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# He walked with Kings

He could not know, standing there in his bare feet and his rough clothes, with his little schooling, that kings would do him honor when he died, and that all men who read would mourn a friend.

He could not dream that one day his work would stand in Chinese, in Russian, in many languages he could not read—and from humble doorman to proudest emperor, all would be gladdened at his coming.

He could not know that through it all he would remain as simple, as democratic, as he was that day as a boy on the Mississippi.

## MARK TWAIN

He made us laugh, so that we had no time to see that his style was sublime, that he was biblical in simplicity, that he was to America another Lincoln in spirit.

To us, he was just Mark Twain—well-beloved, one of ourselves, one to laugh with, one to go to for cheer, one to go to for sane, pointed views. Now he is gone, the trenchant pen is still. But his jovious spirit is still with us. Mark Twain's smile will live forever. His laughter is eternal.

The road ahead of that boy on the river bank was a hard one. Before "Mark Twain," a distinguished, white-haired man, and the King of England walked and talked together, his path was set with trouble. It was a truly American story—a small beginning—little schooling—hard work—disaster—good humor—and final, shining, astounding success.

Because he was of high and brave intellect, he had humor as deep and as true as the human heart, and because he had struggled with life, he was a great man. So his works are great.

### The Great American

He was American. He had the idealism of America—the humor, the kindness, the reaching toward a bigger thing, the simplicity. In his work we find all things, from the ridiculous in "Huckleberry Finn" to the sublime of "Joan of Arc"—serene and lovely beauty as lofty as Joan herself. A man who could write two such books as "Huckleberry Finn" and "Joan of Arc" was sublime in power. His youth and his laughter are eternal; his genius will never die.

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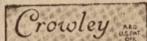
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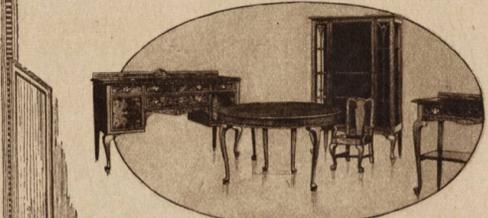
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