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DEATH FOUND MARK TWAIN READY

Knew the End Was Near and Asked Nurses Why They Tried to Stay the Reaper.

REDDING, Conn., April 21.—Samuel Langhorne Clemens ("Mark Twain") died painlessly at 6:30 tonight of an aneurysm of the aorta. He lapsed into coma at 3 o'clock this afternoon and never recovered consciousness. It was the end of a man worn out by grief and acute agony of body.

Unequal to Conversation. He recognized his daughter, Clara (Mrs. Ossip Gabrilowitsch) spoke a rational word or two and, feeling himself unequal to conversation, wrote out in pencil:

"Give me my glasses." These were his last words. Lying there, he sank first into reverie and later into final unconsciousness.

Albert Bigelow Paine, Mark Twain's biographer and literary executor, said to a caller who desired to inquire for Mr. Clemens:

"I think you will not have to call often again."

At the deathbed were only Mrs. Gabrilowitsch (Clara Clemens) her husband, Dr. Bigelow Paine and two trained nurses. Restoratives—digitalis, strychnine and camphor—were administered, but the patient failed to respond.

Had Anticipated End. Mark Twain did not die in anguish. Sedatives soothed his pain, but in his moments of consciousness the mental depression persisted. On the way up from Bermuda he said to Albert Bigelow Paine, who had been his constant companion in illness:

"This is a bad job; we'll never pull through with it."

On shore once more and longing for the serenity of the New England hills, he took heart and said to those who noted his enfeeblement:

"Give me a breath of Redding air once more and this will pass."

But it did not pass, and, tired of body and weary of spirit the old

warrior against chams and snobs said faintly to his nurses:

"Why do you fight to keep me alive? Two days of life are as good to me as four."

It is to be realized that Mark Twain was for more than 50 years an inveterate smoker and the first conjecture of the layman would be that he had weakened his heart by overindulgence in tobacco.

Start of Fortune.

One rainy day he heard the outline of "The Jumping Frog" in a barroom at Angels Camp across the Stanislaus river, the next day he wrote the story, and that was the solid foundation of his fame and fortune.

"Jim" Gillis is dead, but Steve still lives on the summit of Jackass hill. In 1870 Mark Twain wrote from Elmira, N. Y., to "Jim" Gillis inviting them all to his wedding and he concluded his letter:

I remember that old night just as well. And somewhere among my relics I have your remembrance stored away. It makes my heart ache yet to call to mind some of those days. Still, it shouldn't for right in the depths of their vagabondage lay the germ of my coming good fortune. You remember the one gleam of jollity that shot across our dismal sojourn in the rain and wind of Angels Camp. I mean that day we sat around the tavern stove and heard that chap tell about the frog and how they filled him with shot. And you remember how we quoted from the yarn and laughed over it there on the hillside while you and dear old Stoker panned and washed. I jotted the story down in my notebook that day and would have been glad to get \$10 or \$15 for it—I was that blind. But then, we were so hard up.

I published that story and it became widely known in America, India, China, England; and the reputation it made for me has paid me thousands of dollars since. Four or five months ago I bought into that Express and went heavily in debt—never could have dared to do that, Jim, if we hadn't heard the jumping frog story that day. Truly your friend,

SAM'L L. CLEMENS.

The next year Twain went to the Hawaiian island for the Sacramento Union and from that time on his literary and successes are very well known. More has been written of him and his work than of any other contemporary American. He evolved from a jokesmith into one of the greatest literary figures of his time. Such discerning critics as Andrew Lang and Ambrose Bierce have called him the foremost man of American letters. It was a long leap from "The Jumping Frog of Calaveras" to "Joan of Arc" but Mark Twain was more than humorist and wit—he was a profound philosopher with the vision of a prophet.

First Book. Mark Twain's first book was "The Jumping Frog." His best known in this country possibly was "Innocents Abroad," while some of his titles to fame as "Tom Sawyer" and its companion volume, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." "Joan of Arc" is a classic. In all his books had a sale of more than 500,000 copies and were translated into six languages. Others among the better known are "A Tramp Abroad," "The Prince and the Pauper," "A Yankee in King Arthur's Court," "Pudd'nhead Wilson" (dramatized), "A Double Barreled Detective Story" and "Adam's Diary." He left an unfinished autobiography, portions of which have appeared serially.

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Mrs. William H. Crocker has left for Paris because of illness of daughter Ethel.

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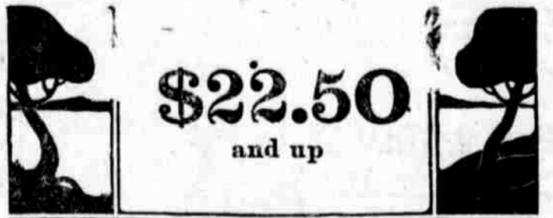
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Ladies' Net Waists In Eerie, White, Black and Cream; all reduced 25 per cent.; prices from \$2.65 to \$5.50

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Sleeveless and half-sleeveless; reduced prices 8 1-3c to 37 1-2c

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\$4.00 "Walk-Over"
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