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THE EMPTY LIVES.

So many die that have not lived at all; It is as though they journeyed through the years

Upon a path hedged by a gloomy wall Of other people's little frets and fears.

Beyond the wall the joyous fields stretch out And there are little paths to lure the feet.

But duty framed by others of their doubt Has made them feel the bypaths are not meet.

To spend their days with friends they did not choose, They toil at tasks unfitted for their hands;

They join the chorus of them that abuse The one who lives—because he understands,

They sing the songs the others bid them sing, While in their souls are stifled marvelous strains;

They build and they destroy, they fetch and bring, They fume of petty losses and of gains.

ANNALS OF IOWA.

The Annals of Iowa for April contains a number of attractive features, among them a review of the character and life-work of Azro Benjamin Franklin Hildreth, who founded the Charles City Intelligencer in 1856 and published it until 1870, when he disposed of it to Dyke and Rowel.

Another article worthy of general perusal was contributed by Capt. W. A. Duckworth of Keosauqua. It is entitled "Escape from Confederate Prison," and tells of the experiences of seven men in getting away from a prisoners' camp near Shreveport, La., in February, 1864.

The break for liberty was made on the evening of the 25th of February, 1864, a few minutes prior to 6 o'clock. In walking their beats the guards met at a ravine where they turned and walked back to the next post.

After floating a part of the fourth night they decided to abandon the boat and strike across country. Navigation had grown more hazardous for various reasons, but chiefly on account of the increasing frequency of Confederate craft on the river.

After many vicissitudes they reached land, which transferred them to another boat the next day, which in turn landed them at Vicksburg late the next evening. They arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi on the 13th of March, 1864, after an eighteen days' perilous journey.

It is correctly observed by the Jacksonville Courier that experience, even, fails as a teacher when it comes to primary legislation.

It has been truthfully said that a high tariff means high wages. A low tariff means low wages. The man who works for wages ought to know what kind of tariff he wants.

It is given out from Des Moines that the state executive council will not make any readjustment of personal property or real estate assessments this year, and returns made to the state auditor will stand for taxing purposes.

A Day With Mark Twain's Biographer

Burlington Hawk Eye: Albert Bigelow Payne, whose name that gentleman admits, sounds like a lot of dish pans falling down stairs, spent several days in Keokuk this week, looking up Mark Twain data.

Mr. Payne is well known to the literary world as a writer and critic of ability. His various books on travel and camp lore are treasures to those who love the moving outdoor life.

In early boyhood Mr. Payne was an eager student of the cartoonist, Mr. Nast. The great artist was one of the inspirations of his early years.

Mr. Payne came across a number of letters from Mark Twain to the cartoonist, some among them, by the way, proposing a joint lecture tour.

One day a complimentary dinner was given to Mark Twain at one of the New York clubs to which he had been elected an honorary member.

More than one-half the autos owned here were bought on borrowed funds or credit, another banker writes.

"Some have spent the last dollar of their savings for years and have borrowed the balance to make payments on autos," writes a Moulton (Tex.) banker.

"This automobile business is a menace to this country. Nine hundred autos are in use in our little city," says a letter from Wichita, Kan.

at Mark Twain's home, and at this meeting a business arrangement was entered into by which Mr. Payne took charge of all Mr. Clemens' literary affairs, acting chiefly in the capacity of biographer.

"Mark Twain was dying for some time before it was generally realized," Mr. Payne said, in speaking of the latter days of the humorist.

"One day I received a letter, in which he stated the pains had become very frequent and exhausting, and that he had decided it best to leave for home some days sooner than he had planned."

"I went down to Bermuda to bring Mr. Clemens home. It was a trying journey. I thought I should lose him on the way. He was very ill, and at times in great distress."

Mr. Payne said, in speaking of the latter days of the humorist, "The approaching end was first made apparent in a dull pain in his chest. Little was thought of this at first."

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ANNOUNCEMENT. MR. J. O. BOYD announces that he has this day entered into the general practice of law, with offices at No. 12 North Sixth Street, Keokuk, Iowa. July 12, 1910. BOTH TELEPHONES NO. 1187

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