

MARK TWAIN GOES AFTER THE SHAH.

In a letter to the New York Herald, under date of London, June 18th, Mark Twain writes as follows:

"Would you like to go over to Belgium and help bring the Shah to England?" I said I was willing.

"Very well, then; here is an order from the Admiralty which will admit you on board Her Majesty's ship Lively, now lying at Ostend, and you can return in her day after to-morrow."

That was all. That was the end of it. Without stopping to think, I had in a manner taken upon myself to bring the Shah of Persia to England.

What was the Shah to me that I should go to all this worry and trouble on his account? Where was there the least occasion for taking upon myself such a responsibility? If I got him over all right, well; but if I lost him? It was depressing any way I looked at it.

Where is Belgium? said I. "Where is Belgium? I never heard of a question!" "That doesn't make any difference to me. If I have got to fetch this Shah I can't wish to go to the wrong place. Where is Belgium? Is it a shilling fare to a cab?"

He explained that it was in foreign parts—the first place I have heard of lately which a body could not go in a cab for a shilling.

I said I could not go alone, because I could not speak foreign languages well, could not get up in time for the early train without help, and could not find my way. I said it was enough to have the Shah on my hands; I did not wish to have everything piled on me.

When they called me at one, it made my rest seem very broken, and I said if they would skip me at two I would call myself—not really intending to do it, but hoping to beguile the porter and deceive him.

the Shah." In the end I was reassured and content. If Ostend could impress him, England could amaze the head clear of his shoulders, and have marvels left that not even the trunk could be indifferent to.

These citizens of Flanders—Flounders, I think they call them, though I feel sure I have eaten a creature of that name, or seen it in an aquarium, or a menagerie, or in a picture, or somewhere—are a thrifty, industrious race, and are as commercially wise and far-sighted as they were in Edward the Third's time, and as enduring and patient under adversity as they were in Charles the Bold's.

Most of the shops in Ostend seemed devoted to the sale of sea shells. All sorts of figures of men and women were made of shells; one sort was composed of grotesque and ingenious combinations of lobster claws in the human form.

It was an excellent hotel; the utmost care was taken that everything should go right. I went to bed at ten and was called at eleven, to "take the early train."

When they called me at one, it made my rest seem very broken, and I said if they would skip me at two I would call myself—not really intending to do it, but hoping to beguile the porter and deceive him.

Ostend is a curious, comfortable-looking, massively-built town, where the people speak both the French and the Flemish with exceeding fluency, and yet I could not understand them in either tongue.

his breast, scarf fashion, which band was one solid glory of fine diamonds. [It is pleasant to know that the United States was not surprised by England's deference to Persia, but the spirit in which it was rendered is doubtful. This is Twain's description of his conduct:]

The Shah walked back alongside his fine cabin, looking at the assemblage of silent, solemn Flounders; the correspondent of the London Telegraph was hurrying along the pier and took off his hat and bowed to the "King of Kings," and the King of Kings gave a polite military salute in return.

Colored Righteousness. There is an aged colored woman in this city who does not believe in social equality, judging by the way she talks to her boy:

"Ephriam, come hyar to yer mudder, boy. What you bin?" "Playin' wid de white folkses chillun."

Editing a Newspaper. Editing a newspaper is a very pleasant business. If it contains too much political matter, the people don't like it.

If we give a man a complimentary notice, we are censured for being partial. If we do not all hands say we are a greedy dog.

"FATHER," said a young lipser of four summers, "when with the flood?" "O my son," replied the parent, "that happened a great while ago."

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ASTHMA REMEDY. I was afflicted with it for twelve years, entirely unabling me for business for weeks at a time; and discovered this remedy by experimenting on myself.