

My Watch

(USA) *Mark Twain*

MY beautiful new watch had run eighteen months without losing or gaining, and without breaking any part of its machinery or stopping. I had come to believe it infallible¹ in its judgments about time of day, and to consider its constitution and its anatomy² imperishable³. But at last, one night, I let it run down. I grieved⁴ about it as if it were a recognized messenger and forerunner⁵ of calamity⁶. But by and by I cheered up, set the watch by guess, and commanded my bodings⁷ and superstitions⁸ to depart. Next day I stepped into the chief jeweler's to set it by the exact time, and the head of the establishment⁹ took it out of my hand and preceeded to set it for me. Then he said, "She is four minutes slow-regulator¹⁰

¹**infallible** adj. not capable of being wrong or making mistakes

²**anatomy** n. the parts or causes that form or create sth

³**imperishable** adj. never to be forgotten

⁴**grieve** v. to cause (someone) to feel sad or unhappy

⁵**forerunner** n. a sign of sth that is going to happen

⁶**calamity** n. an event that causes great harm and suffering

⁷**bode** v. (**n.** boding) to be a sign of (a future event or situation)

⁸**superstition** n. a belief or way of behaving that is based on fear of the unknown and faith in magic or luck

⁹**establishment** n. a place or organization where people live or do business

¹⁰**regulator** n. a device for controlling the level or amount of sth (such as speed or temperature)

wants pushing up.” I tried to stop him—tried to make him understand that the watch kept perfect time. But no; all this human cabbage¹¹ could see was that the watch was four minutes slow, and the regulator *must* be pushed up a little; and so, while I danced around him in anguish¹², and implored¹³ him to let the watch alone, he calmly and cruelly¹⁴ did the shameful deed. My watch began to gain. It gained faster and faster day by day. Within the week it sickened¹⁵ to a raging¹⁶ fever, and its pulse¹⁷ went up to a hundred and fifty in the shade. At the end of two months it had left all the timepieces of the town far in the rear, and was a fraction¹⁸ over thirteen days ahead of the almanac¹⁹. It was away into November enjoying the

¹¹**cabbage** n. a person who leads a dull or inactive life

¹²**anguish** n. extreme suffering, grief, or pain

¹³**implore** v. to make a very serious or emotional request to (someone)

¹⁴**cruel** adj. (**adv.** cruelly) used to describe people who hurt others and do not feel sorry about it

¹⁵**sicken** v. to become sick or to cause (someone) to become sick

¹⁶**raging** adj. causing a lot of pain or distress

¹⁷**pulse** n. a strong, regular beat or pattern of sounds in music

¹⁸**fraction** n. a part or amount of sth

¹⁹**almanac** n. a book published every year that contains facts about the movements of the sun and moon, changes in the tides, and information of general interest

snow, while the October leaves were still turning. It hurried up house rent, bills payable, and such things, in such a ruinous²⁰ way that I could not abide²¹ it.

²⁰**ruinous** adj. causing or likely to cause damage or destruction

²¹**abide** v. to accpet or bear (someone or sth bad, unpleasant, etc.)