



MARK TWAIN (SAMUEL L. CLEMENS.)

MARK TWAIN'S PLIGHT IN POVERTY.

Bowed Under Disappointment, the Author Is Struggling with Pen, Possibly in Vain, to Pay His Debts.

From the Times-Herald. London, Jan. 15.—Mark Twain, the prince and diner at the tables of kings, is now impoverished and a slave to a debt. He is in poor health, confined to a modest lodging and burdened with age and the woes of a broken heart. His determination is henceforth in accordance with that fine irony of the human race, the men and women who were anxious to boost him when he was at the top and he did not need them and are missing, now that he has lost and is at the bottom.

It is probable that the end has come. There is but a single hope for this man, who for twenty years has shared the field of American letters—as the Europeans estimate American letters—with Bret Harte. He is home from a trip around the world. It began in Vancouver and ended in London—a failure from the start. He has been working for weeks on the manuscript of the story, but the few who have hunted him in the modest room fear that the inspired he gone. He is working under forced conditions, and the prediction is that the tale of the tour will be a plant forced to blossom in unnatural conditions.

LAST DOLLAR SACRIFICED. It is very evident that the man is worse than penniless. All his fortune went down with the publishing house which used his name and spent money and prospects in air castles and folly. He would not stand the charge of dishonesty. Sacrificing his last dollar, he is toiling night and day to meet the debts yet unpaid to pay for the lodgings which are more meager and less comfortable than the ones which he had when he was writing odes to the editor of a weekly paper in Missouri.

There have been no successors, unknown or otherwise, and more than twenty years have passed. He has proved the proverb of Commodore Vanbrunt that it is easier to earn a fortune than to keep it. His earnings were immense from the beginning, and have succeeded twice over that of any other American writer.

ONCE WITHOUT A PEER. There is no question as to the position he used to hold in the English and continental standing. No one has ever divided his standing as the American humorist. "The Innocents Abroad" was translated into the tongues of the leading nations, and since 1869 all the facts concerning his life have been eagerly read. It was in looking for these facts and searching for the early incidents in the life of the man that all Germany has come to know the story of Samuel L. Clemens. The importance that those facts attached to Missouri led many to imagine in the usually intelligent grasp of American affairs by Europeans that Missouri is the capital of the United States.

ONCE A FULL MILLIONAIRE. The hay he made while the sun shone amounted to half a million, and good investments made him as much more. The financial sun began to set in 1884, although "Pudd'nhead Wilson" and other short sketches went to prove that he had a vein other than the one he had worked so successfully—something to make people laugh and then think. It was then that he began to handle actively his large means. The prospects of the publishing firm of Webster & Co. seemed glittering, and he put his capital into it. He was then 50 years old and was preparing to settle in London and

take life as his hard work deserved he should. It was at the beginning of this plan that he was forced to the realization of absolute bankruptcy.

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on the big river left the most secure impressions on his mind. It was from this period that he got the name under which he is known, even by his personal and intimate friends. It is the cry used to this day in the river navigation, and means that the man at the line, taking the depth of the water for the captain, finds it is twelve feet to the bottom.

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subsequent health, which could not be undermined by hard work, but which is failing under the stress of disappointment.

CREATED JUST FOR FUN. He looked like a boy "created just for fun," and his perpetually tired, weary gait and ludicrous speech made him such a joke that, had anyone ventured to pick one of the Clemens boys as a coming great man, the choice would have surely fallen upon Henry or Orion—anyone but Samuel.

There is now no more personally popular writer in London. The reading public here knows him as it knows a household, but there are not many who realize the plucky fight he is making, with all the odds against him. He is probably working harder now than ever before. Said it in the results do not look promising.



BENSON BIDWELL, Inventor of the Trolley.

THE FATHER OF THE TROLLEY.

The Claims of an Indiana Inventor, Benson Bidwell—Says He Originated the Idea but Got Nothing for It.

From the Times-Herald. Rochester, Ind., Jan. 23.—Benson Bidwell, the inventor of the trolley system of operating railway and street cars, is the plaintiff in a lawsuit which may result in his coming into the fortune he alleges, his early patents entitle him. Mr. Bidwell is not only the inventor of the trolley system as it is used today, but is likewise the discoverer of the process by which railway cars are operated, heated and lighted by the same current. He claims that every machine used in this process is an infringement on one of his patents, and he believes that when justice shall have been given him his present condition of poverty will have been changed into one of wealth.

Bidwell's story is like that of many other unfortunate inventors who lost the benefits of lifelong efforts. He was born in 1835 in Livingston county, New York. Soon after his birth his father moved to Adrian, Mich., and at the age of 9 he went to study the trolley system of science he found in books. The year 1863 found him in Chicago, and it was while living there he conceived the idea of applying electricity to locomotive purposes. In 1866 he removed to Grand Rapids, and while living there he perfected his model of the trolley car with its overhead lines. His experience was that of most inventors—he lived in poverty while at work on his inventions.

came to the rescue. The president of the exposition allotted a space of 100 feet for the exhibit. After a number of experiments a car was constructed seven feet in length and four feet wide, and it accommodated fifteen passengers. Mr. Bidwell had arranged the apparatus so that the car could be run back and forth over the 100 feet of track and so that the same electrical current would propel, heat and light it.

About four years ago he commenced a suit in Toledo against the Consolidated Electric Street Railway company of Toledo, and the trial has been repeatedly postponed and a hearing has not yet been held. Sufficient testimony has been taken, however, to satisfy unprejudiced persons of the justice of Bidwell's claims, and the defendant has made several offers of compromise, all of which have been spurned. In 1887 Mr. Bidwell ran his car on the lake front at Chicago and had several interviews with Mr. Yerkes and endeavored to enlist him in the invention. Finally, in 1888, Mr. Yerkes wrote that he had given the matter an exhaustive investigation, and had concluded that such a power could not be generated to make an electric street car line practicable for Chicago.

From 1868 to 1878 he lived at South Bend and worked upon his model, while his son Charles supported the family by keeping a little candy store. He made a tour through Indiana, giving lectures on electricity and exhibiting his models, but he was regarded and dismissed as being a crank. His fortune attended him until 1883, when the electrical exposition in the Franklin Institute at Philadelphia gave him an opportunity to place his work before the public.

Mrs. Henry E. Abbey is to appear in London as Florence Gearard, the name under which she made her reputation in England. She will act under the management of John Steiner Clarke in Glen Macbeth's play, "The Prodigal Father."



ALFRED NOBEL, Famous Swedish Philanthropist.

His Millions for Humanity.

Stockholm, Jan. 12.—The superb fortune of the Nobel family—the greatest in all Sweden, and one of the greatest in all Europe, if not in the world—will go to the advancement of science and the elevation of the human race. More than 300,000,000 francs—\$50,000,000 in American coin—has been bequeathed by its late possessor, Alfred Nobel, to be used as a perpetual fund. The interest of which will serve as a stimulus to inventive genius, a reward for discovery in science and an emolument for those who excel in aesthetic and literary arts. Never in the history of mankind has such a thing as this been known. No king has ever been such a royal donor; no government has ever held out such inducements to the cultivation of all those fields from which spring the efficient and permanent forces that go to make up human progress.

It was believed, and so reported, that he had given the entire Nobel fortune to the University of Sweden, but this was denied, and it is now definitely known just what disposition the rich man made of his millions. The will was signed on Dec. 26. The instrument is not lengthy. It is dated at Paris, Nov. 27, 1895, and begins by canceling all former wills. Some millions of kroner are bequeathed to relatives and friends, after which the text of the will reads as follows: "The whole of my remaining fortune is to be given away in this manner: My executors are ordered to convert my entire estate into safe securities, which shall constitute a fund, the interest of which is to be annually divided among those who, during the year preceding, have done the greatest service to humanity. The income is to be divided into five equal parts, which shall be distributed in this way: One-fifth for the most important discovery in the natural sciences; one-fifth for the most important discovery in physiology and medicine; one-fifth for the most excellent work in literature, and the remaining fifth part to that person who has labored most effectively for the union of humanity, the disarmament, partial or complete, of standing armies, and for the organization and promotion of peace congresses."

Stockholm; those for literature by the Swedish Academy; and those for the promotion of peace by a committee of five persons to be appointed by the Norwegian storting [the legislative body, representing the sovereign people of Norway]. It is my earnest desire that in the distribution of the prizes the nationality of the prize winner shall not be considered. The most worthy shall be awarded the prize, whether he be Scandinavian or otherwise. Some months of investigation will be required before the precise amount of Mr. Nobel's fortune can be learned. But there is no doubt that the total to be used in the ways described will exceed that of the sum mentioned above.

whereof it is merely the international representative, then the dispute is to be referred to the tribunal provided for the adjudication of territorial claims. This tribunal is to consist of three American and three British judges named by the president of the United States and the queen of Great Britain respectively. There is no umpire. The award of this tribunal is not to be final unless agreed upon by a majority of not less than five to one of its members. But if there should be a final majority, the award may also be final if both powers acquiesce. If either protests against it as erroneous, the award will be of no value. If it is further provided that in such cases of disagreement, there shall be no recourse to hostile measures of any description, until the mediation of one or more friendly powers has been invited.

entirely owing to an imperfect study, or a misapprehension, of its provisions or of their possible effect. It seems to be supposed that the treaty may require the contracting parties to arbitrate questions of policy. But by referring to the treaty itself, it will be found that the parties have agreed to submit their differences to arbitration only "in accordance with the provisions and subject to the limitations of this treaty." The questions which may be submitted are all included under three heads, viz.: Pecuniary claims, territorial claims and "all other matters in dispute in respect to which either of the high contracting parties shall have rights against the other under treaty or otherwise." It is clear that no such agreement requires the arbitration of matters of policy. The term "rights" as used in the treaty, can only mean legal rights. The words of the treaty aptly define the agreement to arbitrate so as to exclude from its operation all questions not suitable for judicial decision; and it could not more be held by either party to require Great Britain to arbitrate the principle of the balance of power in Europe, or the United States the Monroe Doctrine, than it could be held to oblige either party to arbitrate its standard of value or its tariff policy.

WHY THE TREATY SHOULD BE RATIFIED. A candid examination of the treaty will show that while fairly covering all subjects proper to be submitted to judicial decision, it has been drawn with unusual care and precision, so as to protect the just rights of each country. For claims purely pecuniary tribunals are provided having a so-called umpire, but all graver disputes are to be finally decided without the presence of an umpire, and only by an almost unanimous vote, unless, indeed, both parties are satisfied with the decision made by a less majority. It also appears that in case of final disagreement on such important matters, before a resort to hostile action of any description, the mediation of friendly powers is to be invoked, which mediation in its very nature will be only advisory, and will leave the two parties concerned entirely free in the exercise of their rights of sovereignty; and that, therefore, the apprehensions expressed by some, that the treaty may involve a renunciation of the Monroe Doctrine in any acceptance of the term, or of any of our legitimate rights of sovereignty, are entirely groundless.

For the settlement of all disputes of controversy, to the end of facilitating a peaceful understanding, it will prevent the precipitate opening of hostilities under the spur of heedless passion. It will give ample time to cool and make a sensible and reasonable decision. It will give up for calm reason. For reasons that cannot stand the scrutiny of an unprejudiced and well informed judgment, while not rendering war absolutely impossible, it will make it so improbable, so remote

be a strong safeguard of peace between the two great nations concerned in it, and that the glorious example is likely to be followed by other countries—a blessing to mankind. The initiation of the movement for establishing a permanent system of arbitration, of which this treaty between the United States and Great Britain is the first fruit, forms one of the most honorable pages in the American history. The American people will certainly not fail to appreciate the glory of leadership in this great cause which is the cause of advancing civilization. For these reasons the committee, being convinced after careful study that the treaty deserves all the commendations bestowed upon it by friends of peace and progress throughout the world, express the confident hope that the senate of the United States will soon give the treaty the sanction of its approval.

Reasons Why the Senate Should Ratify the Arbitration Treaty.

The following public statement concerning the treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States, now awaiting ratification in the senate is made by the permanent committee on arbitration appointed at the Arbitration conference held at Washington on April 22 and 23, 1896.

From Washington's administration down to this day, arbitration has uniformly been a prominent feature of our national policy. Acting upon the conviction that justice is best secured by judicial methods, our government has always stood among the nations as the champion of law, and the pending treaty is, in a very definite sense, the result of our initiative. In 1890 congress unanimously adopted a concurrent resolution requesting the president to the end that any differences or disputes arising between the two governments which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency, may be referred to arbitration, and be peacefully adjusted by such means. In 1892 the British house of commons expressed the hope that Her Majesty's government would "lend their ready co-operation to the government of the United States, upon the basis of the foregoing resolution." The pending

SUPPOSED OBJECTIONS TO THE TREATY.

The objections to the treaty which have come to the notice of this committee, are of a trifling and unimportant character. We believe that they are almost