MISFORTUNES OF MARK TWAIN.

Financial Reverses Compel Him at the Age of Sixty to Begin His Work Anew.

Mark Twain is now impoverished and a slave to a debt. He is in poor health, confined to a modest lodging in London, and burdened with age and the woes of a broken heart. It is probable that the end has come.

There is but a single hope for this man, who for 20 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 Vancover 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 inspiration has gone. He is working under forced conditions, and the prediction is that the tale of the tour will be like a plant forced to blossom in unnatural conditions.

Mark Twain is 62 years old and handicapped by the fact that his best efforts have not been his latest.

There is no question as to the position he used to hold in the English and continental estimate. 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.

There are many stories about his early adventures. It is known he was once a pilot on the Mississippi. He is known as a journalist, but the most active journalism he ever talks about is his term as city editor of the Enterprise, published in Virginia City, Nev., or as a joint reporter and deputy sheriff at Dutch Flats, in the Sierra Nevadas. This was in 1862 and 1863, while he was searching for fame and wealth in the west and before he had published himself into the attention of the east or the admiration of the critics and people over here.

He came over the Atlantic first in 1867. He had previously rambled over the islands of the Pacific and had begun the publication of articles which were beginning to attract attention. He returned to America from the continent, and "Innocents Abroad," in 1869, rather placed him in the public eye as a professional humorist. It gave him the reputation for broad and healthy humor. The first impression was that he would not succeed in any other field.

There is always evidence that his life 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 went into literature and under which he is known.

Clemens, as a boy, had the greatest ambition to excel. Next to being at the head of his class, he hoped to be a star in a circus. He tells that he used to give exhibitions of his prowess during "recess." He could walk farther on his hands, jump higher and turn neater somersaults than any other boy in school. It was this romping, roving spirit that laid the foundation for his subsequent health, which could not be undermined by hard work, but which is failing under the stress of disappointment.

It has been insisted that Twain's shambling step and drawling method of speech are affectation. The men who remember him as a boy claim that the two peculiarities were distinguishing traits in the boy's young habits. He was then thick set, with shaggy hair, and a face so full of freckles that there was not room for one freckle more.

He looked like a boy "created just for fun," and his perpetually tired, weary gait and ludicious 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.

Mark Twain has been honored with memberships in most of the leading orders and societies of merit on the continent. He wore the ribbon of the Legion of Honor, and when asked about it he did not draw himself up with pride, but replied that he had the distinction. "Few escape it," he added, with his customary drollery. And the readiness of the bit of humor is but characteristic of the readiness with which he saw the fun in everything. It was this readiness that made him one of the best talkers that ever stood at a banquet table.

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 odds against him. He is probably working harder now than ever before. Sad it is the results do not look promising.—London Cor. Chicago Times-Herald.

Spring Dress Goods.

English whipcords with round threads closely twilled, forming a nearly smooth surface that repels dust, come in light spring weights and in delicate shades of brown, heliotrope, several beautiful tints in green, and in silver gray, doe color and black. New golf costume cloths have a genuine highland air, and show beautiful color-blendings on the sample cards. Domestic silks copying these effects will be sold for linings and accessories. These will no doubt find a ready purchase, for while not expensive they are of fine quality and closely resemble the high-grade tartans. —N. Y. Post.

—A Good Rule.—"If anyone feels angry he should count ten before he says anything." "Yes; when my wife is angry it always pacifies her if I count out ten dollars."—Chicago Record.

WHEELING AND DANCING.

Bicycle Riding Impairs the Gracefulness of Ladies in the Ballroom.

The wheel no doubt makes the bicycle girl's legs stronger, but when it comes to pirouetting about and tracing on the ballroom floor the mystic figures so dear to the heart of the debutante and her seniors, then, alas, the ill-effects of the wheel are apparent. The young woman who has plighted her affections to the bike in the season when it was particularly in evidence, suddenly discovers that while in her mind she is thoroughly familiar with just what she ought to do, she is absolutely incapable of performing proper action. The muscles of her limbs seem to have lost their cunning. Instead of being able to "one, two, three; one two, three," as the dancing master would have it, she finds it hard to even "one," and her parents wonder what on earth is the matter with the young woman, who, the year before, danced as if she were a sylph.

The difficulty referred to is particularly noticeable in the waltz. The bicycle girl finds it absolutely impossible to execute the steady glide. Awkwardness does not describe what she feels. She can only perform a movement that is as eccentric in its way as it lacks elasticity. The polka, the schottische and the quadrille are almost as difficult, although the latter, of course, calls for much less exercise of skill in the matter of executing the steps. Inquiry among the young women who ride the bicycle shows it to be an actual fact that exercise on the wheel seems to deaden and stiffen the set of muscles that come into play in dancing. Just why this is so the doctors are unable to explain, except in a general way that they become lax and useless through constant exercise of other muscles, and that when the old-time muscles again are put in use they are awkward and not inclined to respond to the call made upon them.

Several of the young women who have danced to the delight of thousands at the theaters ruefully admit that their affection for the wheel has caused them no end of trouble. "Why," said one young woman, whose merry eyes have gained for her an international reputation, "I took up the wheel for exercise, don't you know, and liked it ever and ever so much, but what was my surprise, after I had been riding awhile, to find that for some reason or other it was very much harder for me to dance than it had been before. I couldn't imagine what was the matter. Finally I went to see my doctor and asked him if there was anything wrong with my muscles. He looked me all over carefully, and then said the only thing that was wrong, so far as he could judge, was the wheel.

"I asked him what in the world he meant, and he said that riding the wheel deadened the muscles that I had used in dancing, and that every night, when I had been riding in the day, I would find that the muscles for dancing wouldn't act as if I had not been riding. Walking does not affect me that way at all. I can walk miles and miles and feel just as well as ever at night, so far as the muscles are concerned, but do you know I have just had to give up the wheel? I have had to give it up altogether, much as I hate to. You see, dancing is my bread and butter, and as I find that riding the wheel hurts my dancing I simply have got to stop it. How does the affection make me feel? Why, I have a sort of a sense of goneness in my legs, just as if the muscles that I know are there were taking a vacation, or something of that sort. I cannot make the little kicks and twirls with my legs that I ought to in order to make my dance perfect, and so you see have had to give up the wheel."

That is just about the same way it seems to most of the young women who have been questioned on this rather delicate subject. So general has been the practice of riding wheels by young women the past season that this curious affection of the dancing muscles is a matter of almost national interest. Go into the ballroom where young women of ordinary society are to be found and watch the movements of the dancers. There will at once be apparent that lack of grace and lithesomeness that is usually characteristic of the American girl. There is a dragging movement about the feet as if a tendon was out of order, or something of that nature.—Philadelphia Times.

Great Ice Avalanche.

A mass of ice comprising 4,000,000 cubic feet broke away on the 11th of September, 1896, from the lower part of the Altels glacier on the Gemmi pass, in Switzerland. With the velocity acquired in its descent this river of ice rushed across the pasturage and up the western slope of the valley to a height of 1,300 feet along the rocky wall of the Weissflugrat. Not being able to completely surmount this barrier, the main mass came surging back—like a vast sea-wave recoiling from the cliffs—with such force that some of it returned to a height of 100 feet up the eastern side. Isolated blocks of ice were hurled clear over the ridge into the adjoining valley. The avalanche was preceded by a terrific blast of wind, which swept away chalets, trees, men and cattle, as though they had been feathers. These sudden avalanches of ice or snow form one of the special dangers of Alpine climbing.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Considerate Officer.

"Well, why don't you arrest the man?" asked the squire as the constable came into the office alone.

"I—I didn't like to do it on account of his family," said the officer, standing on one foot with the other crossed over it.

"What! You are getting a little too considerate for this business."

"I dunno what you call it, but I know that when I went after him the old man, his daughter and two sons met me at the door, and said if I tried to come in they would beat my head off."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

FARMER AND PLANTER.

BOOK FARMING.

Prejudice Against "Book Farming" Gradually Dying Out.

The prejudice against what is termed "book farming" is very strong, although based on unsubstantial grounds. It is gratifying to know that this prejudice is gradually decreasing, and as education becomes more general, will be wholly eliminated. By "book farming" the reading of agricultural papers is implied. There are not a few successful farmers who decry book farming, and yet in their practice negative their position. It will generally be noted of them that they absorb readily, but never give out any information. With great eagerness they gather up coral hints and suggestions from their neighbors and are the closest observers of what is going on on their own farms and the farms of others. Will the mere fact of the publication of their own experience or what information they may have obtained from others in an agricultural journal or in book form invalidate the correctness and value of that experience or information? Does a reflector behind a lamp destroy the brightness of the light? How can it demonstrate the correctness of an experience by obtaining the details of it orally? Why should reading in print the same experience demonstrate its uncorrectness.

Books and agricultural journals, in recording the experiences and observations of others, and the conclusions drawn therefrom, serve as the reflector behind the light to extend its focal power and bring out more perfectly its illuminating power.

It may be said truthfully that every observation written is not absolutely correct. Neither would it be correct if it was spoken instead of being written.

The real base of this prejudice is the fact that readers do not always comprehend the real mission and object of an agricultural journal.

Let readers learn that the mission of agricultural journals is not to lay down a fixed rule for the guidance of farmers, but to enunciate principles which farmers can study until they thoroughly understand them and afterwards apply according to varying circumstances and conditions. The agricultural journal does not say to the farmer: "You press the button; we will do the rest." The agricultural journal elucidates and explains the general principles underlying the practice and constituting the science of agriculture.

The agricultural journal should be read for the purpose of learning the why and the how, and more for learning the principle than the actual practice. It should be used by the farmer as any other implement, intelligently and for the purpose intended. Thus used they are among the best investments on the farm.—Southern Cultivator.

HOME MANURES.

Culpable Waste Not to Convert All Refuse Matter Into Manure.

As so often urged, it is a culpable waste not to convert all the refuse materials which accumulate on every farm into valuable plant food. If it is inexpedient to compost these materials, the farmyard manure may be hauled out and used to topdress spring grain and grass crops, taking care not to haul over the land when very wet; or we may haul the uncomposted manures and broadcast over the land which is to be plowed for summer crops. Where convenient of access and not too far to haul, wood mold, the rich earth in fence corners, etc., may also be hauled and spread upon the galled or bare spots, which sometimes appear on otherwise well conditioned fields. But where possible, we have found that composting is an economical as well as convenient method of utilizing many forces otherwise unused, and also that it renders available much that would else be wasted, or too slow in its action to benefit this season's crops. If in these compost heaps we use potash in the form of kainit, and also some good phosphate, we run no risk of these ingredients leaching out, and their presence will insure several beneficial results. The potash, while furnishing a much needed element for our crops, will prevent the escape of ammonia, and the phosphate will supply a deficiency in the farmyard manure, besides adding its own value to the heap. If these are composted with leaves, trash, cotton seed, lot manure, etc., the heaps properly built and protected from the weather, the fermentation carefully regulated to prevent fire-fang," and the whole cut down and thoroughly mixed before application to the land, we have a plant food which is not equalled by the most perfect commercial fertilizer yet compounded, and whose beneficial effects are far more lasting.—Dixie Farmer.

Spring Oat Crop.

Upon our lighter lands it is well to get in the spring oat crop at the earliest practicable moment, and in order to take the chances of escape from injury, we would always sow a part at least of the crop in February. Great care should be taken in the selection of seed. The home-grown seeds, which is undoubtedly the best for our use, are often filled with rust pores, and for this reason should always be treated with blue-stone or with hot water, according to the Jansen method. The water should be heated to 140 degrees, and each sack of oats suspended in it, so that the water will reach every part for about three minutes, not more. If not to be sown at once, the seed should be spread out to dry, taking care that there are no rust spores which can again come in contact with the seed. Drying is not necessary if they are to be sown at once, but we have found that it is a good plan to roll the damp seed in plaster. This will not only help the crop, but enables us to judge accurately as to the quantity of seed being sown.

As to the propriety of turning under sod with a heavy growth, we would not advise that it be done this late in the season. As wasteful as it seems, the grass, etc., should be burned off before the plow, unless it can be turned under deep enough to be entirely out of the way. There will not now be time for the thorough decomposition of this matter before the crops are to be planted, and its presence on the upper soil will be of little benefit, besides being a constant drawback to the successful cultivation of the growing crops.—Southern Cultivator.

Farmers Should Raise Mules.

A good mule is like a bale of cotton, always marketable at a fair price, and in the case of the mule always at a fair profit on the cost of production, and it is always convenient to have a mule or two to sell when money is needed to run the farm. To buy the mules necessary requires the raising at one time of considerable money, or as is often the case, necessitates the placing of a mortgage on other property, while these same mules might have been raised on the farm without any great outlay at one time, and would therefore never have been missed. In fact, the little amounts expended in their raising would be that much saved, for if the produce were not fed to the young mules it would probably be wasted. It always did pay the farmer to raise his own work stock, but there never was a time when it became so imperative as the present.—Southern Farm Gazette.

Available Resources.

For many years the cotton grower, ignorant of the great value of his cotton seed, threw them away. Since their use by cotton oil mills the cotton seed becomes an important part of the cotton crop. Corn growers likewise for years left the cornstalks in the field to serve as a harbor for insect enemies and let a very valuable part of the corn crop go to waste in the fields. But investigation proved the value of corn stover, and the wise farmers now are using their efforts to stop this leak upon the farm. Recently it has been discovered that the pith of the cornstalk serves as a valuable coating to vessels of war, rendering them proof against missiles of destruction. If this leads to the use of the pith of the cornstalk for such purposes, the demand will necessarily increase the value of the cornstalk and add to the revenues of the farm. These facts go to show how unwise farmers are to let anything on the farm go to waste.—Dixie Farmer.

Cane Farming.

Cane tops were at one time used in Louisiana for seed as in the tropics, but our climatic conditions necessitating the saving of seed cane separately from the manufacturing season has led to the entire abandonment of planting cane tops. As the business comes closer and the margins narrow, it would seem very possible that we shall again begin planting cane tops, cutting our canes low in the beginning of the grinding season, and mattressing or windrowing the cane tops in such a way that they will keep until needed. As the industry changes from planting on its present huge scale to cane farming, as it surely will in the early future, a resumption of the planting of cane tops in Louisiana seems likely.—Louisiana Planter.

Work for Wet Days.

Besides the regular work of preparation which should go on whenever the land is dry enough to plow (dont' plow when there is too much water in the soil; this is one kind of hurrying that does not pay), there are various needed repairs on farm buildings and fences, tools, implements and harness, which should be attended to before the pressure of spring work leaves no time for these small but no less important duties. On wet days, a great deal of the trash as well as the bushes, briers and weeds which have gained a foothold in fence corners and other neglected spots during the previous year, may be uprooted and piled ready for burning. In destroying these we often include the larvæ and eggs of many destructire insect pests.—Dixie Farmer.

HERE AND THERE.

—In arranging for the different crops, don't be induced to cut the food supplies short. And in planting cotton don't put this crop on land that will run the expenses over seven cents.

—One good winter layer is more profitable than two who confine their business to a few of the warmer months. Therefore, cause your hens to lay in winter by giving them laying feed and care.

—To succeed best with any system of fertilizing, we have first to adopt a careful and systematic rotation of crops, so managed as to give the farmer power to utilize to the best advantage all the home manures he can make.

—It is a mistake to think that the young stock do not pay well for good attention given them. There is no time in the life of an animal when there is better profit returned for good care and feed given than during the growing period.

—Congress still adheres to the free seed business and appropriates $125,000 for that purpose. It is questionable whether the results of this free distribution of seeds justify this lavish expenditure.

—It may be taken as an indication that cattle need salt when they are seen licking each other to get the briny exudations from the skin. Of course this may become a habit. Indigestible balls of hair are often formed in the stomach, which can not but be hurtful.

—To make hens lay, whether they want to or not, see that they are comfortably housed and fed corn at night, wheat bran, with a little salt in it, moistened, at night, or whole wheat, or soaked oats instead of bran, and all the green stuff they can get. Hens treated thus will lay, for they just can't help it.

The Spartan Virtue, Fortitude,

Is severely taxed by dyspepsia. "But "good digestion will wait on appetite, and health on both," when Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is resorted to by the victim of indigestion. Heartburn, flatulence, biliousness will cease tormenting the gastric region and liver if this genial family corrective meets with the fair trial that a sterling remedy deserves. Use it regularly, not spasmodically—now and then, it conquers malarial, kidney, nervous and rheumatic ailments.

Appropriate.—"What sign do you think I ought to put up in front of my place of business?" asked a man who had opened a morgue. "'Remains to be seen,'" suggested the friend who had dropped in.—Chicago Tribune.

Miss Dimples—"Well, I'm glad to begin the new year right." Miss Passay—"And I hate to begin it left."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Bad feet from frost-bites are made sound by St. Jacobs Oil. It cures.

First Burglar—"Hist! Here comes the janitor!" Second Burglar—"Well, we wiped our feet, didn't we?"—Detroit Journal.

I can recommend Piso's Cure for Consumption to sufferers from Asthma.—E. D. Townsend, Ft. Howard, Wis., May 4, '94.

It comes as natural to a woman to know dry goods as it does to a man to swear.—Washington Democrat.

Years of rheumatism have ended with cure by St. Jacobs Oil. Cures promptly.

"Do you like cabbage?" "Well, I never eat it, but I smoke it sometimes."—Chicago Record.

Slipped and fell; bad sprain. Never mind. St. Jacobs Oil will cure it.

Generally, those who know the least are the ones who are always giving you advice "just for your own good."

Cascarets stimulate liver, kidneys and bowels. Never sicken, weaken or gripe, 10c.

We have never yet seen a man too poor to own a gun and a dog.

Made worse by cold. Neuralgia needs St. Jacobs Oil to cure. It cures.

Every man thinks he never was as foolish as the boys he sees around him.

Dicky—"They tell us you are living on the fat of the land at your new boarding place." Weefers—"Yes, oleomargarine and filled cheese."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Most of the women who belong to literary societies use self-rising pancake flour. A self-rising pancake flour is a sure sign of poor housekeeping.—Atchison Globe.

Of course a 16-year-old girl cannot wear a white dress and blue sash in the winter, but she can wear blue ribbons in the braids down her back, and look stunning.—Atchison Globe.

"Father caught you smoking one of his cigars, did he? And what did he do—lick you?" "No; wish he had." "What then?" "Made me smoke it—right through."—Fun.

Miss Elderwun—"Only think of it, when I entered the room and lighted a match there was a man there!" Mr. Finegrass—"Did you catch him or was he too quick for you?"—Boston Transcript.

Teacher—"Billy, can you tell me the difference between caution and cowardice?" Billy—"Yes, ma'am. When you are afraid yourself, then that's caution. But when the other fellow's afraid, that is cowardice."—Golden Penny.

"I don't like your milk," said the mistress of the house. "What's wrong with it, mum?" "It's dreadfully thin and there's no cream on it." "After you have lived in the town awhile, mum," said the mikman, encouragingly, "you'll get over them rooral ideas of yourn."—Twinkles.

"I hardly think," said the lawyer, "that you can get a separation from your wife on account of her making a practice of throwing things at the dog." "But," said the man with the haggard look and the black eye, "every time she throws at the dog she hits me!"—Twinkles.

Dennis—"Arrah, Pat, and so yez have come back to stay? Why didn't yez loike it out west in that place where yez had such a good job?" Pat—"Och, it's no place fer a Christian mon, Dennis. There ain't a livin' soul about the place that hasn't died wid the malayrium."—Cleveland Leader.

Just try a 10c box of Cascarets candy cathartic, finest liver and bowel regulator made.

Many a boy's first step towards the penitentiary was being irregular at school.—Washington Democrat.

The pain of sciatica is cruel. The cure by St. Jacobs Oil is sure. It penetrates.

Let a lot of men get together, and it is remarkable how soon they will go to talking about good things to eat.

When bilious or costive eat a Cascaret, candy cathartic, cure guaranteed. 10c, 25c.

Some women buy books because they look pretty in the book case.

The papers are full of deaths from

Heart Failure

Of course the heart fails to act when a man dies, but "Heart Failure," so called, nine times out of ten is caused by Uric Acid in the blood which the Kidneys fail to remove, and which corrodes the heart until it becomes unable to perform its functions.

Health Officers in many cities very properly refuse to accept "Heart Failure," as a cause of death. It is frequently a sign of ignorance in the physician, or may be given to cover up the real cause.

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will remove the poisonous Uric Acid by putting the Kidneys in a healthy condition so that they will naturally eliminate it.

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2. Because it is not made by the so-called Dutch Process in which chemicals are used.
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