

Mark Twain: Sopimattomia elämänohjeita

Eino Vastarannan valitsemat lauseet alkavat sivulta 7

1

Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits.

Always do right – this will gratify some and astonish the rest.

Always tell the truth. That way, you don't have to remember what you said.

Facts, or what a man believes to be facts, are delightful... Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.

Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.

Good breeding consists of concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person.

Let us so live that when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul.

When you cannot get a compliment any other way, pay yourself one.

Let us be thankful for fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.

If you have nothing to say, say nothing.

The most interesting information comes from children, for they tell all they know and then stop.

The more you explain it, the more I don't understand it.

'Be Yourself' is about the worst advice you can give to people.

Honesty is the best policy – when there is money in it.

Often the surest way to convey misinformation is to tell the strict truth.

Some people tend to give their problems swimming lessons instead of drowning them

By temperament, which is the real law of God, many men are goats and can't help committing adultery when they get a chance; whereas there are numbers of men who, by temperament, can keep their purity and let an opportunity go by if the woman lacks in attractiveness.

You ought never to "sass" old people – unless they "sass" you first.

Wrinkles should merely indicate where the smiles have been.

What a man misses mostly in heaven is company.

What a good thing Adam had – when he said a good thing, he knew nobody has said it before.

You should never do anything wicked and lay it on your brother, when it is just as convenient to lay it on some other boy.

Women cannot receive even the most palpably judicious suggestion without arguing it; that is, married women.

It is no harm to be an ass, if one is content to bray and not kick.

Between believing a thing and thinking you know is only a small step and quickly taken.

One must keep one's character. Earn a character first if you can, and if you can't, then assume one.

Chastity – you can carry it too far.

Some men deserve compliments, but the only one that is welcome to a modest man is the one that is undeserved.

A sincere compliment is always grateful to a lady, so long as you don't try to knock her down with it.

One should not pay a person a compliment and straightway follow it with a criticism. It is better to kiss him now and kick him next week.

Do not offer a compliment and ask a favor at the same time. A compliment that is charged for is not valuable.

An uneasy conscience is a hair in the mouth.

Our conscience takes no notice of pain inflicted on others until it reaches a point where it gives pain to us. In all cases without exception we are absolutely indifferent to another person's pain until his sufferings make us uncomfortable.

...his answers were so final and exact that he did not leave a doubt to hang conversation on.

What is courtesy? Consideration for others. Is there a good deal of it in the American character? So far as I have observed, no. Is it an American characteristic? So far as I have observed, the most prominent, the most American of all American characteristics, is the poverty of it in the American character.

When a person cannot deceive himself the chances are against his being able to deceive other people.

He had discovered a great law of human action, without knowing it – namely, in order to make a man or a boy covet a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to attain.

No one is willing to acknowledge a fault in himself when a more agreeable motive can be found for the estrangement of his acquaintances.

Each man is afraid of his neighbor's disapproval – a thing which, to the general run of the human race, is more dreaded than wolves and death.

The happy phrasing of a compliment is one of the rarest of human gifts, and the happy delivery of it another.

Frankness is a jewel; only the young can afford it.

The holy passion of Friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money.

Half the results of a good intention are evil; half the results of an evil intention are good.

His ignorance covered the whole earth like a blanket, and there was hardly a hole in it anywhere.

...one should be gentle with the ignorant, for they are the chosen of God.

It is easier to decline 20 invitations than to accept one & then explain to the other nineteen.

If you wish to inflict a heartless and malignant punishment upon a young person, pledge him to keep a journal a year.

...it's so hard to find men of a so high type of morals that they'll stay bought.

The highest perfection of politeness is only a beautiful edifice, built, from the base to the dome, of graceful and gilded forms of charitable and unselfish lying.

The Moral Sense teaches us what is right, and how to avoid it – when unpopular.

We are nothing but echoes. We have no thoughts of our own, no opinions of our own, we are but a compost heap made up of the decayed heredities, moral and physical.

Opinions based upon theory, superstition, and ignorance are not very precious.

The man who is ostentatious of his modesty is twin to the statue that wears a fig-leaf.

There are people who think that honesty is always the best policy. This is a superstition; there are times when the appearance of it is worth six of it.

If you beseech a blessing upon yourself, beware! lest without intent you invoke a curse upon a neighbor at the same time.

There ought to be a room in every house to swear in. It's dangerous to have to repress an emotion like that.

Under certain circumstances, urgent circumstances, desperate circumstances, profanity provides a relief denied even to prayer.

He didn't utter a word, but he exuded mute blasphemy from every pore.

It is the prohibition that makes anything precious.

To make a pledge of any kind is to declare war against nature; for a pledge is a chain that is always clanking and reminding the wearer of it that he is not a free man.

Prosperity is the surest breeder of insolence I know.

When you ascend the hill of prosperity, may you not meet a friend.

M. de Lameter's new French dictionary just issued in Paris defines virtue as: "A woman who has only one lover and don't steal."

It is my belief that nearly any invented quotation, played with confidence, stands a good chance to deceive.

There is more real pleasure to be gotten out of a malicious act, where your heart is in it, than out of thirty acts of a nobler sort.

Revenge is wicked, & unchristian & in every way unbecoming, & I am not the man to countenance it or show it any favor. (But it is powerful sweet, anyway.)

What's the use you learning to do right when it's troublesome to do right and ain't no trouble to do wrong, and the wages is just the same?

It is good to obey all the rules when you're young, so you'll have the strength to break them when you're old.

Eloquence is the essential thing in a speech, not information.

All the talk about tolerance, in anything or anywhere, is plainly a gentle lie. It does not exist. It is in no man's heart; but it unconsciously, and by moss-grown inherited habit, drivels and slobbers from all men's lips.

...scrap heap of unverifiable odds and ends which we call tradition.

I have found out there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.

There are no grades of vanity, there are only grades of ability in concealing it.

He had only one vanity, he thought he could give advice better than any other person.

Be virtuous and you will be eccentric.

The unspoken word is capital. We can invest it or we can squander it.

The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause.

It is no use to keep private information which you can't show off.

Imagination to help his memory.

Nursed his woe and exalted it.

Very pleasant man if you were not in his way.

We ought never to do wrong when people are looking.

Every one is a moon, and has a dark side.

Never could tell a lie that anybody would doubt.

Principles is another name for prejudices.

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not to deserve them.

By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity. Another man's, I mean.

Familiarity breeds contempt – and children.

At 50 a man can be an ass without being an optimist but not an optimist without being as ass.

Always acknowledge a fault frankly. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you opportunity to commit more.

Better a broken promise than none at all.

Do your duty today and repent tomorrow.

Do good when you can, and charge when you think they will stand it.

Everybody's private motto: It's better to be popular than right.

Every man is wholly honest to himself and to God, but not to any one else.

It is not best to use our morals weekdays, it gets them out of repair for Sunday.

Is a person's public and private opinion the same? It is thought there have been instances.

Slang in a woman's mouth is not obscene, it only sounds so.

To be good is noble, but to show/teach others how to be good is nobler, and no/less trouble.

The trouble ain't that there is too many fools, but that the lightning ain't distributed right.

We are always more anxious to be distinguished for a talent which we do not possess, than to be praised for the fifteen which we do possess.

Be good and you will be lonesome.

A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself a liar.

Good protections against temptations; but the surest is cowardice.

No real gentleman will tell the naked truth in the presence of ladies.

Modesty died when clothes were born.

Carlyle said "a lie cannot live." It shows that he did not know how to tell them.

Always obey your parents, when they are present. Most parents think they know more than you do; and you can generally make more by humoring that superstition than you can by acting on your own better judgement.

Never waste a lie; you never know when you may need it.

A man may have no bad habits and have worse.

Never learn to do anything. If you don't learn, you will always find someone else to do it for you.

Never tell a lie – except for practice.

Truth is the most valuable thing we have. Let us economize it.

Wit is the sudden marriage of ideas which before their union were not perceived to have any relation.

He was ignorant of the commonest accomplishments of youth. He could not even lie.

Few of us can stand prosperity. Another man's, I mean.

What a lie it is to call this a free country, where none but the unworthy and undeserving may swear.

There is a great deal of human nature in people.

A man should not be without morals; it is better to have bad morals than none at all.

No man ever does a duty for duty's sake but only for the sake of the satisfaction he personally gets out of doing the duty, or for the sake of avoiding the personal discomfort he would have to endure if he shirked that duty; also I indicated that there is no such thing as free will and no such thing as self sacrifice.

Why will you humbug yourselves with that foolish notion that no lie is a lie except a spoken one?

The less a man knows the bigger the noise he makes and the higher the salary he commands.

Remember the poor – it costs nothing.

There are people who can do all fine and heroic things but one: keep from telling their happinesses to the unhappy.

It is a mistake that there is no bath that will cure people's manners, but drowning would help.

Well enough for old folks to rise early, because they have done so many mean things all their lives they can't sleep anyhow.

2

Man is the only animal that blushes – or needs to.

Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either.

The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot.

Buy land, they're not making it anymore.

We have the best government that money can buy.

Whenever you find yourself on the side of majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect).

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.

Let us be thankful to Adam our benefactor. He cut us out of the "blessing" of idleness and won for us the "curse" of labor.

Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.

Of all the animals, man is the only one that is cruel. He is the only one that inflicts pain for the pleasure of doing it.

Arguments have no chance against petrified training; they wear it as little as the waves wear a cliff.

If the man doesn't believe as we do, we say he is a crank, and that settles it. It mean, it does nowadays, because now we can't burn him.

....the best way to increase wolves in America, rabbits in Australia, and snakes in India, is to pay a bounty on their scalps. Then every patriot goes to raising them.

The universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession – what there is of it.

From end to end of the Christian Science literature not a single (material) thing in the world is conceded to be real, except the Dollar.

The Church has opposed every innovation and discovery from the day of Galileo down to our own time, when the use of anesthetics in childbirth was regarded as a sin because it avoided the biblical curse pronounced against Eve.

Christianity will doubtless still survive in the earth ten centuries hence – stuffed and in a museum.

You can never find a Christian who has acquired this valuable knowledge, this saving knowledge, by any process but the everlasting and all-sufficient "people say." In all my seventy-two years and a half I have never come across such another ass as this human race is.

The so-called Christian nations are the most enlightened and progressive... but in spite of their religion, not because of it.

The church is always trying to get other people to reform; it might not be a bad idea to reform itself a little, by way of example.

We are strange beings, we seem to go free, but we go in chains – chains of training, custom, convention, association, environment – in a word, Circumstance – and against these bonds the strongest of us struggle in vain.

...every citizen of the republic ought to consider himself an unofficial policeman, and keep unsalaried watch and ward over the laws and their execution.

Citizenship is what makes a republic; monarchies can get along without it.

Is it, perhaps, possible that there are two kinds of Civilization – one for home consumption and one for the heathen market?

There are two Americas: one that sets the captive free, and one that takes a once-captive's new freedom away from him... then kills him to get his land.

There is no salvation for us but to adopt Civilization and lift ourselves down to its level.

There are many humorous things in the world; among them, the white man's notion that he less savage than the other savages.

The people invent their oppressors, and the oppressors serve the function for which they are invented.

My idea of our civilization is that it is a shoddy, poor thing and full of cruelties, vanities, arrogances, meannesses and hypocrisies.

Civilization largely consists in hiding human nature. When the barbarian learns to hide it we account him enlightened.

Some years ago on the gold coins we used to trust in God. It think it was in 1863 that some genius suggested that it be put on the gold and silver coins which circulated among the rich. They didn't put it on the nickels and coppers because they didn't think the poor folks had any trust in God.

Well, I didn't see that the statement ought to remain there. It wasn't true. But I think it would better read, "Within certain judicious limitations we trust in God," and if there isn't enough room on the coin for this, why enlarge the coin.

Communism is idiocy. They want to divide up the property. Suppose they did it – it requires brains to keep money as well as make it. In a precious little while the money would be back in the former owner's hands and the communist would be poor again.

All Congresses and Parliaments have a kindly feeling for idiots, and a compassion for them, on account of personal experience and heredity.

Whenever a copyright law is to be made or altered, then the idiots assemble.

Man was made at the end of the week's work when God was tired.

We adore titles and heredities in our hearts and ridicule them with our mouths. This is our democratic privilege.

A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.

Diligence is a good thing, but taking things easy is much more – restful.

I asked Tom if countries always apologized when they had done wrong, and he says – "Yes; the little ones does."

Man seems to be a rickety poor sort of a thing, any way you take him; a kind of British Museum of infirmities and inferiorities. He is always undergoing repairs. A machine that was as unreliable as he is would have no market.

In America – as elsewhere – free speech is confined to the dead.

It is a free press...There are laws to protect the freedom of the press's speech, but none that are worth anything to protect the people from the press.

Satan hasn't a single salaried helper; the Opposition employ a million.

That's the difference between governments and individuals. Governments don't care, individuals do.

The human race consists of the damned and the ought-to-be damned.

The fact is the human race is not only slow about borrowing valuable ideas – it sometimes persists in not borrowing them at all.

We are all erring creatures, and mainly idiots, but God made us so and it is dangerous to criticise.

It would not be possible for Noah to do in our day what he was permitted to do in his own...The inspector would come and examine the Ark, and make all sorts of objections.

If man had created man he would be ashamed of his performance.

Some men worship rank, some worship heroes, some worship power, some worship God, & over these ideals they dispute & cannot unite – but they all worship money.

All men know that few things that are done from necessity have much fascination about them.

Alas, if we but do right under restraint of authoritative observance, where then is the merit?

Indecency, vulgarity, obscenity – these are strictly confined to man; he invented them. Among the higher animals there is no trace of them.

I am going to get a chemist – a real genius – and get him to extract all the oxygen out of the atmosphere for eight minutes. Then we will have universal peace, and it will be permanent.

The physician's is the highest and worthiest of all occupations, or would be if human nature did not make superstitions and priests necessary.

I complimented this police force in a letter some time ago, and felt like a guilty, degraded wretch when I was doing it, and now I am glad I got into the Station House, because it will teach me never to so far forget all moral principle as to compliment a police force again.

I shall not often meddle with politics, because we have a political Editor who is already excellent and only needs to serve a term or two in the penitentiary to be perfect.

He is the only animal that loves his neighbor as himself and cuts his throat if his theology isn't straight.

He has made a graveyard of the globe in trying his honest best to smooth his brother's path to happiness and heaven.

India has two million gods, and worships them all. In religion all other countries are paupers; India is the only millionaire.

Monarchies, aristocracies, and religions....there was never a country where the majority of the people were in their secret hearts loyal to any of these institutions.

Religion consists in a set of things which the average man thinks he believes, and wishes he was certain.

I am quite sure now that often, very often, in matters concerning religion and politics a man's reasoning powers are not above the monkey's.

Zeal and sincerity can carry a new religion further than any other missionary except fire and sword.

The offspring of riches: Pride, vanity, ostentation, arrogance, tyranny.

Unquestionably the person that can get lowest down in cringing before royalty and nobility, and can get most satisfaction out of crawling on his belly before them, is an American. Not all Americans, but when an American does it he makes competition impossible.

A royal "right" stolen five hundred years ago is called a "divine" right to-day. God himself is made a conspirator, an accessory to the theft.

When the human race has once acquired a supersitition nothing short of death is ever likely to remove it.

There is nothing that training cannot do. Nothing is above its reach or below it. It can turn bad morals to good, good morals to bad; it can destroy principles, it can recreate them; it can debase angels to men and lift men to angels. And it can do any of these miracles in a year – even six months.

An inglorious peace is better than a dishonorable war.

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

Money is most difficult to get when people need it most.

There is not an acre of ground on the globe that is in possession of its rightful owner, or that has not been taken away from owner after owner, cycle after cycle, by force and bloodshed.

Nothing that glitters is gold.

We must create, a public opinion, said Senator Dilworthy.

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

Patriotism is usually the refuge of the scoundrel. He is the man who talks the loudest.

Symbol of the human race ought to be an ax.

In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination.

Often it does seem a pity that Noah and his party did not miss the boat.

The radical of one century is the conservative of the next. The radical invents the views. When he has worn them out the conservative adopts them.

Difference between savage and civilized man: one is painted, the other gilded.

Etiquette requires us to admire the human race.

God's noblest work? Man. Who found it out? Man.

It is hard enough luck being a monarch, without being a target also.

It is a solemn thought: Dead, the noblest man's meat is inferior to pork.

It is better to take what does not belong to you than to let it lie around neglected.

It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress.

It is not likely that any complete life has ever been lived which was not a failure in the secret judgment of the person that lived it.

Let us save the to-morrows for work.

The lack of money is the root of all evil.

The low level which commercial morality has reached in America is deplorable. We have humble God fearing Christian men among us who will stoop to do things for a million dollars that they ought not to be willing to do for less than 2 millions.

Morals consist of political morals, commercial morals, ecclesiastical morals, and morals.

Nothing incites to money-crimes like great poverty or great wealth.

Obscurity and a competence. That is the life that is best worth living.

Pessimist: The optimist who didn't arrive.

Prosperity is the best protector of principle.

Public servant: Persons chosen by the people to distribute the graft.

Patriot: The person who can holler the loudest without knowing what he is hollering about.

The real yellow peril: Gold.

Senator: Person who makes laws in Washington when not doing time.

To create man was a quaint and original idea, but to add the sheep was tautology.

Vote: The only commodity that is peddleable without a license.

What is human life? The first third a good time; the rest remembering about it.

Work and play are words used to describe the same thing under differing conditions.

When a man arrives at great prosperity God did it: when he falls into disaster he did it himself.

What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin.

The altar cloth of one aeon is the doormat of the next.

It was wonderful to find America, but it would have been more wonderful to miss it.

The very ink with which all history is written is merely fluid prejudice.

What is Man? Man is a noisome bacillus whom Our Heavenly Father created because he was disappointed in the monkey.

If the desire to kill and the opportunity to kill always came together, who would escape hanging?

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining, but wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

Civilization is a limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities.

Heaven goes by favor; if it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

I don't know of a single foreign product that enters this country untaxed, except the answer to prayer.

Ours is the "land of the free" – nobody denies that – nobody challenges it. (Maybe it is because we won't let other people testify.)

One of the proofs of the immortality of the soul is that myriads have believed in it. They have also believed the world was flat.

The first thing a missionary teaches the savage is indecency.

By the etiquette of war, it is permitted to none below the rank of newspaper correspondent to dictate to the general in the field.

The emperor sent his troops to the field with immense enthusiasm; and he will lead them in person when they return.

Lincoln's proclamation, which not only set the black slaves free, but set the white man free also.

Man is kind enough when he is not excited by religion.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

O kind missionary, O compassionate missionary, leave China! Come home and convert these Christians!

Man is the Religious Animal. He is the only Religious Animal. He is the only animal that has the True Religion – several of them.

The English are mentioned in the Bible: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Soap and education are not as sudden as massacre, but they are often more deadly in the long run.

There are two kinds of Christian morals, one private and the other public. These two are so distinct, so unrelated, that they are no more akin to each other than are archangels and politicians.

I wonder how much it would take to buy a soap bubble, if there were only one in the world.

God made the Idiot for practice, and then He made the School Board.

How hard it is that we have to die" – a strange complaint to come from the mouths of people who have had to live.

Two boys with the roles they end up in, one in the gutters and one in the palace.

Principles aren't of much account anyway, except at election time. After that you hang them up to let them season.

Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.

You can straighten a worm, but the crook is in him and only waiting.

All life seems to be sacred except human life.

3

A lie can travel halfway round the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't.

Life is but a dream, a grotesque and foolish dream.

Noise proves nothing. Often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid.

If Christ were here there is one thing he would not be – a Christian.

All generalizations are false, including this one.

Sometimes too much to drink is barely enough.

Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it is lightning that does all the work.

The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.

The man who sets out to carry a cat by its tail learns something that will always be useful and which never will grow dim or doubtful.

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered – either by themselves or by others.

It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling.

Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.

A classic is something that everybody wants to have read and nobody has read.

All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence – and then success is sure.

It is curious – curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.

Whoever has lived long enough to find out what life is, knows how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to Adam, the first great benefactor of our race. He brought death into the world.

The average American may not know who his grandfather was. But the American was, however, one degree better off than the average Frenchman who, as a rule, was in considerable doubt as to who his father was.

It is just like man's vanity and impertinence to call an animal dumb because it is dumb to his dull perceptions.

Even Noah got no salary for the first six months – partly on account of the weather and partly because he was learning navigation.

I am glad the old masters are all dead, and I only wish they had died sooner.

Concerning the difference between man and the jackass: some observers hold that there isn't any. But this wrongs the jackass.

When an audience do not complain, it is a compliment, & when they do it is a compliment, too, if unaccompanied by violence.

Just the omission of Jane Austen's books alone would make a fairly good library out of a library that hadn't a book in it.

The empire is made up of health resorts; it distributes health to the whole world. Its waters are all medicinal. They are bottled and sent throughout the earth; the natives themselves drink beer. This is self-sacrifice, apparently. (Austria)

Sufficient unto the day is one baby. As long as you are in your right mind don't you ever pray for twins. Twins amount to a permanent riot; and there ain't any real difference between triplets and a insurrection.

A baby is an inestimable blessing and bother.

When one reads Bibles, one is less surprised at what the Deity knows than at what He doesn't know.

Get a bicycle. You will not regret it. If you live.

Blasphemy? No, it is not blasphemy. If God is as vast as that, he is above blasphemy; if He is as little as that, He is beneath it.

There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it, and when he can.

Let your sympathies and your compassion be always with the under dog in the fight – this is magnanimity; but bet on the other one – this is business.

We have an insanity plea that would have saved Cain.

The calamity that comes is never the one we had prepared ourselves for.

A healthy and wholesome cheerfulness is not necessarily impossible to any occupation.

There has been only one Christian. They caught him and crucified him – early.

I don't suppose that anybody ever reads an edition deluxe. No one puts bric-a-brac to any very practical purpose. There's some human instinct which makes a man treasure what he is not to make any use of, because everybody does not possess it.

Behold, the same gust of wind that blows a lady's dress aside, and exposes her ankle, fills your eyes so full of sand that you can't see it. Marvellous are the works of Nature!

Adam was not alone in the Garden of Eden, however, and does not deserve all the credit; much is due to Eve, the first woman, and Satan, the first consultant.

Where was the use, originally, in rushing this whole globe through in six days? It is likely that if more time had been taken in the first place, the world would have been made right, and this ceaseless improving and repairing would not be necessary now.

The critic's symbol should be the tumble-bug: he deposits his egg in somebody else's dung, otherwise he could not hatch it.

No real estate is permanently valuable but the grave.

Let us not be too particular. It is better to have old, second hand diamonds than none at all.

Some civilized women would lose half their charm without dress; and some would lose all of it.

What marriage is to morality, a properly conducted licensed liquor traffic is to sobriety...

In fact, the more things are forbidden, the more popular they become.

Never refuse to do a kindness unless the act would work great injury to yourself, and never refuse to take a drink – under any circumstances.

Fame is a vapor; popularity an accident; the only earthly certainty is oblivion.

Consider the flea! Incomparably the bravest of all the creatures of God, if ignorance of fear were courage.

An isolated & helpless young girl is perfectly safe from insult by a Frenchman, if he is dead.

Nothing that grieves us can be called little: by the eternal laws of proportion a child's loss of a doll and a king's loss of a crown are events of the same size.

...as happy as a dog with two tails.

Sanity and happiness are an impossible combination.

There is Moral Sense, and there is an Immoral Sense. History shows us that the Moral Sense enables us to perceive morality and how to avoid it, and that the Immoral Sense enables up to perceive immorality and how to enjoy it.

The way it is now, the asylums can hold the sane people, but if we tried to shut up the insane we should run out of building materials.

The gods offer no rewards for intellect. There was never one yet that showed any interest in it...

Whenever you give an interviewer a fact give him another fact that will contradict it. Then he'll go away with a jumble that he can't use at all.

Name the greatest of all inventors. Accidents.

Life: we laugh and laugh, then cry and cry, then feeble laugh, then die.

Love is a madness; if thwarted it develops fast.

All people have had ill luck, but Jairus's daughter and Lazarus had the worst.

Both marriage and death ought to be welcome: the one promises happiness, doubtless the other assures it.

Martyrdom is the luckiest fate that can befall some people.

It is more trouble to make a maxim than it is to do right.

It is the creator of wrong; wrong cannot exist until Moral Sense brings it into being.

Nature knows no indecencies; man invents them.

How blind and unreasoning and arbitrary are some of the laws of nature – most of them in fact!

Architects cannot teach nature anything.

There is probably no pleasure equal to the pleasure of climbing a dangerous Alp; but it is a pleasure which is confined strictly to people who can find pleasure in it.

When we were finishing our house, we found we had a little cash left over, on account of the plumber not knowing it.

To promise not to do a thing is the surest way in the world to make a body want to go and do that very thing.

The public is the only critic whose judgment is worth anything at all.

The objects of which Paris folks are fond – literature, art, medicine and adultery.

I said there was but one solitary thing about the past worth remembering and that was the fact that it is past – can't be restored.

It is easier for a needle to go through a camel's eye than for a rich woman to sprain her ankle & keep it out of the papers.

A river without islands is like a woman without hair. She may be good and pure, but one doesn't fall in love with her very often.

Of all the delights of this world man cares most for sexual intercourse. He will go any length for it – risk fortune, character, reputation, life itself. and what do you think he has done? He has left it out of his heaven! Prayer takes its place.

There would be a power of fun in skating if you could do it with somebody else's muscles.

A use has been found for everything but snoring.

How empty is theory in the presence of fact.

Life does not consist mainly – or even largely – of facts and happenings. It consists mainly of the storm of thoughts that is forever blowing through one's head.

When your watch gets out of order you have a choice of two things to do: throw it in the fire or take it to the watch-tinker. The former is the quickest.

An American girl would rather marry a title than an angel.

Always trying to build a house by beginning at the top.

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

Native canoe is an irresponsible looking contrivance.

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

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

Climate which nothing can stand except rocks.

Faith is believing what you know ain't so.

Forgotten fact is news when it comes again.

It is easier to stay out than get out.

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

Balloon: Thing to take meteoric observations and commit suicide with.

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.

Heroine: Girl who is perfectly charming to live with, in a book.

It is best to read the weather forecast before we pray for rain.

It is a wise child that knows its own father, and an unusual one that unreservedly approves of him.

Nothing is made in vain, but the fly came near it.

Nelson would have been afraid of ten thousand fleas, but a flea wouldn't be afraid of ten thousand Nelsons.

Taking the pledge will not make bad liquor good, but it will improve it.

The cat, having sat upon a hot stove lid, will not sit upon a hot stove lid again. But he won't sit upon a cold stove lid, either.

When a teacher calls a boy by his entire name, it means trouble.

There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.

Pity is for the living, Envy is for the dead.

Only one thing is impossible for God: To find any sense in any copyright law on the planet.

Water, taken in moderation, cannot hurt anybody.

You can tell German wine from vinegar by the label.

Adam and Eve had many advantages, but the principle one was that they escaped teething.

One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.

Happiness ain't a thing in itself – it's only a contrast with something that ain't pleasant.

Now, let that teach you a lesson – I don't know just what it is.

Truth is mighty and will prevail. There is nothing wrong with this, except that it ain't so.

But who prays for Satan? Who, in eighteen centuries, has had the common humanity to pray for the one sinner that needed it most?

He was a preacher and never charged nothing for his preaching, and it was worth it too.

Everybody was sorry she died... But I reckoned, that with her disposition, she was having a better time in the graveyard.

A man pretty much always refuses another man's first offer, no matter what it is.

It is no use to throw a good thing away merely because the market isn't ripe yet.

The man who is a pessimist before 48 knows too much; if he is an optimist after it he knows too little.

The best thing... that can befall a man is to be born lucky.

An injurious truth has no merit over an injurious lie.

Poor old Methuselah, how did he manage to stand it so long?

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We do no benevolences whose first benefit is not for ourselves.

Adam was the author of sin, and I wish he had taken out an international copyright on it.

Blind Artist Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.

I am prepared to meet anyone, but whether anyone is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.

I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said, "I don't know."

I'm opposed to millionaires, but it would be dangerous to offer me the position.

The report of my death was an exaggeration.

I have never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.

It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech.

I thoroughly disapprove of duels. If a man should challenge me, I would take him kindly and forgivingly by the hand and lead him to a quiet place and kill him.

I don't mind what the opposition say of me so long as they don't tell the truth about me. But when they descend to telling the truth about me I consider that this is taking an unfair advantage.

As to the Adjective: When in doubt, strike it out.

There are three things which I consider excellent advice. First, don't smoke to excess. Second, don't drink to excess. Third, don't marry to excess.

I am silent on the subject because of necessity. I have friends in both places. (Afterlife)

When I reflect upon the number of disagreeable people who I know have gone to a better world, I am moved to lead a different life.

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.

I was young and foolish then; now I am old an foolisher.

....as far as being on the verge of being a sick man I don't take any stock in that. I have been on the verge of being an angel all my life, but it's never happened yet.

When angry count four; when very angry, swear. But most of us don't wait to count four! at least I don't!

This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four. (April Fool's Day)

It takes up more room than all the rest of a person's insides, and yet ain't no good nohow. (Conscience)

I haven't any right to criticise books, and I don't do it except when I hate them...

An author values a compliment even when it comes from a source of doubtful competency.

I never saw an author who was aware that there is any dimensional difference between a fact and a surmise.

The game of billiards has destroyed my naturally sweet disposition.

Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved.

...great books are weighed and measured by their style and matter and not by the trimmings and shadings of their grammar.

A successful book is not made of what is in it, but of what is left out of it.

But the truth is, that when a Library expels a book of mine and leaves an unexpurgated Bible lying around where unprotected youth and age can get hold of it, the deep unconscious irony of it delights me and doesn't anger me.

All my life I have been honest – comparatively honest. I could never use money I had not made honestly – I could only lend it.

I found out that I was a Christian for revenue only and I could not bear the thought of that, it was so ignoble.

I always recognize his many merits & excellent virtues when he is out of my sight, but he is sure to irritate me & make me see his less pleasant features when he is with me.

I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying that I approved of it.

I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year (1910), and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: "Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together."

I have been complimented many times and they always embarrass me; I always feel that they have not said enough.

I like compliments, praises, flatteries; I cordially enjoy all such things, and am grieved and disappointed when what I call a 'barren mail' arrives – a mail that hasn't any compliments in it.

Mine was a trained Presbyterian conscience and knew but the one duty – to hunt and harry its slave upon all pretexts and on all occasions, particularly when there was no sense nor reason in it.

The human race is a race of cowards; and I am not only marching in that procession but carrying a banner.

I like criticism, but it must be my way.

I take the same childlike delight in a new degree that an Indian takes in a fresh scalp and I take no more pains to conceal my joy than the Indian does.

I have studied it often, but I never could discover the plot. (Dictionary)

They want to send me abroad, as a Consul or a Minister. I said I didn't want any of the pie. God knows I am mean enough and lazy enough, now without being a foreign consul.

Yes, even I am dishonest. Not in many ways, but in some. Forty-one, I think it is.

Human beings feel dishonor the most, sometimes, when they most deserve it.

The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven, not man's.

It is at our mother's knee that we acquire our noblest and truest and highest ideals, but there is seldom any money in them.

I would rather have my ignorance than another man's knowledge, because I have so much more of it.

When a thing is sacred to me it is impossible for me to be irreverent toward it. I cannot call to mind a single instance where I have ever been irreverent, except toward the things which were sacred to other people.

I'd rather have a sound judgment than a talent.

But we are all that way: when we know a thing we have only scorn for other people who don't happen to know it.

There has never been an intelligent person of the age of sixty who would consent to live his life over again. His or anyone else's.

I am no lazier now than I was forty years ago, but that is because I reached the limit forty years ago. You can't go beyond possibility.

When we remember we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained.

When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it happened or not; but I am getting old, and soon I shall remember only the latter.

It isn't so astonishing, the number of things that I can remember, as the number of things I can remember that aren't so.

I was born modest; not all over, but in spots.

I am not one of those who in expressing opinions confine themselves to facts.

I, like all other human beings, expose to the world only my trimmed and perfumed and carefully barbered public opinions and conceal carefully, cautiously, wisely, my private ones.

The difference between the almost right word & the right word is really a large matter - it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

I shall not write poetry unless I conceive a spite against the subscribers.

All the consciences I have ever heard of were nagging, badgering, fault-finding, execrable savages! Yes; and always in a sweat about some poor little insignificant trifle or other – destruction catch the lot of them, I say! I would trade mine for the small-pox and seven kinds of consumption, and be glad of the chance.

It was the most earnest ambition I ever had....Not that I ever really wanted to be a preacher, but because it never occurred to me that a preacher could be damned. It looked like a safe job.

I was obliged to eat, I was so hungry. It was against my principles, but I find that principles have no real force except when one is well fed.

Man is the Reasoning Animal. Such is the claim. I think it is open to dispute.

That desire which is in us all to better other people's condition by having them think as we think.

I never did a thing in all my life, virtuous or otherwise that I didn't repent of within twenty-four hours.

I could have made a neat retort but didn't, for I was flurried and didn't think of it till I was downstairs.

But we were good boys... we didn't break the Sabbath often enough to signify – once a week perhaps.

It shames the average man to be valued below his own estimate of his worth.

When people do not respect us we are sharply offended; yet deep down in his private heart no man much respects himself.

I have seen slower people than I am – and more deliberate... and even quieter, and more listless, and lazier people than I am. But they were dead.

As an example to others, and not that I care for moderation myself, it has always been my rule never to smoke when asleep and never to refrain when awake.

...when they used to tell me I would shorten my life ten years by smoking, they little knew the devotee they were wasting their puerile word upon – they little knew how trivial and valueless I would regard a decade that had no smoking in it!

I could have become a soldier if I had waited; I knew more about retreating than the man who invented retreating.

I like a good story well told. That is the reason I am sometimes forced to tell them myself.

It takes me along time to lose my temper, but once lost I could not find it with a dog.

...there is not another temper as bad as mine except God Almighty's.

The gentle reader will never, never know what a consummate ass he can become until he goes abroad. I speak now, of course, in the supposition that the gentle reader has not been abroad, and therefore is not already a consummate ass. If the case be otherwise, I beg his pardon and extend to him the cordial hand of fellowship and call him brother.

Travel has no longer any charm for me. I have seen all the foreign countries I want to except heaven & hell & I have only a vague curiosity about one of those.

We do not deal much in facts when we are contemplating ourselves.

I haven't a particle of confidence in a man who has no redeeming petty vices.

Before I had chance in another war, the desire to kill people to whom I had not been introduced had passed away.

What work I have done I have done because it has been play. If it had been work I shouldn't have done it.

We write frankly and fearlessly but then we "modify" before we print.

Seventy is old enough – after that, there is too much risk.

Optimist: Day-dreamer more elegantly spelled.

There are many scapegoats for our blunders, but the most popular one is Providence.

We all live in the protection of certain cowardices which we call our principles.

We can't reach old age by another man's road. My habits protect my life but they would assassinate you.

It is a pity that we cannot escape from life when we are young.

Most authors regard truth as their most cherished possession and are therefore most economical in their use of it.

In Paris they simply stared when I spoke to them in French; I never did succeed in making those idiots understand their language.

Nothing helps scenery like ham and eggs.

I do not like work even when someone else does it.

I was born modest, but it wore off.

Education consists mainly in what we have unlearned.

I have told him all I know about it. And now he knows nothing about it himself.

Repartee is something we think of twenty-four hours too late.

Now I can only pray that there may be a God – and a heaven – or something better.

"Gentlemen: ,?!() "—*".. Please scatter these through out according to your taste."

What remarkable names those diseases have! It makes me envious of the man that has them all. I have had many diseases, and am thankful for all I have had.

It used to be a good hotel, but that proves nothing – I used to be a good boy.

Whenever I am rested and feeling good I can't help being frivolous.

For business reasons, I must preserve the outward signs of sanity.

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned.

I am not on earth to do good – at least not intentionally.

If all the fools in this world should die, lordly God how lonely I should be.