

V/332
184

A

MARK TWAIN'S

CELEBRATED

JUMPING FROG

OF

CALAVERAS COUNTY

And other Sketches

WITH

THE BURLESQUE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND
FIRST ROMANCE

"Messrs. George Routledge & Sons are my only authorized London publishers."—MARK TWAIN



LONDON

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS

THE BROADWAY, LUDGATE

A

TO

JOHN SMITH,

WHOM I HAVE KNOWN IN DIVERS AND SUNDRY PLACES
ABOUT THE WORLD, AND WHOSE MANY AND MANIFOLD VIRTUES
DID ALWAYS COMMAND MY ESTEEM, I

Dedicate this Book.

It is said that the man to whom a volume is dedicated always buys a copy. If this prove true in the present instance, a princely affluence is about to burst upon

THE AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

“MARK TWAIN” is too well known to the public to require a formal introduction at my hands. By his story of the Frog, he scaled the heights of popularity at a single jump, and won for himself the *sobriquet* of the Wild Humorist of the Pacific Slope. He is also known to fame as the Moralist of the Main; and it is not unlikely that as such he will go down to posterity. It is in his secondary character as humorist, however, rather than in the primal one of moralist, that I aim to present him in the present volume. And here a ready explanation will be found for the somewhat fragmentary character of many of these sketches; for it was necessary to snatch threads of humour wherever they could be found—very often detaching them from serious articles and moral essays with which they were woven and entangled. Originally written for newspaper publication, many of the articles referred to events of the day the interest of which has now passed away, and contained local allusions which the general reader would fail to understand; in such cases excision became imperative. Further than this, remark or comment is unnecessary. Mark Twain never resorts to tricks of spelling nor rhetorical buffoonery for the purpose of provoking a laugh; the vein of his humour runs too rich and deep to make surface-gilding necessary. But there are few who can resist the quaint similes, keen satire, and hard good sense which form the staple of his writings.

J. P.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG OF CALAVERAS COUNTY	5
AURELIA'S UNFORTUNATE YOUNG MAN	16
A COMPLAINT ABOUT CORRESPONDENTS, DATED IN SAN FRANCISCO	21
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS	23
AMONG THE FENIANS	49
THE STORY OF THE BAD LITTLE BOY WHO DIDN'T COME TO GRIEF	51
CURING A COLD	57
AN INQUIRY ABOUT INSURANCES	65
LITERATURE IN THE DRY DIGGINGS	79
"AFTER" JENKINS	70
LUCRETIA SMITH'S SOLDIER	76
THE KILLING OF JULIUS CÆSAR "LOCALIZED"	85
AN ITEM WHICH THE EDITOR HIMSELF COULD NOT UNDERSTAND	94
AMONG THE SPIRITS	100
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON	110
A TOUCHING STORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BOYHOOD	114
A PAGE FROM A CALIFORNIAN ALMANAC	121
INFORMATION FOR THE MILLION	124
THE LAUNCH OF THE STEAMER "CAPITAL"	132
ORIGIN OF ILLUSTRIOUS MEN	140
ADVICE FOR GOOD LITTLE GIRLS	142
CONCERNING CHAMBERMAIDS	144
REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF PRESENCE OF MIND	148
HONOURED AS A CURIOSITY IN HONOLULU	151
THE STEED "OAHU"	154
A STRANGE DREAM	157
SHORT AND SINGULAR RATIONS	167
CANNIBALISM IN THE CARS	171
BURLESQUE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND FIRST ROMANCE.	

THE
CELEBRATED JUMPING FROG
OF
CALAVERAS COUNTY.

IN compliance with the request of a friend of mine, who wrote me from the East, I called on good-natured, garrulous old Simon Wheeler, and inquired after my friend's friend, *Leonidas W. Smiley*, as requested to do, and I hereunto append the result. I have a lurking suspicion that *Leonidas W. Smiley* is a myth; that my friend never knew such a personage; and that he only conjectured that, if I asked old Wheeler about him, it would remind him of his infamous *Jim Smiley*, and he would go to work and bore me nearly to death with some infernal reminiscence of him as long and tedious as it should be useless to me. If that was the design it certainly succeeded.

I found Simon Wheeler dozing comfortably by the bar-room stove of the old, dilapidated tavern in the ancient mining camp of Angel's, and I noticed