# TWAIN VERSUS O'RELL. MR. STRANGE DEFENDSTHE AMER. ICAN HUMORIST.

2

The French Wit's Caustic Remarks Concern ing Other Nations Severely Criticised---Max O'Rell's Remarks Concerning the Hotel Cake of Soap.

It would almost seem as if the French nation had taken upon themselves the pleasant task of reforming England, so determinedly have French litterateurs devoted themselves lately to showing the English people just how ridiculous they appear to enlightened-French-eyes! In fact England herselt never took a greater interest people smile, a number more wince in the welfare of the benighted savages who disport themselves with undraped efrontery, and in heathen darkness "where Afric's sunny tountains, roll down their golden sand," than the modern French | herselt seems to have taught Mark Twain, writer takes in setting the English nation right.

The good work was begun by a gentleman who wrote many clever books under a pen-name which showed a curious compound of Germany and Ireland-Max O'Rell, and in three of these brilliant volmes he devoted his best energies to showing England what a fool she was, and how ignorant and vulgar, not to say brutal. He did not handle that "tight little island" who has always had such a good opinion of herself, that she was sure whatever she did must be as right as herself-with gloves, and his language was sometimes plain to the verge of indecency, especially in "John Bull's Daughters." He criticised the very people who were entertaining him, and found fault with most of their dearest institutions contrasting them greatly to their disadvantage with his own countrymen and, proudly holding them up to the contempt and ridicule of other nations.

But the clever criticism took wonderfully well with the public, and Max O' Nell won

brilliancy of his career; therefore it might be just as well to remind him that Mark Twain was a great man before Max O'Rell was ever heard of, and that with all his cleverness and all his success, he can never hope to touch the "professional humorist" far less overtake him. Mark Twain is getting to be an old man now, and probably he has done his best work, but if Max O'Rell should ever write a book like either "The Innocents Abroad" "The New Pil-

grim's Progress" or "A Tramp Abroad" he can afford to rest upon his laurels, and not work very hard in his old age. The witty Frenchman has made ander the lash of his sharp criticism and he has taught more than one nation to dread his caustic pen, but so far I do not think he has ever learned the secret which nature the secret of making people laugh till the tears roll down their cheeks, without sayng one sharp or bitter word ! There is no such medicine in the world as healthy

laughter, and I have seen a weary invalid. whose life contained little enough of brightness or cheer, torget his own troubles for hours at a time and laugh as if he had not a care in the world, because some tactful triend came in and read how Mark "took it out of" his friend Harris in repeating the conversation he had with their fair traveling companion; how they both viewed an Alpine sunrise arrayed only in red blankets, at six o'clock in the evening, or how the "doctor" and his travelling companions worried their long-suffering guide, "Ferguson," and requested that "mice fresh corpses" should be substituted for the shopworn Egyptian mummies he was so very enthusiastic over.

M. Blouet says that "Mark Twain as a professional humorist does not appreciate

other people's jokes. Professional humorists never do." Pray what is M. Blouet himfame, and shekels to such a degree that selt? Surely he would not wish to be his reputation is now world wide, and he ranked in literature as a mere amateur, a is known everywhere as "The Gitted dilettante. He has been before the public

### THE CITY'S CHARITIES.

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1895.

## Facts and Figures in Which all St. John Should be Interested.

A comparsion of church and charitable work in and about the city shows that the latter form of benevolent effort receives very nearly as much attention as the former. The articles and statistics respecting the churches which appeared in PROGRESS showed that the churches in the city proper possessed nearly \$1,400,000 worth of property. Of this the protestant bodies owned a million dollars worth. About \$150,000 was raised yearly for the various torms of church work, of which protestant churches raised about the \$110,000. The number of communicants enrolled in the protestant churches is about 8000.

The figures relating to the charitable institutions show nearly as large results Against the fitty churches in the city there are seventeen charitable institutions and societies. Some of the most important ones are a short distance outside the city limit and some of them are supported by the province or muncipality but that does not prevent them being reckoned in the lis+

People will probably be surprised to earn how many people about the city are being supported by charity, either public or private. In the various institutions over 2000 people are cared for annually during the whole or portion of the year. A large number of them of course come from all parts of the county and province. The reliet societies also give assistance to about 225 families. These are the well organized societies. There is also individual and church effort which accomplishes considerable. So it may be said that the poor are are well looked after in this city and province.

The cost of maintenance of these charities is about the same as the cost of maintaining church work, about \$110,000 in both cases. The amount of money invested in the charities about the city is \$625,000.

Gazette by Mr. Hopkins, who attributes his recovery solely to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and he is willing to satisfy any person who may call on him as to their wonderful effects. A depraved condition of the blood or a

sha tered nervous system is the secret of ills that afflict mankind, and by restoring the blood and rebuilding the nerves. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strike at the root of the dise se, driving it from the system and restoring the patient to health and strength. In cases of paralysis, spinal troubles, locomotor ataxia, sciatica, rheumatism, erysipelas, scrofulous troubles, etc., these pills are superior to all other treatment. They are also a specific for the troubles which make the lives of so many women a burden, and speedily restore the rich glow of health to sallow cheeks. Men broken down by overwork, worry or excesses, will find in Pink Pills a certain cure. Sold by all dealers or sent by mail, postpaid, at 50 c nts a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing t'e Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Scherectady. N. Y. Beware of imitations and substitutes alleged to be "just as good."

#### From Trivial Causes.

You would be surprised how often the most trifling accident prevents a man from wis ning big prizes at the shooting-ranges," sald a marksman who has carried off certain great prizes.

I remember that in shooting for the Queen's Prize at Wimbledon a tew years back, a celebrated marksman, at a most critical time for him, was wholly disconcented and lost his aim through a wasp flying from his right hand full in the face just as he was pulling the trigger. "A celebrated Scottish marksman was

trustrated by a wretched crow, which rose from the ground straight in the line of fire just as he was firing the shot which would either make or mar him. He hit the crow. but he missed the prize.

"At Bisley once a competitor's dog was tied up near its master's tent. It somehow got loose, and it rushed to where it saw groups of men, and jumped upon his recumbent master just as he was firing.

"I have known even a steeze from bebind to completely 'queer' a man, for con-testants are har more highly strung than you would in agi a. A sulden thunderclap lost the Quesen's for a Middlesex man not ten years ago, and a lying mineral water cork was recently said to have done the same tor one of the greatest shots this country ever produced."



It is recommended by physicians everywhere. All who use it are amazed at its power and pra after. It is used and endorsed by all athletes. It is the best, the oldest, the original. It other. It is superior to all others. It is not merely a Liniment, it is the Universal Household Remedy from infancy to old age. There is not a medicine to day which possesses the confidence of the pub great an extent. Every Mother should have it in the house, dropped on sugar suffering children take it It produces an increase of vital activity in the system. Its electric energy everla-eradicates inflammation without irritation. Generation after Generation Have Used and Ble

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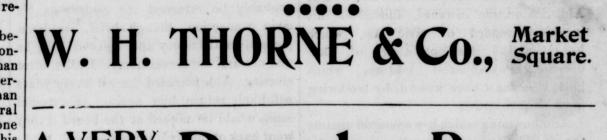
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Frenchman." M. Blouet was so success- quite long enough to have now his spurs ful with England that he turned his atten- as a full fledged professional man of letters; tion to other countries after a while, and and that being the case we have no further gave the English a rest, in the hope, no to seek for the cause of his failure to apdoubt, that they would lay his advice and preciate Mark Twain. Being a profeshis criticisms to heart, and "not do so any sional humorist himselt he cannot see the more" until he had time to lock after them again.

The people of the United States were of country in our hearts like to hear the next objects of his attention, and he gave the world one more bitterly clever book, "Jonathan and His Continent," and made the Americans fond ot him. He stated in a little pretace addressed to Jonathan himself, that the book was not to be taken seriously; but some parts were difficult to look at in the light of a joke. Lately he has been turning the strong light of his observation upon Canada, and the Canadians, and only last month he lectured in Montreal, so it is now our turn to tremble; perhaps our youth may serve us in good stead, however, and be accepted as an extenuating circumstance, as well as a reason for our ignorance.

M. Blouet is a clever man, as I said before, and one must render homage to genuis wherever it is found, and even when it shows a disposition to trample on one's most che ris hed ideals with hob-nailed boots. But still there is a limit to the allowance which ordinary mortals are prepared to make, for the little eccentricities of genius, and when the gifted Frenchman undertakes to dance upon that darling of all lovers of pure sparkling humor, and good natured fun. Mark Iwain-we feel that the limit has been reached and the genius needs to be sat upon. Of course it is much to be regretted that the fun loving Mark should have incurred the disapproval of Max O'Rell, but it is due to the great American humorist to say that he died so in detending his countrymen against criticisms which he considered unfair, and this, if I remember aright was the way the trouble began.

A compatriot of Max O'Rell's, M. Paul Bourget, wrote a book called Dutre-Mer, in which he criticised American's, and American ways in such a manrer that Mark Twain telt called upon to resent what he considered the unfair light in which his countrymen had been placed; and the veteran humorist wrote a scathing criticism of M. Bourget's book. This in turn called forth a spirited defence of M. Bourget, by Max O'Rell, with many slighting reterences to Mark Twain himself, thrown in. M. Blouet goes out of his way to refer to his own countryman as "one of the brightest ornaments of modern literature" and to Mark Twain as "protes-

genial Mark's jokes! I don't think any of us, who have the least spark of love

our native land ridiculed, and M. Blouet waxes very eloquent over Mark Twain's surprise at not finding any soap on the washstand in a first class French hotel, and his remark to the waiter that soap was indispensable to an American, and only a Frenchman could do without it He tells Mark, and the whole American nation wnom he represents, that Frenchmen carry their own soap about with them when they are travelling, and would no more think of using the soap on a hotel washstand, than an old stray toothbrush they might find on the same piece of furniture! What shocking soap they must supply in the best French hote's, when they supply any, if a Frenchman speaks of it in such strong terms ! It may surprise

the gifted author of "Jonathan and his Continent" to know that Americans are also in the habit of carrying cakes of soap about with them when they travel, but that at the same time when they stay at a first class hotel they expect to be supplied with the best of everything, including a fresh cake of the very best soap on their washstand; and they are never disappointed.

In short Max O'Rell cannot stand one word of criticism for his own country, but he expects other countries to stand ur.limited criticism from French writers in re turn. His Frenchman's joke about the American's lack of a grandfather is a "good humored bit of chaffing," but Mark Twain's retort about the Frenchman's tather is "a gross insult" and Mr. Blouet proceeds to give proof of his utter intolerance of all criticism by a few remarks on the aristocracy of America and one anecdote in particular which I confess I find it hard to believe is founded on fact, unless Max O'Rell's experience of the upper classes of American society was singularly unfortunate.

I believe it s a fact very generally con ceded by those who are well qualified to judge, that an American gentleman, is a very perfect gentleman indeed, and the same may be said in all truth of an American lady; she is a lady in every sense of About three years ago, while residing at the word, so Max O'Rell's millionairess must have been one of the parvenu class,

The following table will show in brief what the various charities are doing :

> of maint for year Number assiduring year. ot posr Value perty 1 Cost

620 40.100 250 000 791 18 0:0 70.000 Provincial Lunatic Asylum, General Public Hespital, Boys' Reformatory, 13 2 530 30.000 13,000 30,000 Almshcuse, 300 PRIVATE HOMES. Protestant Orphan Asylum, 40 Wiggins' Male Orphan Asylum, 1 30 000 3 000 3.000 125 000

PUBLIC CHARITIES

St. Patrick's Industrial School, Chft Street Orphan Asylum, Mater Misericordiæ Home, Home for Aged women. 800 Salvation Army Rescue Home, 20 Little Girls' Home, (W.C.T.U.) 10 570 Day Nursery, RELIEF SOCIETIES. 7 000 Relief and Aid Society,

Reliet Societies,

St. Vincent de Paul Society W. C. T. U. Rel ef D. partment, 40.am.---King's Daughters Department, RE UME. 1725 73.530 380,000 325 25,000 250,000 Public Charities, Private Homes

225fam 9,000

# A MILLER'S STORY.

HE WAS GIVEN JUST ONE MONTH TO LIVE.

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(Sherbrooke Gazette.)

The benefits arising from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are well known to the Gazette. It is a frequent occurrence that people come into the office and state that they have been restored to health by their It occasionally happens that extraoruse dinary instances of their curative powers comes to our notice, and one of these was related to us recently, so astonishing in its nature that we felt the closest investigation was required in order to thoroughly test the accuracy of the statements made to us. We devoted the necessary time for that purpose and can vouch for the reliability of the tollowing facts, wonderfully passing belief as they may appear:

There are tew men more widely known in this section than Mr. A. T. Hopkins. of Johnville, Que. Previous to his removal to Johnville, Mr. Hopkins recided at Windsor Mills and was for three years a member of the municipal coun il of that plasce. When a young man Mr. Hopkins wa noted for his strength and his activity as a wrestler. His strength stands him in good stead for he works hard at his business, carrying heavy sacks of flour in his mill for many hours during the day and frequently far into the night. Active as he is, and strong as he is, there was a time not long distant when he was as helpless as an intant and suffered intolerable agony Windsor Mills, he was attacked by inflammatory rheumatism. It grew worse and worse unti!, in spite of medical advice and Hosp itable.

Sandy X. was a blunt old farmer who Sandy X. was a bluit of farmer who resided in Lanarkshire. A strange, eccen-tric sort of being, he was alke famous for his penuriousness and his buntness. One afternoon the minister of he parish had called at the farm on his cost omary pastoral visitation. when it came on o rain heavily, and in a short time the buri which ran between the farm and the manse became flooded. The only method of crossing the stream at this place was by stepping-stones, the nearest bridge causing a circut of three miles. 30 000 The minister was nonplussed by the un-

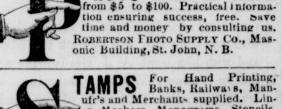
10,800 expected catastrophe, and, after much cogitation, remarked-"I think, Mr. X., I shall be obliged to

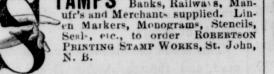
spend the night here." "Weel," returned the old fellow irascibly, "there's a burn between your hoose an' mine, an' if I was at your hoose as you're at mine, I'd gang hame the nicht; The minister went bome.

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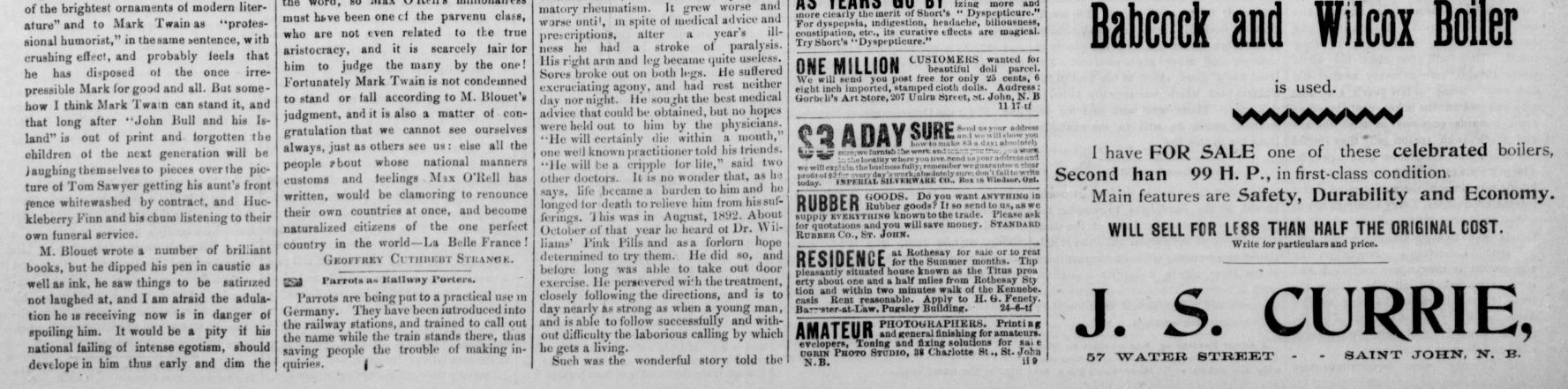
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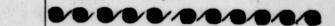


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