

# EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

## WORKINGMEN'S INSURANCE.

**A**FTER many years of agitation France has followed the example and model of Germany in adopting a general scheme of workingmen's insurance. Under this plan there is to be created an insurance fund made up by yearly contributions from workmen of \$1.50, from workingwomen of \$1.25, and from minors of 90 cents. Employers are obliged to contribute a like amount for each person in their employ. The fund thus raised will be increased by additions from the national treasury. The existing old age pension scheme will be consolidated with the new system which includes, like the German system, sick benefits and accident insurance. All State employes in France already are pensioned (and this includes railroad employes, miners and seamen). The new system will add about 17,000,000 working people, or practically all of the working people of the country. It is calculated that the State will have at first to contribute about \$35,000,000 a year, but it is believed that this will be gradually reduced in a few years to about \$25,000,000.—Indianapolis News.

## THE POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

**T**HE Postoffice Department of the United States is the largest business enterprise in the world, in the expenditure involved, the number of persons employed and the service rendered. There are many things about it of peculiar interest. During the nineteenth century, and up to the present time, it has doubled its business once every ten years, except in two of the decades. This fact in itself is deeply significant. It necessitates methods of management which can expand with equal rapidity, and they, in turn, require change as well as growth. No other business offers such a problem; nor is the end even in sight so long as population increases.

There are many reasons why the Postoffice Department is just now a subject of serious study. It has always been conducted at a loss. It has long been considered that this would gradually be reduced in amount, until it should finally disappear. The facts, however, have not justified this belief. The ten-year doubling of the business has been accompanied by expenditures which have somewhat more than doubled during the same periods. That is not in accordance with the experience of the most successful private commercial enterprises, in which an increase of one-tenth in the number of employes is often sufficient to care for a two-fold increase of business. It is prob-

able that the next few years may see radical changes in postoffice organization and management. They are likely to include a divisional system, and a permanent superintendent, independent of political appointment.—Youth's Companion.

## IN YE OLDEN TIMES.

**H**OW many of you recall for the time when as boys we dashed into the village store with: "Gimme a cent's worth of beeswax; here's 'y'egg!" and we like to think about the time when eggs were worth 5 cents a dozen and were sometimes such a glut in the market that the storekeeper would throw them into the river at night, though he bought them, as usual, for 5 cents a dozen traded out in cotton cloth and such like, rather than discourage the farmer.

Free to all stood the barrel of whiskey in the village store with a pint cup hanging beside it, for it was many years before the temperance wave swept the country, and whiskey was worth only a shilling a gallon. Butter sold at from 8 cents to a shilling, which, in Michigan, meant 12½ cents or less. In a fine season potatoes brought about a shilling a bushel and the good provider filled his cellar with vegetables and apples, banked the cellar walls and trusted winter weather to be just cold enough to keep everything in perfect condition.—Pittsburg Live Stock Journal.

## ENGINEERING AND RECLAMATION.

**T**O GIVE a clear conception of the achievements of the engineer in the reclamation of arid lands for crop production, some statistics should be noted of the great scope of the series of projects. Nearly eight years have passed since the United States went into the business of turning the water upon the land, and up to date it has spent \$48,000,000. This money has been invested in twenty-eight projects, meaning dams, reservoirs, canals, machinery and the pay roll of the 12,000 workers in the irrigation service, from the engineers who surveyed the rivers and lakes, estimated the flow of water and planned the works, to the dollar-a-day man who fills the hundred miles of canal, serving a thousand acres, merely by twisting the wheel valve that lifts the water gate. Sixteen large rivers and seven lakes have been restrained to supply water to the arid lands in their vicinity, and at the present time 1,250,000 acres of reclaimed desert are being tilled and supporting 125,000 people.—Cassier's Magazine.

## OLD AND NEW SANTA FE TRAILS.

**S**plendid Prosperity of Kansas illustrated in the Difference. The old "Santa Fe trail" was one of the most important factors in the early development of the western country. It was the pioneer highway, blazing the way for the railroads that were to come later, but the earlier associations and what it meant to the people whom it introduced to new experiences and new opportunities have not been lost sight of. The settlers who made their homes on either side of it when it was one well-known highway in Kansas have become with their descendants an important element in the industrial, social and political life of the middle west. Sentiment for this old path of civilization still lingers and is now to have expression in a new "Santa Fe trail," or, as it is more ambitiously termed at this time, "The Arkansas Valley speed-way."

Work has already begun this spring upon the enterprise, the Boston Transcript says. It contemplates a dirt road 30 feet in width, beginning at Hutchinson, Kas., and running nearly the whole length of the western half of the State. Twelve counties are interested in it and seven are now engaged in the work of construction. When it reaches the Colorado line the counties of that State will take it up and carry it as far as Pueblo, with the probability that it will be extended to Colorado Springs and Denver.

A dozen years ago such an ambitious scheme of public and interstate improvement in that section would hardly have been dreamed of, much less undertaken. Prosperity and a stimulated public spirit have worked wonders, but the main incentive has been the general ownership of automobiles. Among the farmers along the old trail, it is said one in every three possesses one of the new machines, and more are every year coming. Two years ago the Kansas farmers spent \$2,750,000 for automobiles. Last year they spent \$3,200,000, and the present year the purchases will be much larger. Between the "Old Santa Fe trail" and the new what transformations have taken place, what stirring chapters of history have been made!

## QUEER STORIES.

Exports of Hungarian beans to the United States in 1909 were of the value of \$1,170,000.

The army of foreigners arriving on our shores during the last year reached a total of 751,738.

Prussian statistics show that the starch content of potatoes is highest where the system of culture is most intensive.

Canada's public debt on February 28, 1910, was \$328,658,880 net, an increase of \$20,600,000 in 12 months. The increase is small compared with the great railway work Canada is doing or aiding.

London's newest music hall seats four thousand persons. St. Peter's cathedral in Rome can hold at a pinch 54,000 persons. Milan cathedral holds 40,000. St. Paul's in London, has seen 26,000 within its walls.

Mrs. Charles G. Ames was elected president of the School Voters' League, which has just been organized in Boston. The object of the league is to study school matters and school conditions and to help to better them.

The coal and iron mines and the salt works owned and operated by the kingdom of Prussia employed last year 89,723 men and turned out products worth \$55,171,960, or about 4 per cent greater than in 1908. Coal formed \$53,411,960 of the output.

Johnny had two presents at the same time—one a diary, which he kept very carefully, and the other a pea-shooting popgun, which he fired indiscriminately on all occasions. One day his mother found the following terse record in his diary: "Monday cold and sloppy, Toosdy cold and sloppy, Wenady cold and sloppy shot gramma."

In a California town a drummer brought the hotel porter up to his room with his angry storming. "Want your room changed, mister?" politely queried the porter. "Room changed? No!" fumed the drummer. "It's the fleas I object to, that's all!" "Mrs. Leary," shouted the porter to the housekeeper down below, "the sent in No. 11 is satisfied with his room, but he wants the fleas changed."

## LOCATING TRUFFLES.

**The Hunter Works with a Trained Pig and a Pointed Staff.** The truffles looked exactly like white potatoes that had been very thoroughly dusted with powdered cinnamon. They were the size of white potatoes, and they had the white potato's irregular shape.

"On the way to the Riviera," said the host, "I stopped at Marseilles in order to see a truffle, or truffler, gatherer, at work. Truffles come only from France. They cost, even over there, about \$5 a pound. The taste? Well, mushroomy, but much richer.

"Our Marseilles truffler carried a pointed staff. His indispensable collaborator was a trained pig on a leash. The pig was like any other, only his snout was longer and better developed. "We spectators had hardly walked 100 yards over the fields when the pig stopped and began to root near the foot of an oak. The truffler helped him to dig with the pointed staff. Some truffles appeared a foot underground, and the truffler pushed the pig aside, threw it an acorn and put the truffles in his bag.

"He found, or, rather, his pig found, a dozen truffles in the hour we watched him. At every find the pig was rewarded with an acorn. These pigs cost \$60 apiece. The man made about \$4 that morning.

One difficulty encountered by the man who goes home to forget the cares and worries of the business day, is a long list of home-made waxes which make him anxious to go back to peaceful work in the morning.

A cyclic is always a liar.

## BRITISH HEBREW CHURCH.

**Legends of an Ancient English Sect Located at Glastonbury.** London is mildly interested just now in an attempt to revive in corporate form the ancient British-Hebrew church, first formed, tradition says, at Glastonbury, among Hebrew exiles, by Joseph of Arimathea, in A. D. 35, the year of the first persecution. The legends of the sect affirm that the ancient British people descended from a load of Hebrew exiles who reached Ireland under the leadership of the prophet Jeremiah and Teph, the daughter of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. Through her marriage with Hermon the pedigree of King Edward II is traced back to David, king of Israel and Judah.

A settlement of these Hebrews practicing Hebrew rites was in being at Glastonbury when, according to tradition, quoted by Baronius, a Roman historian, and Maclwyn of Llandaff, a writer of the fifteenth century; Joseph of Arimathea, Lazarus, the Virgin Mary, Martha, Mary the Magdalen and others found refuge in this colony and made their first converts to the Christian faith ten years before the founding of the Church of Rome. From the fact that the word "Hebrews" means "those who have crossed the flood," they infer that the epistle bearing that name was addressed to the Hebrew Christian church in England.

The service at present consists entirely of Biblical readings, followed by a sermon. There is no singing. Baptism is administered by means of immersion on profession of belief and the Passover supper is observed annually on the fourteenth day of the Jewish month of Nisan, the elements being pure grape juice and pierced unleavened cakes. For officers a plurality of elders are elected, one of the present holds the office being a cousin of the late Cardinal Wiseman. He also holds the office of angel, or messenger, a post corresponding to that of preacher.

Professing, in common with other Protestant churches, that the Bible only is their sole rule of faith and practice, the British Israel Ecclesia, as they designate themselves, are anti-Trinitarian in theology. They hold, nevertheless, the doctrine of the divinity of Jesus Christ and the sanctity of the Holy Spirit. They also hold strong views on the necessity for observing Saturday as the Sabbath, and look for the establishment of a Messianic kingdom on earth in which the Jewish race will be predominant.

For further confirmation of their tenets they point to the fact that the word British is from the Hebrew "brit," a covenant, and they conclude therefrom that the British race are the covenant people. The stone in the British coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, they assert, is not Jacob's pillow, but part of the rock from which Moses smote and out of which water flowed.

## Wit of the Youngsters.

Little Margie's mother was playing one of Wagner's most strenuous pieces on the piano, and after she had finished, Margie asked: "Mamma, were you playing a piece or dusting the piano?"

Little Joe—Mamma, I wish you would lend me 50 cents. Mamma—What do you want it for, dear? Little Joe—Uncle Tom is going to give me a bird dog, and I want to buy a cage for him.

Minnie, aged 5, was spending a week in the country and heard her grand-mamma say the hens were not laying as well as they had been doing. "Well, don't worry, grandma," said Minnie. "I s'pose they got tired of laying, and thought they would stand awhile."

**Spanks Her Husband.** Among the many letters in the New York Herald, this appeared the other day:

"The writer, though a woman, has no sympathy and little patience with the demand made so loudly and persistently nowadays for woman suffrage.

What women should insist upon is the right to be the absolute ruler in the home. I have practiced this doctrine during the nine years of my married life, and with most excellent results. I have four children and I am obeyed and respected by them and enforce discipline by corporal punishment whenever I think it is needed.

I also demand obedience in domestic matters from my husband, and when he is naughty or disobedient I take him across my knee just as I do my youngest boy. My husband is older, larger and stronger than I am, but submits to my discipline without question, knowing it is for his good.

**WIFE AND MOTHER.** Brooklyn, April 11, 1910.

**Ezra Hay's Anticipation.** "I've come," I'm glad to say the spring Git here," says Ezra Hay. "So's I kin plow ag'in, an' git My garden under way. I like to see things comin' up And growin' ev'ry day; But I've got other reasons, too," Says Uncle Ezra Hay.

"I've been cooped up all winter long. Hain't been out anywhere; Hain't even been a show in town This winter, I declare. But follerin' the plantin' time An' Mister Robin's song, It won't be very long afore The circus comes along.

"I don't mind stayin' in so much. Nor knowin' hard all spring, With knowin' that fore very long I'm goin' to hev my fling! An' that is why I'm glad it's spring. So's I can till the ground; But more becuz the circus folks Will soon be comin' round!" —Boston Herald.

**The Only Change.** My lady is perfect quite, Her name is Brown, her hair the same, Her disposition's sweet and bright; There's naught I'd change—except her name.

—Catholic Standard and Times.

The police force of London arrested last year more than 108,000 persons.

## PEARY'S LONG NIGHT WATCH.

**Awaits the Coming of Dawn to Sign His Dash to the North.** One installment of Commander Peary's narrative in Hampton's Magazine deals with the wait through the long arctic night, from the time the Roosevelt was stalled in the ice until the coming of the dawn and the dash for the pole. Commander Peary gives a graphic picture of how the little expedition spent the tedious hours of darkness bending the sledges, hunting game, constructing igloos, making scientific observations. To keep the men from brooding in the unaccustomed dark, each was given a heavy burden of work to accomplish. There is a form of arctic madness, says Peary, called piblokto.

Aside from rheumatism and bronchial troubles, the Eskimos are fairly healthy; but the adults are subject to a peculiar nervous affection which they call piblokto—a form of hysteria. "Personally I have never known a child to have piblokto," Commander Peary says. "Some one among the Eskimos would have an attack every day or two, and one day there were five cases. The immediate cause is hard to trace, though I believe it is generally a brooding over absent or dead relatives, or a fear of the future. The manifestations of this disorder are somewhat startling.

The patient, usually a woman, begins to scream and tear off and destroy her clothing. If on the ship, she will walk up and down the deck, screaming and gesticulating, and generally in a state of nudity, though the thermometer may be in the minus forties. As the intensity of the attack increases, she will sometimes leap over the rail onto the ice, running perhaps half a mile. The attack may last a few minutes, or an hour or more; and some become so crazy that they would stay out there running about on the ice in a state of nudity until they froze to death, if they were not forcibly brought back.

When an Eskimo is attacked with piblokto indoors, nobody pays much attention, unless the patient should reach for a knife, or attempt to injure some one. The attack usually ends in a fit of weeping; and when the patient quiets down, the eyes are bloodshot, the pulse high and the whole body trembling for an hour or so afterwards.

"The well-known madness among the Eskimo dogs is also called piblokto. Though it does not seem to be infectious, the manifestations are similar to those of hydrophobia. Dogs suffering from piblokto are usually shot, and they are often eaten by the Eskimos."

## LONG-DISTANCE INFORMATION.

The old saying that "A rolling stone gathers no moss" may be applied to the brain as well as to the body. It may be advantageous to know the courses of the stars, but of what practical value is such information if the common things of one's individual region remain unattended? Mark Twain says, "It is bad to get into a rut, but it is worse to wobble all over the road."

Such truth is borne home to the reader of S. Baring-Gould's experience, told in "A Book of the West." The author was an inspector who was examining the schools of Devonshire.

"What form is that?" asked the inspector. "Dodecahedron, sir," replied the children.

"And that?" "Isosceles triangle."

"What is the highest peak in Africa?" "Kilimanjaro."

"What is its height?" "Twenty thousand feet."

"What rivers drain Siberia?" "Oh, Yenesei, Lena."

Here I asked permission to ask a few questions. On my way to the school I had plucked a little bunch of speed-well.

"Would you mind inquiring of the children its name?" I asked. "Not a child knew."

"What is the river which flows through the valley?" "Not a child knew."

"What is the name of the highest peak of Dartmoor which you see yonder?" "Not a child knew."

The children acquired many new words which they mispronounced and did not understand, but which they liked to use.

"Isn't it hot?" said one pupil. "The prepositions be running all over me." "Aye," was the reply. "But you be no scollard. I be breaking out w' presbyterians."

**HIS OWN COIN.** Knox Gave Root What Root Had Passed Out to Dewey.

Senator Dewey told a little story on himself and Senator Root in a speech at a dinner in Washington to Mr. Root by the New York Republican Congressional delegation.

"When Root was secretary of state," said Senator Dewey, "I went over to see him and asked him if he couldn't do something for me in the line of consular appointments. He said: 'Senator, I'm sorry. I would like to do something for New York, but—' and Mr. Root picked a paper from his desk—I see that New York's quota is now exceeded by 14 per cent."

"Well," continued Senator Dewey, "I kept going to see Senator Root for a year. Every time I went to see him he would remind me that New York's quota was exceeded by 14 per cent. Finally I said, 'Mr. Secretary, I think you're a great statesman, but your mathematics are inclined to be automatic.'"

"After awhile Mr. Knox became secretary of state," Senator Dewey said, when the laughter had subsided. "Senator Root went up to see him about consular appointments. 'I'm sorry,' said Mr. Knox, 'but—and he turned to a document file—I find that New York's quota is now exceeded by 14 per cent.'—New York Sun.

## FASHION HINTS.



A very attractive white frock with black ring dots, has two deep bands of black on the skirt, one at the knees, and the other at the hem. The deep crushed girdle and cuffs are also of the black silk.

## FAMOUS DUELS IN ENGLAND.

**Prime Ministers Sought or Gave Satisfaction in Field of Honor.** At least four of England's prime ministers entered the "field of honor," a "Student of the Code," in a letter to the New York Sun says. The Duke of Wellington challenged the Earl of Winchelsea in consequence of the earl's remarks on the Catholic question. They met in Battersea fields. Lord Winchelsea received the duke's fire and then fled in the air.

The Rt.-Hon. William Pitt was challenged by George Tierney, president of the board of control, on account of certain objectionable remarks made in the House of Commons. They met on Putney common. Two shots were exchanged and Pitt fled the third time in the air, when a reconciliation was effected.

George Canning met Lord Castlereagh on Putney common. They fought in sight of the windows of the house in which Pitt died. Both missed. At the next exchange Castlereagh's ball entered Mr. Canning's thigh, inflicting a slight wound. The two statesmen assumed their places for a third shot, when the second, seeing the blood streaming from Mr. Canning's wound, put an end to the combat.

Benjamin Disraeli likened Daniel O'Connell to the impotent thief on the cross. O'Connell also used language which was not parliamentary, and Disraeli offered to castigate the Irishman. O'Connell declined to meet him. Disraeli then challenged Morgan O'Connell, the accuser's son, but Morgan O'Connell also declined to meet a Jew on a "field of honor."

Curran, the Irish orator, fought four duels. The first was with Capt. St. Leger, who had insulted an Irish Roman Catholic priest. The captain fled, but Curran did not. "It was not necessary for me to fire at him," the Irish wit afterward wrote; "the gallant captain died three weeks after the duel of the report of his pistol."

The next affair was with Attorney General for Ireland Fitzgibbon. The parties were to fire at pleasure. Curran fired first, and then Fitzgibbon took aim for nearly a minute. On its proving ineffectual Curran remarked: "It was not your fault, Mr. Attorney; you were deliberate enough!" The third duel was with John Egan, an Irish barrister who had the nickname of Bully. Egan was "of immense size, as brawny and almost as black as a coal porter." Curran was facetious on the subject of Egan's size, and they left the field reconciled. Egan became Curran's second in Curran's fourth and last duel, with Lord Buckinghamshire.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan fought Mr. Matthews, "a gentleman of fashion," at Bath in order to vindicate the reputation of Miss Linley. It was done in theatrical style. They fought with swords and great courage and will were displayed on both sides. Sheridan disarmed his adversary and compelled him to sign a formal retraction. Mr. Matthews again challenged Mr. Sheridan. The parties met on King's Down. The battle was desperately contested. After a discharge of pistols they fought with swords. Both were wounded and fell to the ground, where they continued to fight until the seconds separated them. It was found that Matthews' sword was actually broken off in Sheridan's ear.

It usually takes a stronger hint to induce a visitor to go than was required to get him to come.

**Its Financial Flavor.** Dealer—That's one of our best imported cigars. Hain't it a rich, mild flavor?

Customer—Yes; the cigar is mild enough, but the price is about \$4 a box too fierce.

**Why He Led.** The angel was making up the list. "I never asked my fellow man if it was hot enough for him," remarked Abou Ben Adhem.

And lo, his name came in under the wire first.—New York Sun.

**Juvenile Ignorance.** Tommy—Paw, how much are you worth? Mr. Tucker—About \$4,000, my son. Why?

Tommy—(after a few moments of deep thought)—Paw, how much does the assessor fine you for having all that?

**Everyday Philosophy.** What though your schemes have all gone wrong—

For Fortune is naught but a flirt; Go trudging along with a cheerful song And a smile that conceals the hurt.

## SOME OF THE WORST SELLERS.

**Hard to Give Reason for Comparative Failure of Certain Books.**

Every one knows the names of the best sellers, which as a class began to make the staid publishing profession wild with excitement about a decade ago. But their why and wherefore is hard to determine, especially when one sees how close to them in all respects are many books which, with no derogatory intention, may be called the worst sellers.

Antedating "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by some years, Julian Hawthorne's "Archibald Malmaison," the story of a man who led two separate existences, though thrilling, unusual and full of dramatic possibilities, nevertheless sank into oblivion, scarcely having found out what living was. Mary Cholmondeley achieved success with her "Red Pottage," but sold very few copies of "Diana Tempest," which most critics find not only inferior to the successful work but even superior in interest, dramatic strength and construction.

Yet the best sellers passed it by and no one could tell the reason. "The Garden of Allah" added jewels of a very material kind to the crown of its author, Robert Hichens. But "Flame" by the same author and also regarded as the better piece of work by many critics, fell by the wayside and has not sold more than 3,000 copies since its first publication in 1894.

"Belchamber," written by Howard Sturgtis, younger brother of the author of "The Folly of Penharrington," would naturally be supposed to appeal to that great class among which novels dealing with English society at first hand is generally popular. But undeniable signs of intimate acquaintance with English society and work admittedly well done did not keep the book from shooting wide of the mark of public favor. Yet it resembles so closely many others that hit and hit hard that one wonders what the reason was, all the more since one of the best known of English dukes, but thinly disguised, is to be recognized in the principal character.

Of a decidedly different order, "The Hill," by Horace A. Bachel, a boy's book, has been compared very favorably by critics to "Tom Brown" itself, the New York Sun says. Much was expected of it, as it was thought to fill all the requirements it was expected to meet—but alas!

Many novels buried under the overwhelming flood of best sellers can thus be ferreted out and when laid open to inspection appear much as the best ones themselves—often being an own brother. And most often no one can find the explanation.

## Resolutions.

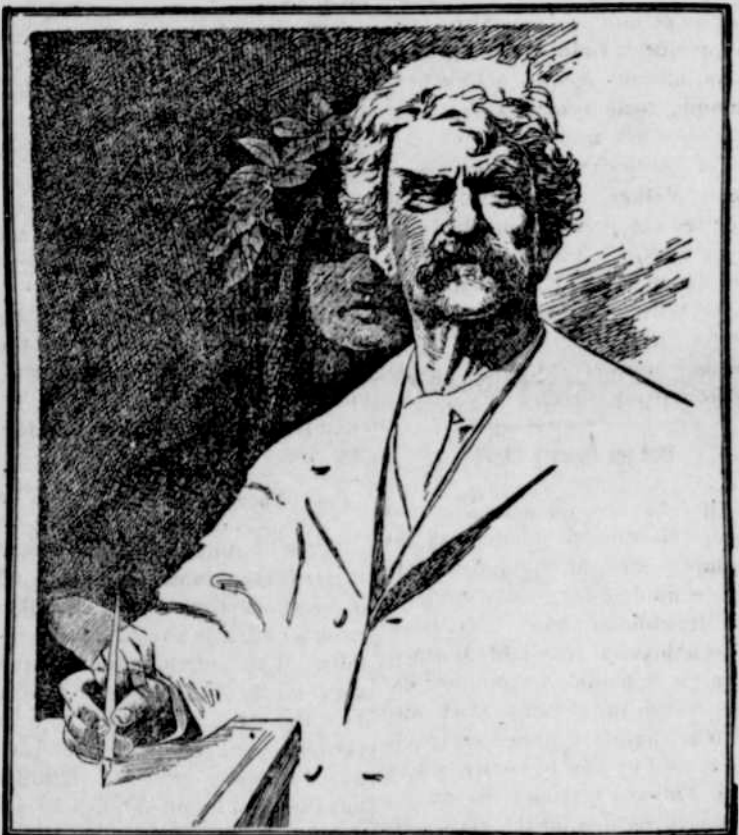
I ain't a goin' to git mad When the gas man comes aroun'. With a bill that looks as if I furnished One fer half the town. I won't fume an' flare an' throw a fit. An' tear my hair an' cuss, When the stovepipe comes a-tumblin' down.

Or if when I have gone to bed, The telephone should ring, An' to my bare an' tender feet, I'd quickly have to spring, To find there's nothin' doin', An' they're rung me by mistake, I'll simply sulk down my rage An' bear the colder an' shake.

An' all the other cares of life I'm goin' to ignore, There ain't no pesterin' troubles Goin' to hurt me any more; For I've made resolutions That I'm goin' to keep or bust, An' I'm never goin' to worry Or git mad until I must. —Indianapolis News.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who sat around down town until noon, and then said, as he started away: "Well, I'll go home and see if the neighbors have brought in anything?"

## MARK TWAIN'S LIFE REVIEWED.



**STAYED IN THE HAND THAT MADE THE WORLD LAUGH AND WEEP**

Born near Hannibal, Mo., November 30, 1835. Left school to work as "devil" in his brother's printing office in Hannibal when 12 years old.

Worked as an itinerant printer in different cities in the Middle West. Became a pilot's apprentice on the Mississippi river, under the direction of Capt. Horace Bixby, of St. Louis.

Served a few weeks in the Confederate Army and went West with his brother, Orin, who had been appointed secretary of the territory of Nevada. Worked in Nevada mining camps and as correspondent and writer for the Virginia City (Nev.) Enterprise and the Sacramento (Cal.) Union.

Published his first book, "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," in March, 1867.

Made famous by "The Innocents Abroad," published in 1869. Married in 1870 to Miss Olivia L. Langdon, of Elmira, N. Y., whom he met while on a cruise in the Mediterranean, and who died in Florence, Italy, in 1904.

Organized the C. L. Webster Publishing Co. in 1884, and lost almost his entire fortune through the firm's failure in 1894.

Given the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Oxford University, England, in 1907.

Retired to his villa, "Stormfield," near Redding, Conn., in 1908, to live with his daughters, Clara and Jean.

Journeyed to Bermuda late in 1909 and returned broken in health and spirit. He failed rapidly after the sudden death of his daughter Jean, December 24, 1910.

**HOW THEY MARRY IN ARAN.** Marriage Customs in Which a Man Doesn't Choose His Wife.

In her article on the Aran islands, off the coast of Ireland, in Harper's, Maude Radford Warren tells of some amusing marriage customs obtained there.

"The marriages are made by the parents, and frequently the couple never speak to each other alone until after the wedding. "But ought a man not to choose his own wife?" Darragh Shuan, the fisherman, was asked. "Let you listen to me," said Darragh Shuan, leaning back on his curragh on the beach of Inishmore. He pointed first to a thin line of green on a plateau of rock, and then to a tiny cottage lonely against a gray crag. "If that field were my father's," explained Darragh Shuan, "and if I was thinking of a girl in that cottage there, and if my father did not like the girl, then he would not give me that field. Then what would I be doing? It has to be."

"It has to be—that is the word of the islands. "There is a girl back from America," said Darragh Shuan, "and she is having six pounds of her own. She has told the priest and we are all

knowing it, that she will go back next month if no one wishes to marry her. Mourteen Michael Bawn will be asking her if his great uncle, who is dying, leaves him his cottage and field. But the old man may not die before the steamer sails."

"Darragh Shuan said this very gravely. "The most desirable consort is a man or girl returned from America, for they always have money. About 25 per cent of the population go to America and most of them come back, for they love their islands so dearly that they only go away, as it were, in order to stay in them. Many of those who return die of consumption, but many more regain whatever health they have lost and marry, reverting to their old ways, with no regret for the civilization they have cast behind."

**Courtroom Etiquette.** "Now, your conduct during the trial may have considerable effect on the jury." "Ah, quite so," responded the ultra swell defendant. "And should I appear interested or just mildly bored?" —Kansas City Journal.

Doesn't it often occur to you that the devil has a grudge against you? What is a positive fact?