THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MONSIEUR CLAUDE HOUSE WHERE MARK TWAINS Edited by George Tickell

had defrauded them.

secret springs to open it.

potently in the valet's face.

BEING THE CHRONICLES OF A FAMOUS PREFECT OF POLICE DURING THE REGIME OF THE SECOND THE DUKE OF LAMBAY'S EMPIRE, IN THE REIGN OF NAPOLEON III, NOW PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME. DIAMONDS....





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the phrase coined gamins of Paris. by Monsieur Claude If the grotesque appearance of his from an open second story window auspicious moment, and having filled curred that the duke of Molinford of the stairs they found themselves when referring to mansion was such as to awaken sus- under which the body was found. his grace the duke picions of the owner's insanity, one Thus far the police investigation of Lambay in the might infer upon second thoughts went, and not much further, for none years following that that there was method in his madness of the domestics who were examined worthy gentleman's and that he hoped to inspire fear admitted having heard any unusual

Paris to take up his residence And the number of those ene have helped to explain the tragedy. in Switzerland. Be it understood mies was legion, ranging from The duke testified that, feeling indis- on and Shaw did not appear a ter- police M. Claude started for Boulogne, did not express himself abhorrent bers of society. Not only did after swallowing a sedative prescribed ser's mind. He rushed to his prethat M. Claude of the singular character of the noble his chosen associates of the gutter by his physician for insomnia. He clous strong box, tore aside the silken with Henry Shaw whose own heed far end of the corridor, and the or the singular character of the nonle-num in question. On the contrary the hate him, but his family ever treas-had slumbered heavily, according to draperies and beheld the forced lock. lessness had thus delivered him into noted chief of police spoke in accents used resentfully the memory of the his statement, and knew nothing of Flinging open the doors a glance told the hands of the law. that almost approached admiration. fraud by which, when cast out of his the girl's death until notified by his him that the most cherished gems The ex-valet's face was downcast ear splitting cries which had appalled As a scientist in criminology he re-duchy, the discrowned prince succeed-confidential valet. The latter, an Eng-of his collection had disappeared. and sullen, and M. Claude surveyed the listeners before.

MURDERER most | duke of Lambay" was a phrase which | ing in the garden below the west wing magnificent!" was was often uttered by the lips of the of the house. It was evident that stones, stowed them away in a leather In a postcript to the letter, Shaw, to cautiously downward with the detecdeath had been the result of a fall bag which he had provided for this whom it did not seem to have oc- tives at his heels. Reaching the foot train for Boulogne.

departure from thereby in the minds of his enemies. noise during the night which might ing missed the familiar figure of his reward demanded. Immediately upon modate provision and wine supplies in thus speaking the lowest to- the highest mem-posed, he had retired at an early hour rible suspicion flashed across the mi-in thus the Unter t

himself in return for a sum of 100,000 | The duke started. "How do you | "In common with many other misfrancs to restore to the family of the know this?" he queried, uneasily. , duke of Lambay the diamonds of M. Claude's even, white teeth hitherto supposed me dead to all feelwhich their unscrupulous kinsman flashed in a brilliant smile.

Shaw had made a careful study of the course of our profession," he said; pression on the mind of such an adthe strong box and the arsenal de- quietly. "As you are acquainted with the

fending it and watched patiently for an opportunity when he could open circumstances then, you will under. is competent to execute revenge upon it without risking annihilation by so stand that it would be by no means one who incurs his displeasure doing. The coffer containing the agreeable to have them exposed in through a far more satisfactory me diamonds was built in the wall of the court for the benefit of the masses," bedroom adjoining the duke's study. said the duke, anxiously. "Exactly," responded M. Claude. As before stated its steel door

was equipped with a pistol battery, "And the question of how the stones and outside of the inner defense was came into your possession does not a wooden door covered with drapery. in the least affect the fact of the Once the steel door was made fast by robbery by your valet, nor would 1 the owner it was impossible for any- have mentioned the circumstance had one not possessing a knowledge of the not your grace referred to it in the first place."

The duke gave vent to a sigh of re-On December 7, 1863, the duke removed a few stones from the coffer lief. "You are a model of discretion, my

for the purpose of having them reset by a jeweler. With almost incredible dear M. Claude," he said. "For the the lantern he carried a ... carelessness in a man of his sus- present I will bid you adieu."

picious temperament, he forgot for As events proved, it would have the first time to lock the inner steel been vastly better for Henry Shaw, door. Shaw, who was present when having executed his master stroke of his master opened the coffer, was plunder and revenge, had he trusted lars of the mansion. Midway on the quick to note the duke's negligence. to the assistance of some professional steps he paused and held up his hand. He waited until his master had gone thief in disposing of his booty. For out, and then taking a file he carried his endeavor to gain the aid and grati- gesture.

in preparation for just such a con- tude of the duke of Molinford recoiled . A muffled moan, at times low and tingency, forced the lock of the outer upon him in a startling fashion. The hoarse and again rising into a strident door and opened the inner one. As latter, a prince of the British blood shriek, broke upon their ears. There the boit of the inner lock had not been royal, waxed indignant over the pre- succeeded a harsh, horrible snarling shot into its socket the pistol battery sumption that he would consent to act as of a brute in pain or anger.

don police. They, in turn, forwarded men.

A great treasure lay before his it to the prefecture at Paris, thereby of fabulous value, jeweled decora- which made certain the capture of be wary." tions and gold in abundance. Care the man who had so far eluded the

his pockets with gold, left the house, would refuse to benefit by his ser- in a vault which apparently extended He went stranght to the railway sta- vices, stated that he would wait at under the entire building. It was tion and caught the first express Boulogne until a messenger arrived traversed by a corridor and on either from England with authority to re- side yawned the open doors of small The duke returning home that even ceive the diamonds and pay him the rooms apparently intended to accomtrusted attendant. As the hours wore receiving the clue from the London for the house.

taken persons I fear that you have ing save that of gain. Desolated by

"We learn many curious things in the thought of leaving a false immirable man I have endeavored to prove to you that a prince of my blood dium than that of your police courts Hasten therefore, my dear friend, and behold the proof of my assertion.

> "Lambay." Shortly after receiving the above missive, M. Claude, accompanied by three detectives, approached the deserted house in the Beaujon quarter and entered by the side door. The interior of the building, denuded of its

rich furnishings, -gaped black and empty before them, Mr. Claude signated to one of his assistants to light

"We must seek the duke's! souvenir underground." he said, and direct-

ed his steps to a stairway in the rear which wound its way down to the cel-"Listen!" he said, with a warning

was rendered harmless and the muz- as a rogue's confederate, and turned M. Claude shook his head in rezles of the loaded weapons gaped im- the ex-valet's letter over to the Lon- sponse to the questioning gaze of his

"Some new deviltry of his grace," gioating eyes. There were diamonds furnishing M. Claude with information he said, drily. "Let us proceed, but

He produced a pistol and having fully Shaw selected the most valuable vigilance of his most cunning sleuths. examined the charge carefully crept

The noise, which for a few moments this is-

with the hoarse, guttural growls and

"Weil, you' needn't go no furder." said the big aunty hospitably. "He's

HERO LIVED TORN DOWN.

Hannibal, Mo., Where Place Stood, Unconscious of Its Greatness-Anecdote of House and of the Two Mark Twains.

Hannibal, Mo .- Huckleberry Finn's ancient habitation in North Hannibal, near the river front, has passed from the earth. Since Hannibal has admitted that Mark Twain was really a great man, it has 'taken sparticular pride in the "hoary headed" domicile and the revenue derived from post cards showing the structure would have built a' much, better house. R. H. Coons, the owner of the property. recently had the "Huck" Finn home torn down to erect a row of modern flats, which will have, it is hoped, a livening effect on the somewhat dreamy district of North Hannibal.

A characteristic story is told in connection with the house. One summer day a gentleman from the past came to Hannibal to secure data for a Mark Twain story. He could find Hol liday hill easily enough without a guide, because it towered up to the sky on the north end, and prevented the town's further extension unless the good citizens take a notion to tun nel.

An ice man was asked for the direction to Huck Finn's cottage.

"Never heard of him," said the native. "He sure don't live in these parts? The stranger went west a block and

accosted a boy with a fishing rod on his shoulder. "He don't run with our crowd," he

said, "Maybe, he lives down by the bridge." "I'm not looking for Huck Finn himself," said the visitor, "He's dead, but

"Then you might try the graveyard," replied the boy. "It's up yonder-the stones is marked, I reckon. Presently a citizen came along who could furnish the information. Huck's home was only two blocks from where the ice man said "he didn't live in those parts." In the basement door stood a black "aunty," with her hands resting on her hips. She wore a tricolored handkerchief on her head.

"I knows," she said; "you's one o dem relicky hunters."

"I'm engaged in gathering some material in reference to Mark Twain."



House Where Huckleberry Finn Once Lived.

said the easterner, pleasantly, "and as

fused to discuss dark deeds wrought by unprincipled people from a moral standpoint, his criticisms being coldly crown.

ly as a tribute to that gentleman's infernal ingenuity.

Had he been asked to state his it is possible that he would merely have smiled his inscrutable, official smile and declined to be interviewed further. But there were many other second empire who would have been cicquence on the subject. For the e fruitful topic of conversation among ail classes of Parisian society.

It must be confessed that the rewhose veins ran the royal blood of sepulsive personality.

the breasts of his fellow creatures is stride were controlled by invisible not a fact to cause surprise, for few strings worked by a concealed operasult and seeming to court rather than a chain mail shirt which he wore avoid criticism, he took an insane delight in gleating over the sinister reputation he had established, and secure in the prestige and power con- tion of a living skeleton. ferred by his wealth permitted no chance of adding fresh infamy to his erratic nobleman was an object of no name to escape him.

The house in which he dwelt was no mean index of the perverse nature extricate him from the intrigues and of its proprietor. It stood, in the the old Beaujon quarter, painted from stripes of varied hues.

The building of odd design and pe- his wealth, but though the perils to culiar shape, nestled in an angle of which he was exposed were numerous neglected gardens surrounded by high and deadly it pleased an inscrutable walls. An air of ghastly gloom en- providence to enable him to avoid the veloped the whole estate, an air that pitfalls which surrounded him. Nor was in perfect keeping with the mys- were there wanting instances where secretly by a small door in the wes- was compelled to appear before the tern wing, the main entrance, guarded authorities in the role of a defendby large, rusty iron gates, always ant. In most of these cases the duke neighbors. The treasure contained in this man-

tols communicated by unseen wires his innocence.

with electric bells. Should a careless hand unwitting- the girl had acted strangely for sever- two detectives made their appearance. "That," said M. Claude, gravely, "is staring eyebalts glared, hideously in

living, completely severed all bonds of the most hardened citizen. His age tradict any statement made by their sympathy between him and the hu- was an unsolved problem guarded by man race. The members of his own a mask of paint that lent a frightful with less scorn than did those whom encircled by false whiskers and sur-

That the duke was perfectly aware bled an immense puppet, walking with of the emotions which he excited in tense, jerky steps as though every people cared to disguise their feelings tor. A curious rattle, caused by the constantly as a protection against the possible stab of an assassin, awoke in the mind of the observer the no-Living as he did the person of this

small solicitude to the police of Paris who were constantly called upon to

EKANGUK HATALINY,

plots of the ruffianly partakers of his early sixties, in a secluded corner of pleasures. It might be imagined that he must inevitably have fallen a viccaves to foundation in bright broad tim to some of the many schemes hatched by those desirous of acquiring

Meanwhile, to the surprise of many, said gravely: the confidence of his master and all

terious inhabitant, who came and went this degraded scion of a noble house that of the fraud by which he had obtained the greater part of his wealth, were in his possession. surmountable obstacle to the curious mail, but on one occasion at least fort towards exposing the true facts lic." there was scant doubt of his guilt. of the girl's sad fate, and wrapped

Among his servants there was a himself in a mantle of impenetrable sion consisted of 16,000,000 francs' pretty young English lass named Ellen reserve that effectually withstood the responded the chief. worth of diamonds, and indeed the Crosby who had not been long in his inquiries of all his associates.

house might have been described as service before attracting the admira- But still waters run deep, and this a species of gigantic strong box where- tion of the duke, who made advances man who apparently took no further in a cunning fiend kept watch and to her which were indignantly spurned interest in the tragedy was in reality ward over the precious contents. For by the girl, the latter evidently being planning a bitter revenge upon the prosecute this thief should you arrest the duke was a miser of the most a different type from the class of fe- individual whom he regarded as the pronounced kind, a miser who in males that usually belonged to his author of his sweetheart's death. He history of the jewels which he has point of avariciousness has seldom, if grace's household. Exactly what knew that the hardest blow he could stolen should not become a topic of will find a key which will admit you him and saw that a film of ghastly

over, been equaled. It was for this transpired within the walls of the strike the miser would be to deprive public interest." reason that his pursuit of pleasure gloomy mansion after Ellen repulsed him of his treasures that were dearer frequently led him to the lowest slums her master was never brought to to him than his life blood. The first of Paris where his name had grown light, but the fact remains that on step he took in the furtherance of his in question at one time provoked a to be a by-word among the denizens the morning of November 20, 1863, scheme was to write a letter to the serious discussion between your grace of the underworld. "As mean as the her lifeless body was discovered ly- duke of Molinford in London, pledging and the duke of Molinford."

ed in annexing the diamond millions lishman, 26 years of age, was closely There were missing diamonds and him with a certain amount of benigwhich rightfully belonged to the questioned by the detectives, it having money to the extent of 4,000,000 nant pity. come to their knowledge that a strong francs.

But the duke was far too cunning affection was supposed to have ex- For a few minutes the panic-stricken sonally I regret in a certain sense bedispassionate. Therefore his descrip-dispassionate. Therefore his descrip-tion of the duke must be taken strict. But the duke was far too cunning affection was supposed to have ex-to rely entirely upon the outside ap-isted between him and the deceased. duke raged furiously, shrieking in said the chief. "Officially, of course, and more chiefer and the deceased." pearance of his forbidding lair and the He proved a complete alibi showing his high falsetto voice at the servants said the chief. "Officially, of course, rays may shine before us." man traps that lurked here and there that he had passed the night away whom his cries had summoned to the I regard you as a successful criminal. in the grounds, for protection. Ere from the house with a friend, having spot. It is questionable whether the But your story with reference to the opinion of the duke on other grounds a hostile step could approach his obtained leave for that purpose, and approach of death could have caused unfortunate Ellen Crosby leads me'to apartments a thousand bells would not returning until just after the body more anguish in his avaricious heart. declare that your former master startle the air with their brazen was found. His demeanor, as was The contemplation of his treasures richly deserves any retribution that clangor. Every door was equipped perhaps natural when his fondness for had been the great, supreme delight may overtake him." with a bell and all of these doors the girl was taken into consideration, of a nature so warped and corrupted people living under the flag of the converged towards the bedroom and was that of a man half frantic with that naught else in life could stir to heart," said Shaw, looking up. "But back swiftly, but the next instant they private study of the duke. In the grief, but he bore up well under the rapture the thin blood in his withered i who know him so well, knew that rushed, into, the, room uttering a perfectly willing to burst into fervid rear of these two rooms reposed the cross examination and replied to every veins. At last he cooled down, and the keenest agony I could inflict upon simultaneous cry of horror at the strong box which contained the dia- question asked him with a promptness with the abatement of his frenzy came him would be to deprive him of the sight that met their startled gaze. eccentric ways of his grace formed monds. And here a row of loaded pis- and lucidity that left no doubt as to the hunger for revenge.

Messengers were at once dispatched The duke furthermore averred that to the prefecture and in a short time Satan."

ly press one of the buttons which op- al days and that he believed her to Having replied to their interrogamarks of the majority of his critics erated the alarms a sheet of flame have committed suicide. This asser- tions the duke inquired if their chief, were the reverse of complimentary, and volley of bullets would scorch tion was corroborated by several of M. Claude, was in his office. On rethe servants, although their testimony ceiving a reply in the affirmative he The ghoul-like appearance of the did not greatly impress the officers, ordered his carriage and drove post duke has won the trick." England, had by his monstrous ac-tions and dark mysterious mode of the such as to shock the somethilities of such as to shock the sensibilities of duke's domestics was likely to con- partment.

employer. Shaw alone ventured to de- about 45 years of age. He was of his valuables back positively refused great family did not look upon him rith lass scorn than did those whom ny the allegation, but his word was not middle height, sinewy of frame and to prosecute the prisoner. M. Claude chance brought into contact with his mounted by a wig of nondescript girl's sanity, and in the end Ellen blue eyes before whose penetrating dread of scandal that brought about crosby was officially declared to have gaze many a habitue of the undergirl's sanity, and in the end Ellen blue eyes before whose penetrating for he was aware that it was the ognized him at once, destroyed herself while in an un world had shrunk and stammered this determination on his grace's part. sound state of mind.

It may be plainly stated, however, Living in the corrupt period his un- brought such powerful influence to that neither M. Claude nor his assist- compromising honesty of purpose ants believed that the unfortunate shone all the clearer by contrast with against the prisoner was dropped. in regard to him. Impervious to in- striking against his corset steels of victim had gone to her death as de- the intriguing element which surscribed by the verdict. Popular opin- rounded him and rendered him as reion held the duke responsible for her markable for his integrity as he was prosecution, the owner of the dia demise and in their hearts the inmates famous for surpassing skill in his monds paid another visit to M. Claude. of the prefecture agreed with this profession. He was seated at his view. But to attempt to convict the desk, bending over a pile of corre- chief, "when and to what time the

duke was useless. The waters of the spondence, when his ducal visitor enfountain of justice were tainted by tered.

many a foul current during the sway "I salute your grace," he said, of the second empire, and peremptory suavely. "Pray be seated." orders from a higher source brought The nobleman allowed his thin, the investigation to an abrupt close. emaciated figure to sink limply into a The duke's wealth enabled him to set chair, and drawing a flask of perfume in motion powerful influences which from his pocket removed the stopper ditional precautions against becoming well worthy of him. He caused this rendered him immune to the penal- and inhaled the contents before speak- a victim of his audacity a second wretched creature to be kidnaped on ties which would have menaced an ing. M. Claude watched him coldly time," rejoined the duke, testily. ordinary person in such a situation. and when the duke raised his head

Henry Shaw continued in the duke's "I regret to hear of the loss your

in connection with the robbery of the prison at eight o'clock to-morrow of the latter's secrets, even including your diamonds that I am honored by morning." this visit?"

"Yes, yes," said the duke, distract-Beyond expressing his belief in El- this affair conducted so that the de- Paris those who knew him saw him no remaining closed and offering an in- was selected as an object for black- len Crosby's sanity, Shaw made no ef- tails of the case will not be made pub- more, and it was generally supposed cost. His hands are bitten into mere

"We will endeavor to respect your wishes in the matter, your grace,"

"Listen, M. Claude," said the duke, him. It is imperative that the former follows:

"If I am not mistaken," returned my late habitation. In the upper eyes. M. Claude, languidly, "the diamonds

vanced cautiously and came to a halt before the closed door of a room at the end of the passage. M. Claude turned the handle and the door swung open easily. A snarl like that of a

"I might have thrust a knife in his wild beast caused them to spring idols he worships, the bright gems for Chained to an iron staple in the which he sold his worthless soul to wall there crouched in a corner the naked figure of a man whose wide

probably true. But in a game where the yellow light of the lantern. His Fate deals the cards the boldest and, face, crusted with blood clots and most skillful gambler knows not what horribly lacenated, writhed .convulsive the end may be. And this time the ly as they looked upon it. Then from this foart-covered lips issued a mani-

ple who knew of the capture of Shaw, est note into a series of barks and M. Claude was at this time a man the duke of Lambay upon receiving growls, deep and menacing as the bay.of, a blood-hound. Despite the awful change in the visage of the unfortunate. M. Claude rec-

"It is Henry Shaw," he ejaculated, "but who or what is that lying beside, forth damning confession of crime. Nay, even more, the duke actually him?" In the shadow of the corner could be bear in high places that the charge discerned the vague outlines of a dark shape 'lying' prostrate' and the Prior to the release of Shaw from the man with the lantern brought the prison where he was confined pending light to bear upon it. "A dog-and dead,: M. Claude," he exclaimed. "See how its swollen

"I wish to ascertain," he said to the wretch who robbed me is to be re stored to freedom?"

"Your grace's motive is no doubt a piece of meat thickly encrusted with a philanthropic one?" queried M. salt. The chief drew a deep breath Claude, with the ghost of a smile as the truth flashed upon him. hovering on his lips.

"This is the duke's revenge and one "My motive is that I may take adhis release from prison, chained him

"I think you overestimate your danhere with a savage mastiff, fed the ger." returned M. Claude, tranquilly, brute on salt meats and allowed it "Nevertheless your grace is welcome no water until it went mad and atservice. He had succeeded in gaining grace has sustained. I presume it is to the information. M. Shaw leaves tacked its companion prisoner." "But the beast is dead," said Franz,

From the hour that the released animal.

prisoner stepped across the thresh-"Strangled," responded M. Claude edly. "But above all I wish to have old of the gaol into the streets of "They fought to the death and the man conquered, but at a frightful that he had returned to his native shreds of flesh. And he too is a vicland. Two weeks later the newspa- tim of hydrophobia." pers contained an item to the effect As he finished speaking the maniac

that the eccentric duke of Lambay uttered another terrific yell and sprang was leaving Paris and would reside to an erect posture with his chain in subdued tones. "I know that I for the future in Switzerland. On clanking furiously. He stood for an can trust you. Now the truth is that the following day the chief of police instant with mutilated hands out I cannot afford to appear in court to received a communication from The stretched and then lurching forward nobleman in question which read as fell heavily on the stone floor. His limbs twitched convulsively, stiffened and lay still. M. Claude bent over "Monsieur Claude: Enclosed you

by the small door in the west wing to white "had "settled over the staring rooms there is naught but dust and emptiness to greet the eye." But in men. "The yengeance of the duke has a cellar below I have left a souvenir which may interest you.

The detectives paused and glanced right heah." "Who's here askance at each other, but M. Claude's "I do not mind telling you that per- stern voice rang out crisply.

Peering into the gloom they ad-

tongue protrudes from its mouth!" "

upon and held it to the light. It was

"The explanation is here," he said.

staring at the inert bulk of the huge

"It. is finished," he said softly to his

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M. Claude bent forward and picked

"Mark Twain." "In this house?" "Forward!" he commanded. "Hold, "To be sho!."

"What's he doing here?" asked the urprised visitor.

"Ah-doan' know, but yo' kin cum in an' see.".

She led the way to another underground apartment, and, with pride pointed to something on a pallet. The stranger's eyes, gradually becoming accustomed to the semi-light, distinguished an infant pickanminy busily endeavoring to swallow its glossy arm. As the two came and stood by the bed it suspended operations and thoughtfully regarded them out of two big white eyes.

"Quite a baby." said the guest. "How'd you come to call it Mark Twain?"

"Da tole me'if Ah did that, Mistah Sam' Clemens, wot used to lib' heah, would sen' 'im sumthin' nice."... "Did he?"

"Ah reckon Mistah Clemens thot; hit was nice," she said, doubtfully; "he sent 'im a 'raazer an' a lookin' glass.' "Mr. Clemens was grateful?"

"Mebbe so. And he writted to my ole man sayin' if the raazer did what he expected he'd be pleased to sen' a tombstone fer th' baby.'

. Will Breed Alligators.

One thousand alligators, ranging, . from the length of a lead pencil to monsters that could crush a man 'in their jaws have arrived from the southwestern part of Louisiana and were landed loose in a new 'gator farm in East Los Angeles. They were brought in a specially arranged freight car over the Southern Pacific .- Los up an object that his foot had trod Angeles Times.

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Cheap Gas Production.

Prof. Blan of Germany has discovered a new process of developing illuminating gas that may be bought by the bottle at the rate of 15 cents a pound. A 22-pound cylinder at 15 cents a pound would give a 50-candle power light for four months used four hours a day. That is to say, the cost would be 1 1-7 cents an hour, or, say, \$1.25 a month, or even less .- Brooklyn Eagle.

Future for Egypt.

An Egyptian paper says that the native families pay an average tax of \$4.65 an acre, or 28.5 per cent. of the crop. Foreigners and land companies hold 655,000 acres. Through their insolvency and liquidation, and the redistribution of the estates formed since 1902, it is probable that large amounts of gold may be unhoarded.

Much the Best.

"What is the best thing for a poet to have?" asked the bardlet, "a deep knowledge of human nature, a temperament that enters into the emotions . of others or a natural gift for saying things beautifully?" "All your guesses missed," replied the yeteran rhymer. "The best thing for a poet to have is a job." A Participation is trait

All' Keystones.

Every stone in an arch is a key stone, though the name is usually applied to the center one.