing there

多既聪明又诚实，但又不够穷；要么是够穷，但又不是外地人。总有不尽之处，直到我走过来；不过，他们都认为我符合所有条件，于是一致同意选我；而我正等着知道为什么他们要叫我进来。他们开始问一些有关我个人的问题，很快就弄清了我的来历。最后，他们告诉我说，我符合他们的意图。我说，我由衷高兴，问他们的意图是什么。这时，他们其中一个递给我一个信封，说我会在那里找到解释。我正要打开，但他不让；要我带到住处后再仔细看，不要匆忙，也不要草率。我迷惑不解，想进一步谈论这件事，但他们不想。于是，我告辞，感觉受到了伤害和侮辱，显然我成了某种恶作剧的笑柄；然而，我不得不忍受，因为当时的处境我无法对有钱有势的人的公开侮辱表示怨恨。

现在我本可以捡起那个梨，当着全世界人的面吃下去，但它不见了踪影；因为这倒霉事，我已经失去了那个梨。想到这里，我就对那两个人没有了好感。一走到看不见那座房子的地方，我就打开了信封，看到里边装着钱！我可以告诉你，我对那两个人的看法发生了变化！我一刻也没有耽搁，把信和钱塞进马甲口袋，撒腿向距离最近的饭店跑去。啊，我真是一顿海吃！最后，我再也填不进去了，掏出那张钞票，展开来，只扫了一眼，差点昏倒。五百万美元！啊，这让我晕头转向。

我一定是坐在那里目瞪口呆，惊愕地盯着那张钞票，足足过了一分钟才回过神来。然后，我首先注意到的是饭店老板。他盯着那张钞票，也吓呆了。他正在全心全意顶礼膜拜，但他好像手脚都不能动弹了。我立刻有了主意，做了在此唯一能做的合理事儿。我把那张钞票递向他，漫不经心地说：“请找零钱。”

紧接着，他恢复了常态，连声道歉说找不开这张大票，怎么也不肯接那张钞票。他

was to do. I reached the note towards him, and said, carelessly: "Give me the change, please."

Then he was restored to his normal condition, and made a thousand apologies for not being able to break the bill, and I couldn't get him to touch it. He wanted to look at it, and keep on looking at it; he couldn't seem to get enough of it to quench the thirst of his eye, but he shrank from touching it as if it had been something too sacred for poor common clay to handle. I said: "I am sorry if it is an inconvenience, but I must insist. Please change it; I haven't anything else."

But he said that wasn't any matter; he was quite willing to let the trifle stand over till another time. I said I might not be in his neighborhood again for a good while; but he said it was of no consequence, he could wait, and, moreover, I could have anything I wanted, any time I chose, and let the account run as long as I pleased. He said he hoped he wasn't afraid to trust as rich a gentleman as I was, merely because I was of a merry disposition, and chose to play larks on the public in the matter of dress. By this time another customer was entering, and the landlord hinted to me to put the monster out of sight; then he bowed me all the way to the door, and I started straight for that house and those brothers, to correct the mistake which had been made before the police should hunt me up, and help me do it. I was pretty nervous; in fact, pretty badly frightened, though, of course, I was no way in fault; but I knew men well enough to know that when they find they've given a tramp a million-pound bill when they thought it was a one-pounder, they are in a frantic rage against him instead of quarreling with their own near-sightedness, as they ought. As I approached the house my excitement began to abate, for all was quiet there, which made me feel pretty sure the blunder was not discovered yet. I rang. The same servant appeared. I asked for those gentlemen.

"They are gone." This in the lofty, cold way of that fellow's tribe.

"Gone? Gone where?"

想看，一直盯着那张大票；他好像怎么看都饱不了眼福，但他畏畏缩缩不敢碰它，好像它是非常神圣的东西，可怜的凡夫俗子不能摸它似的。我说：“要是有什么不便的话，请原谅，但我必须坚持这样。请找开吧；我没有别的钞票。”

但是，他说没关系，非常乐意让这点小钱推迟到下次再收。我说，我可能很久不会再到这一带来；不过他说那也不要紧，他可以等，而且我想点什么就点什么，想什么时候来就什么时候来，想多久结就多久结。他说，他相信自己不会信不过像我这么有钱的先生，只不过我性情活泼，喜欢打扮成这样跟大家开个玩笑。这时，又一位顾客走了进来，老板示意我收起那张巨钞，然后一路鞠躬把我送出了门。我径直去那座房子找那哥俩，让他们趁警察没有把我抓起来，纠正已经犯下的这个错误，帮我做好这件事。我忐忑不安；事实上，提心吊胆，当然我绝对没错；然而，我熟悉人情世故，知道他们发现自己把一百万英镑钞票当成一英镑钞票送给一个流浪汉，他们会对我怒不可遏，而不会像他们应该做的那样抱怨自己眼神不好。走近那座房子时，我紧张的心情逐渐缓和下来，因为那里一片安静，这使我确信还没有人发现这个大错。我按响门铃。出来的还是原先那个仆人。我求见那两位先生。

“他们走了，”他用的是这种人高傲冷漠的口气。

“走了？去哪里了？”

“旅行去了。”

“可去哪里了呢？”

“我想是去欧洲大陆。”

“欧洲大陆？”

“On a journey.”

“But whereabouts?”

“To the Continent, I think.”

“The Continent?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Which way—by what route?”

“I can't say, sir.”

“When will they be back?”

“In a month, they said.”

“A month! Oh, this is awful! Give me some sort of idea of how to get a word to them. It's of the last importance.”

“I can't, indeed. I've no idea where they've gone, sir.”

“Then I must see some member of the family.”

“Family's away, too; been abroad months—in Egypt and India, I think.”

“Man, there's been an immense mistake made. They'll be back before night. Will you tell them I've been here, and that I will keep coming till it's all made right, and they needn't be afraid?”

“I'll tell them, if they come back, but I am not expecting them. They said you would be here in an hour to make inquiries, but I must tell you it's all right, they'll be here on time and expect you.”

So I had to give it up and go away. What a riddle it all was! I was like to lose my mind. They would be here “on time.” What could that mean? Oh, the letter would explain, maybe. I had forgotten the letter; I got it out and read it. This is what it said:

*You are an intelligent and honest man, as one may see by your face. We conceive you to be poor and a stranger. Enclosed you will find a sum of money. It is lent to you for thirty days,*

“是的，先生。”

“怎么走的——走的是哪条路？”

“我说不上来，先生。”

“他们什么时候回来？”

“他们说一个月后回来。”

“一个月！噢，这真糟糕！给我出个主意，看怎么给他们捎个信。这事儿非常重要。”

“我的确无能为力。我根本不知道他们去了哪里，先生。”

“那我必须见这家里的其他人。”

“家里人也走了；出国好几个月了——我想，是在埃及和印度。”

“伙计，出了个天大的错误。天黑前，他们就会回来。你告诉他们我来过这里好吗？告诉他们：我还会再来，直到这个错误纠正过来，他们不必担心。”

“只要他们回来，我就告诉他们，但我想他们不会回来。他们说过，你一小时后会来这里询问，我必须告诉你一切正常；他们会准时回到这里等候你。”

我只好作罢，离开了那里。这葫芦里到底卖的是什么药！我真是晕头转向。他们会“准时”回到这里。这会是什么意思呢？噢，也许那封信可以解释。我把那封信给忘了；我掏出来，念了起来，信上是这样说的：

从你的面相可以看出，你是一个聪明诚实的人。我们猜想，你很穷，是外地人。你会发现信封里装有一笔钱。这笔钱借给你三十天，不要利息。期满时到这个房子报到。我对你打了个赌。要是我打赢这场赌，你就可以得到我赠予的任何职位——也就是说，你将能证明自己既熟悉又胜任的任何职位。

*without interest. Report at this house at the end of that time. I have a bet on you. If I win it you shall have any situation that is in my gift—any, that is, that you shall be able to prove yourself familiar with and competent to fill.*

No signature, no address, no date.

Well, here was a coil to be in! You are posted on what had preceded all this, but I was not. It was just a deep, dark puzzle to me. I hadn't the least idea what the game was, nor whether harm was meant me or a kindness. I went into a park, and sat down to try to think it out, and to consider what I had best do.

At the end of an hour my reasonings had crystallized into this verdict.

Maybe those men mean me well, maybe they mean me ill; no way to decide that—let it go. They've got a game, or a scheme, or an experiment, of some kind on hand; no way to determine what it is—let it go. There's a bet on me; no way to find out what it is—let it go. That disposes of the indeterminable quantities; the remainder of the matter is tangible, solid, and may be classed and labeled with certainty. If I ask the Bank of England to place this bill to the credit of the man it belongs to, they'll do it, for they know him, although I don't; but they will ask me how I came in possession of it, and if I tell the truth, they'll put me in the asylum, naturally, and a lie will land me in jail. The same result would follow if I tried to bank the bill anywhere or to borrow money on it. I have got to carry this immense burden around until those men come back, whether I want to or not. It is useless to me, as useless as a handful of ashes, and yet I must take care of it, and watch over it, while I beg my living. I couldn't give it away, if I should try, for neither honest citizen nor highwayman would accept it or meddle with it for anything. Those brothers are safe. Even if I lose their bill, or burn it, they are still safe, because they can stop payment, and the Bank will make them whole; but meantime I've got to do a

没有签名，没有地址，没有日期。

唉，真是掉进了一个圈套里！你们了解此前发生的一切，但我当时并不了解。对我来说，那简直就是一个深奥隐秘的不解之谜。我根本不知道这玩的是什么把戏，也不知道这对我是伤害还是仁慈。我走进公园，坐下来，设法理清头绪，考虑怎么办才好。

一小时后，我经过推理，得出了这个结论。

也许那两个人对我是好意，也许他们对我是恶意；无法决断——随它去吧。他们是玩把戏、搞阴谋、做实验，还是其他手法，我无法确定是什么——随它去吧。他们拿我打了个赌。赌什么无法查明——随它去吧。这样就解决了这件事无法确定的部分，剩下的真实具体、实实在在的东西，肯定可以归类和确定。要是我要求英格兰银行把这张钞票存到那个人的账户，银行就会这样做，因为尽管我不认识他，但银行认识。不过，银行会问我钞票怎么会到了我手里。要是我说实话，他们自然就会把我送进收容所；要是我撒谎，他们就会把我送进牢房。要是我设法把这张钞票存在任何地方或靠它借钱，结果也会一样。无论我是否愿意，我只能随身带着这个巨大负担，直到那两个人回来。尽管它对我没有用处，像一把灰一样没有用处，但我一边乞讨生活，一边必须照管它、守护它。即使我想把它送人，也送不出去，因为无论是诚实公民还是拦路强盗，都绝不会收下，连动都不会动一下。那哥俩毫无风险。即使我把他们的钞票丢失或烧掉，他们也仍然没有风险，因为他们能挂失，银行会让他们分文不少；但其间，我不得不要一个月苦，没有工资，也没有红利——除非我帮着赢了那场赌，得到那个许诺给我的职位。我想得到那个职位，他们这种人赠予的职位都值得争取。

我开始对那个职位浮想联翩。我的希望开始升高。毫无疑问，薪水一定会不少。

month's suffering without wages or profit—unless I help win that bet, whatever it may be, and get that situation that I am promised. I should like to get that; men of their sort have situations in their gift that are worth having.

I got to thinking a good deal about that situation. My hopes began to rise high. Without doubt the salary would be large. It would begin in a month; after that I should be all right. Pretty soon I was feeling first-rate. By this time I was tramping the streets again. The sight of a tailor-shop gave me a sharp longing to shed my rags, and to clothe myself decently once more. Could I afford it? No; I had nothing in the world but a million pounds. So I forced myself to go on by. But soon I was drifting back again. The temptation persecuted me cruelly. I must have passed that shop back and forth six times during that manful struggle. At last I gave in; I had to. I asked if they had a misfit suit that had been thrown on their hands. The fellow I spoke to nodded his head towards another fellow, and gave me no answer. I went to the indicated fellow, and he indicated another fellow with his head, and no words. I went to him, and he said: "Tend to you presently."

I waited till he was done with what he was at, then he took me into a back room, and overhauled a pile of rejected suits, and selected the rattiest one for me. I put it on. It didn't fit, and wasn't in any way attractive, but it was new, and I was anxious to have it; so I didn't find any fault, but said, with some diffidence: "It would be an accommodation to me if you could wait some days for the money. I haven't any small change about me."

The fellow worked up a most sarcastic expression of countenance, and said: "Oh, you haven't? Well, of course, I didn't expect it. I'd only expect gentlemen like you to carry large change."

I was nettled, and said: "My friend, you shouldn't judge a stranger always by the clothes he wears. I am quite able to pay for this suit; I simply didn't wish to put you to the trouble of changing a large note."

一个月后就开始上班；之后，我就会一帆风顺。不久，我感觉好极了。这时，我又沿街走了起来。看到一家裁缝店，我就产生了强烈的渴望，想脱掉身上的破衣服，重新给自己穿上体面的衣服。我能买得起吗？不能；除了一百万英镑，我在这世上一无所有。于是，我强迫自己走了过去。但是，我又马上折了回来。那种诱惑不断无情地困扰着我。在那场勇敢的搏斗中，我一定在那家裁缝店门前来来回回往返了六趟。我终于做出了让步；我不得不让步。我问他们手边是否有顾客试过的不合身的衣服。我问的那个伙计朝另一个点点头，没有回答我。我向他点头示意的那个伙计走去。这个伙计向另一个人点点头，也没有说话。我向那个人走了过去，他说：“马上就关照你。”

我等着。他直到做完手头的事儿，才把我带进后面的一个房间，从一堆挑剩的衣服中翻了一遍，给我挑了一套最差劲的。我穿上这套衣服。衣服不合身，毫无魅力，但它是新的，我渴望得到这套衣服，所以我不挑剔，我有些缺乏自信地说：“请行个方便，看你们能不能等几天，我再给钱。我身上没有带零钱。”

那个人板起一副极其刻薄的嘴脸，说：“噢，你没有带零钱？啊，当然，我想你也没有带。我还以为像你这样的先生只会带大票呢。”

我被惹火了，说：“我的朋友，你不该总拿穿戴来评判陌生人。我完全能买得起这套衣服；我只是不想麻烦你们找开一张大票。”

他稍微改变了态度，但还是摆着架子。他说：“我不是有意出口伤人，但既然你要出言不逊，那我可以说，你匆匆下结论说我们找不开你可能带的什么票子，那是多管闲事。恰恰相反，我们能找开。”

我把那张钞票递给他，说：“噢，很好，我道歉。”

He modified his style a little at that, and said, though still with something of an air: "I didn't mean any particular harm, but as long as rebukes are going, I might say it wasn't quite your affair to jump to the conclusion that we couldn't change any note that you might happen to be carrying around. On the contrary, we can."

I handed the note to him, and said: "Oh, very well; I apologize."

He received it with a smile, one of those large smiles which goes all around over, and has folds in it, and wrinkles, and spirals, and looks like the place where you have thrown a brick in a pond; and then in the act of his taking a glimpse of the bill this smile froze solid, and turned yellow, and looked like those wavy, wormy spreads of lava which you find hardened on little levels on the side of Vesuvius. I never before saw a smile caught like that, and perpetuated. The man stood there holding the bill, and looking like that, and the proprietor hustled up to see what was the matter, and said, briskly: "Well, what's up? what's the trouble? what's wanting?"

I said: "There isn't any trouble. I'm waiting for my change."

"Come, come; get him his change, Tod; get him his change."

Tod retorted: "Get him his change! It's easy to say, sir; but look at the bill yourself."

The proprietor took a look, gave a low, eloquent whistle, then made a dive for the pile of rejected clothing, and began to snatch it this way and that, talking all the time excitedly, and as if to himself: "Sell an eccentric millionaire such an unspeakable suit as that! Tod's a fool—a born fool. Always doing something like this. Drives every millionaire away from this place, because he can't tell a millionaire from a tramp, and never could. Ah, here's the thing I am after. Please get those things off, sir, and throw them in the fire. Do me the favor to put on this shirt and this suit; it's just the thing, the very thing—plain, rich, modest, and just ducally nobby; made to order for a foreign prince—you may know him, sir, his Serene Highness the

他面带微笑接了过去，这是一个弥漫全脸的夸张笑容，上面有折痕、皱纹、螺旋，看上去就像你往池塘里扔了一块砖头的地方；随后，他瞥了一眼那张钞票，这笑容就凝固，发黄，就像你在维苏威火山边的小平地上看到的波浪状、蠕虫般的凝固熔岩。我以前从来没有见过那样被定格、久久不变的笑脸。这个人站在那里，捏着钞票，就这样看着。老板匆匆走过来，看出了什么事，他神采奕奕地说：“啊，怎么了？有什么问题吗？想要点什么？”

我说：“没有什么问题。我正在等着找零钱。”

“嗨，嗨！找给他钱。托德，找给他钱。”

托德反驳说：“找给他钱！说得容易，先生，你自己看看这张钞票。”

老板看了一眼，低声吹了一声动听的口哨，然后奔向那堆挑剩的衣服，开始左翻右找，一直情绪激动地说着话，像在自言自语：“把这样一套拿不出手的衣服卖给一位非同寻常的百万富翁！托德是个傻瓜，天生的傻瓜。总是做这样的事儿。把一个个百万富翁都从这个地方赶走了，因为他分不清谁是百万富翁、谁是流浪汉，从来都分不清。啊，我找的就是这套。先生，请把那些玩意脱了，扔进火里吧。请赏光穿上这件衬衫和这套衣服；正合适，恰到好处——简单、华美、适中，完全是王公贵族的气派；这是给一位外国亲王定做的——先生，你可能认识他，就是尊贵的哈利法克斯总督殿下；他不得不把这套衣服留在这里，拿一套丧服，因为他的母亲都快不行了——但她没有死。不过，这没关系；我们不能总是按照我们的方式行事——也就是，他们的方式——嗨！裤子正好，正合你的身材，好看极了，先生；现在穿上马甲；啊哈，也合适！现在穿上外衣——天哪！现在看哪！整个——都非常完美！我干了一辈子从来没有见过这样的得意

Hospodar of Halifax; had to leave it with us and take a mourning-suit because his mother was going to die—which she didn't. But that's all right; we can't always have things the way we—that is, the way they—there! trousers all right, they fit you to a charm, sir; now the waistcoat; aha, right again! now the coat—Lord! look at that, now! Perfect—the whole thing! I never saw such a triumph in all my experience.”

I expressed my satisfaction.

“Quite right, sir, quite right; it'll do for a makeshift, I'm bound to say. But wait till you see what we'll get up for you on your own measure. Come, Tod, book and pen; get at it. Length of leg, 32”——and so on. Before I could get in a word he had measured me, and was giving orders for dress-suits, morning suits, shirts, and all sorts of things. When I got a chance I said: “But, my dear sir, I can't give these orders, unless you can wait indefinitely, or change the bill.”

“Indefinitely! It's a weak word, sir, a weak word. Eternally—that's the word, sir. Tod, rush these things through, and send them to the gentleman's address without any waste of time. Let the minor customers wait. Set down the gentleman's address and——”

“I'm changing my quarters. I will drop in and leave the new address.”

“Quite right, sir, quite right. One moment—let me show you out, sir. There—good day, sir, good day.”

Well, don't you see what was bound to happen? I drifted naturally into buying whatever I wanted, and asking for change. Within a week I was sumptuously equipped with all needful comforts and luxuries, and was housed in an expensive private hotel in Hanover Square. I took my dinners there, but for breakfast I stuck by Harris's humble feeding house, where I had got my first meal on my million-pound bill. I was the making of Harris. The fact had gone all abroad that the foreign crank who carried million-pound bills in his vest pocket was the

之作呢。”

我表示满意。

“完全正确，先生，一点不错；我必须说，这先凑合着穿。不过，你等着看我们按你自己的尺码给你做的衣服吧。过来，托德，拿本子和笔；记下来。裤长三十二英寸——”等等。还没等我插话，他就已经给我量完了，而且正在吩咐做晚礼服、晨礼服、衬衫和各种各样的衣服。当有机会插话时，我说：“我亲爱的先生，我不能定做这些衣服，除非你能无限期地等或换开这张钞票。”

“无限期！这话没劲，先生，这话没劲。永远——这才像话，先生。托德，赶紧把这些衣服做出来，然后立刻送到这位先生的府上。让那些不起眼的顾客们等着。记下这位先生的地址——”

“我就要换地方了。我顺便来访时会留新地址的。”

“完全正确，先生，一点不错。等一会儿——让我送你出去，先生。好——再见，先生，再见。”

难道你不明白定会发生什么事吗？我想买什么就买什么，然后让找零钱。不到一周，我出手阔绰，把所需的一切舒适生活用品和奢侈品统统买齐，并住在了汉诺威广场一家豪华内部旅馆。我在那里吃晚餐，但早饭还是到哈里斯家的小吃店去吃，我就是在那里靠一百万英镑的钞票吃的第一顿饭。我是哈里斯成功的基础。消息四处传开，说马甲口袋里装着百万英镑钞票的那个外国怪人是这个地方的守护神。这就够了。这原先是一家勉强维持的小吃店，现在已经名声远扬、顾客爆满。哈里斯感激不尽，非要借钱给我不可，而且不容我拒绝；于是，尽管我一贫如洗，但我有钱花，生活过得富有、美

patron saint of the place. That was enough. From being a poor, struggling, little hand-to-mouth enterprise, it had become celebrated, and overcrowded with customers. Harris was so grateful that he forced loans upon me, and would not be denied; and so, pauper as I was, I had money to spend, and was living like the rich and the great. I judged that there was going to be a crash by and by, but I was in now and must swim across or drown. You see there was just that element of impending disaster to give a serious side, a sober side, yes, a tragic side, to a state of things which would otherwise have been purely ridiculous. In the night, in the dark, the tragedy part was always to the front, and always warning, always threatening; and so I moaned and tossed, and sleep was hard to find. But in the cheerful daylight the tragedy element faded out and disappeared, and I walked on air, and was happy to giddiness, to intoxication, you may say.

And it was natural; for I had become one of the notorieties of the metropolis of the world, and it turned my head, not just a little, but a good deal. You could not take up a newspaper, English, Scotch, or Irish, without finding in it one or more references to the “vest-pocket million-pounder” and his latest doings and saying. At first, in these mentions, I was at the bottom of the personal-gossip column; next, I was listed above the knights, next above the baronets, next above the barons, and so on, and so on, climbing steadily, as my notoriety augmented, until I reached the highest altitude possible, and there I remained, taking precedence of all dukes not royal, and of all ecclesiastics except the primate of all England. But mind, this was not fame; as yet I had achieved only notoriety. Then came the climaxing stroke—the accolade, so to speak—which in a single instant transmuted the perishable dross of notoriety into the enduring gold of fame: Punch caricatured me! Yes, I was a made man now; my place was established. I might be joked about still, but reverently, not hilariously, not rudely; I could be smiled at, but not laughed at. The time for that had gone by. Punch pictured

妙。我断定，不久便会崩溃，但我现在已经身陷其中，不游过去，必定会沉。你明白，这本来纯粹是一件荒唐事，但仅仅有了这种迫在眉睫的危险因素，事态竟产生了严肃的一面、清醒的一面，对了，还有悲哀的一面。到了夜里，这悲剧的成分总是在黑暗中走上前来，总是警告我，总是威胁我；所以，我唉声叹气，辗转反侧，夜不能寐。但是，到了兴高采烈的白天，这些悲剧因素就会烟消云散、无影无踪。我洋洋得意，高兴得晕头转向，可以说像喝醉了酒一样。

自然而然，我成了这个世界大都会的名人之一，这使我感到骄傲，不只是一点，而是十分。你拿起报纸，无论是英格兰的、苏格兰的，还是爱尔兰的，都能看到一条或更多条有关“内衣口袋装有百万英镑者”和他最新言行的消息。起初，这些有关我的消息放在杂谈栏的底部；接下来，我就名列爵士之上，随后就名列准男爵之上，再往后又名列男爵之上，如此等等，我的名气越来越大了，位置也越升越高了，直至我达到可能达到的更高位置，并留在那里，居于非王室的所有公爵之上，也居于全英大主教以外的所有神职人员之上。但请记住，这不是名望；至今，我只是得到了名气。这时，具有转折性的一举来临了，可以说像骑士受勋一样。一时间，我那昙花一现的名气变成了金子般的不朽声望：《笨拙周报》把我画进了漫画！是的，我现在稳操胜券，地位确立。也许还有人拿我开玩笑，但都毕恭毕敬，既不嬉闹，也不粗鲁；尽管可能有人笑我，但不是嘲笑。那样的时光过去了。《笨拙周报》把我画得衣服破烂随风飘扬，正跟伦敦塔的一个卫兵讨价还价。啊，你可以想象一个年轻人以前从来没有人注意，现在突然之间，他说的每句话都会被记下来，到处传播；无论他走到哪里，都会不断听到人们飞快地相互转告：“他去那里了，就是他！”他吃早饭都有人群围观；他在剧院包厢一露面，上

me all a-flutter with rags, dickering with a beef-eater for the Tower of London. Well, you can imagine how it was with a young fellow who had never been taken notice of before, and now all of a sudden couldn't say a thing that wasn't taken up and repeated everywhere; couldn't stir abroad without constantly overhearing the remark flying from lip to lip, "There he goes; that's him!" couldn't take his breakfast without a crowd to look on; couldn't appear in an operabox without concentrating there the fire of a thousand lognettes. Why, I just swam in glory all day long—that is the amount of it.

You know, I even kept my old suit of rags, and every now and then appeared in them, so as to have the old pleasure of buying trifles, and being insulted, and then shooting the scoffer dead with the million-pound bill. But I couldn't keep that up. The illustrated papers made the outfit so familiar that when I went out in it I was at once recognized and followed by a crowd, and if I attempted a purchase the man would offer me his whole shop on credit before I could pull my note on him.

About the tenth day of my fame I went to fulfil my duty to my flag by paying my respects to the American minister. He received me with the enthusiasm proper in my case, upbraided me for being so tardy in my duty, and said that there was only one way to get his forgiveness, and that was to take the seat at his dinner-party that night made vacant by the illness of one of his guests. I said I would, and we got to talking. It turned out that he and my father had been schoolmates in boyhood, Yale students together later, and always warm friends up to my father's death. So then he required me to put in at his house all the odd time I might have to spare, and I was very willing, of course.

In fact, I was more than willing; I was glad. When the crash should come, he might somehow be able to save me from total destruction; I didn't know how, but he might think of a way, maybe. I couldn't venture to unbosom myself to him at this late date, a thing which I

千只望远镜就会火辣辣地对准那里。啊，我一天到晚都沉浸在荣耀之中——总之就是这样。

你知道，我还留着那套破衣服，不时地穿着出去，为的是享受一下旧日买零碎东西时的乐趣，先是受到侮辱，然后用那张百万英镑钞票把嘲笑者毙掉。但是，我这种乐趣维持不下去了。报纸上的漫画把我的那身行头画得尽人皆知，所以每当我穿着它出去，就有一群人马上认出来，跟在后面；要是我想买东西，还没等我掏出那张钞票，老板就愿意把整个店铺都赊给我。

获得名望后大约第十天，我去拜访美国公使，履行我对祖国的职责。他用适合我这种身份的热情接待了我，责备我这样磨蹭来履行自己的职责，说只有一种办法可以得到他的原谅，那就是出席他当晚的宴会，因为有一位客人生病缺席。我说我会的，于是我们开始聊了起来。原来他和我的父亲从小是同学，后来又一起上耶鲁大学，直到父亲去世，他们都始终是亲密的朋友。因此，他要求我只要一有空闲，就到他家里来，我当然非常愿意。

事实上，我不仅愿意，而且非常高兴。当大祸临头时，说不定他能救我，使我免受灭顶之灾。尽管我不知道他怎么救我，但也许他能想出一个办法。要是在伦敦刚开始碰到这件倒霉事时，我会马上对他吐露心事，但现在为时已晚，我不能冒这个险；不，我现在不能冒这个险；我陷得太深了，也就是说，深到不敢冒险对一位新结识的朋友说明真相；不过，在我看来，还没有深到完全灭顶的程度。因为你知道，尽管我处处借钱，但我小心翼翼不让数额超过我的收入——我是说，不超过我的薪水。当然，我不可能知道我的那份薪水将会有多少，但我有充分依据推测到这样一个事实，那就是，要是我打