

# FRESH FINDINGS FROM MARK TWAIN

BY ALBERT BIGELOW PAINE  
Author of Mark Twain: A Biography  
Illustrations by HORACE TAYLOR



BY permission of Harper and Brothers, the authorized biographer of Mark Twain contributes to the SEMI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE the following personal reminiscences and anecdotes gathered during his long and intimate association with the great humorist, selected from the recently published life of Mark Twain.

MARK for long had succeeded in concealing his profanity from his wife. But he sometimes confided under a pledge of secrecy, how one morning, when he thought the door was shut between their bedroom and the bathroom, he was in there dressing and shaving, accompanying these trying things with language intended only for the strictest privacy; how presently, when he discovered a button off the shirt he intended to put on, he hurled it through the window into the yard with appropriate remarks, followed it with another shirt in the same condition, and added certain collars and neckties, decorating the shrubbery outside, where the people were going by to church; how in this extreme moment he heard a slight cough, and turned to find that the door was open! There was only one door, and he knew he had to pass her. He felt pale and sick, and sat down a few moments to consider. He decided to assume that she was asleep, and to walk out and through the room, head up, as if he had nothing on his conscience. He attempted it, but without success.

Half-way across the room he heard a voice suddenly repeat his last terrific remark. He turned to see her sitting up in bed, regarding him with a look as withering as she could find in her gentle soul. The humor of it struck him.

"Livy," he said, "did it sound like that?"

"Of course it did," she said, "only worse. I wanted to hear just how it sounded."

"Livy," he said, "it would pain me to think that when I swear it sounds like that. You got the words right, Livy, but you don't know the tune."

"I WAS never consciously and purposely irreverent in my life, yet one person or another is always charging me with a lack of reverence. Reverence for what—for whom? Who is to decide what ought to command my reverence—my neighbor or I? I think I ought to do the electing myself. The Mohammedan and the Christian—each says that the other is irreverent, and both are mistaken, for manifestly you can't have reverence for a thing that does n't command it. If you could do that you could digest what you have n't eaten, and do other miracles and get a reputation."

MARK TWAIN once received a letter from an author who had written a book calculated to assist inventors and patentees, asking for his indorsement. He replied:

Dear Sir: I have, as you say been interested in patents and patentees. If your book tells how to exterminate inventors send me nine editions. Send them by express.

Very truly yours,  
S. L. CLEMENS.

"I DON'T see any use in spelling a word right—and never did. I mean I don't see any use in having a uniform and arbitrary way of spelling words. We might as well make all clothes alike and cook all dishes alike. Sameness is tiresome; variety

is pleasing. I have a correspondent whose letters are always a refreshment to me; there is such a breezy unfettered originality about his orthography. He always spells kow with a large K. Now that is just as good as to spell it with a small one. It is better. It gives the imagination a broader field, a wider scope. It suggests to the mind a grand, vague, impressive new kind of a cow."

THE following original dedication to *Roughing It* was suppressed by Mrs. Clemens, though not without a spirited protest from the author:

To the Late Cain  
This Book is Dedicated.

Not on account of respect for his memory, for it merits little respect; not on account of sympathy for him, for his bloody deed places him without the pale of sympathy, strictly speaking, but out of a mere humane commiseration for him, in that it was his misfortune to live in a dark age that knew not the beneficent insanity plea.

I HAVE been received in a sort of tremendous way tonight by the brains of London, assembled at the annual dinner of the sheriffs of London; mine being (between you and me) a name which was received with a thundering outburst of spontaneous applause when the long list of guests was called. I might have perished on the spot, but for the friendly support and assistance of my excellent friend, Sir John Bennett.

This letter from Twain to a friend does not tell all of the incident or the real reason why he might have perished on the spot. During the long roll-call of guests he had lost interest a little, and was conversing in whispers with Sir John Bennett, stopping to applaud now and then when the applause of the others indicated that some distinguished name had been pronounced. All at once, the applause broke out with great vehemence. This must be some very distinguished person indeed. He joined in it with great enthusiasm. When it was over he whispered to Sir John:

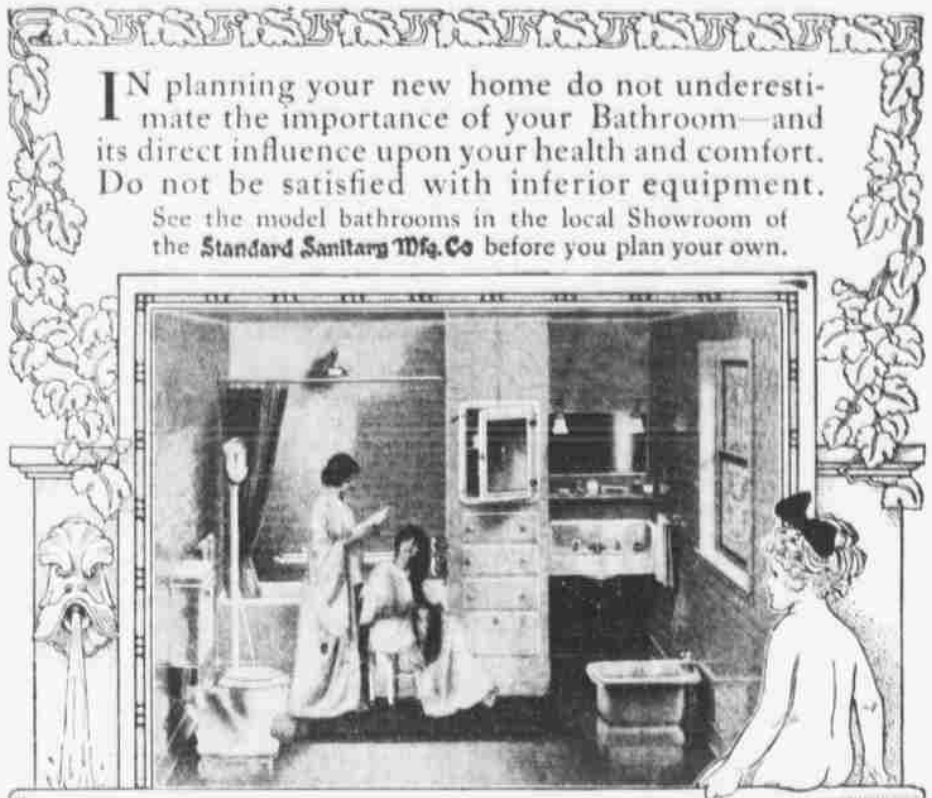
"Whose name was that they were just applauding?"

"Mark Twain's."  
Whereupon the support was needed.

"IT IS more trouble to make an original maxim than it is to do right."

## Aerial Analysis

IF the late Wilbur Wright ever had a romance he managed to keep the secret, and no one seemed to know. However, he was not without views on the subject. A reporter once asked him why he had never married. It's the easiest thing in the world to drive an aeroplane," he answered, "and it's just as easy to get married." Then he added: "Women and aeroplanes are so much alike that you can't analyze either until you get them going."



**"Standard"** GUARANTEED PLUMBING FIXTURES

YOU will always receive courteous, personal attention at the "Standard" Showroom, and all the information you desire, with suggestions for equipping your own Bathroom and with directions for ordering through your plumber. The range of cost for complete "Standard" Bathroom equipments—\$78 to \$600—covers the requirements of every house and every pocketbook.

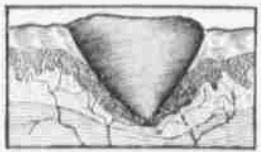
Besides these complete modern bathrooms—you can see all the modern fixtures for Bathroom, Kitchen and Laundry, from the least expensive to the most elaborate. You can select for yourself the entire equipment for your house—and see how it will appear when installed.

If it is not convenient for you to visit one of our showrooms, send for "Modern Bathrooms," which illustrates and describes about everything modern in Bathroom, Kitchen and Laundry equipment.

Free on request for 6-cent postage

Standard Sanitary Mfg. Co. Dept. 60 PITTSBURGH, PA.

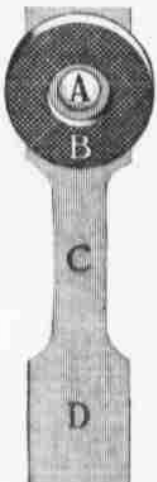
- SHOWROOMS:
- New York 35 West 31st Street
  - Chicago 800 S. Michigan Avenue
  - Philadelphia 1215 Walnut Street
  - Toronto Can. 20 Richmond St., E.
  - Pittsburgh 106 Federal Street
  - St. Louis 100 N. Fourth Street
  - Cincinnati 623 Walnut Street
  - Nashville 315 Tenth Ave., S.
  - New Orleans Baronne and St. Joseph Sts.
  - Boston John Hancock Bldg.
  - Louisville 319-23 W. Main St.
  - Cleveland 648 Huron Road, S. E.
  - Hamilton, Can. 20-28 Jackson St. W.
  - Houston, Tex. Preston & Smith Sts.
  - Washington, D. C. Southern Bldg.
  - Toledo 311-321 Erie Street
  - Fort Worth, Tex. Front & Jones Sts.



## All Such Corns Can be Ended in Two Days

Apply a little Blue-jay plaster. Right from that moment the corn becomes comfortable. Then the B & B wax begins to loosen the corn, and in 48 hours the whole corn comes out. The chemist who invented Blue-jay studied corns for years. And his method is now employed on a million corns a month.

No pain, no soreness, no discomfort. The way is gentle and results are sure. Don't pare corns. Don't apply liquids. Don't use ancient methods in these scientific days. You can end the corn forever in this simple, modern way. Try it on one corn.



- A in the picture is the soft B & B wax. It loosens the corn.
- B stops the pain and keeps the wax from spreading.
- C wraps around the toe. It is narrowed to be comfortable.
- D is rubber adhesive to fasten the plaster on.

## Blue-jay Corn Plasters

Sold by Druggists—15c and 25c per package  
Sample Mailed Free. Also Blue-jay Bunion Plasters.

(299) Bauer & Black, Chicago and New York, Makers of Surgical Dressings, etc.