

# Quotes and Images From The Works of Mark Twain

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) - Edited and Arranged by David Widger

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\*\*\* START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK QUOTES FROM TWAIN \*\*\*

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QUOTES AND IMAGES FROM MARK TWAIN

QUOTATIONS FROM MARK TWAIN

SOME OF THE EDITOR'S FAVORITES

Aim and object of the law and lawyers  
was to defeat justice

All life seems to be sacred except  
human life

Always trying to build a house by  
beginning at the top

Believed it; because she desired to  
believe it

Best intentions and the frailest  
resolution

But it is an ill-wind that blows nobody  
good

But there are liars everywhere this  
year

Cayote is a living, breathing allegory  
of Want

Children were clothed in nothing but  
sunshine

Contempt of Court on the part of a  
horse

Fertile in invention and elastic in  
conscience

Fun--but of a mild type

Grief that is too deep to find help in  
moan or groan or outcry

Haughty humility

I was not scared, but I was  
considerably agitated

I had a delicacy about going home and  
getting thrashed

If the man doesn't believe as we do, we  
say he is a crank

Imagination to help his memory

Invariably allowed a half for shrinkage  
in his statements

It used to be a good hotel, but that  
proves nothing

It is easier to stay out than get out

It had cost something to upholster  
these women

Keg of these nails--of the true cross

Let me take your grief and help you  
carry it

Life a vanity and a burden, and the  
future but a way to death

Man is the only animal that blushes--or  
needs to

Man was not a liar he only missed it by  
the skin of his teeth

Money is most difficult to get when  
people need it most

Native canoe is an irresponsible  
looking contrivance

No people who are quite so vulgar as  
the over-refined ones

No nation occupies a foot of land that  
was not stolen

Nothing that glitters is gold

Notion that he is less savage than the  
other savages

Nursed his woe and exalted it

Ostentatious of his modesty

Otherwise they would have thought I was  
afraid, which I was

People talk so glibly of "feeling,"  
"expression," "tone,"

Pity is for the living, Envy is for the  
dead

Predominance of the imagination over  
the judgment

Profound respect for chastity--in other  
people

Prosperity is the best protector of  
principle

Received with a large silence that  
suggested doubt

Road, which did not seem to know its  
own mind exactly

Room to turn around in, but not to

swing a cat

Scenery in California requires distance

Seventy is old enough--after that,  
there is too much risk

Sleep that heals all heart-aches and  
ends all sorrows

Slept, if one might call such a  
condition by so strong a name

Smell about them which is peculiar but  
not entertaining

Takes your enemy and your friend,  
working together, to hurt you

The man with a new idea is a Crank  
until the idea succeeds

To a delicate stomach even imaginary  
smoke can convey damage

Tourists showing how things ought to be  
managed

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry  
and narrow-mindedness

Uncomplaining impoliteness

Very pleasant man if you were not in  
his way

Virtuous to the verge of eccentricity

Wasn't worth a cent two years ago, and  
now I owe two millions

We ought never to do wrong when people  
are looking

We must create, a public opinion, said  
Senator Dilworthy

Well provided with cigars and other  
necessaries of life

What's a fair wind for us is a head  
wind to them

Whichever one they get is the one they  
want

Worth while to get tired out, because  
one so enjoys resting

Wrinkles should merely indicate where  
smiles have been

Your absence when you are present

## A FEW SELECTED BOOKS

### FOLLOWING THE EQUATOR

Against nature to take an interest in familiar things  
Age after age, the barren and meaningless process  
All life seems to be sacred except human life  
But there are liars everywhere this year  
Capacity must be shown (in other work); in the law, concealment of it will do  
Christmas brings harassment and dread to many excellent people  
Climate which nothing can stand except rocks  
Creature which was everything in general and nothing in particular  
Custom supersedes all other forms of law  
Death in life; death without its privileges  
Every one is a moon, and has a dark side  
Exercise, for such as like that kind of work  
Explain the inexplicable  
Faith is believing what you know ain't so  
Forbids betting on a sure thing  
Forgotten fact is news when it comes again  
Get your formalities right--never mind about the moralities  
Give thanks that Christmas comes but once a year  
Good protections against temptations; but the surest is cowardice  
Goody-goody puerilities and dreary moralities  
Habit of assimilating incredibilities  
Human pride is not worth while  
Hunger is the handmaid of genius  
If the man doesn't believe as we do, we say he is a crank  
Inherited prejudices in favor of hoary ignorances  
It is easier to stay out than get out  
Man is the only animal that blushes--or needs to  
Meddling philanthropists  
Melt a brass door-knob and weather which will only make it mushy  
Moral sense, and there is an Immoral Sense  
Most satisfactory pet--never coming when he is called  
Natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs  
Neglected her habits, and hadn't any  
Never could tell a lie that anybody would doubt  
No nation occupies a foot of land that was not stolen  
No people who are quite so vulgar as the over-refined ones  
Notion that he is less savage than the other savages  
Only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want  
Ostentatious of his modesty  
Otherwise they would have thought I was afraid, which I was  
Pity is for the living, Envy is for the dead  
Prosperity is the best protector of principle  
Received with a large silence that suggested doubt  
Seventy is old enough--after that, there is too much risk  
Silent lie and a spoken one

Sinking vessel, with no freight in her to throw over  
Takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you  
Thankfulness is not so general  
The man with a new idea is a Crank until the idea succeeds  
This is a poor old ship, and ought to be insured and sunk  
To a delicate stomach even imaginary smoke can convey damage  
Tourists showing how things ought to be managed  
Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been

## THE INNOCENTS ABROAD

Ancient painters never succeeded in denationalizing themselves  
Apocryphal New Testament  
Astonishing talent for seeing things that had already passed  
Bade our party a kind good-bye, and proceeded to count spoons  
Base flattery to call them immoral  
Bones of St Denis  
But it is an ill-wind that blows nobody good  
Buy the man out, goodwill and all  
By dividing this statement up among eight  
Carry soap with them  
Chapel of the Invention of the Cross  
Christopher Colombo  
Clustered thick with stony, mutilated saints  
Commend me to Fennimore Cooper to find beauty in the Indians  
Conceived a sort of unwarrantable unfriendliness  
Confer the rest of their disastrous patronage on some other firm  
Creator made Italy from designs by Michael Angelo!  
Cringing spirit of those great men  
Diffident young man, mild of moustache, affluent of hair  
Expression  
Felt that it was not right to steal grapes  
Fennimore Cooper Indians  
Filed away among the archives of Russia--in the stove  
For dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince  
Free from self-consciousness--which is at breakfast  
Fumigation is cheaper than soap  
Fun--but of a mild type  
Getting rich very deliberately--very deliberately indeed  
Guides  
Have a prodigious quantity of mind  
He never bored but he struck water  
He ought to be dammed--or leveed  
Holy Family always lived in grottoes  
How tame a sight his country's flag is at home  
I am going to try to worry along without it  
I carried the sash along with me--I did not need the sash  
I had a delicacy about going home and getting thrashed  
I was not scared, but I was considerably agitated  
Is, ah--is he dead?  
It is a hopeless, dreary, heart-broken land  
  
It is inferior--for coffee--but it is pretty fair tea  
It used to be a good hotel, but that proves nothing  
It was warm. It was the warmest place I ever was in  
Joshua

Journals so voluminously begun  
Keg of these nails--of the true cross  
Lean and mean old age  
Man peculiarly and insufferably self-conceited: not seasick  
Marks the exact centre of the earth  
Nauseous adulation of princely patrons  
Never did succeed in making those idiots understand their own language  
Never left any chance for newspaper controversies  
Never uses a one-syllable word when he can think of a longer one  
No satisfaction in being a Pope in those days  
Not afraid of a million Bedouins  
Not bring ourselves to think St John had two sets of ashes  
Old Travelers  
One is apt to overestimate beauty when it is rare  
Only solitary thing one does not smell in Turkey  
Oriental splendor!  
Original first shoddy contract mentioned in history  
Overflowing his banks  
People talk so glibly of "feeling," "expression," "tone,"  
Perdition catch all the guides  
Picture which one ought to see once--not oftener  
Polite hotel waiter who isn't an idiot  
Relic matter a little overdone?  
Room to turn around in, but not to swing a cat  
Saviour, who seems to be of little importance any where in Rome  
Self-satisfied monarch, the railroad conductor of America  
Sentimental praises of the Arab's idolatry of his horse  
She assumes a crushing dignity  
Shepherd's Hotel, which is the worst on earth  
Smell about them which is peculiar but not entertaining  
Some people can not stand prosperity  
Somewhat singular taste in the matter of relics  
St Charles Borromeo, Bishop of Milan  
St Helena, the mother of Constantine  
Starving to death  
Stirring times here for a while if the last trump should blow  
Tahoe means grasshoppers. It means grasshopper soup  
The information the ancients didn't have was very voluminous  
The Last Supper  
There was a good deal of sameness about it  
They were like nearly all the Frenchwomen I ever saw--homely  
They were seasick. And I was glad of it  
Those delightful parrots who have "been here before"  
To give birth to an idea  
Toll the signal for the St Bartholomew's Massacre  
Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness  
Uncomplaining impoliteness  
Under the charitable moon  
Used fine tooth combs--successfully  
Venitian visiting young ladies  
Wandering Jew  
Wasn't enough of it to make a pie  
We all like to see people seasick when we are not, ourselves  
Well provided with cigars and other necessities of life  
What's a fair wind for us is a head wind to them  
Whichever one they get is the one they want  
Who have actually forgotten their mother tongue in three months  
Worth while to get tired out, because one so enjoys resting

## ROUGHING IT

Aim and object of the law and lawyers was to defeat justice  
American saddle  
Cayote is a living, breathing allegory of Want  
Children were clothed in nothing but sunshine  
Contempt of Court on the part of a horse  
Feared a great deal more than the almighty  
Fertile in invention and elastic in conscience  
Give one's watch a good long undisturbed spell  
He was nearly lightnin' on superintending  
He was one of the deadest men that ever lived  
Hotel clerk who was crusty and disobliging  
I had never seen lightning go like that horse  
Juries composed of fools and rascals  
List of things which we had seen and some other people had not  
Man was not a liar he only missed it by the skin of his teeth  
Most impossible reminiscences sound plausible  
Native canoe is an irresponsible looking contrivance  
Never knew there was a hell!  
Nothing that glitters is gold  
Profound respect for chastity--in other people  
Scenery in California requires distance  
Slept, if one might call such a condition by so strong a name  
Useful information and entertaining nonsense  
Virtuous to the verge of eccentricity

## THE GILDED AGE

Accidental murder resulting from justifiable insanity  
Always trying to build a house by beginning at the top  
Appropriation  
Beautiful credit! The foundation of modern society  
Believed it; because she desired to believe it  
Best intentions and the frailest resolution  
Big babies with beards  
Cheap sentiment and high and mighty dialogue  
Conscious superiority  
Does your doctor know any thing  
Enjoy icebergs--as scenery but not as company  
Erie RR: causeway of cracked rails and cows, to the West  
Fever of speculation  
Final resort of the disappointed of her sex, the lecture platform  
Geographical habits  
Get away and find a place where he could despise himself  
Gossips were soon at work  
Grand old benevolent National Asylum for the Helpless  
Grief that is too deep to find help in moan or groan or outcry  
Haughty humility  
Having no factitious weight of dignity to carry  
Imagination to help his memory  
Invariably advised to settle--no matter how, but settle  
Invariably allowed a half for shrinkage in his statements



Is this your first visit?  
It had cost something to upholster these women  
Large amount of money necessary to make a small hole  
Later years brought their disenchanting wisdom  
Let me take your grief and help you carry it  
Life a vanity and a burden, and the future but a way to death  
Mail train which has never run over a cow  
Meant no harm they only wanted to know  
Money is most difficult to get when people need it most  
Never sewed when she could avoid it. Bless her!  
Nursed his woe and exalted it  
Predominance of the imagination over the judgment  
Question was asked and answered--in their eyes  
Riches enough to be able to gratify reasonable desires  
Road, which did not seem to know its own mind exactly  
Sarcasms of fate  
Sleep that heals all heart-aches and ends all sorrows  
Small gossip stood a very poor chance  
Sun bothers along over the Atlantic  
Think a Congress of ours could convict the devil of anything  
Titles never die in America  
Too much grace and too little wine  
Understood the virtues of "addition, division and silence"  
Unlimited reliance upon human promises  
Very pleasant man if you were not in his way  
Wasn't worth a cent two years ago, and now I owe two millions  
"We must create, a public opinion," said Senator Dilworthy  
We'll make you think you never was at home before  
We've all got to come to it at last, anyway!  
Widened, and deepened, and straightened--(Public river Project)  
Wished that she could see his sufferings now  
Your absence when you are present

## MARK TWAIN'S SPEECHES

A little pride always goes along with a teaspoonful of brains  
Ain't any real difference between triplets and an insurrection  
Chastity, you can carry it too far  
Classic: everybody wants to have read and nobody wants to read  
Don't know anything and can't do anything  
Dwell on the particulars with senile rapture  
Future great historian is lying--and doubtless will continue to  
Head is full of history, and some of it is true, too  
Humor enlivens and enlightens his morality  
I shall never be as dead again as I was then  
If can't make seventy by any but an uncomfortable road: don't go  
Kill a lot of poets for writing about "Beautiful Spring"  
Live upon the property of their heirs so long  
Morality is all the better for his humor  
Morals: rather teach them than practice them any day  
Never been in jail, and the other is, I don't know why  
Never to smoke when asleep, and never to refrain when awake  
Patriotism is usually the refuge of the scoundrel  
Please state what figure you hold him at--and return the basket  
Principles is another name for prejudices  
She bears our children--ours as a general thing

Some civilized women would lose half their charm without dress  
The Essex band done the best it could  
Time-expired man, to use Kipling's military phrase  
To exaggerate is the only way I can approximate to the truth  
Two kinds of Christian morals, one private and the other public  
What, sir, would the people of the earth be without woman?  
When in doubt, tell the truth  
Women always want to know what is going on

## SKETCHES NEW AND OLD

A wood-fire is not a permanent thing  
Accessory before the fact to his own murder  
Aggregate to positive unhappiness  
Always brought in 'not guilty'  
Apocryphal was no slouch of a word, emanating from the source  
Assertion is not proof  
Early to bed and early to rise  
I am useless and a nuisance, a cumbrer of the earth  
I never was so scared before and survived it  
If I had sprung a leak now I had been lost  
Just about cats enough for three apiece all around  
Looked a look of vicious happiness  
Lucid and unintoxicated intervals  
No matter how absurd and unreasonable their demands  
No public can withstand magnanimity  
Not because I was afraid, but because I wanted to (go out the window)  
Permanent reliable enemy  
Science only needed a spoonful of supposition to build a mountain  
State of mind bordering on impatience  
Walking five miles to fish  
Was a good deal annoyed when it appeared he was going to die

## TWAIN'S LETTERS V1 1835-1866

A mighty national menace to sham  
All talk and no cider  
Condition my room is always in when you are not around  
Deprived of the soothing consolation of swearing  
Frankness is a jewel; only the young can afford it  
Genius defies the laws of perspective  
Hope deferred maketh the heart sick  
I never greatly envied anybody but the dead  
In the long analysis of the ages it is the truth that counts  
Just about enough cats to go round  
Moral bulwark reared against hypocrisy and superstition  
The coveted estate of silence, time's only absolute gift  
We went outside to keep from getting wet  
What a pleasure there is in revenge!  
When in doubt, tell the truth  
When it is my turn, I don't

## TWAIN'S LETTERS V4 1886-1900

And I have been an author for 20 years and an ass for 55  
Argument against suicide  
Conversationally being yelled at  
Dead people who go through the motions of life  
Die in the promptest kind of a way and no fooling around  
Heroic endurance that resembles contentment  
Honest men must be pretty scarce  
I wonder how they can lie so. It comes of practice, no doubt  
If this is going to be too much trouble to you  
One should be gentle with the ignorant  
Sunday is the only day that brings unbearable leisure  
Symbol of the human race ought to be an ax  
What a pity it is that one's adventures never happen!

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