

MARK TWAIN.

The mere chronology of Mark Twain's life is soon told. Like most dwellers in the imagination, his significance to posterity lies not, as with men of action, in how he wrought upon events but rather in how events wrought upon him; for from such reactions resulted his imaginative output—one of the most considerable of his time and, as it now seems, one of the securest.

Briefly, then, Mark Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in Florida, Mo., on November 30, 1835. "My parents," he writes, in his own Burlesque Autobiography, "were neither very poor nor conspicuously honest. . . . The earliest ancestor the Twains have any record of was a friend of the family by the name of Higgins." The county chronicles have it that the elder Clemens failed in business and died, leaving his son the ample world to make his fortune in.

Accordingly, Mark Twain's acquaintance with literature began in putting words into type, not ideas into words. Educated only in the public schools, he was apprenticed to a printer at thirteen and worked at his trade in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and New York, until at eighteen he could gratify a boyish ambition to become cub to a Mississippi river pilot. Both these desperate happenings reacted profoundly on his later life. Varied and eventful as that life was, it might almost be said that only two things happened to Mark Twain—he learned the river and he learned to set type.

His knowledge of river life, acquired when he was a pilot took form in "Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn" and "Life on the Mississippi" regarded abroad as his surest title to fame. It even suggested his pseudonym for "Mark Twain" is a linesman's cry to the pilot in shallow stages. And his familiarity with printing turned him naturally first into newspaper work, then into creative writing, and finally into the publishing business wherein, like Sir Walter Scott, he suffered a bankruptcy disastrous to everything but his honor, and like Sir Walter again, paid off by his pen debts not of his own making.

In due time Mark Twain became a full-fledged pilot. He tells the rest himself, in a chapter of "Life on the Mississippi."

"By and by the war came, commerce was suspended, my occupation was gone.

"I had to seek another livelihood. So I became a silver miner, in Nevada; next, a gold miner, in California; next, a reporter in San Francisco; next, a special correspondent in the Sandwich islands; next, a roving correspondent in Europe and the East; next, an instructional torchbearer on the lecture platform, and, finally, I became a scribbler of books, and an immovable fixture among the other rocks of New England."

This was in 1872, a year after he had married Miss Olivia L. Langdon of Elmira, N. Y., who brought him an independent fortune. At that time, his writings were in growing demand, he had an assured income, his own home, and seemed indeed a fixture. But in 1885 his popularity as an author and his acquaintance with the mechanics of the publishing trade—besides being a practical printer he had been part owner of The Buffalo Express before his marriage—drew him into the firm of C. L. Webster & Co., publishers. The firm brought out the memoirs of General Grant and paid his widow \$350,000, but its prosperity was shortlived, and it failed with liabilities of \$96,000. The failure had already sucked in \$65,000 of Mark Twain's cash, but he determined also to shoulder the debts, and to pay them off undertook in 1895-6 a lecture trip around the world.

WARREN TOPPAN, Lynn, Mass.



Cured of severe compound cold and cough by

Vinol

"From Dec. 20, '08, to March 1, '09, I had three bad colds, one on top of the other. I got so weak I could hardly get around. Nothing seemed to help me until I began to take Vinol. The change was magic. Three bottles completely fixed that compound cold and stopped the terrible cough—and what surprises me most, at the same time it cured me of a severe stomach trouble that has bothered me for 20 years. Vinol is certainly a wonderful medicine."

Mr. Toppan is one of Lynn's most prominent and highly respected merchants, whose word is as good as his bond.

The reason Vinol is so successful in such cases is because it contains the two most world-famed tonics—the medicinal, strengthening, body-building elements of Cod Liver Oil and Tonic Iron.

Your Money Back If You Are Not Satisfied.

Dr. J. D. McMillan & Son, Druggists, Lumberton.

Mark Twain was an inveterate smoker and one of the most leisurely men in the world. An old pressman who was once printer's devil in an office where Mark was editorial writer tells this anecdote of his habits or work: "One of my duties was to sweep the room where editors worked. Every day Mark would give me a nickel to get away from him. He would rather die in the dust than uncross his legs. One day he gave me a nickel to dot an 'I' in his copy for him. He certainly did enjoy life, that man did."

Yet this easy-going dawdler acquitted himself of a prodigious deal of work in his life, and bound himself voluntarily to pay off debts that he could have discharged without hurt to his good name by passing through bankruptcy. He did not practice as he preached. "It don't make no difference," he had Huck Finn say, "whether you do right or wrong, a person's conscience ain't got no sense, and just goes for him anyway. If I had a yaller dog that didn't know more than a person's conscience did, I'd pison him. It takes up more room than all the rest of a person's insides, and yet ain't no good nohow."

With Mark Twain's lecture trip around the world began his international celebrity, and his gradual rise into a figure taken in some sense to typify the American spirit. From humorist he became the kindly but mocking moralist and philosopher of Puddinhead Wilson. His literary output became more occasional and, though written with more finesse, more critical and less creative. His public appearances grew more frequent, his whimsical utterances gained greater currency, and a whole literature of anecdotes about him grew up.

Yale gave him the degree of M. A. and later of L.H.D. in 1901; the University of Missouri, his native State, followed with

(Continued on page six.)

Over 40 victims of worthless dogs are being treated at the new State Pasteur institute at Columbia, S. C. There are cases from every section of the State and it is feared that with the advent of summer the number will increase.

Winning Its Way

Just as sure as the mountain stream wends its way to the mighty ocean, just so surely the

Artistic Stieff Piano

wins its way to the hearts of every critical music lover of America. As civilization advances criterions become more severe and in no one thing is this truer than in regard to music. To produce an article today that is even recognized as standard by the discriminating public requires the combined efforts of the most skilled artisans of the age. The height of the ambition of the manufacturer of this wonderful instrument for the past 66 years has been to offer a Piano that was perfect within itself, and after all these years of pains-taking care and experience this has been accomplished and today we are offering to the public, all music loving America, the greatest musical instrument of the 20th Century. The Artistic Stieff Piano "In a Class of Its Own."

CHAS. M. STIEFF,

Manufacturer of The Artistic Stieff, Shaw and Stieff Self-Player Pianos

Southern Warerooms, 5 W. Trade Street, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

C. H. WILMOTH, Mgr. (Mention this paper)

For making fine, rich, or plain food, equally valuable and saving.

**ROYAL**

Indispensable For Home Baking

Governor Kitchin has appointed Col. D. L. Ward, of Newbern, to succeed Judge Guion, resigned, as judge of the superior court in the third district, comprising Craven, Jones, Pamlico, Pitt, Greene and Carteret counties. The new Judge has been a member of the General Assembly several terms and is the author of the well-known Ward law for local option that superceded the Watts law and was the forerunner of the State prohibition law.

Saved From the Grave.

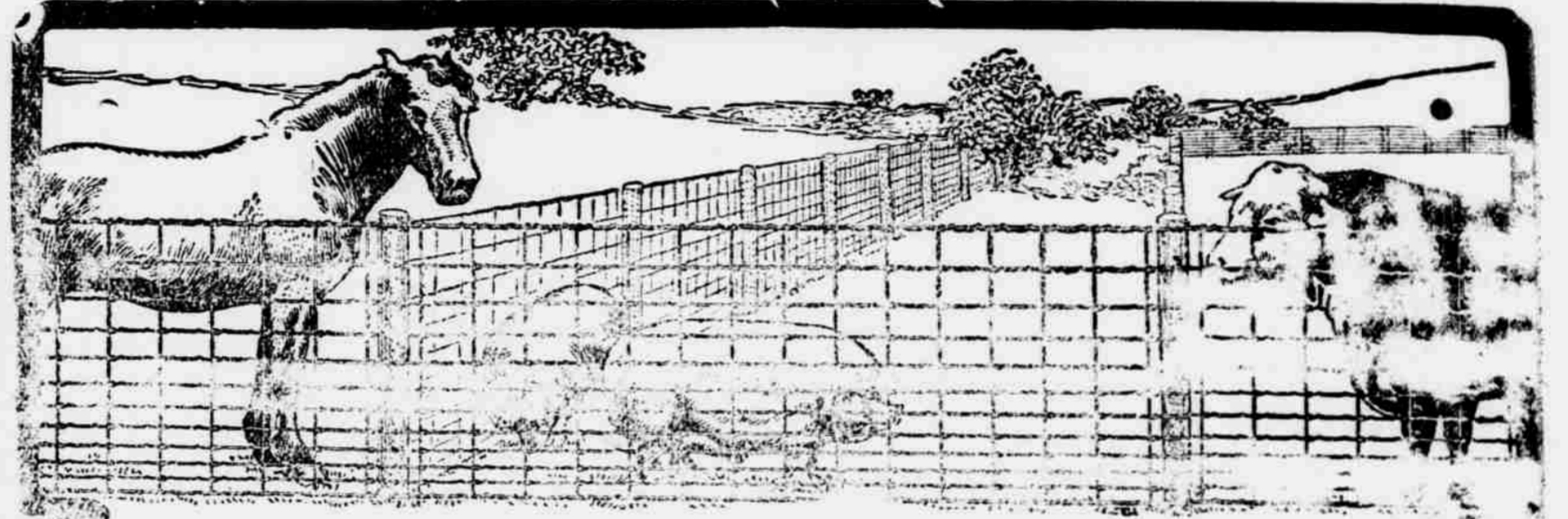
"I had about given up hope, after nearly four years of suffering from a severe lung trouble," writes Mrs. M. L. Dix, of Clarksville, Tenn. "Often the pain in my chest would be almost unbearable and I could not do any work, but Dr. King's New Discovery has made me feel like a new person. It's the best medicine made for the throat and lungs." Obsolete coughs, stubborn colds, hay fever, la grippe, asthma, croup, bronchitis and hemorrhages, hoarseness and whooping cough, yield quickly to this wonderful medicine. Try it. 50c. \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by all druggists.

Subscribe for The Robesonian.

COLUMBUS WAGONS

cannot be excelled, neither can all the good points which characterize Columbus wagons be discovered in a year. The wheels, gears and boxes, in brief the entire wagon, is well made of good material and properly ironed throughout. Columbus wagons are built to withstand the rough usage encountered on the farm. Secure a Columbus wagon now and make your future prosperity secure. It will be much better for you to attend to this matter now than to wish you had when it is too late.

Buy the Columbus today  
aldwell & Carlyle



Security For Your Live Stock

of every kind, and for your fields of growing crops, is what you want, and what you have a right to expect, when you buy fence. A fence that a bull can break through or break down is not worth paying good money for. You want weight in the fence you buy, weight enough to turn the heaviest Fercher or stop a "cow wagon." Now, this is a fact—and you should know it—that, per running rod, you obtain the most weight in wire that is given in any fence, in the celebrated

AMERICAN FENCE

It is made on purpose to be the heaviest, most durable and lasting of any fence at any price. It is made and sold in larger quantities than any other two fences in the world, solely on its merits. The makers of AMERICAN FENCE own and operate their own iron mines and furnaces, their own wire mills and six immense fence factories. Their product is the acknowledged

STANDARD OF THE WORLD

We can show you this fence in our stock and explain its merits and superiority, not only in the roll but in the field. Come and see us and get our prices.

THE PIANO CONTEST WILL CLOSE

Saturday night April 30th at eight o'clock all Piano Coupons must be placed in the ballot box in our store before this time. Please do not bring any coupons after the ballot box is closed. We have conducted this contest fair and square—and we assure all the candidates that no partiality will be shown—and that all votes cast will be carefully counted and proper credit given.

Remember Our Great Department Store is unsurpassed in arrangement, since our recent re-modelling, in North Carolina, and that the stock of goods carried therein and in our six large Warehouses "Cap's the Stack."

Call on our Hardware Department.

Caldwell & Carlyle

Lumberton, N. C.

4-11

MAGAZINE AGENCY.

The biggest in the County. Send your subscription to us, we will do the rest. Order your drugs from us. Have you noticed the big increase in our prescription business?

ROWLAND DRUG CO.

Prescription Specialists. Rowland, N. C. Next door to Postoffice. 3-7tf.



Between Safety and Danger The wise man secures the protection of FIRE INSURANCE.

When fire occurs, the most valuable property a man has is a policy in a good company. We represent some of the best companies in existence. They pay promptly and honorably all losses incurred. Some day you may be sorry you didn't let us write a policy to-day.

Q. T. WILLIAMS.

Write to the Wilmington Marble and Granite Works for their ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of MONUMENTS and HEADSTONES. R. D. TUCKER, Proprietor. WILMINGTON, N. C.

Subscribe for The Robesonian and Get The News.

Council & Webb

LUMBERTON, N. C. PHONE 99

Where quality counts

We will do your Plumbing, Steam and Hot water heating, Roofing, Gas engine repairs, Auto repairs and supplies, install Accetelene gas plants and Wind Mills at most reasonable prices.