

Пособие представляет собой сборник рассказов известного американского писателя Марка Твена. Тексты рассказов снабжены постраничным комментарием, поясняющим сложные грамматические конструкции, идиоматические обороты, необычные словоупотребления. Пособие также содержит упражнения для отработки и закрепления навыков речевой деятельности, активизации лексики, творческих способностей и логического мышления. Рассказы адаптированы в соответствии с уровнем владения языком «Advanced», при этом авторский стиль максимально сохранен. Пособие рассчитано на студентов гуманитарных вузов, а также на широкий круг лиц, изучающих английский язык.

Калифорнийская сказка. Сборник рассказов / сост., адаптация текста, коммент., упражнения И. В. Макеенко

САРАТОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ Н. Г. ЧЕРНЫШЕВСКОГО

THE CALIFORNIAN TALE

And

OTHER STORIES

По рассказам Марка Твена

Учебно-методическое пособие для студентов филологического
факультета

САРАТОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНИ Н. Г. ЧЕРНЫШЕВСКОГО

Mark Twain

Biography

Mark Twain, pseudonym of Samuel Clemens (1835 – 1910), is an American writer and humorist, whose best work is characterized by broad humor or biting social satire. Twain's writing is also known for realism of place and language, memorable characters, and hatred of hypocrisy and oppression.

Mark Twain was born in Florida, Missouri. The family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, a port on the Mississippi River, when he was four years old. There he received a public school education. After the death of his father in 1847, Clemens was apprenticed to two Hannibal printers, and in 1851 he began writing sketches for home journals. Subsequently he worked as a printer in New York City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and other cities. Later Clemens was a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River until the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) brought an end to travel on the river. In 1861 Clemens served briefly as a volunteer soldier in the Confederate cavalry. Later that year he tried his hand at silver mining in the newly created Nevada Territory. In 1862 he became a reporter in Virginia City, Nevada, and in 1863 he began signing his articles with pseudonym "Mark Twain", a Mississippi River phrase meaning "two fathoms deep". After moving to San Francisco, California, in 1864, M. Twain reworked a tale he had heard in the California gold fields, and within months the author and the story, "The celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County", had become national sensation.

In 1867 M. Twain lectured in New York City, and in the same year he visited Europe and Palestine. He wrote of these travels in "The Innocents Abroad" (1869), a book exaggerating those aspects of European culture that impress American tourists. In 1870 he married and the couple moved to Harford, Connecticut. Much of Twain's best work was written in the 1870s and 1880s in Hartford or during the summers at Quarry Farm, near Elmira, New York. There he wrote "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", which celebrates boyhood in a town on the Mississippi River, "The Prince and the Pauper", a children's book, which focuses on switched identities in Tudor England.

"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", the sequel to Tom Sawyer, is considered Twain's masterpiece. The book is the story of the little character, known as Huck, a boy who flees his father by rafting down the Mississippi River with a runaway slave, Jim. The pair's adventures show Huck (and the readers) the cruelty of which men and women are capable. Another theme of the novel is the conflict between Huck's feelings of friendship with Jim, who is one of the few people he can trust, and his knowledge that he is breaking the laws of the time by helping Jim escape. "Huckleberry Finn", which is almost entirely narrated from Huck's point of view, is noted for its authentic language and for its deep commitment to freedom. Huck's adventures also provide the reader with a panorama of American life along the Mississippi before the Civil War. Twain's skill in capturing the rhythms of that life helps make the book one of the masterpieces of American literature.

In 1884 Twain formed the firm Charles L. Webster and Company to publish his and other writers' works, notably "Personal Memoirs" (1885 – 1886) by American general and president Ulysses S. Grant. A disastrous investment in an automatic typesetting machine led to the firm's bankruptcy in 1894. A successful worldwide lecture tour and the book based on those travels, "Following the Equator", paid off Twain's debts.

Twain's work during the 1890s and the 1900s is marked by growing pessimism and bitterness – the result of his business reverse and, later, the death of his wife and two daughters. Twain's later writings include short stories, philosophical, social, and political essays; the manuscript of "The Mysterious Stranger", an uncompleted piece that was published posthumously in 1916, and autobiographical dictations.

Twain's work was inspired by the unconventional West, and the popularity of his work marked the end of the domination of American Literature by New England writers. He is justly

renowned as a humorist but was not always appreciated by the writers of his time as anything more than that. Successive generations of writers, however, recognized the role that Twain played in creating a truly American literature. He portrayed uniquely American subjects in a humorous and colloquial, yet poetic, language. His success in creating this plain but evocative language precipitated the end of American reverence for British and European culture and for the more formal language associated with those traditions. His adherence to American themes, settings, and language set him apart from many other novelists of the day and had a powerful effect on such later American writers as Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner, both of whom pointed to Twain as an inspiration for their own writing.

In Twain's later years he wrote less, but he became a celebrity, frequently speaking out on public issues. He also came to be known for the white linen suit he always wore when making public appearances. Twain received an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford in 1907. He died in 1910.

THE BELATED RUSSIAN PASSPORT

Part one

A great beer-saloon in the Friedrichchstrasse, Berlin, toward mid-afternoon. At a hundred round tables gentlemen sat smoking and drinking; flitting here and there and everywhere were white-aproned waiters bearing foaming mugs to the thirsty, at a table near the main entrance were grouped half a dozen lively young fellows – American students – drinking good-bye to a visiting Yale youth on his travels, who had been spending a few days in the German capital.

“But why do you cut your tour short in the middle, Parrish?” asked one of the students. “I wish I had your chance. What do you want to go home for?”

“Yes,” said another, “What is the idea? You want to explain, you know, because it looks like insanity. Homesick?”

A girlish blush rose in Parrish’s fresh young face, and after a little hesitation he confessed that *that* was his trouble.

“I was never away from home before,” he said, “and every day I get more and more lonesome. I have not seen a friend for weeks, and it’s been horrible. I meant to stick the trip through, for pride’s sake, but seeing you boys have finished me. It’s been heaven to me, and I can’t take up that companionless dreariness again. If I had company – but I haven’t, you know, so it’s no use. They used to call me Miss Nancy when I was a small chap and I think I’m that yet – girlish and timorous, and all that. I ought to have *been* a girl. I can’t stand it; I’m going home.”

The boys rallied him good-naturedly, and said he was making the mistake of his life; and one of them added that he ought at least to see St. Petersburg before running back.

“Don’t!” said Parrish appealingly. “It was my dearest dream, and I’m throwing it away. Don’t say a word more on that head, for I’m made of water, I can’t stand out against anybody’s persuasion. I *can’t* go alone; I think I should die.” He slapped his breast pocket, and added: “Here is my protection against a change of mind; I’ve bought ticket and sleeper for Paris, and I leave to-night. Drink, now – this is on me – bumpers – this is for home!”

The good-byes were said, and Alfred Parrish was left to his thoughts and his loneliness. But for a moment only. A sturdy middle-aged man with a brisk and businesslike bearing, and an air of decision and confidence suggestive of military training, came bustling from the next table, and seated himself at Parrish’s side, and began to speak, with concentrated interest and earnestness. His eyes, his face, his person, his whole system, seemed to exude energy. He extended a frank hand, shook Parrish’s cordially, and said, with a most convicting air of strenuous conviction:

“Ah, but you mustn’t; really you mustn’t; it would be the greatest mistake; you would always regret it. Be persuaded, I beg you; don’t do it – don’t!”

There was such a friendly note in it, and such a seeming of genuineness, that it brought a sort of uplift to the youth’s despondent spirits, and a tell-tale moisture betrayed itself in his eyes, an unintentional confession that he was touched and grateful. The alert stranger noted that sign, was quite content with that response, and followed up his advantage without waiting for a spoken one.

“No, don’t do it; it would be a mistake. I have heard everything that was said – you will pardon that – I was so closed by that I couldn’t help it. And it troubled me to think that you would cut your travels short when you really *want* to see St. Petersburg, and are right here almost in sight of it. Reconsider it – ah, you *must* reconsider it. It is such a short distance – it is very soon done and very soon over – and think what a memory it will be!”

Then he went on and made a picture of the Russian capital and its wonders, which made Alfred Parrish’s mouth water and his roused spirits cry out with longing. Then –

“Of course you must see St. Petersburg – you *must*! Why, it will be a joy to you – a joy! I know, because I know the place as familiarly as I know my own birthplace in America. Ten years – I’ve known it ten years. Ask anybody there; they’ll tell you; they all know me. Do go; oh, you must go; you must, indeed.”

Alfred Parrish was quivering with eagerness now. He would go. His face said it as plainly as his tongue could have done it. Then – the old shadow fell and he said, sorrowfully: “Oh, no – no, it’s no use; I can’t. I should die of the loneliness.”

The Major said, with astonishment: “The – loneliness! Why, I’m going *with* you!”

It was startlingly unexpected. And not quite pleasant. Things were moving too rapidly. Was this a trap? Was this stranger a sharper? Whence all this gratuitous interest in a wandering and unknown lad? Then he glanced at the Major’s frank and winning, and beaming face, and was ashamed; and wished he knew how to get out of this scrape without hurting his feelings. But he was not handy in matters of diplomacy, and went at the difficulty with conscious awkwardness and small confidence. He said, with a quite overdone show of unselfishness:

“Oh, no, no, you are too kind; I couldn’t – I couldn’t allow you to put yourself to such an inconvenience on my –

“Inconvenience? None in the world, my boy; I was going tonight, anyway; I leave in the express at nine. Come! We’ll go together. You shan’t be lonely a single minute. Come along – say the word!”

So that excuse had failed. What to do now? Parrish was disheartened; it seemed to him that no subterfuge, which his poor invention could contrive, would ever rescue him from these toils. Still, he must make another effort, and he did; and before he had finished his new excuse he thought he recognized that it was unanswerable:

“Ah, but most unfortunately luck is against me, and it is impossible. Look at these” – and he took out his tickets and laid them on the table. “I am booked through to Paris; and I couldn’t get these tickets and baggage coupons changed for St. Petersburg, of course, and would have to lose the money. And if I could afford to lose the money I should be rather short after I bought the new tickets – for there all the cash I’ve got about me,” – and he laid a five-hundred-mark bank note on the table.

In a moment the Major had the tickets and coupons and was on his feet, and saying, with enthusiasm:

“Good! It’s all right, and everything safe. They’ll change the tickets and baggage coupons for *me*; they all know me – everybody knows me. Sit right where you are; I’ll be back right away.” Then he reached for the bank note, and added, “I’ll take this along, for there will be a little extra pay on the new tickets, may be,” – and the next moment he was flying out at the door.

Phonetic exercises

- 1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.**

White-aproned; dreariness; timorous; persuasion; earnestness; exude; strenuous; genuineness; moisture; unintentional; quivering; tongue; gratuitous; conscious; awkwardness; inconvenience; disheartened; subterfuge; contrive; rescue;

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

- 1. Find in the text the English for:**

Легко и бесшумно двигаясь туда и сюда; жаждущие; это похоже на безумие; девичий румянец выступил у него на лице; из гордости; тоскливое одиночество; за мой счёт; согласитесь, умоляю вас; он продолжал наступление, не ожидая слов; он дрожал от нетерпения; обаятельное лицо.

- 2. Match the words and word combinations, which have the same or very close meaning. Use them in situations from the text.**

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. lonesome | a) manner |
| 2. to stick the trip through | b) to group around |
| 3. timorous | c) charming face |
| 4. to rally | d) lonely |
| 5. good-natured | e) to finish up the trip |
| 6. bearing | f) shy |
| 7. cordially | g) good-humoured |
| 8. winning face | h) to discourage |
| 9. to get out of the scrape | i) to lack smth. |
| 10. to hurt one's feeling | j) to long for |
| 11. to dishearten | k) excuse |
| 12. subterfuge | l) to get out of a difficulty |
| 13. to be short of smth. | m) to offend |
| 14. to quiver with eagerness | n) sincerely |

3. Say which adjective goes with which noun in the above chapter. Translate them and use in situations from the text.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. dearest | a) hand |
| 2. foaming | b) spirits |
| 3. girlish | c) moisture |
| 4. timorous | d) mugs |
| 5. sturdy | e) dream |
| 6. businesslike | f) interest |
| 7. concentrated | g) chap |
| 8. frank | h) man |
| 9. despondent | i) blush |
| 10. telltale | j) conviction |
| 11. unintentional | k) note |
| 12. alert | l) spirits |
| 13. roused | m) stranger |
| 14. familiar | n) confession |
| 15. gratuitous | o) pay |
| 16. wandering | p) interest |
| 17. beaming | q) lad |
| 18. conscious | r) confidence |
| 19. small | s) face |
| 20. extra | t) bearing |
| 21. friendly | u) place |
| 22. strenuous | v) awkwardness |

4. Complete the table as in the first line. Add your own nouns.

noun	Adjective
loneliness	lonely
dreariness	
earnestness	
genuineness	
awkwardness	

5. Make new sentences following the example.

1. A student wants to have Alfred's chance.
He says: **I wish I had your chance.**
2. Alfred wants to see his friends.
He says: _____.
3. Alfred wants to have company.
He says: _____.
4. Alfred wants to see his family.
He says: _____.
5. Alfred wants to stay with the students.
He says: _____.
6. Major Jackson wants to make Alfred change his mind.
He says: _____.
7. You want to speak good English.
You say: _____.

Go on talking what you wish using *I wish*.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Say who:

1. sat smoking
2. was wearing white apron
3. was drinking good-bye to a visiting youth
4. had been spending a few days in the German capital
5. decided to cut the tour short
6. wanted to see St. Petersburg
7. seated himself at Parrish's side
8. was called Miss Nancy
9. exuded energy
10. tried to make Alfred change his mind
11. had a ticket in a sleeper for Paris
12. was not handy in matters of diplomacy
13. was going in the express that night
14. have a five-hundred-mark bank note
15. left taking a five-hundred-mark bank note along with himself

2. Say who in this chapter was:

Lonesome; good-natured; timorous; sturdy; brisk; alert; disheartened; confident; ashamed.

3. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. American students are having a farewell party before leaving the German capital.
2. Alfred cuts his tour short because he is tired.
3. The students want to see St. Petersburg.
4. Alfred has never dreamed of going to St. Petersburg.
5. Alfred is left alone.
6. Major Jackson wants Alfred to reconsider his decision.
7. Alfred is sure that Major Jackson is a sharper.
8. Major Jackson is leaving for St. Petersburg the next morning.

9. Alfred has a ticket in a sleeper for London.
10. Major Jackson changes Alfred's ticket for St. Petersburg.

4. Paraphrase and explain the following sentences, recalling the situations from the text in which they are used.

1. I'm made of water, and I can't stand out against anybody's persuasion.
2. Telltale moisture betrayed itself in his eyes, an unintentional confession that he was touched and grateful.
3. It is such a short distance – it is very soon done and very soon over – and I think what a memory it will be!
4. He said, with a quite overdone show of unselfishness.
5. His roused spirits cry out of longing.

5. Answer the following questions.

1. What was happening in a beer-saloon in Berlin?
2. What was Alfred's trouble?
3. What did Alfred look like?
4. What was Major Jackson like?
5. What troubled Major Jackson?
6. Where did Major Jackson want Alfred to go?
7. Major Jackson was as familiar with St. Petersburg as he was familiar with his birthplace, wasn't he?
8. What made Alfred think that Major Jackson might be a sharper?
9. What excuses did Alfred make not to be persuaded?
10. Did Alfred reconsider his decision?
11. What did Alfred let Major Jackson do with his ticket and a banknote?

6. Prove with the facts from the text that:

1. Alfred was lonesome and homesick
2. Alfred was good-natured and generous
3. Alfred was longing to see St. Petersburg.
4. Major Jackson was persuasive.
5. Alfred was not handy in matters of diplomacy.

7. Add more information to the following:

1. Half a dozen lively students were grouped at a table.
2. Alfred confessed what was his trouble.
3. The boys said he was making the mistake of his life.
4. He slapped his breast pocket.
5. Alfred was left to his thoughts, but only for a moment.
6. There was such a friendly note in his words.
7. Major Jackson went on and made a picture of the Russian capital.
8. Alfred did not expect that gratuitous interest in a wandering and unknown lad.
9. Alfred was disheartened.
10. Alfred laid a five-hundred-mark bank note on the table.

8. Imagine that you are:

1. A student.

Say why you came to a beer-saloon and what you thought of Alfred.

2. Alfred.

Say a) why you felt lonesome;

b) what made you change your mind about going home;

c) what you thought of major Jackson.

3. Major Jackson.

Say why you took interest in Alfred.

9. What do you think?

1. Would you like to have a friend like Alfred? Why? Why not?

2. Would you like to meet such a man as Major Jackson? Why? Why not?

3. Do you think Major Jackson is a sharper or an honest man? Explain your choice (before reading the story up to the end).

Part two

Alfred Parrish was paralyzed. It was also so sudden. So sudden, so daring, so incredible, so impossible. His mouth was open, but his tongue wouldn't work; he tried to shout "Stop him". But his lungs were empty; he wanted to pursue, but his legs refused to do anything but tremble; then they gave way under him and let him down into his chair. His throat was dry, he was gasping and swallowing with dismay, his head was in a whirl. What must he do? He did not know. One thing seemed plain, however – he must pull himself together, and try to overtake that man. Of course the man could not get back the ticket-money, but would he throw the tickets away on that account? No; he would certainly go to the station and sell them to someone at half-price; and today, too, for they would be worthless tomorrow, by German custom. These reflections gave him hope and strength, and he rose and started. But he took only a couple of steps, then felt a sudden sickness, and tottered back to his chair again, weak with a dread that his movement had been noticed – for the last round of beer was at his expense; it had not been paid for, and he hadn't a pfennig. He was a prisoner – Heaven only could know what might happen if he tried to leave the place. He was timid, scared, crushed; and he hadn't German enough to state his case and beg for help and indulgence.

Then his thoughts began to persecute him. How could he have been such a fool? What possessed him to listen to such a manifest adventurer? *And here comes the waiter!* He buried himself in the newspaper – trembling. The waiter passed by. It filled him with thankfulness. The hands of the clock seemed to stand still, yet he could not keep his eyes from them.

Ten minutes dragged by. The waiter again! Again he hid behind the paper. The waiter paused – apparently a week – then passed on.

Another ten minutes of misery – once more the waiter; this time he wiped off the table, and seemed to be a month at it; then paused two months, and went away.

Parrish felt that he could not endure another visit; he must take the chance: he must escape. But the waiter stayed around about the neighborhood for five minutes – months and months seemingly; Parrish was watching him with a despairing eye, and feeling the infirmities of age creeping upon him and his hair gradually turning gray.

At last the waiter wandered away – stopped at a table, collected a bill. Wandered farther, collected another bill, wandered farther – Parrish's praying eye riveted on him all the time, his heart thumping, his breath coming and going in quick little gasps of anxiety mixed with hope.

The waiter stopped again to collect, and Parrish said to himself, it is now or never! And started for the door. One step – two steps – three – four – he was nearing the door – five – his legs shaking under him – was that a swift step behind him? The thought shriveled his heart – six steps – seven and he was out! – eight – nine – ten – eleven – twelve – there *is* a pursuing step! – he turned

the corner, and picked up his heels to fly – a heavy hand fell on his shoulder, and the strength went out of his body.

It was the Major. He asked not a question, he showed no surprise. He said, in his breezy and exhilarating fashion:

“Confound those people¹! They delayed me; that’s why I was gone so long. New man in the ticket-office, and he didn’t know me, and wouldn’t make the exchange because it was irregular; so I had to turn up my old friend, the great mogul² - the station-master, you know – hi, there, cab! Cab! – jump in, Parrish! – Russian consulate, cabby, and let them fly! – so, as I say, that all cost time. But it’s all right now, and everything straight; your luggage reweighed, rechecked, fare-ticket and sleeper changed, and I’ve got the documents for it in my pocket; also the change – I’ll keep it for you. Whoop along, cabby, whoop along; don’t let them go to sleep!”

Poor Parrish was trying his best to get in a word edgeways, as the cab flew farther and farther from the bilked beer-hall, and now at last he succeeded, and wanted to return at once and pay his little bill.

“Oh, never mind about that,” said the Major, placidly; “that’s all right, they know me, everybody knows me – I’ll square it next time I’m in Berlin – push along, cabby, push along – no great lot of time to spare, now.”

They arrived at the Russian consulate, a moment after-hours, and hurried in. No one there but a clerk. The Major laid his card on the desk, and said, in the Russian tongue, “Now, then, if you’ll vise this young man’s passport for Petersburg as quickly as – “

“But, dear sir, I’m not authorized, and the consul has just gone,”

“Gone where?”

“Out in the country, where he lives.”

“And he’ll be back – “

“Not till morning.”

“Thunder! Oh, well, look here, I’m Major Jackson – he knows me, everybody knows me. You vise it yourself; tell him Major Jackson asked you; it’ll be all right.”

But it would be desperately and fatally irregular; the clerk could not be persuaded; he almost fainted at the idea.

“Well, then, I’ll tell you what to do,” said the Major. “Here are stamps and fee – vise it in the morning, and start it along by mail.”

The clerk, said dubiously, “He – well, he may perhaps do it, and so – “

“May? He *will*! He knows me – everybody knows me.”

“Very well,” said the clerk, “I’ll tell him what you say.” He looked bewildered, and in a measure subjugated; and added, timidly: “But – but – you know you will beat it to the frontier twenty-four hours. There are no accommodations there for so long a wait.”

“Who is going to *wait*? Not *I*, if the court knows herself.”

The clerk was temporarily paralyzed, and said, “Surely, sir, you don’t wish it sent to Petersburg.”

“And why not?”

“And the owner of it tarrying at the frontier, twenty-five miles away? It couldn’t do him any good, in those circumstances.”

“Tarry – the mischief! Who said he was going to do any tarrying?”

“Why, you know, of course, they’ll stop him at the frontier if he has no passport.”

“Indeed they won’t! The chief inspector knows me – everybody does. I’ll be responsible for the young man. You send it straight through to Petersburg – Hotel de Europe, care Major Jackson³: tell the consul not to worry, I’m taking all the risks myself.”

The clerk hesitated, then chanced once more appeal:

¹ Confound those people! – К чёрту всех!

² The great mogul – великий могол (зд. Человек, занимающий высокий пост)

³ Care Major Jackson – для передачи майору Джексону

“You must bear in mind, sir, that the risks are peculiarly serious, just now. The new edict is in force.”

“What is it?”

“Ten years in Siberia for being in Russia without a passport.”

“Mm – damnation!”⁴ He said it in English, for the Russian tongue is a poor stand-by in spiritual emergencies. He mused a moment, then brisked up and resumed in Russian:

“Oh, it’s all right – label her St. Petersburg and her sail! I’ll fix it. They all know me there – all the authorities – everybody.”

Phonetic exercises

- 1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.**

Paralyzed, daring, tongue, pursue, whirl, pfennig, mogul; indulgence, buried, endure, infirmities, riveted, exhilarating, edgeways, authorized, persuaded, dubiously, bewildered, subjugated, frontier, edict, mischief, circumstances, Siberia, spiritual, emergencies.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

- 1. Find in the text the English for:**

Ему внезапно стало плохо; он, пошатываясь, поплёлся к своему стулу; последний раз пили за его счёт; он прикрылся газетой; официант находился поблизости; старческая дряхлость охватывала его; его волосы седали; тревога смешалась с надеждой; сердце глухо билось; ноги подкашивались; сердце сжалось от этой мысли; он только пустился наутёк; силы покинули его; нельзя терять время; изо всех сил старался вернуть словечко; там негде остановиться на такой длительный срок; сейчас действует новый указ; он чуть не упал в обморок от такого предложения; я улажу это.

- 2. Match the words and word combination, which have the same or very close meaning. Use them in the situations from the text.**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. to gasp | a) to haunt |
| 2. with dismay | b) to catch up |
| 3. his head was in a whirl | c) to breathe with difficulty |
| 4. he pulled himself together | d) to do sth. with some might |
| 5. to overtake | e) to ask for pardon |
| 6. to beg for indulgence | f) to clean the table |
| 7. to persecute | g) to pay off |
| 8. to wipe off the table | h) to have the power to do sth. |
| 9. he couldn't endure | i) to look for |
| 10. to hunt up | j) he couldn't stand |
| 11. to try one's best | k) he was in a panic |
| 12. never mind about that | l) to control oneself |
| 13. to square | m) Remember! |
| 14. to be authorized to do sth. | n) to stay at the border |
| 15. to look bewildered | o) Don't worry about that. |
| 16. to tarry at the frontier | p) with fear |
| 17. Bear in mind! | q) to look confused |

⁴ Damnation! – Проклятие!

3. Write the opposite to the following words from Chapters One and Two.

Hopeful _____, hostile _____, sorry _____, spiritual _____, strong _____, possible _____, worth _____, bold _____, wet _____, light _____, regular _____, slow _____.

4. Which adjective goes with which noun? Use them in sentences to describe the situations from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. manifest | a) tickets |
| 2. serious | b) hand |
| 3. despairing | c) step |
| 4. shaking | d) exchange |
| 5. swift | e) beer-hall |
| 6. heavy | f) fashion |
| 7. breezy | g) adventurer |
| 8. irregular | h) eye |
| 9. bilked | i) risk |
| 10. worthless | j) legs |

5. Make the right choice.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Alfred wanted to pursue the sharper but | a) the waiter stopped him;
b) his legs refused to do anything;
c) then changed his mind. |
| 2. Alfred took only a couple of steps | a) and felt a sudden sickness;
b) and fell down;
c) and stopped. |
| 3. He suddenly recollected that | a) he had not paid for the hotel;
b) he had not paid for the beer;
c) he had spent all the money. |
| 4. Alfred felt that he could not endure another visit, | a) he must overtake the sharper;
b) he must pretend to be sick;
c) he must escape. |
| 5. The waiter made another stop and Alfred | a) started for the door;
b) buried himself in a newspaper;
c) ran out of the hall. |
| 6. A heavy hand fell on Alfred's shoulder. | a) It was a policeman.
b) It was the waiter.
c) It was the Major. |
| 7. The Major had the tickets and baggage coupons changed | a) and he left them with the station master;
b) and he put them in his pocket;
c) and he gave them back to Alfred. |
| 8. They arrived at the Russian consulate | a) when there was only a clerk there; |

- b) when the consul was leaving;
c) just in time.
9. The Major asked the clerk to vise the passport.
- a) The clerk almost fainted at the idea.
b) The clerk asked to wait for a while.
c) The clerk began writing something.
10. The Major persuaded the clerk
- a) to vise the passport;
b) to bring the consul;
c) to send the passport straight to St. Petersburg.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. When the Major was flying out at the door Alfred cried: "Stop him!"
2. Alfred pulled himself together and tried to overtake the Major.
3. The waiter noticed his movements.
4. The waiter went away and Alfred escaped.
5. The Major appeared suddenly.
6. He excused himself and handed Alfred his ticket and baggage coupons.
7. They returned to the beer-hall and paid the bill.
8. The clerk was not authorized to vise the passport.
9. They agreed to wait for the passport at the frontier.
10. The Major took all responsibility for himself.

2. Answer the following questions.

1. What was Alfred feeling after the Major had disappeared?
2. What did Alfred expect the Major to do with his ticket?
3. What made him feel a sudden sickness again?
4. What thoughts persecuted him?
5. How did Alfred decide to settle the matter with the waiter?
6. When did he start for the door?
7. What happened when he picked up his heels to fly?
8. Was the Major surprised?
9. What reasons did he give for his delay?
10. Where did they go to vise the passport?
11. Were they in time?
12. Where was the consul?
13. Who was authorized to vise the passport?
14. What was the clerk's reaction at the Major's request?
15. How was the matter settled?

3. Say what you understand by the following:

1. He had not German enough to state his case and beg for help and indulgence.
2. "You will beat it to the frontier twenty-four hours. There are no accommodations there for so long a wait."
3. The clerk hesitated, then chanced one more appeal.

4. "Damnation!" He said it in English, for the Russian tongue is but a poor stand-by in spiritual emergencies.

4. Prove with the facts from the text that:

1. Alfred was in desperate condition.
2. Alfred took the chance.
3. The Major tried his best to change the ticket and baggage coupons.
4. The clerk could not be persuaded.
5. The Major took the risk himself.

5. Add more information to the following:

1. Alfred was paralyzed.
2. One thing seemed plain to him.
3. Alfred realized that he was a prisoner.
4. He saw a waiter approaching him.
5. Alfred felt that he couldn't endure another visit of the waiter.
6. Alfred picked up his heels to fly.
7. Alfred tried to get in a word edgeways.
8. They arrived at the Russian consulate.
9. The clerk said the new edict was in force.

6. Imagine that you are:

1. Alfred.

Describe your desperate condition.

2. Major Jackson.

- Say a) how you settled the matter with the station-master.
- b) what expected you at the Russian consulate.

3. The clerk.

Tell us about the Major's visit.

7. What do you think?

Have you changed your mind about the Major? Why? Why not?

Part three

The Major turned out to be an adorable traveling-companion, and young Parrish was charmed with him. His talk was sunshine and rainbows, and lit up the whole region around, and kept it gay and happy and cheerful; and he was full of accommodating ways, and knew all about how to do things, and when to do them, and the best way. So the long journey was a fairy dream for that young lad who had been so lonely and friendless for so many homesick weeks. At last, when the two travelers were approaching the frontier, Parrish said something about passports; then started, as if recollecting something, and added:

"Why, come to think, I don't remember your bringing my passport away from the consulate. But you did, didn't you?"

"No; it's coming by mail," said the Major, comfortably.

“C – coming – by – mail!” gasped the lad; and all the dreadful things he had heard about the terrors and disasters of passportless visitors to Russia rose in his frightened mind and turned him white to the lips. “Oh, major – oh, my goodness, what will become of me? How *could* you do such a thing?”

The Major laid a soothing hand upon the youth’s shoulder and said:

“Now, don’t worry, my boy, don’t worry a bit. I’m taking care of you, and I’m not going to let any harm come to you. The Chief Inspector knows me, and I’ll explain to him, and it’ll be all right – you’ll see. Now don’t you give yourself the least discomfort – I’ll fix it all up, easy as nothing.”

Alfred trembled, and felt a great sinking inside, but he did what he could to conceal his misery, and to respond with some show of heart to the Major’s kindly pettings and reassurings.

At the frontier he got out and stood on the edge of the great crowd, and waited in deep anxiety while the Major plowed his way through the mass to “explain to the Chief Inspector”. It seemed a cruelly long wait, but at last the Major reappeared. He said, cheerfully. “Damnation, it’s a new inspector, and I don’t know him!”

Alfred fell up against a pile of trunks, with a despairing, “Oh, dear, dear. I might have known it!” and was slumping limp and helpless to the ground, but the Major gathered him up and seated him on a box, and sat down by him, with a supporting arm around him, and whispered in his ear: “Don’t worry, laddie, don’t – it’s going to be all right; you just trust to me. The sub-inspector’s as near-sighted as a shad⁵. Now I’ll tell you how to do. I’ll go and get my passport chalked, and then I’ll stop right there inside the grille where you see those peasants with their packs. You be there, and I’ll back up against the grille, and slip my passport to you through the bars, then you tag along after the crowd and hand it in, and trust to Providence and that shad. Mainly the shad. You’ll pull through all right – now don’t you be afraid.”

“But, oh, dear, dear, *your* description and *mine* don’t tally any more than –”

“Oh, that’s all right – difference between fifty-one and nineteen – just entirely imperceptible to that shad – don’t you fret, it’s going to come out as right as nails.”⁶

Ten minutes later Alfred was tottering toward the train, pale, and in a collapse, but he had played the shad successfully, and was as grateful as an untaxed dog that has evaded the police.

Between the frontier and Petersburg the Major laid himself out to restore his young comrade’s life, and work up his circulation, and pull him out of his despondency, and make him feel again that life was a joy and worth living. And so, as a consequence, the young fellow entered the city in high feather⁷ and marched into the hotel in fine form, and registered his name. But instead of naming a room, the clerk glanced at him inquiringly, and waited. The Major came promptly to the rescue, and said, cordially:

“It’s all right – you know me – set him down, I’m responsible.” The clerk looked grave, and shook his head. The Major added: “It’s all right, it’ll be here in twenty-four hours – it’s coming by mail. Here’s mine, and his is coming, right along.”

The clerk was full of politeness, full of deference, but he was firm. He said, in English:

“Indeed, I wish I could accommodate you, Major, and certainly I would if I could; but I have no choice, I must ask him to go; I cannot allow him to remain in the house a moment.”

Parrish began to totter, and emitted a moan; the Major caught him and stayed him with an arm, and said to the clerk, appealingly:

“Come, you know me – everybody does – just let him stay here the one night, and I give you my word –”

The clerk shook his head, and said:

“But, Major, you are endangering me, you are endangering the house. I – I hate to do such a thing, but I – I *must* call the police.”

⁵ As near sighted as a shad – близорукий, как курица

⁶ As right as nails – как нельзя лучше

⁷ In high feather – в очень хорошем настроении

“Hold on, don’t do that. Come along, my boy, and don’t you fret – it’s going to come out all right. Hi, there, cabby! Jump in, Parrish. Palace of the General of the Secret Police – turn them loose, cabby! Let them go! Make them whiz! Now we’re off, and you give yourself any uneasiness. Prince Bossloffsky knows me, knows me like a book; he’ll soon fix things all right for us.”

They tore through the gay streets and arrived at the palace, which was brilliantly lighted. But it was half past eight; the Prince was about going in to dinner, the sentinel said, and couldn’t receive any one.

“But he’ll receive *me*,” said the Major, robustly and handed his card. “I’m Major Jackson. Send it in; it’ll be all right.”

The card was sent in, under protest, and the Major and his waif waited in a reception-room for some time. At last they were sent for, and conducted to a sumptuous private office and confronted with the Prince, who stood there gorgeously arrayed and frowning like a thundercloud. The Major stated his case, and begged for a twenty-four-hour stay of proceeding until the passport should be forthcoming.

“Oh, it’s impossible!” said the Prince, in faultless English. “I marvel that you should have done so insane a thing as to bring the lad into the country without passport. Major, I marvel at it. Why, it’s ten years in Siberia and no help for it. – Catch him! Support him!” for poor Parrish was making another trip to the floor. “Here – quick, give him this. There – take another draught; brandy’s the thing, don’t you find it so, lad? Now you feel better, poor fellow. Lie down on the sofa. How stupid it was of you, Major, to get him into such a horrible scrape.” The Major eased the boy down with his strong arms, put a cushion under his head, and whispered in his ear:

“Look as damned sick as you can! Play it for all it’s worth; he’s touched, you see; got a tender heart under there somewhere; fetch a groan, and say, “Oh, mamma, mamma; it will knock him out, sure as guns.”

Parrish was going to do these things anyway, from native impulse, so they came from him promptly, with great and moving sincerity, and the Major whispered: “Splendid! Do it again; Bernardt couldn’t beat it.”

With the Major’s eloquence and the boy’s misery, the point was gained at last; the Prince struck his colours,⁸ and said:

“Have it your way; though you deserve a sharp lesson and you ought to get it. I give you exactly twenty-four hours. If the passport is not here then, don’t come near me; it’s Siberia without hope of pardon”.

While the Major and the lad poured out their thanks, the Prince rang in a couple of soldiers and in their own language, he ordered them to go with these two people, and not lose sight of the younger one a moment for the next twenty-four hours; and if, at the end of that term, the boy could not show a passport, impound him in the dungeons of St. Peter and St. Paul and report.

The unfortunates arrived at the hotel with their guards, dined under their eyes, remained in Parrish’s room until the Major went off to bed, after cheering up the sad Parrish, then one of the soldiers locked himself and Parrish in, and the other one stretched himself across the door outside and soon went off to sleep.

So also did not Alfred Parrish. The moment he was alone with the solemn soldier and the voiceless silence his machine-made cheerfulness began to waste away, his medicated courage began to give off its supporting gases and shrink toward normal, and his poor little heart to shrivel like a raisin. Within thirty minutes he struck bottom⁹; grief, misery, fright, despair, could go no lower. Bed? Bed was not for such as he; bed was not for the doomed, the lost! He could

⁸ Struck his colours - сдался

⁹ Struck bottom – упал на дно отчаяния

only walk the floor. And not only could, but must. And did, by the hour. And mourned, and wept, and shuddered, and prayed.

Then all-sorrowfully he made his last dispositions, and prepared himself, as well as in him lay, to meet his fate. As a final act, he wrote a letter:

“MY DARLING MOTHER, - When these sad lines shall have reached you your poor Alfred will be no more. No; worse than that, far worse! Through my own fault and foolishness I have fallen into the hands of a sharper or a lunatic; I do not know which, but in either case I feel that I am lost. Sometimes I think he is a sharper; but most of the time I think he is only mad, for he has a kind, good heart, I know, and he certainly seems to try the hardest that ever a person tried to get me out of the fatal difficulties he has gotten me into.

In a few hours I shall be one of the nameless horde plodding the snowy solitude of Russia, under the lash, and bound for that land of mystery and misery and termless oblivion, Siberia! I shall not live to see it; my heart is broken and I shall die. Give my picture to *her*, and ask her to keep it in memory of me, and so that in the appointed time she may join me in that better world where there is no marriage and no separations, and troubles never come. Give my yellow dog to Archy Hale, and the other one to Henry Taylor; my blazer I give to brother Will, and my fishing-things and Bible.

“There is no hope for me. I cannot escape; the soldier stands there with his gun and never takes his eyes off me, just blinks; there is no other movement, any more than if he was dead. I cannot bribe him; the maniac has my money. My letter of credit is in my trunk, and may never come – will never come, I know. Oh, what is to become of me! Pray for me, darling mother, pray for your poor Alfred. But it will do no good.”

Phonetic exercises

- 1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.**

Adorable; disasters, reassurings; imperceptible; despondency; consequence; inquiringly; rescue; robustly; sumptuous; gorgeously; faultless; draught; cushion; sincerity; eloquence; solemn; lunatic;

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

- 1. Find in the text the English for:**

Я не позволю, чтобы с тобой что-то случилось; я улажу всё очень легко; не причиняй себе ни малейшего беспокойства; с трудом проталкиваться сквозь толпу; восстановить кровообращение; в отличной форме; быстро пришёл на помощь; всё будет хорошо; он всё уладит; хмурый, как грозовая туча; удивляюсь, как вы смоли сделать такую безумную вещь; как глупо с вашей стороны; втянуть его в такую ужасную переделку; вас следует проучить; не спускать глаз с; аккредитив; что станет со мной; это не поможет; на безупречном английском.

- 2. Which adjective goes with which noun? Match them and use to describe the situations from the text.**

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. adorable traveling | a) oblivion |
| 2. fairy | b) lesson |
| 3. passportless | c) sincerity |
| 4. frightened | d) heart |
| 5. soothing | e) form |
| 6. supporting | f) office |

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 7. deep | g) inspector |
| 8. fine | h) anxiety |
| 9. sumptuous | i) hand |
| 10. faultless | j) mind |
| 11. tender | k) visitors |
| 12. moving | l) dream |
| 13. sharp | m) arm |
| 14. termless | n) companion |
| 15. near-sighted | o) English |

3. Complete the table with the words and word combinations from the text, which have the same or very close meaning. Use them in the situations from the text.

Intense fear =	to hide =
Catastrophe =	to follow closely
Unhappiness =	to escape =
Helpless =	to be different from =
Unnoticeable =	to expose to danger =
Hopeless =	to ride fast
Good manners =	to meet
Respect =	to put to prison =
Fear =	to walk heavily =
Loneliness =	to go forward =

4. Make the sentences complete.

1. The Major was such an adorable traveling companion that ...
2. While the Major was pushing his way through the crowd ...
3. Though the description in the Major's passport was quite different from Alfred's ...
4. The Major was in splendid spirits because ...
5. Though the clerk was full of politeness and deference ...
6. When they arrived at the palace ...
7. The major asked the clerk to let the boy stay at the hotel until ...
8. Since the train was delayed ...
9. Siberia was hanging over him because ...

5. Arrange the jumbled summary in the right order.

1. A terrible discovery.
2. In the hands of Providence and the shad.
3. Arrival at the Palace.
4. A fairy-dream journey.
5. A new inspector again.
6. Alfred prepares to meet his fate.
7. Ten years in Siberia are hanging again.
8. Life is worth living again.
9. The Prince is knocked out.
10. The unfortunates strikes bottom.
11. The hotel clerk can't be persuaded.
12. Eloquence and misery gained the point.
13. The hotel prisoners.
14. The shad is played successfully.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. The journey was as cloudless as one could only dream.
2. Major Jackson forgot to take Alfred's passport from the consulate.
3. The Major was well familiar with the inspector at the frontier.
4. The peasants at the frontier helped Alfred to go through.
5. The clerk at the hotel was full of politeness and deference, and Alfred had no problems there.
6. The General of the Secret Police expected to see the Major, but Alfred was a surprise for him.
7. The General spoke good English.
8. Alfred suddenly got sick when he saw the General.
9. The two unfortunates were locked in the room for twenty-four hours.
10. Alfred couldn't sleep, and all night long he walked the floor.
11. Alfred wrote a letter to his mother asking her not to worry about him.

2. Answer the following questions.

1. What kind of traveling companion did the Major turn out to be?
2. What was the journey like for Alfred?
3. What made Alfred think of the terrors and disasters of passportless visitors to Russia?
4. Did he hide his misery?
5. What did the Major say about the sub-inspector?
6. How did Alfred manage to through the frontier?
7. What did the Major have to do to restore Alfred's life on the way from the frontier to St. Petersburg?
8. Did the clerk at the hotel accommodate Alfred? What was the problem?
9. How was the clerk disposed to Alfred? Was he set against him?
10. Was the Major expected at the General's Palace? How was he received?
11. How did the Prince look?
12. What made the Prince change his mind?
13. What decision did the Prince come to?
14. What sort of night did the unfortunates have?
15. What is Siberia like in Alfred's letter?
16. What did he ask his mother for?

3. Say what you understand by the following:

1. His talk was sunshine and rainbows, and lit up the whole region around.
2. The long journey was a fairy dream for that young lad.
3. He did what he could to conceal his misery, and to respond with some show of heart to the Major's kindly pettings and reassurings.
4. He had played the shad successfully, and was grateful as an untaxed dog that has evaded the police.
5. The moment he was alone with the solemn soldier and the voiceless silence his machine-made cheerfulness began to waste away, his medicated courage began to give off its supporting gases and shrink toward normal, and his poor little heart to shrivel like a raisin.

4. Prove with the facts from the text that:

1. The Major is an adorable traveling companion.
2. The Major never loses his cheerfulness.
3. The Major takes care of Alfred.
4. The clerk is firm.
5. Alfred is frightened to death.
6. The Prince observes the laws of the country.

5. Expand on the following:

1. The Major was a charming man.
2. At the frontier Alfred waited for the Major in deep anxiety.
3. The Major slipped his passport to Alfred.
4. Between the frontier and St. Petersburg the Major laid himself out to restore Alfred's life.
5. The clerk looked grave.
6. They tore through the gay streets.
7. The Major stated his case to the Prince.
8. Alfred was lying down on the sofa.
9. The night in the hotel was terrible.
10. Alfred persuaded himself to meet his fate.

6. Imagine that you are:

1. Alfred.

- Say a) how you were charmed with the major in the train;
b) how you went through the frontier;
c) what you felt at the hotel;
d) how you touched the Prince;
e) about the night in the hotel.

2. Major Jackson.

- Say a) what expected you at the frontier;
b) why you had to go to the Prince's palace;
c) about the night in the hotel.

3. The Prince.

Say how well you know the major and if the visit was unexpected for you. Tell us about the Major's visit.

7. What do you think?

Is the Major a sharper, a lunatic or do you have your own ideas about him? Give reasons for your choice.

Part four

In the morning Alfred came out looking scraggy and worn when the Major summoned him to an early breakfast. They fed their guards, they lit cigars, the Major loosened his tongue and set it going, and under its magic influence Alfred gradually became hopeful, measurably cheerful, and almost happy once more.

But he would not leave the house. Siberia hung over him, black and threatening; his appetite for sights was all gone, he could not have borne the shame of inspecting streets and galleries and churches with a soldier at each elbow and all the world stopping and staring and commenting – no, he would stay within and wait for the Berlin mail and his fate. So, all day long the Major stood gallantly by him in his room, with one soldier standing stiff and motionless against the door with his musket at his shoulder, and the other one drowsing in a chair outside; all day long the faithful veteran spun campaign stories, describing battles, reeled off explosive anecdotes, with unconquerable energy and sparkle and resolution, and kept the scared student alive and his pulse functioning. The long day wore to a close, and the pair followed by their guards, went down to the great dining room and took their seats.

“The suspense will be over before long, now,” sighed poor Alfred. Just then a pair of Englishmen passed by, and one of them said, “So we’ll get no letters from Berlin to-night.”

Parrish’s breath began to fail him. The Englishmen seated themselves at a nearby table, and the other one said:

“No, it isn’t as bad as that.” Parrish’s breathing improved. “There is later telegraphic news. The accident did detain the train formidably, but that is all. It will arrive here three hours late to-night.”

Parrish did not get to the floor this time, for the Major jumped for him in time. He had been listening, and foresaw what would happen. He patted Parrish on the back, hoisted him out on the chair, and said cheerfully:

“Come along, my boy, cheer up, there’s absolutely nothing to worry about. I know a way out. Bother the passport! Let it lag a week if it wants to, we can do without it.

Parrish was too sick to hear him; hope was gone, Siberia present; he moved off on legs of lead, upheld by the Major, who walked him to the American legation, heartening him on the way with assurance that on his recommendation the minister wouldn’t hesitate a moment to grant him a new passport.

“I had that card up my sleeve all the time,” he said. “The minister knows me – knows me familiarly – chummed together hours and hours under a pile of other wounded at Cold Harbour; have been chummies ever since, in spirit, though we haven’t met much in the body. Cheer up, laddie, everything’s looking splendid! Be gracious! I feel as cocky as a buck angel does.¹⁰ Here we are, and our troubles are at the end! If we ever really had any.”

There, alongside the door, was the trade-mark of the richest and freest and mightiest republic of all the ages: the pine disk, with the planked eagle spread upon it, his head and shoulders among the stars, and his claws full of out-of-date war material; and at that sight the tears came into Alfred’s eyes. The pride of country rose in his heart. Hail Columbia¹¹ boomed up in his breast and all his fears and sorrows vanished away; for here he was safe, safe! Not all the powers of the earth would venture to cross that threshold to lay a hand upon him!

For economy’s sake the mightiest republic’s legations in Europe consist of a room and a half on the ninth floor, when the tenth is occupied, and the legation furniture consists of a minister or an ambassador with a brakeman’s salary, a secretary of legation who sells matches and mends crockery for a living, a hired girl for interpreter and general utility, pictures of the American liners, a portrait of the reigning President, a desk, three chairs, kerosene-lamp, a cat, a clock, and a cuspidor with the motto, “In God We Trust.”

The party climbed up there, followed by the escort. A man sat at the desk writing official things on wrapping-paper with a nail. He rose and faced about; the cat climbed down and got under the desk; the hired girl squeezed herself up into the corner by the vodka-jug to make room; the

¹⁰ Be gracious! I feel as cocky as a buck angel does. – Боже! Я чувствую себя, как бойцовский петух.

¹¹ Hail Columbia – название американской песни.

soldiers squeezed themselves up against the wall alongside of her, with muskets at shoulder arms. Alfred was radiant with happiness and the sense of rescue.

The Major cordially shook hands with the official, rattled off his case in easy and fluent style, and asked for the desired passport.

The official seated his guests, then said: "Well, I am only the secretary of legation, you know, and I wouldn't like to grant a passport while the minister is on Russian soil. There is far too much responsibility."

"All right, send for him."

The secretary smiled, and said: "That's easier said than done. He's away up in the wilds, somewhere, on his vacation."

"Great Scott!" ejaculated the Major.

Alfred groaned; the colour went out of his face, and he began to slowly collapse in his clothes. The secretary said wonderingly:

"Why, what are you Great-Scotting about, Major? The prince gave you twenty-four hours. Look at the clock; you're all right; you've half an hour left; the train is just due; the passport will arrive in time."

"Man, there's news! The train is three hours behind time! This boy's life and liberty are wasting away by minutes and only thirty of them left! In half an hour he's the same as dead and damned to all eternity¹²! By God, we *must* have the passport!"

"Oh, I am dying. I know it!" wailed the lad, and buried his face in his arms on the desk. A quick change came over secretary, his placidity vanished away, excitement flamed up in his face and eyes, and he exclaimed:

"I see the whole ghastliness of the situation, but, Lord helps us, what can I do? What can you suggest?"

"Why, hang it¹³, give him the passport!"

"Impossible! Totally impossible! You know nothing about him; three days ago you had never heard of him; there's no way in the world to identify him. He is lost, lost - there's no possibility of saving him!"

The boy groaned again, and sobbed out, "Lord, Lord, it's the last of earth for Alfred Parrish!"

Another change came over the secretary.

In the midst of a passionate outburst of pity, vexation, and hopelessness, he stopped short, his manner calmed down, and he asked, in the indifferent voice which one uses in introducing the subject of the weather when there is nothing to talk about, "Is that your name?"

The youth sobbed out a yes.

"Where are you from?"

"Bridgeport."

The secretary shook his head – shook it again – and muttered to himself. After a moment:

"Born there?"

"No, New Haven."

"Ah-h." The secretary glanced at the Major, who was listening intently, with blank and unenlightened face, and indicated rather than said, "There is vodka there, in case the soldiers are thirsty." The Major sprang up, poured for them, and received their gratitude. The questioning went on.

"How long did you live in New Haven?"

"Till I was fourteen. Came back two years ago to enter Yale."

"When you lived there, what street did you live on?"

"Parker Street."

With a vague half-light of comprehension dawning in his eyes, the Major glanced an inquiry at the secretary. The secretary nodded; the Major poured vodka again.

¹² Damned to all eternity – навеки загублен

¹³ Why, hang it – пропади оно пропадом

“What number?”

“It hadn’t any.”

The boy sat up and gave the secretary a pathetic look, which said, “Why do you want to torture me with these foolish things, when I am miserable enough without it?”

The secretary went on, unheeding: “What kind of a house was it?”

“Brick – two-story.”

“Flush with the sidewalk?”

“No, small yard in front.”

“Iron fence?”

“No, palings.”

The Major poured vodka again – without instructions – poured brimmers this time; and his face cleared and was alive now.

“What do you see when you enter the door?”

“A narrow hall; door at the end of it, and a door at your right.”

“Anything else?”

“Hat-rack.”

“Room at the right?”

“Parlor.”

“Carpet?”

“Yes.”

“Kind of carpet?”

“Old-fashioned Wilton.”

“Figures?”

“Yes – hawking-party, horseback.”

The Major cast an eye at the clock – only six minutes left! He faced about with the jug, and as he poured he glanced at the secretary, then at the clock – inquiringly. The secretary nodded; the Major covered the clock from view with his body a moment, and set the hands back half an hour; then he refreshed the men – double rations.

“Room beyond the hall and hat-rack?”

“Dining-room.”

“Stove?”

“Grate.”

“Did your people own the house?”

“Yes.”

“Do they own it yet?”

“No, sold it when we moved to Bridgeport.”

The secretary paused a little, then said, “Did you have a nickname among your playmates?”

The colour slowly rose in the youth’s pale cheeks, and he dropped his eyes. He seemed to struggle with himself a moment or two, then he said plaintively, “They called me Miss Nancy.”

The secretary mused awhile, and then he dug up another question:

“Any ornaments in the dining-room?”

“Well, y-no.”

“None? None at all?”

“No.”

“The mischief! Isn’t it a little odd? Think!”

The youth thought and thought; the secretary waited, panting. At last the imperiled waif looked up sadly and shook his head.

“Think – *think!*” cried the Major, in anxious solicitude; and poured again.

“Come!” said the secretary, “not even a *picture?*”

“Oh, certainly! But you said ornament.”

“Ah! What did your father think of it?”

The colour rose again. The boy was silent.

“Speak,” said the secretary.

“Speak,” cried the Major, and his trembling hand poured vodka outside the glasses than inside.

“I – I can’t tell you what he said,” murmured the boy. “Quick! Quick!” said the secretary; “out with it; there is no time to lose – home and liberty or Siberia and death depend upon the answer.”

“Oh, have pity! He is a clergyman, and – “

“No matter, out with it, or – “

“He said it was the hell-firedest nightmare¹⁴ he ever struck!”

“Saved!” shouted the secretary, and seized his nail and a blank passport. “I identify you: I’ve lived in the house, and I painted the picture myself!”

“Oh, come to my arms, my poor rescued boy!” cried the Major. “We will always be grateful to God that He made this artist! – If He did.”

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Scraggy; tongue; measurably; threatening; drowsing; unconquerable; gracious; venture; threshold; utility; reigning; ejaculated; buried; ghastliness; dawning; inquiry; torture; iron; solicitude;

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

он дал волю своему языку; сногшибательные анекдоты; скоро конец неопределённости; не так уж и плохо; ему стало трудно дышать; они уселись за соседний столик; идём, мой мальчик, не унывай; волноваться абсолютно не о чем; я знаю, что делать; мы обойдёмся без него (паспорта); я держал эту карту про запас всё время; закадычные друзья; это слишком большая ответственность; легче сказано, чем сделано; поезд вот-вот прибудет; соколиная охота верхом на лошадях; не странно ли это.

2. Which adjective goes with which noun? Match them and use to describe the situations from the text.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Magic | a) soldier |
| 2. Unconquerable | b) energy |
| 3. Scared | c) anecdotes |
| 4. Explosive | d) face |
| 5. Easy and fluent | e) things |
| 6. Desired | f) passport |
| 7. Indifferent | g) style |
| 8. Blank and unenlightened | h) influence |
| 9. Pathetic | i) student |
| 10. Foolish | j) voice |
| 11. Miserable | k) look |
| 12. Pale | l) solicitude |
| 13. Double | m) hand |
| 14. Anxious | n) boy |

¹⁴ The hell-firedest nightmare – дьявольское наваждение

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 15. Drowsing | o) rations |
| 16. Trembling | p) cheeks |
| 17. Rescued | q) outburst of pity |
| 18. Passionate | r) party |
| 19. Hawking | s) boy |
| 20. Stiff and motionless | t) soldier |

3. Give one-word answers. Find the answer in the box below.

Desperately	cheerfully	gradually	formidably
Placidly	miserably	cordially	slowly
Wonderingly	intently	inquiringly	plaintively

1. How did the Major shake hands with the official of the legation?
2. How was the Major listening while the secretary was questioning Alfred?
3. How did the Major glance at the secretary and the clock?
4. How cheerful was Alfred under the Major's magic influence?
5. How did the accident detain the train?
6. How soon did Alfred become cheerful?
7. How unhappy was Alfred?
8. How did the Major speak to Alfred?
9. How did the secretary say: "What are you Great-Scotting about, Major?"
10. How did the Major come down Alfred?
11. How was Alfred collapsing?
12. How did Alfred say his nickname?

4. Combine the following sentences using *so ... that* or *such ... that*:

1. The Major was a very adorable traveling companion. Alfred was charmed with him.
2. Alfred was very sick. He didn't hear anything.
3. His words were very convincing. Alfred couldn't stand out against them.
4. The Major's influence was very threatening. Alfred's appetite for sights was all gone.
5. It was a very formidable delay. Alfred made another trip to the floor.
6. The Major got him into a very horrible scrape. He himself could hardly find the way out.
7. The inspector was very near-sighted. He could hardly see the difference between 51 and 19.
8. The Major was very faithful to Alfred. He didn't leave him alone for a moment.
9. The Major reeled off explosive anecdotes. They kept the scared student alive.

5. Arrange the jumbled summary in the right order.

1. Another discouraging news expects the travelers.
2. The secretary is getting interested in Alfred.
3. The Major's cheerfulness keeps Alfred alive.
4. At the sight of the national emblem Alfred's fears and sorrows vanish away.
5. An accident detains the train.
6. The Major gets voiceless instructions from the secretary.

7. Home and liberty are gained.
8. The Major has another card up his sleeve.
9. The two unfortunates are received at the legation.
10. The secretary is questioning Alfred.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

2. After sleepless night the Major's cheerfulness did not work upon Alfred.
3. All day long Alfred saw the sights of St. Petersburg and the Major entertained the guards.
4. The accident detained the train for many hours.
5. At the American legation the Major expected to see an old friends of his.
6. The legation occupied the whole floor and was richly furnished.
7. The secretary couldn't grant the desired passport, and the minister was away.
8. The secretary was very sympathetic with Alfred and did his best to help him.
9. Alfred's name made the secretary suspicious.
10. The secretary gave the guards some vodka.
11. The secretary questioned Alfred about every detail of the house.
12. Alfred's father was a friend of the secretary's.
13. The Major set the clock an hour back.
14. Alfred couldn't remember what his father thought of the picture in the dining room.
15. Alfred's fate depended on the Major.

16. Say what you understand by the following:

1. His appetite for sights was gone.
2. The long day wore to a close.
3. We have been chummies ever since, in spirit, though we haven't met much in the body.
4. What are you Great Scotting about, Major?

3. Answer the following questions:

1. How did Alfred look at breakfast?
2. What did the Major have to do to keep Alfred alive?
3. What news did the Englishmen bring?
4. What another way out did the Major have?
5. How did they get to the American legation?
6. What was the legation like?
7. Where was the minister?
8. The Major wasn't familiar with the secretary, was he?
9. Was the Major familiar with the minister?
10. What was Alfred feeling at the legation?
11. What made the secretary question Alfred?
12. What was the Major doing while the clerk was questioning Alfred?
13. Was the Major as cheerful at the legation as usual?
14. What did the Major do with the clock at the legation?
15. What was it that saved Alfred's life and liberty?

4. Prove with the facts from the text that:

1. The Major did his best to keep Alfred alive.

2. Siberia threatened Alfred terribly.
3. Alfred couldn't do without the Major.
4. The American legation didn't have much work to do.
5. The American legation didn't have much room.
6. The secretary wanted to help Alfred.
7. The Major was faithful to Alfred.
8. The Major suffered too.
9. The story has a happy end.

5. Add more information to the following:

1. The Major loosened his tongue and set it going.
2. Alfred's appetite for sights was gone.
3. His hope left him again.
4. At the sight of the national emblem tears came into his eyes.
5. The legation occupied a room and a half.
6. The secretary seated his guests.
7. Alfred groaned and sobbed.
8. The secretary went on questioning.

6. Imagine that you are:

1. Alfred.

- Say a) what news you heard in the morning;
b) why you didn't see the sights of the city;
c) what you were feeling at the legation;
d) what the secretary was asking you about.

2. The Major:

- Say a) why you went to the legation.
b) how well you knew the minister;
c) what you felt and thought during the questioning.

3. The secretary.

- Say a) why you decided to question Alfred;
b) when you painted that picture.

7. What do you think?

1. Does Alfred deserve his nickname? Why? Why not?
2. Is the Major familiar with the minister? Give your reasons?
3. Is the Major a devoted and faithful friend? Why do you think so?
4. Do you think Alfred would stay with the Major to see the sights of St. Petersburg? Why do you think so?
5. The Major said that every dog knew him. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

Review

1. Give the idea of each part of the story in one sentence.
2. Write a summary of the story of 200-250 words.
3. Alfred is writing another letter to his mother after receiving a new passport. Do it for him.

4. The delayed train arrives. Do you think Alfred's passport with a visa arrives too? Write your end to this story.

MY WATCH

An instructive little tale

My beautiful new watch had run eighteen months without losing or gaining, and without breaking any part of its machinery or stopping. But at last, one night, I let it run down¹⁵. I grieved about it as if it were a messenger of bad luck. But by and by I cheered up, set the watch by guess, and commanded my superstitions to depart.

Next day I stepped into the chief jeweler's to set it by the exact time. The head of the establishment took it out of my hand to set it for me. Then he said, "She is four minutes slow¹⁶ - regulator needs pushing up". I tried to stop him - tried to make him understand that the watch kept perfect time. But no; all this human cabbage could see¹⁷ 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 anguish, and begged him to let the watch alone, he calmly and cruelly did the shameful deed¹⁸. My watch began to gain. It gained faster and faster day by day. Within the week it sickened to a raging fever, and at the end of two months it had left all the timepieces of the town far in the rear and was a fraction over thirteen days ahead of the calendar. It was away into November enjoying the snow, while the October leaves were still turning. It made me hurry up with house rent, paying bills, and such things in such a ruinous way that I could not stand any longer.

I took it to the watchmaker to have it regulated. He asked me if I had ever had it repaired. I said no, it had never needed any repairing. He looked a look of vicious happiness and eagerly opened the watch, and then put a small dice-box into his eye and peered into its machinery. He said it needed cleaning and oiling, besides regulating - come in a week. After being cleaned and oiled, and regulated, my watch slowed down to that degree that it ticked like a tolling bell. I began to be late for all appointments, missed the trains and my dinner. I gradually drifted back into yesterday, then day before, then into last week, and by and by the comprehension came upon me that the world was out of sight.

I went to a watchmaker again. He took the watch all to pieces while I waited, and then said the barrel was "swelled"¹⁹. He said he could reduce it in three days. After this the watch *averaged* well, but nothing more. For half a day it would go like a mischief, and keep up such a barking and wheezing and whooping and sneezing and snorting, that I could not hear myself for the disturbance. And as long as it held out there was not a watch in the land that stood any chance against it²⁰. But the rest of the day it would keep on slowing down until all the clocks it had left behind caught up again. So at last, at the end of twenty-four hours, it would come up all right and just in time. It would show a fair and square average²¹, and no man could say it had done more or less than its duty. But a correct average is only a mild virtue in a watch, and I took this instrument to another watchmaker.

He said the kingbolt was broken. I was glad it was nothing more serious. To tell the plain truth, I had no idea what the kingbolt was, but I did not want to appear ignorant to a stranger. He repaired the kingbolt, but what the watch gained in one way it lost in another. It would run awhile and stop awhile, and then run awhile again and then so on, using its own discretion about the

¹⁵ I let it run down - Я не завёл их.

¹⁶ "She is four minutes slow" = it (the watch) is four minutes slow.

¹⁷ All this human cabbage could see - всё, что мог видеть этот капустный кочан ...

¹⁸ The shameful deed - чёрное дело

¹⁹ The barrel was "swelled" - корпус "вспучило"

²⁰ stood any chance against it - не могли с ними соперничать

²¹ a fair and square average - в среднем правильно

intervals. And every time it went off it kicked back like a musket. I padded my breast for a few days, but finally took the watch to another watchmaker.

He picked it all to pieces, turned the ruin over and over under his glass; and then said there appeared to be something the matter with the hair-trigger. He fixed it, and gave it a fresh start. It did well now, except that always at ten minutes to ten the hands would shut together like a pair of scissors, and from that time they would travel together. The oldest man in the world could not make head or tail of the time of the day by such a watch, and so I went again to have the thing repaired.

This person said that the crystal had got bent, and that the mainspring was not straight. He made these things all right, then my watch performed not badly, only now and then, after working along quietly for nearly eight hours, everything inside would go all of a sudden and begin to buzz like a bee, and the hands would begin to spin round and round so fast that their individuality was lost completely. They would reel off the twenty-four hours in six or seven minutes, and then stop with a bang.

I went with a heavy heart to one more watchmaker, and looked on while he took her to pieces. Then I prepared to cross-question him rigidly, for this thing was getting serious. The watch had cost two hundred dollars originally, and I seemed to have paid out two or three thousand for repairers. While I waited and looked on I presently recognized in this watchmaker an old acquaintance – a steamboat engineer of other days, and not a good engineer, either. He examined all the parts carefully, just as the other watchmakers had done, and then delivered his verdict with the same confidence of manner.

He said:

“She makes too much steam – you need to hang the monkey-wrench on the safety-valve²²!”

I brained him on the spot, and had him buried at my own expense.

My uncle William (now deceased, alas) used to say that a good horse was a good horse until it ran away once, and that a good watch was a good watch until the repairers got a chance at it. And he used to wonder what became of all the unsuccessful tinkers and gunsmiths, and shoemakers, and engineers, and blacksmiths; but nobody could tell him.

Phonetic exercises

- 1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.**

Superstitions, jeweler, fever, vicious, comprehension, disturbance, virtue, ignorant, discretion, scissors, rigid, acquaintance, bury.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

- 1. Find in the text the English for:**

Надо передвинуть регулятор; они оставили далеко позади; я понял, что весь мир скрылся из виду; пока это продолжалось; подходили как раз вовремя; среднее время для часов не является большим достоинством; кажется что-то не ладно с волоском; только время от времени; они совершали весь суточный оборот за 6-7 минут; я похоронил его за свой счёт.

- 2. Paraphrase the following using word combination from the text instead of those in bold type:**

²² you need to hang the monkey-wrench on the safety-valve – нужно подвесить гайку на предохранительный клапан

1. **I forgot to wind up my watch** last night.
2. **I made myself forget my belief in mysterious things.**
3. **I asked him not to do anything with the watch.**
4. At the end of two months my watch **was ahead of all the watches and clocks in the town.**
5. **I was carried into the past days.**
6. He **picked out all the pieces of the watch.**
7. **I did not want to show that I did not understand anything.**
8. The watch would run **for a short time, then stop.**
9. He **wound up the watch again.**
10. Nobody could **make out what time was by the watch.**
11. The hands of the watch turned round so fast **that one couldn't see their outline.**
12. The watch **would run** twenty-four hours in six or seven minutes.
13. **I got ready to ask him many strict questions.**
14. **He said his final decision.**

3. Match English and Russian phrases. Use them in the situations from the text:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. I can't stand it | a) сильно переживать |
| 2. there appears to be something the matter with | b) thing the matter with |
| 3. to take something to pieces | c) плохая примета |
| 4. to recognize in somebody an old acquaintance | d) поставить часы наугад |
| 5. at my own expense | e) поставить часы по точному времени |
| 6. to grieve about | f) он снова завёл часы |
| 7. to set the watch by guess | g) часы идут очень правильно |
| 8. the watch keeps perfect time | h) я отогнал от себя дурные предчувствия |
| 9. the watch slows down | i) часы отстают |
| 10. bad luck | j) оставить ч-л., к-л. в покое |
| 11. to set the watch by the exact time | k) я не могу этого вынести (терпеть) |
| 12. I commanded my superstitions to depart | l) по правде говоря |
| 13. to leave something (smb) alone | m) за свой счёт |
| 14. to tell the plain truth | n) кажется, что-то не ладно с |
| 15. I can't make head or tail of it | o) произнести приговор |
| 16. to cross-question smb. rigidly | p) я не могу разобрать (понять) |
| 17. to deliver the verdict | q) разбирать ч-л. на части |
| 18. he gave the watch a fresh start | r) подвергнуть к-л. строгому пере- |
| | s) крестному допросу |
| | t) узнавать в к-л. старого знакомого |

4. Make the two parts of the sentence:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a) | |
| 1. A jeweler | a) makes or mends shoes |
| 2. A tinker | b) is an expert in the art of practical application of physics, chemistry, etc |
| 3. A gunsmith | c) is a person who shoes horses |
| 4. A shoemaker | d) makes rifles, pistols and other guns |
| 5. An engineer | e) is a mender of pots, kettles, pans, etc |
| 6. A blacksmith | f) works with precious stones, gems |

b)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. A bee | a) snorts |
| 2. A dog | b) whoops |
| 3. A horse | c) wheeze |
| 4. A person who has a cold | d) buzzes |
| 5. If someone is ill with whooping cough someone | e) barks |
| 6. If someone whistles in breathing someone | f) sneezes |

c)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A messenger is | a) it is carried by the wind or current |
| 2. If you are superstitious | b) freedom of choice |
| 3. If your watch gains | c) if you lack knowledge |
| 4. If your watch loses | d) someone who like to tease others |
| 5. If something drifts | e) you are afraid of unknown or mysterious things |
| 6. A mischief is | f) someone who brings news |
| 7. When there is much disturbance on the radio | g) it is ahead of time |
| 8. You are an ignorant person | h) it is behind the time |
| 9. A virtue is | i) you can't hear anything clearly or distinctly |
| 10. Discretion is | j) an excellent or good quality |
| 11. A musket | k) a hand gun of early days |

5. Answer the following questions using *make someone do something* (заставить к-л. делать ч-л.). Give complete answers:

1. Why did the author try to make the watchmaker understand that the watch kept perfect time?
2. What made the author hurry up with house rent, bills, and such things?
3. What made the author go from one watch maker to another?

6. Ask each other questions like this: "What makes you do something?"

Example: What makes you get up so early?

7. Below are sentences from the text in which *would* and *used to* are used for repeated and habitual actions in the past. Translate them into Russian:

1. For half a day it *would go* like a mischief.
2. For the rest of the day it *would keep on* slowing down and at the end of twenty-four hours it *would come up* all right and just in time.
3. It *would show* a fair and square average.
4. It *would run* awhile and then stop awhile.
5. The hands *would shut* together like a pair of scissors, and from that time forth they *would* travel together.
6. Everything inside *would go* all of a sudden.
7. The hands *would begin* to spin round and round.
8. The watch *would reel off* the next twenty-four hours in six or seven minutes.
9. My uncle William *used to say*
10. He *used to wonder*

8. Talk about yourself:

a) Use *would do* or *used to do*.

Example:

I used to have a lot of toys. – Раньше у меня было много игрушек.

We would go fishing every weekend. - Мы бывало ходили на рыбалку каждый выходной.

b) Use *to have something done*.

In the text:

“*I had him buried* at my own expense”. – Его похоронили за мой счёт.

Now say honestly about yourself.

1. Do you make breakfast yourself or do you have it made?
2. Do you do your bed yourself or do you have it done?
3. Do you do your homework yourself or do you have it done?
4. Do you wash your clothes yourself or do you have it washed?
5. Do you repair your shoes yourself or do you have it repaired?

(Go on asking each other similar questions).

9. Speak about your watch:

1. What's the time by your watch?
2. Do you think it is slow or fast?
3. Does it often lose or gain? How well does it go?
4. What's the difference in meaning: *The watch is 5 minutes slow (fast)* and *The watch loses (gains) 5 minutes*?
5. Have you ever repaired it or had it repaired? If yes, what was wrong with it?
6. How well was the repair done? What do you think of the watchmaker who did the repair?
7. Have you ever had any experience with an inefficient watchmaker? If yes, what were the circumstances?
8. Do you think it is important to have a good watch? Give your reasons.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Make the sentence complete:

1. His watch had run _____.
2. The head of the establishment said _____.
3. Within a week his watch _____.
4. The watchmaker said the watch need _____.
5. Another watchmaker took the watch to _____.
6. He didn't know what the kingbolt was but _____.
7. After another repair his watch at exactly ten minutes to ten _____.
8. When another watchmaker made the crystal and mainspring all right his watch _____.
9. The watch had cost him _____.
10. He had already paid for repairs _____.
11. His uncle William used to say _____.

2. Each of the following sentences goes with a certain paragraph. Arrange them in the right order:

1. This time the watch made me be left behind all the events in the world.
2. The two hands joined together and moved that way.
3. When my watch stopped suddenly I was very much upset.
4. The watch behaved like a disobedient child.
5. It was impossible to see the outline of the watch.
6. He never got an answer to his question.
7. Now the watch was so fast that it ruined all my life.
8. I couldn't tell the time by my watch as it either would run or stop.
9. He picked out all the parts, examined them, and said his final decision.

3. Answer the following questions:

1. How had the watch run before it stopped for the first time?
2. How did it happen that the watch ran down?
3. Did the author set the watch by guess or by the exact time?
4. How did each of the watchmakers explain what was wrong with the watch? Begin your answer like this: *The first watchmaker said that*
5. How did each of them examine the watch?
6. How did the watch go after every repair?
7. Was the watch repaired in the end? What happened?
8. Can you answer the question the author's uncle used to ask?

4. What do you think?

1. Which watchmaker caused the worst injury to the watch? Give your reasons.
2. Do you think the end of the story is true?
3. If you think the end is not true, then think of a true end of the story and tell it to your classmates.
4. What do you think you would do in the author's place?
5. Do you think Mark Twain told this story:
 - a) just to fun;
 - b) because he had had such an experience;
 - c) because he wanted to say how inefficient all the watchmakers were;
 - d) because he believed it was useless to repair a watch

Do you have your own idea on this subject? If so, say what it is.

EDWARD MILLS AND GEORGE BENTON

These two were distantly related to each other – seventh cousins, or something of that sort. While still babies they became orphans, and were adopted by the Brants, a childless couple, who quickly grew very fond of them. The Brants were always saying: “Be pure, honest, sober, industrious, and considerate of others, and success in life is assure”. They repeated it to their children some thousands of times; it was painted over the nursery door, and was about the first thing they learned to read. The Brants changed the wording a little, and said: “Be pure, honest, sober, industrious, considerate, and you will never lack friends”.

Baby Mills was a comfort to everybody about him. When he wanted candy and could not have it, he listened to reasons, and contented himself without it. When baby Benton wanted candy, he cried for it until he got it. Baby Mills took care of his toys; baby Benton always destroyed his in a very brief time, and then became so disagreeable that, in order to have peace in the house, little Edward was persuaded to give up his playthings to him.

When the children were a little older, George became a heavy expense in one respect: he took no care of his clothes; consequently, he shone frequently in new ones, which was not the case with Eddie. The boys grew fast. Eddie was an increasing comfort, George an increasing trouble. It was always sufficient to say, in answer to Eddie’s petitions, “I would rather you did not do it,” – meaning swimming, skating, picnicking, berrying, circusing, and all sorts of things which boys delight in. but not for George; he had to be humoured in his desires, or he would carry them with a high hand²³. Naturally, no boy got more swimming, skating, berrying, and so forth than he; no boy ever had a better time. The good Brants did not allow the boys to play out after nine in summer evenings; they were sent to bed at that hour. Eddie honorably remained, but George usually slipped out of the window at about ten, and enjoyed himself till midnight. It seemed impossible to make George give up this bad habit, but the Brants managed it at last with apples and marbles. The good Brants gave all their time and attention to regulate George. They said with grateful tears in their eyes, that Eddie needed no efforts, he was so good, so considerate, and in all ways so perfect.

By and by the boys were big enough to work, so they were apprenticed to a trade. Edward went voluntarily; George was coaxed and bribed. Edward worked hard and faithfully, and ceased to be an expense to the good Brants; they praised him, so did his master; but George ran away, and it cost Mr. Brant both money and trouble to hunt him up and get him back. By and by he ran away again – more money and more trouble. He ran away a third time – and stole a few little things to carry with him. Trouble and expense for Mr. Brant once more, and besides, it was with the greatest difficulty that he succeeded in persuading the master to let the youth go unprosecuted for the theft.

Edward worked steadily along, and in time became a full partner in his master’s business. George did not improve; he kept the loving hearts of his aged benefactors full of trouble and their hands full of inventive activities to protect him from ruin. Edward, as a boy, had interested himself in Sunday schools, debating societies, anti-tobacco organizations, anti-profanity associations and all such things. As a man, he was quiet but steady and reliable helper in the church, the temperance societies, and all movements looking to the aiding and uplifting of men²⁴. This attracted no attention – for it was his “natural bent”.

Finally, the old people died. They will testified their loving pride in Edward, and left their little property to George – because he “needed it”; whereas, such was not the case with Edward. The property was left to George conditionally: he must buy out Edward’s partner with it; otherwise, it must go to a benevolent organization called the Prisoner’s Friend Society. The old people left a

²³ He would carry them with a high hand – всё кончалось ссорой.

²⁴ looking to the aiding and uplifting of men – стремившихся к поддержанию и облагораживанию человека.

letter, in which they begged their dear son Edward to take their place and watch over George, and help and shield him as they had done.

Edward dutifully obeyed, and George became his partner in the business. He was not a valuable partner: he had been drinking before; he soon developed into a constant tippler now, and his flesh and eyes showed the fact unpleasantly. Edward had been courting a sweet and kind girl for some time. They loved each other dearly. But about this period George began to haunt her tearfully and imploringly, and at last she went crying to Edward and said her high and holy duty was plain before her – she must not let her own selfish desire interfere with it: she must marry “poor George” and “reform him”. It would break her heart, she knew it would, and so on; but duty was duty. So she married George, and Edward’s heart came very near breaking, as well as her own. However, Edward recovered, and married another girl – a very excellent one she was, too.

Children came to both families. Mary did her honest best to reform her husband, but the contract was too large. George went on drinking, and by and by he fell to misusing her and the little one sadly. A great many good people strove with George, but he calmly took such efforts as their duty, and did not mend his ways. He added a vice, presently – that of secret gambling. He got deeply in debt; he borrowed money on the firm’s credit, and did it so successfully that one morning the sheriff took possession of the establishment, and the two cousins found themselves penniless.

Times were hard now, and they grew worse. Edward moved his family into a garret, and walked the streets day and night, seeking work. He was astonished to see how soon his face became unwelcome; he was astonished and hurt to see how quickly the ancient interest which people had had in him faded out and disappeared. Still he *must* get work; so he swallowed his pain, and toiled on in search of it. At last he got a job of carrying bricks up a ladder, and was a grateful man in consequence; but after that *nobody* knew him or cared anything about him. He was not able to keep up his dues in the various moral organizations to which he belonged, and had to endure the sharp pain of seeing himself in disgrace.

But the faster Edward died out of public knowledge and interest, the faster George rose in them. He was found lying, ragged and drunk, in the gutter one morning. A member of the Ladies’ Temperance Refuge²⁵ fished him out, took him in hand, got up a subscription for him, kept him sober a whole week, then got a situation for him. An account of it was published.

General attention was thus drawn to the poor fellow, and a great many people came forward, and helped him toward reform with their countenance and encouragement. He did not drink a drop for two months, and meantime was the pet of the good²⁶. Then he fell – in the gutter, and there was general sorrow and lamentation. But the noble sisterhood rescued him again. They cleaned him up, they fed him, they listened to the mourning music of his repentance, and they got him his situation again. An account of this, also, was published, and the town was drowned in happy tears over the restoration of the poor beast and struggling victim of the fatal bowl. A meeting was held, another subscription was made for him, and then George Benton, escorted by a detachment of the Ladies of the Refuge, stepped forward upon the platform and signed the pledge. The air burst with applause and everybody cried for joy. Everybody shook hands, his salary was enlarged next day, he was the talk of the town, and its hero. An account of it was published.

George Benton fell, regularly, every three months, but every time he was faithfully rescued and worked with, and good situations were found for him. Finally, he was taken around the country lecturing, as a reformed drunkard, and he had great houses and did an immense amount of good.

He was so popular at home, and so trusted – during his sober intervals – that he managed to use the name of a principal citizen, and get a large sum of money at the bank. A mighty pressure was put upon to save him from the consequences of his forgery, and it was partially successful – he was “sent up” for only two years. When, at the end of a year, the tireless efforts of the benevolent were crowned with success, and he came out of the prison with a pardon in his pocket, the Prisoner’s Friend Society met him at the door with a situation and a comfortable salary. And all the other benevolent people came forward and gave him advice, encouragement, and help. Edward

²⁵ Ladies’ Temperance Refuge – женская религиозная община трезвости и умеренности

²⁶ the pet of the good – всеобщий любимец

Mills had once applied to the Prisoner's Friend Society for a situation, when in dire need, but the question, "Have you been a prisoner?" made brief work of his case.

While all these things were going on, Edward Mills was quietly making his head²⁷. He was still poor, but got steady and sufficient salary, as the respected and trusted cashier of a bank. George Benton never came near him, and was never heard to inquire about him. George was often absent from the town; there were ill reports about him, but nothing definite.

One winter night some masked burglars forced their way into the bank, and found Edward Mills there alone. They commanded him to reveal the "combination", so that they could get into the safe. He refused. They threatened his life. He said his employers trusted him, and he could not be traitor to that trust. He could die, if he must, but while he lived he would be faithful; he would not reveal the "combination". The burglars killed him.

The detectives hunted down the criminals; the chief one proved to be George Benton. A wide sympathy was felt for the widow and orphans of the dead man, and all the newspapers in the land begged that all the banks in the land would testify their appreciation of the fidelity and heroism of the murdered cashier by coming forward with a generous contribution of money to support the family. The result was solid cash of more than five hundred dollars – an average of nearly three-eighths of a cent for each bank of the Union. The cashier's own bank testified its gratitude by trying to show (but failed in it) that the peerless servant's accounts were not square, and that he himself had knocked his brains out with a bludgeon to escape detection and punishment.

George Benton was brought to trial. Then everybody seemed to forget the widow and orphans for poor George. Everything that money and influence could do was done to save him, but it all failed; he was tried and sentenced to death. Immediately the Governor was besieged with petitions for commutation or pardon; they were brought by tearful young girls, by sorrowed old maids; by deputation of pathetic widows; by mobs of impressive orphans. But no, the Governor – for once – would not yield.

Now George Benton experienced religion. The glad news flew all around. From that time forth his cell was always full of girls and women and fresh flowers. All the day long there was prayer, and hymn singing, and thanksgivings, and homilies, and tears, with never an interruption, except an occasional five-minute intermission for refreshments.

The sort of thing continued up the very gallows, and George Benton went proudly home, in the black cap, before a wailing audience. His grave had fresh flowers on it every day, for awhile, and the headstone had these words, under a hand pointing upward: "He has fought the good fight".

The brave cashier's headstone has this inscription: "Be pure, honest, sober, industrious, considerate, and you will never – ". Nobody knows who gave the order to leave it that way, but it was so given. The cashier's family are in stringent circumstances now, it is said; but no matter; a lot of appreciative people, who were not willing that an act so brave and true as his should go unrewarded, have collected forty-two thousands dollars – and built a Memorial Church with it.

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Consequently; sufficient; honorably; apprenticed; coaxed; persuading; unprosecuted; reliable; haunt; imploringly; interfere; misusing; debt; ancient; swallowed; ragged; encouragement; mourning; applause; pressure; forgery; dire; threaten; appreciation; bludgeon; trial; besieged; yield; hymn; audience; stringent; circumstances.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

²⁷ was quietly making his head – спокойно продвигался вперёд.

1. Find in the text the English for:

Восьмиюродные братья или что-то в этом роде; он давал убедить себя, что может обойтись без этого; маленького Эдварда заставляли уступить ему свои игрушки; всегда было достаточно сказать; ему нужно было потакать во всём; с их стороны не требовалось никаких усилий; его уговаривали и подкупали; общества трезвости; в обеих семьях родились дети; но задача была непосильной; он не менялся; собрали для него деньги; нашли ему работу; отчёт об этом был опубликован; подделка документа, его посадили только на два года; в крайней нужде; главным преступником оказался; счета несравненного служащего были не в порядке; чтобы скрыться и уйти от наказания; казалось, все забыли; были использованы все деньги и влияние, чтобы его спасти; губернатора осаждали просьбами о смягчении наказания или помиловании.

2. Match English and Russian phrases. Use them in the situations from the text:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. success in life is assured | a) помешать этому |
| 2. you will never lack friends | b) она делала всё возможное |
| 3. give up this bad habit | c) он залез в долги |
| 4. he was ... in all ways so perfect | d) он сделал много хорошего |
| 5. he succeeded in persuading the master | e) он был привлечён к суду |
| 6. he became a full partner | f) увенчались успехом |
| 7. natural bent | g) в стесненном материальном положении |
| 8. interfere with it | h) успех в жизни обеспечен |
| 9. she did her best | i) избавиться от вредной привычки |
| 10. he got deeply in debt | j) ему с трудом уговорил хозяина |
| 11. he ... did an immense amount of good | k) природная склонность |
| 12. ... were crowned with success | l) у вас никогда не будет недостатка в друзьях |
| 13. they forced their way into the bank | m) он был примерным во всех отношениях |
| 14. he was brought to trial | n) он стал равноправным партнёром |
| 15. he was tried and sentenced to death | o) они ворвались в банк |
| 16. the family was in stringent circumstance | p) его судили и приговорили к смерти |

3. Find the opposite in the list below to complete the chart. Say in what situations they are used in the text.

Comfort, to succeed, to take care, pure, to remain, selfish, sorrowful, appreciated, sober

To slip out – to remain

Ill –

Generous –

Trouble –

To destroy –

Unrewarded –

Drunk –

Glad –

To fail –

4. Match the words and word combinations, which have the same or very close meaning. Use them in situations from the text.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. to persuade | a) to yield up |
| 2. to give up | b) to make smb. do smth. |

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 3. to protect | c) to shield |
| 4. to seek | d) to detect |
| 5. to endure | e) to save |
| 6. to come forward | f) to offer |
| 7. to rescue | g) to stand |
| 8. to reveal | h) to look for |

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. property | a) brave act |
| 2. drunkard | b) tippler |
| 3. countenance | c) encouragement |
| 4. fidelity | d) possessions. |
| 5. heroism | e) thanksgiving |
| 6. gratitude | f) faith |

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. sorrowful | a) tearful |
| 2. steady | b) true |
| 3. charitable | c) reliable |
| 4. considerate | d) benevolent |
| 5. honest | e) appreciative |
| 6. voluntarily | f) honorably |
| 7. faithfully | g) willingly |

5. Paraphrase using the vocabulary of the text.

When Edward wanted **a sweet** and could not have it he **allowed to convince himself** that he could **do without** it.

George always **broke** his toys in **a short** time.

They **made** little Edward **give up** his **toys** to him.

Edward was **no longer** an expense to the Brants.

George began **demanding** a lot of money.

It cost Mr. Brant both money and trouble **to find** George and **bring him back**.

George did not **get better**.

They asked their dear son **to take care** of George.

Edward **did what the Brants had asked him to do**.

Mary **tried hard to change** her husband.

Edward walked the streets day and night **looking for** work.

He was **very much surprised** to see how soon the town **became indifferent** to him.

The faster the town **lost interest** in Edward the faster it **got interested** in George.

They got **a good job** for him.

Edward Mills **went on working hard**.

Masked burglars **broke into** the bank.

The detectives **caught** the criminals.

He was not able to **give regularly money to different organizations**.

They **offered** a generous **sum of money to help** the family.

The family **lived a very poor life**.

6. Answer the following questions using would rather + infinitive (without to) = would prefer to

Example:

Would you rather drink tea or coffee?

I would rather (I'd rather) drink tea (than drink coffee).

1. **Would you rather** play with George or Edward?
2. **Would you rather** make friends with George or Edward?
3. **Would you rather** give up your bad habits or keep them?
4. **Would you rather** become a partner in business with George or Edward?
5. **Would you rather** protect George or Edward?
6. **Would you rather** get interested in moral or sport organizations?
7. **Would you rather** pardon George or punish him?
8. **Would you rather** have a lot of money or a lot of friends?
9. **Would you rather** study history or science?
10. **Would you rather** work in an office or outdoors?
11. **Would you rather** talk about sport or politics?

7. Change the following sentences following the example.

Example:

It is said that the Brants adopted them. = The Brants are said to have adopted them.

1. It is said that they love each other dearly.
2. It is that George was not a valuable partner.
3. It is said that George went on drinking.
4. It is said that Mary did her best to reform her husband.
5. It is said that George did not mend his way.
6. It is said that George was rescued many times.
7. It is said that he did a lot of good.
8. It is said that they gave him a comfortable salary.
9. It is said that they found a good situation for him.
10. It is said that he was sentenced to death.

8. Translate into English according to the pattern.

Example:

Джордж Бентон оказался главным преступником. George Benton proved (to be) the chief criminal.

- a. Они оказались очень дальними родственниками.
- b. Он оказался внимательным и благородным сыном.
- c. Эдвард оказался честным и храбрым человеком.
- d. Джордж оказался пьяницей и преступником.
- e. Эдвард оказался ценным и надёжным партнёром.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. Edward and George were close relatives.
2. They were the Brants' children.
3. The Brants made Edward and George learn their favorite saying by heart.
4. When Edward and George were babies everybody liked them.
5. When the children grew older they were allowed to do whatever they liked.
6. The boys often slipped out of the window to play out till midnight.

7. The boys were happy to learn the trade.
8. Their master praised the boys for their work.
9. George stole a lot of things from his master and ran away.
10. Soon Edward and George became full partners in their master's business.
11. Edward and George got interested in many moral organizations.
12. The Brants left their property to George because Edward did not need it.
13. George was a reliable partner in business.
14. Mary married George because she wanted "to reform him".
15. When George began gambling Edward had to pay his debts.
16. When the two cousins lost their possessions they had to beg in the streets.
17. General attention was drawn to the poor fellows and good jobs were found for them.
18. George was pardoned for his forgery.
19. The cousins received steady and sufficient salaries from the bank where they worked.
20. Edward did not reveal "the combination" because he did not know it.
21. The banks of the country appreciated Edward's fidelity and heroism and helped the widow and the orphans with a generous sum of money.
22. Petitions were brought from all over the country asking to pardon George.
23. George Benton returned home from the trial with fresh flowers in his hands.
24. Edward's heroism and fidelity were rewarded.

2. Paraphrase and explain the following sentences recalling the situations from the text.

1. His flesh and eyes showed the fact unpleasantly.
2. He was a comfort to everybody about him.
3. George began to haunt her tearfully and imploringly.
4. But the faster Edward died out of public knowledge and interest, the faster George rose in them.
5. The town was drowned in happy tears over the restoration of the poor beast and struggling victim of the fatal bowl.
6. The air burst with applause.
7. He was the talk of the town.
8. ... met him at the door with a situation and a comfortable salary.
9. There were ill reports about him.
10. They commanded him to reveal "the combination".
11. The glad news flew all around.
12. He has fought the good fight.

3. Which of the following adjectives described Edward and which describe George:

Disagreeable, grateful, faithful, inventive, reliable, dutiful, valuable, tearful, successful, sorrowful, peerless, penniless, considerate, perfect, hard-working, quiet, steady, respected, trusted, pure, honest, sober, ragged, drunk, true, unrewarded.

4. Compare Edward and George:

- a) when they were babies;
- b) when they were little boys;
- c) when they were youths;
- d) when they got married and had families;
- e) when they became partners in business;
- f) when they lost their property;
- g) how they were recovering;

h) how they died.

5. What do you think?

1. Edward and George were very different. Why? What do you think about it?
2. Who do you sympathize with? Explain why.
3. If they were contemporaries, do you think their lives might be different from those described by Mark Twain? Why do you think so?
4. What do you think of those moral organizations which tried to reform George? Are there any similar organizations in your country, town, neighborhood? If yes, what do you think of them?
5. Who do you think is able to reform a person: public organizations a family, friends, nobody? Give your reasons.
6. How would you complete the inscription on Edward's headstone? Why do you think this way?
7. Do you think there is a moral in this tale? If yes, what it is.

THE CALIFORNIAN TALE

Thirty five years ago I was out prospecting on the Stanislaus²⁸, tramping all day long with pick and pan and horn, and washing a hatful of dirt here and there, always expecting to make a rich strike, and never doing it. It was a lovely region, woody, balmy, delicious. Once it had been populous, long years before, but now the people had vanished and the charming paradise was solitude. They went away when the surface diggings gave out. In one place, where a busy little city with banks and newspapers and fire companies and a mayor and aldermen had been, was nothing but a wide expanse of emerald turf, with not even the faintest sign that human life had ever been present there. At intervals, along the dusty roads, one could find the prettiest little cottage homes, so cobwebbed with vines and roses that the doors and the windows were wholly hidden from sight – sign that these were deserted homes, forsaken years ago by defeated and disappointed families who could neither sell them nor give them away.

Now and then, half an hour apart, one could come across solitary log cabins of the earliest mining days, built by the first gold-miners, the predecessors of the cottage-builders. In some few cases these cabins were still occupied. When this was so, you could depend upon it that the occupant was the very pioneer who had built the cabin. And you could depend on another thing, too – that he was there because he had once had his opportunity to go home to the States rich, and had not done it; had rather lost his wealth, and had resolved to sever all communication with his home relatives and friends, and be to them ever since as one dead. Round about California in those days there were scattered a host of these living dead men – pride-smitten poor fellows, grizzled and old at forty whose secret thoughts were made all of regrets and longings – regrets for their wasted lives, and longings to be through with it all.

It was a lonesome land! Not a sound in all those peaceful expanses of grass and woods but the drowsy hum of insects; no glimpse of man or beast; nothing to keep up your spirits and make you glad to be alive. And so, at last, in the early part of the afternoon, when I caught sight of a human creature, I felt a most grateful uplift. This person was about forty-five years old, and he was standing at the gate of one of those cozy little cottages already referred to. However, this one hadn't a deserted look. It had the look of being lived in and petted and cared for and looked after; and so had its front yard, which was a garden of flowers, abundant, gay, and flourishing. I was invited in, of course, and required to make myself at home – it was the custom of the country.

It was delightful to be in such a place, after long weeks of daily and nightly familiarity with miner's cabins – with dirt floor, never-made beds, tin plates and cups, bacon and beans and black coffee, and nothing of ornament but war pictures from the Eastern illustrated papers tacked to the log walls. That was all cheerless, materialistic desolation. But here was a nest, which gave rest to the tired eye and refreshed that something in one's nature which now has found nourishment. I could not have believed that a rag carpet, or wallpaper, or framed lithographs, and bright-coloured tidies and lamp-mats, and Windsor chairs, and varnished whatnots, with sea-shells and books and china vases on them, and the score of little unclassifiable tricks and touches that woman's hand distributes about a home, could be such solace to the soul. The delight that was in my heart showed in my face, and the man saw it and was pleased.

“All her work,” he said, caressingly. “She did it all herself – every bit.” And he took the room in with a glance, which was full of affectionate worship. One of those soft Japan fabrics, with which women drape the upper part of a picture-frame was out of adjustment. He noticed it, and rearranged it with cautious pains, stepping back several times to gauge the effect before he got it to suit him. Then he gave it a light finishing pat or two with his hand, and said:

“She always does that. You can't tell just what it lacks, but it does lack something until you've done that – you can see it yourself after it's done, but that is all you know; you can't find out

²⁸ Название реки в Калифорнии

the law of it. It's like the finishing pats a mother gives the child's hair after she's got it combed and brushed, I reckon. I've seen her fix all things so much that I can do them all just her way, though I don't know the law of any of them. But she knows the law. She knows the why and the how both; but I don't know the why; I only know the how".

He took me into a bedroom so that I might wash my hands; such a bedroom as I had not seen for years: white counterpane, white pillows, carpeted floor, papered walls, pictures, dressing-table, with mirror and pin-cushion and dainty toilet things; and in the corner a wash-stand, with real china-ware bowl and pitcher, and with soap in a china dish, and on a rack more than a dozen towels – towels too clean and white for one out of practice to use without some vague sense of profanation. So my face spoke again, and he answered with gratified words:

"All her work; she did it all herself – every bit. Nothing here that hasn't felt the touch of her hand. Now you would think – but I mustn't talk so much."

By this time I was wiping my hands and glancing from detail to detail of the room's belongings, as one is apt to do when he is in a new place, where everything he sees is a comfort to his eye and his spirit. And I became conscious, in one of those unaccountable ways, you know, that there was something there somewhere that the man wanted me to discover for myself. I knew it perfectly, and I knew he was trying to help me by furtive indications with his eye, so I tried hard to get on the right track, being eager to gratify him. I failed several times, as I could see out of the corner of my eye without being told; but at last I knew I must be looking straight at the thing – knew it from the pleasure issuing in invisible waves from him. He broke into a happy laugh, and rubbed his hands together, and cried out:

"That's it! You've found it. I knew you would. It's her picture."

I went to the farther wall, and did find there what I had not yet noticed – a picture-case. It contained the sweetest girlish face, and the most beautiful, as it seemed to me, that I had ever seen. The man drank the admiration from my face, and was fully satisfied.

"Nineteen her last birthday," he said, as he put the picture back; "and that was the day we were married. When you see her – ah, just wait till you see her!"

"Where is she? When will she be in?"

"Oh, she's away now. She's gone to see her people. They live forty-five miles from here. She's been gone two weeks today."

"When do you expect her back?"

"This is Wednesday. She'll be back Saturday, in the evening – about nine o'clock, likely."

I felt a sharp sense of disappointment.

"I'm sorry, because I'll be gone then," I said, regretfully.

"Gone? No – why should you go? Don't go. She'll be so disappointed."

She would be disappointed – that beautiful creature! If she had said the words herself they could hardly have blessed me more. I was feeling a deep, strong longing to see her – a longing so insistent, that it made me afraid. I said to myself: "I will go straight away from this place, for my peace of mind's sake."

"You see, she likes to have people come and stop with us – people who know things, and can talk – people like you. She delights in it; for she knows – oh, she knows nearly everything herself, and can talk, oh, like a bird – and the books she reads, why, you would be astonished. Don't go. It's only a little while, you know, and she'll be so disappointed."

I heard the words, but hardly noticed them. I was so deep in my thinkings and strugglings. He left me, but I didn't know. Presently he was back, with the picture-case in his hand, and he held it open before me and said:

"There, now, tell her to her face you could have stayed to see her, and you wouldn't."

The second glimpse broke down my good resolution. I would stay and take the risk.

That night we smoked the tranquil pipe, and talked till late about various things, but mainly about her; and certainly I had had no such pleasant restful time for many a day. The Thursday followed and slipped comfortably away. Toward twilight a big miner from three miles away came – one of the grizzled stranded pioneers – and gave us warm salutation. Then he said:

“I only just dropped over to ask about the little madam, and when is she coming home. Any news from her?”

“O yes, a letter. Would you like to hear it, Tom?”

“Well, I should think I would, if you don’t mind, Henry!”

Henry got the letter out of his wallet, and said he would skip some of the private phrases, if we were willing. Then he went on and read the bulk of it – a loving, sedate, and altogether charming and gracious piece of handiwork, with a postscript full of affectionate regards and messages to Tom, and Joe, and Charley, and other close friends and neighbors.

As the reader finished, he glanced at Tom, and cried out:

“Oh, you’re at it again! Take your hands away, and let me see your eyes. You always do that when I read a letter from her. I will write and tell her.”

“Oh no, you mustn’t, Henry. I’m getting old, you know, and any little disappointment makes me want to cry. I thought she’d be here herself, and now you’ve got only a letter.”

“Well, now, what put that in your head? I thought everybody knew she wasn’t coming till Saturday.”

“Saturday! Why, come to think I did know it. I wonder what’s the matter with me lately? Certainly I knew it. Aren’t we all getting ready for her? Well, I must be going now. But I’ll be on hand when she comes, old man.”

Late Friday afternoon another gray veteran tramped over from his cabin a mile or so away, and said the boys wanted to have a little gaiety and a good time Saturday night, if Henry thought she wouldn’t be too tired after her journey to be kept up.

“Tired? She, tired? Oh, hear the man! Joe, *you* know she’d sit up six weeks to please any one of you!”

When Joe heard that there was a letter, he asked to have it read, and the loving messages in it for him broke the old fellow all up; but he said he was such an old wreck that *that* would happen to him if she only just mentioned his name. “Lord, we miss her so!” he said.

Saturday afternoon I found I was taking out my watch pretty often. Henry noticed it, and said, with a startled look:

“You don’t think she ought to be here so soon, do you?”

I felt caught, and a little embarrassed; but I laughed, and said it was a habit of mine when I was in a state of expectancy. But he didn’t seem quite satisfied; and from that time on he began to show uneasiness. Four times he walked me up the road to a point from where we could see a long distance; and there he would stand, shading his eyes with his hand, and looking. Several times he said:

“I’m getting worried, I’m getting right down worried. I know she’s not due till about nine o’clock, and, yet, something seems to be trying to warn me that something’s happened. You don’t think anything has happened, do you?”

I began pretty thoroughly ashamed of him for his childishness; and at last, when he repeated that imploring question still another time, I lost my patience for the moment, and spoke pretty brutally to him. It seemed to shrivel him up and cow him²⁹; and he looked so wounded and so humble after that, that I detested myself for having done the cruel and unnecessary thing. And so I was glad when Charley, another veteran, arrived toward the edge of the evening, and nestled up to Henry to hear the letter read, and talked over the preparations for the welcome. Charley fetched out one hearty speech after another, and did his best to drive away his friend’s bodings and apprehensions.

“Anything happened to her? Henry, that’s pure nonsense. There isn’t anything going to happen to her; just make your mind easy as to that. What did the letter say? Said she was well. didn’t it? Did you ever know her to fail of her word? Why, you know you never did. Well, then, don’t you fret; she’ll be here, and that’s absolutely certain, and as sure as you are born. Come, now, let’s get to decorating – not much time left.”

²⁹ It seemed to shrivel him up and cow him – казалось, он весь как-то испуганно съёжился

Pretty soon Tom and Joe arrived, and then all hands set about adorning the house with flowers. Toward nine the three miners said that as they had brought their instruments they might as well tune up, for the boys and girls would soon be arriving now, and hungry for a good, old-fashioned break-down. A fiddle, a banjo, and a clarinet – there were the instruments. The trio took their places side by side, and began to play some rattling dance-music, and beat time with their big boots.

It was getting very close to nine. Henry was standing in the door with his eyes directed up the road, his body swaying to the torture of his mental distress. He had been made to drink his wife's health and safety several times, and now Tom shouted:

"All hands stand up! One more drink, and she's here!" Joe brought the glasses on a waiter, and served the party. I reached for one of the two remaining glasses, but Joe growled, under his breath:

"Drop that! Take the other."

Which I did. Henry was served last. He had hardly swallowed his drink when the clock began to strike. He listened till it finished, his face growing pale and paler; then he said:

"Boys, I'm sick with fear. Help me – I want to lie down."

They helped him to the sofa. He began to nestle and drowse, but presently spoke like one talking in his sleep, and said: "Did I hear horses' feet? Have them come?"

One of the veterans answered, close to his ear: "It was Jimmy Parrish come to say the party got delayed, but they're right up the road a piece, and coming along. Her horse is lame, but she'll be here in half an hour."

"Oh, I'm so thankful nothing has happened."

He was asleep almost before the words were out of his mouth. In a moment those handy men had his clothes off, and had tucked him into his bed in the chamber where I had washed my hands. They closed the door and came back. Then they seemed preparing to leave; but I said: "Please don't go gentlemen. She won't know me; I am a stranger."

They glanced at each other. Then Joe said:

"She? Poor thing, she's been dead nineteen years!"

"Dead?"

"That or worse. She went to see her folks half a year after she was married, and on her way back, on a Saturday evening, the Indians captured her within five miles of this place, and she's never been heard of since."

"And he lost his mind in consequence?"

"Never has been sane an hour since. But he only gets bad when that time of the year comes round. Then we begin to drop in here, three days before she's due, to encourage him up, and ask if he's heard from her, and Saturday we all come and fix up the house with flowers, and get everything ready for a dance. We've done it every year for nineteen years. The first Saturday there was twenty-seven of us, without counting the girls; there's only three of us now, and the girls are all gone. We drug him to sleep, or he would go wild. Then he's all right for another year – thinks she's with him till the last three or four days come round. Then he begins to look for her, and gets out his poor old letter, and we come and ask him to read it to us. Lord, she was a darling!"

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Balmy, delicious, surface, predecessors, drowsy, referred, abundant, nourishment, unclassifiable, solace, caressingly, affectionate, gauge, combed, vague, conscious, issuing, twilight, sedate, uneasiness, imploring, shrivel, apprehension, adorning, banjo, clarinet, swallowed, captured, consequence, encourage.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

Надеясь найти богатую жилу; без малейшего намёка на то, что когда-то здесь жили люди; словно паутиной обвитые виноградом и розами; порвать все связи с родными и друзьями; так было принято в этой стране; пока получалось так, как его устраивало; он был в восторге от моего восхищения; любая досада вызывает у меня слёзы; откуда у тебя такие мысли; что со мной происходит последнее время; отогнать опасения и дурные предчувствия; это полнейшая ерунда; ты помнишь, чтобы она когда-нибудь не держала своего слова; это так же верно, как верно то, что ты родился; все принялись украшать дом; его поза выражала его душевные муки.

2. Find Russian equivalents of the following English word combinations from the list below. Use them in the situations from the text.

- a) 1. lovely, woodsy, balmy, delicious region; 2. charming paradise; 3. deserted forsaken homes; 4. defeated and disappointed families; 5. solitary log cabins; 6. wasted lives; 7. pride-smitten poor fellows; 8. lonesome land; 9. living dead men; 10. peaceful expanses of grass and woods; 11. drowsy hum of insects; 12. cozy little cottages; 13. abundant, gay, flourishing garden of flowers; 14. cheerless desolation; 15. affectionate worship; 16. cautious pain; 17. carpeted floor; 18. papered walls; 19. dainty toilet things; 20. gratified words; 21. furtive indications; 22. invisible waves; 23. sweetest girlish face; 24. insistent longing; 25. grizzled stranded pioneers; 26. warm salutation; 27. loving and sedate, charming and gracious piece of handiwork; 28. old wreck; 29. startled look; 30. imploring question; 31. hearty speech; 32. rattling dance music; 33. handy men; 34. sharp sense of disappointment.
- b) 1. пустые покинутые дома; 2. зря прожитые жизни; 3. живые мертвецы; 4. уютные маленькие домики; 5. трогательное обожание; 6. оклеенные обоими стены; 7. тайные знаки; 8. настойчивое желание; 9. нежное и спокойное, прелестное и любезное творение; 10. умоляющий вопрос; 11. мастера на все руки; 12. восхитительный край; 13. сломленные и разочарованные семьи; 14. унылая земля; 15. тихие просторы лугов и лесов; 16. унылое запустение; 17. осторожные усилия; 18. слова удовлетворения; 19. невидимые волны; 20. тёплое приветствие; 21. старая развалина; 22. энергичная танцевальная музыка; 23. острое чувство разочарования; 24. прелестный лесной успокоительный и восхитительный край; 25. одинокие бревенчатые хижины; 26. сломленные бедняги; 27. сонное жужжание насекомых; 28. весёлый цветущий, заросший цветами сад; 29. покрытый коврами пол; 30. изящные туалетные принадлежности; 31. прелестнейшее девичье лицо; 32. поседевшие, сидящие на мели первопроходцы; 33. испуганный взгляд; 34. трогательная речь.

3. Match the word combinations, which have the same or the very close meaning. Use them in the situations from the text.

to keep up one's spirit
to catch sight of smth.
to make oneself at home
to be apt to
to get on the right track
to be disappointed in
to bless someone
to be astonished

a) to have intentions to do smth.
b) to burst out laughing
c) to see the right way
d) to encourage one up
e) to see
f) to decorate the house with flowers
g) to be inclined to
h) to be comfortable

to break into happy laugh
to break down one's good resolution
to be at something
to be on hand
to show uneasiness
to drop over
to detest someone
to fetch out a speech
to fail someone
to fret
to be sane
to fix up the house with flowers

i) to be nearby
j) to make one change one's mind
k) to come by chance
l) to make a speech
m) not to keep promise
n) to feel worried
o) to be greatly surprised
p) to make one happy
q) not to have one's wishes fulfilled
r) to be healthy
s) to worry
t) to hate someone

4. Arrange the following sentences in the right order.

Everything in the house indicated that a woman had arranged all little things there.

I had a feeling that he wanted me to see something very special for him.

He was glad to see my admiration.

Some of the cottages were still occupied.

He told me she was out and would be back soon.

The miners got busy decorating the house for the party.

In front of one them I saw a man who invited me in.

I got ashamed of myself for having been rude to Henry.

He adjusted a picture-frame and looked at me to see the effect.

Another glimpse at the picture made me change my mind, and I decided to stay.

People left these places, but here and there one could see pretty cottages scattered along the dusty roads.

They made him drink to her health and safety.

I got embarrassed when Henry noticed me look at my watch too often.

When he was asleep they took him to bed.

The miners did their best to cheer up Henry.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

- The people went away because the climate was too bad in that region.
- Those who remained lived a good life.
- The man standing at the gate had a deserted look.
- The author was delighted to see such a cozy house.
- The man did his best to show what a good host he was.
- On the wall the author saw a lovely portrait of an aged woman.
- Henry expected the girl to arrive the next day.
- The author had to stay not to hurt Henry's feelings.
- The author spent three restful days with Henry.
- On Saturday three miners arrived.
- One of them brought a letter for Henry.
- The author, Henry, and the miners got very nervous by the Saturday evening.
- The veterans arranged everything for a good party.
- Henry looked very happy during the party.
- Nobody knew what had happened to the girl.

2. Say what you understand by the following:

1. ...the score of little unclassifiable tricks and touches that woman's hand distributes about a home, could be such a solace to the soul.
2. The delight that was in my heart showed in my face.
3. ... towels too clean and white for one out of practice to use without some vague sense of profanation.
4. ... and yet something seems to be trying me ...
5. ... Charley ... nestled up to Henry ...
6. Make your mind easy to that ...
7. ... hungry for a good, old-fashioned break-down.
8. ...had tucked him into his bed ...

3. Answer the following questions:

1. How many characters participate in the tale?
2. Are they all men?
3. Where are the events taking place? What makes you think so?
4. When do you think they are happening? Give your reasons.
5. Is anybody else expected to arrive at the party?
6. Who is expecting whom?
7. Is the author expecting anybody? Why or why not?
8. Who is not expecting anybody? Why not?
9. Are there any girls at the party?
10. Are all the characters in good health? If not, why?

4. Prove that:

1. Once the author was a gold miner.
2. The gold rush is over.
3. Once it was a populous region.
4. Now it is a lonesome land.
5. Once Henry was happy with his wife.
6. Henry's house is a comfort to one's eye and spirit.
7. Henry adores his wife.
8. Henry is proud of her.
9. Henry is getting more and more nervous.
10. The miners are true friends.

5. Add more information to the following:

1. It was a lovely region.
2. Some cabins were still occupied.
3. These pride-smitten poor fellows had no communication with their families and relatives.
4. Everything in the house gave rest to a tired eye.
5. I caught sight of a human creature.
6. I was invited in.
7. I knew the man was trying to help me to discover something for myself.
8. She likes to have people come and stop with us.
9. We talked till late about various things.

10. Henry got the letter.
11. Henry began to show uneasiness.
12. Three miners came one by one.
13. Joe brought the glasses.
14. The veterans seemed to prepare to leave.
15. She went to see her folks.

6. Imagine that you are:

1. The author.

- Say a) why you went to California;
b) how you met Henry
c) what impression his house made on you;
d) why you stayed for another three days;
e) what you got to know about Henry and his wife.

2. Henry.

- Say a) how you found yourself in California;
b) how you got married;

3. Charley.

- Say a) why you came to California;
b) what happened to your friend Henry;
c) what you do to support Henry

IS HE LIVING OR IS HE DEAD

I was spending the month of March 1892, at Mentone, in the Riviera. At this retired spot one has the flooding sunshine, the balmy air, and the brilliant blue sea. Mentone is quiet, simple, restful, and unpretentious; the rich and the gaudy do not come there. As a rule, I mean, the rich do not come there. Now and then a rich man comes, and I presently got acquainted with one of these. Partially to disguise him I will call him Smith. One day, in the hotel at the second breakfast, he exclaimed:

“Quick! Cast your eye on the man going out at the door. Take in every detail of him.”

“Why?”

“Do you know who he is?”

“Yes. He spent several days here before you came. He is an old, retired, and very rich silk manufacturer from Lyons, they say, and I guess he is alone in the world, for he always looks sad and dreamy, and doesn’t talk with anybody. His name is Monsieur Magnan.”

I supposed that Smith would now go on with his story, but instead he dropped into a brown study, and was lost to me and to the rest of the world during some minutes. Now and then he passed his fingers through his flossy white hair, to assist his thinking, and meantime he allowed his breakfast to go on cooling. At last he said:

“No, it’s gone; I can’t call it back.”

“Can’t call what back?”

“It’s one of Hans Anderson’s beautiful little stories. But it’s gone for me. Part of it is like this: A child has a caged bird, which it loves, but thoughtlessly neglects. The bird sings its song unheard and unheeded; but in time, hunger and thirst assail the creature, and its song grows feeble and finally ceases – the bird dies. The child comes, and is smitten to the heart with remorse. Then, with bitter tears and lamentations, it calls its mates, and they bury the bird with elaborate pomp and tenderest grief, without knowing, poor things, that it isn’t children only who starve poets to death and then spend enough on their funerals and monuments to have kept them alive³⁰ and them easy and comfortable. Now –”

But here we were interrupted. About ten that evening I ran across Smith, and he asked me up to his parlor to smoke and drink hot Scotch. It was a cozy place, with its comfortable chairs, its cheerful lamps, and its friendly open fire of seasoned olivewood. To make everything perfect, there was the muffled booming of the surf outside. After the second Scotch and much lazy and contented chat, Smith said:

“Now we are properly primed – I to tell a curious history and you to listen to it. It has been a secret for many years – a secret between three others; and me, but I am going to break the seal now. Are you comfortable now?”

“Perfectly. Go on.”

Here follows what he told me:

A long time ago I was a young artist – a very young in fact – and I wandered about the country parts of France sketching here and sketching there, and was presently joined by a couple of darling young Frenchmen who were at the same kind of thing that I was doing. We were as happy as we were poor, or as poor as we were happy – phrase it to suit yourself. Claude Frere and Carl Boulanger³¹ – these are the names of those boys; dear, dear fellows, and the sunniest spirits that ever laughed at poverty and had a noble time in all weathers.

At last we run hard aground in a Breton village and artist as poor as ourselves took us in and literally saved us from starving – François Millet –

“What! The *great* François Millet?”

³⁰ Enough ... to have kept them alive – вполне достаточно, чтобы помочь им при жизни.

³¹ Claude Frere, Carl Boulanger – французские художники, одни из основателей школы французского национального пейзажа.

Great? He wasn't any greater than we were, then. He hadn't any fame, even in his own village; and he was so poor that he hadn't anything to feed us on but turnips, and even the turnips failed us sometimes. We four became fast friends, inseparable. We painted away together with all our might, piling up stock, piling up stock, but very seldom getting rid of any of it. We had lovely times together. But how we were pinched³² now and then!

For a little over two years this went on. At last, one day Claude said:

"Boys, we've come to the end. Do you understand that? – Absolutely to the end. Everybody has struck³³ – there's a league formed against us. I've been all around the village. They refuse to credit us for another centime until all the odds and ends are paid up.

This sounded like a blow. Every face was blank with dismay. We realized that our circumstances were desperate now. There was a long silence. Finally, Millet said with a sigh:

"Nothing occurs to me – nothing. Suggest something, lads."

There was no response, unless a mournful silence may be called a response. Carl got up, and walked nervously up and down awhile, then said: "It's a shame! Look at these canvases: stacks and stacks of as good pictures as anybody in Europe paints – I don't care who he is. Yes, and plenty of lounging stranger have said the same – or nearly that, anyway."

"But didn't buy," Millet said.

"No matter, they said it; and it's true, too. Look at your 'Angelus' there! Will anybody tell me –"

"Pah, Carl – my 'Angelus'! I was offered five francs for it.

"When?"

"Who offered it?"

"Where is he?"

"Why didn't you take it?"

"Come – don't all speak at once. I thought he would give more – I was sure of it – he looked it – so I asked him eight."

"Well – and then?"

"He said he would call again."

"Thunder and lightning! Why, François –"

"Oh, I know – I know! It was a mistake, and I was a fool."

"Boys, I meant for the best; you will grant me that, and I –"

"Why, certainly, we know that, bless your dear heart; but don't you be a fool again."

"I? I wish somebody would come along and offer us a cabbage for it – you'd see!"

"A cabbage! Oh, don't name it – it makes my mouth water. Talk of things less trying."

"Boys," said Carl, "do these pictures lack merit? Answer me that."

"No!"

"Aren't they of very great and high merit? Answer me that."

"Yes."

"Of such great and high merit that, if an illustrious name were attached to them, they would sell at splendid prices. Isn't it so?"

"Certainly it is. Nobody doubts that."

"But I'm not joking – isn't it so?"

"Why, of course it's so – and we are not joking. But what of it? What of it? How does that concern us?"

"In this way, comrades – we'll attach an illustrious name to them!"

The lively conversation stopped. The faces were turned inquiringly upon Carl. What sort of riddle might be this? Where was an illustrious name to be borrowed? And who was to borrow it? Carl sat down, and said:

"Now, I have a perfectly serious thing to propose. I think it is the only way to keep us out of the almshouse, and I believe it to be a perfectly sure way. I base this opinion upon certain

³² We were pinched – Нам было туго.

³³ Everybody has struck – Все сговорились против нас.

multitudinous and long-established facts in human history. I believe my project will make us all rich.’

“Rich! You’ve lost your mind.”

“No, I haven’t.”

“Yes, you have – you’ve lost your mind. What do you call rich?”

“A hundred thousand francs apiece.”

“He has lost his mind. I knew it.”

“Yes, he has. Carl, privation has been too much for you and – “

“Carl, you want to take a pill and get right to bed.”

“Bandage him first – bandage his head, and then – “

“Shut up!” said Millet, with ostensible severity, “and let the boy say his say. Now, then – come out with your project, Carl. What is it?”

“Well, then by way of preamble I will ask you to note this fact in human history; that the merit of many a great artist has never been acknowledged until after he was starved and dead. This happened so often that I make bold to found a law upon it. This law: that the merit of *every* great unknown and neglected artist must and will be recognized, and his pictures climb to high prices after his death. My project is this: we must cast lots – one of us must die.”

The remark fell so calmly and so unexpectedly that we almost forgot to jump. Then there was a wild chorus of advice again – medical advice – for the help of Carl’s brain; but he waited patiently for the hilarity to calm down, then went on again with his project:

“Yes, one of us must die, to save the others – and himself. We will cast lots. The one chosen will be illustrious; all of us will be rich. Hold still, now – hold still; don’t interrupt – I tell you I know what I am talking about. Here is the idea. During the next three months the one who is to die will paint with all his might, enlarge his stock all he can – not pictures, *no!* skeleton sketches, studies, parts of studies, fragments of studies, a dozen dabs of the brush on each – meaningless of course, but *his* with his cipher on them; turn out fifty a day each to contain some peculiarity or mannerism, easily detectable as his – *they’re* the things that sell, you know, and are collected at fabulous prices for the world’s museums, after the great man is gone; we’ll have a ton of them ready – a ton! And all that time the rest of us will be busy supporting the moribund, and working Paris and the dealers³⁴ - preparations for the coming event, you know; and when everything is hot and just right, we’ll spring the death on them³⁵ and have the notorious funeral. You get the idea?”

“N-o; at least, not quite –“

“Not quite? Don’t you see? The man doesn’t really die; he changes his name and vanishes; we bury a dummy, and cry over it, with all the world to help. And I – ”

But he wasn’t allowed to finish. Everybody broke out into a rousing hurrah of applause; and all jumped up and capered about the room and fell on each other’s necks in transport of gratitude and joy. Four hours we talked over the great plan, without feeling hungry, and at last, when all the details had been arranged satisfactorily, we cast lots and Millet was elected – elected to die, as we called it. Then we scraped together those things which one saves for a rainy day – keepsake trinkets³⁶ and such like – and these we pawned for enough to furnish us a frugal farewell supper and breakfast, and leave us a few francs over for travel, and a stake of turnips and such for Millet to live on for a few days.

Next morning, early, the three of us cleared out, straightway after breakfast – on foot, of course. Each of us carried a dozen of Millet’s small pictures, purposing to market them. Carl struck for Paris, where he would start the work of building up Millet’s fame against the coming great day. Claude and I were to separate, and scatter abroad over France³⁷.

Now, it will surprise you to know an easy and comfortable thing we had. I walked two days before I began business. Then I began to sketch a villa in the outskirts of a big town – because I saw

³⁴ Working Paris and the dealers – обрабатывая Париж и торговцев.

³⁵ We’ll spring the death on them – мы устроим смерть

³⁶ Keepsake trinkets – всякие безделушки

³⁷ Were separate and scatter abroad over France – должны были расстаться и рассеяться по Франции.

the proprietor standing on an upper veranda. He came down to look on – I thought he would. I worked swiftly, intending to keep him interested. Occasionally he fired off a little ejaculation of approbation, and by and by he spoke up with enthusiasm, and said I was a master!

I put down by brush, reached into my satchel, fetched out a Millet, and pointed to the cipher in the corner. I said proudly:

“I suppose you recognize *that*? Well, he taught me! I should *think* I ought to know my trade!”

The man looked guiltily embarrassed, and was silent. I said sorrowfully:

“You don’t mean to intimate that you don’t know the cipher of François Millet!”

Of course he didn’t know that cipher; but he was the most grateful man you ever saw, just the same, for being let out of an uncomfortable place on such easy terms. He said:

“No! Why, it *is* Millet’s, sure enough! I don’t know what I could have been thinking of. Of course I recognize it now,”

Next he wanted to buy it; but I said that although I wasn’t rich I wasn’t *that* poor. However, at last, I let him have it for eight hundred francs.

“Eight hundred!”

Yes. Mullet would have sold it for a pork-chop. Yes, I got eight hundred francs for that little thing. I wish I could get it back for eighty thousand. But that time’s gone by. I made a very nice picture of that man’s house, and I wanted to offer it to him for ten francs, but that wouldn’t answer, seeing I was the pupil of such a master, so I sold it to him for a hundred. I sent the eight hundred francs straight back to Millet from that town and struck out again next day.

But I didn’t walk – no; I rode. I have ridden ever since. I sold one picture every day, and never tried to sell two. I always said to my customer:

“I am a fool to sell a picture of François Millet’s at all, for that man is not going to live three months, and when he dies his pictures can’t be had for love or money.”

I took care to spread that little fact as far as I could, and prepare the world for the event.

I take credit to myself for our plan of selling the pictures – it was mine. I suggested it that last evening when we were laying out our campaign, and all three of us agreed to give it a good fair trial before giving it up for some other. It succeeded with all of us. I walked only two days, Claude walked two – both of us afraid to make Millet celebrated too close to home – but Carl walk only half a day, the bright, conscienceless rascal, and after that he traveled like a duke.

Every now and then we got in with a country editor and started an item around through the press; not an item announcing that a new painter had been discovered, but an item which let on³⁸ that everybody knew François Millet; not an item praising him in any way, but merely a word concerning the present condition of the “master” – sometimes hopeful, sometimes despondent, but always tinged with fears for the worst. We always marked these paragraphs, and sent the papers to all the people who had bought pictures of us.

Carl was soon in Paris, and he worked things with a high hand³⁹. He made friends with the correspondents, and got Millet’s condition reported to England and all over the continent, and America, and everywhere.

At the end of six weeks from the start, we three met in Paris and called a halt, and stopped sending back to Millet for additional pictures. The boom was so high, and everything so ripe, that we saw that it would be a mistake not to strike now, right away, without waiting any longer. So we wrote Millet to go to bed and begin to waste away pretty fast, for we should like him to die in ten days if he could get ready.

Then we figured up and found that among us we had sold eighty-five small pictures and studies, and had sixty-nine thousand francs to show for it. Carl had made the last sale and the most brilliant one of all. He sold the ‘Angelus’ for twenty-two hundred francs. Now we did glorify him! – not foreseeing that a day was coming by and by when France would struggle to own it and a stranger would capture it for five hundred and fifty thousand, cash.

³⁸ Let on – делало вид

³⁹ He worked things with a high hand – он сделал всё на высоком уровне

We had a wind-up champagne supper that night, and next day Claude and I packed up and went off to nurse Millet through his last days and keep busybodies out of the house and send daily bulletins to Carl in Paris for publication in the papers of several continents for the information of a waiting world. The sad end came at last, and Carl was there in time to help on the final mournful rites.

You remember that great funeral, and what a stir it made all over the globe, and how the illustrious of two worlds came to attend it and testify their sorrow. We four – still inseparable – carried the coffin, and would allow none to help. And we were right about that, because it hadn't anything in it but a wax figure, and any other coffin-bears would have found fault with the weight. Yes, we same old four, who had lovingly shared privation together in the old hard times now gone forever, carried the coffin – ”

“Which four?”

“We four – for Millet helped to carry his own coffin. In disguise, you know. Disguised as a relative – distant relative.”

“Astonishing!”

“But true, just the same. Well, you remember how pictures went up. Money? We didn't know what to do with it. There's a man in Paris today who owns seventy Millet pictures. He paid us two million francs for them and as for the bushels of sketches and studies which Millet shoveled out during the six weeks that we were on the road, well, it would astonish you to know the figure we sell them at nowadays – that is, when we consent to let one go!”

“It is a wonderful history, perfectly wonderful.”

“Yes – it amounts to that.”

“Whatever became of Millet?”

“Can you keep a secret?”

“I can.”

“Do you remember the man I called your attention to in the dining room today? That was *François Millet*.”

“Great – “

“Scott!⁴⁰ Yes. For once they didn't starve a genius to death and then put into other pockets the rewards he should have had himself.⁴¹ *This* song-bird was not allowed to pipe out its heart unheard and then be paid with the cold pomp of a big funeral. We looked out for that.”

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Riviera, flooding, balmy, unpretentious, disguise, manufacture, Lyons, ceases, lamentations, elaborate, contented, league, centime, occur, inquiringly, almshouse, multitudinous, privation, ostensible, severity, preamble, acknowledged, climb, chorus, hilarity, cipher, ton, bury, frugal, proprietor, ejaculation, conscienceless, despondent, halt, wind-up, bulletin, bushel, shovel.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

В мрачном раздумье; время от времени; сесть на мель; мне ничего не приходит на ум; разве это не достойные картины; от этого слюнки текут; восторженно закричали и зааплодировали; ни за какие деньги; которые были заняты тем же, чем и я; я хотел как лучше; какое это имеет

⁴⁰ Great Scott – вот те на!

⁴¹ He should have had himself – следовало бы отдать ему

отношение к вам; выделять антраша от восторга и радости; хранить вещи про чёрный день.

2. Match English and Russian word combinations. Use them to describe the situations from the text.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Balmy air | a) горькие слёзы |
| Brilliant blue sea | b) уютная гостиная |
| Unpretentious place | c) приветливый огонь |
| Flossy hair | d) любопытная история |
| Plaintive feeble song | e) безнадёжные обстоятельства |
| Bitter tears | f) преданные неразлучные друзья |
| Elaborate pomp | g) траурная тишина |
| Tender grief | h) прославленное имя |
| Cozy parlor | i) сверкающее синее море |
| Friendly open fire | j) приятный воздух |
| Muffling booming of the surf | k) шелковистые волосы |
| Contented chat | l) пышное великолепие |
| Curios history | m) нежная грусть |
| Doting inseparable friends | n) жалобная тихая песня |
| Desperate circumstances | o) тихий шум прибоя |
| Mournful silence | p) приятная беседа |
| Lounging strangers | q) скудный ужин |
| High merit | r) знаменитые похороны |
| Illustrious name | s) баснословные цены |
| Multitudinous facts | t) показная суровость |
| Ostensible severity | u) многочисленные факты |
| Neglected artist | v) заметная особенность |
| Detectable peculiarity | w) праздношатающиеся незнакомцы |
| Fabulous price | x) высокое достоинство |
| Notorious funeral | y) скромное местечко |
| Frugal supper | z) не пользующийся вниманием художник |

3. Say which line on the right explains the meaning of the line on the left.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Smith wants the author to cast his eye on the man | a) that is he met him by chance |
| 2. Smith tries to call a story back but | b) it stops singing |
| 3. The birdsong ceases, or in other words | c) means he wants him to look at the man |
| 4. The girl was smitten to the heart with remorse | d) he can't remember it |
| 5. That evening the author ran across Smith | e) means they had nothing to live on |
| 6. Now we are properly primed, or | f) their pictures didn't sell |
| 7. The young artist ran hard aground | g) means they were sometimes needy |
| 8. They couldn't get rid of their pictures, or | h) nothing comes to my mind |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9. They were pinched, now and then | i) means that she was in great sorrow |
| 10. Nothing occurs to me, or in other words | j) we were ready |
| 11. The four of us cast lots, or in other words | k) means that Smith took honour to himself |
| 12. The artists worked to build up Millet's fame | l) we left the village |
| 13. Smith took credit to himself for his plan of selling pictures | m) he started for Paris |
| 14. After breakfast we cleared out, or in other words | n) we threw an object to decide the question |
| 15. One of us struck for Paris means that | o) means that they tried to make him famous |

3. Complete the sentences with the phrases from the box below. Make changes in the phrase, if necessary.

To lose one's mind	to pay up odds and ends	to be pinched
To drop into a brown study	to make one's mouth water	to run aground
For a rainy day	to be tinged with fears for the worst	for love or money
To cast lots	to share privation together	to be smitten to the heart

- The poor child was _____ with remorse.
- Smith didn't go on with his story, but instead he _____.
- It was Millet who saved the artists when they _____.
- Though the artists painted with all their might, they _____ now and then.
- All the creditors in the village wanted the artists to _____.
- Even a talk about cabbage _____.
- The artist thought that Carl _____ when he announced his project.
- The artists _____, and Millet was elected to die.
- All the little things saved _____ and then pawned helped the artists to start their project.
- Smith took care to spread the fact that when Millet died it would be impossible to get his pictures _____.
- They did not know what to do with the money, and the hard times when they _____ now were gone.
- Every word concerning the present condition of the "master" was _____.

4. Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The author liked Menton because | a) joy and gratitude had filled them |
| 2. Smith tried to call back Andersen's little story because | b) it was based upon certain multitudinous facts |
| 3. Smith asked the author to his parlor because | c) they wanted them to pay their debts |
| 4. The young artists were pinched now and then because | d) the rich and the gaudy never came here |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. Nobody wanted to credit the artists because | e) their picture didn't sell |
| 6. Their pictures didn't sell because | f) it reminded him of his own youth |
| 7. Carl believed in his project because | g) Smith let him out of the embarrassing situation on such easy terms |
| 8. Many a great artist were starved to death because | h) his friends looked out for that |
| 9. The friends jumped up and capered about the room because | i) no illustrious names were attached to them |
| 10. He was the most grateful man because | j) he wanted to have a chat with him |
| 11. Carl made friends with the correspondents because | k) their rewards went into other pockets |
| 12. The friends didn't allow anyone to carry the coffin because | l) he wanted them to report Millet's condition all over the continent |
| 13. They didn't starve a genius to death because | m) it hadn't anything in it but a wax figure |

6. Put the sentences in the right order.

1. The story of the man reminds him one of Andersen's little stories.
2. A brilliant idea strikes Carl.
3. In two year's time their happiness comes to an end.
4. Smith wants the author to cast his eye at the man at the door.
5. Four young artists are having noble good time together.
6. He is a very rich manufacturer from Lyons.
7. The four are preparing for the coming event.
8. The artists call a halt.
9. Smith sells the first Millet's sketch.
10. The four begin business.
11. The author gets acquainted with a French artist who tells him a curious story.
12. First a child starves the bird to death, then buries it with elaborate pomp.
13. The world is being prepared for the event.
14. For once a genius has not been starved to death.
15. Daily bulletins provide information for the waiting world.
16. The pictures sell at an astonishing price.
17. Smith breaks the seal and tells the story.
18. The great funeral stirs the globe.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. Millet told the author a curious story.
2. Smith was a silk manufacturer from Lyons.
3. The events of the story took place in Mentone.
4. Three young artists nearly starved to death.
5. Claude had a wonderful idea.
6. The artists wanted to get rid of their sketches and studies.
7. The friends thought that Carl had lost his mind.

8. Carl came to the conclusion that great artists were recognized greatly only after their death.
9. Carl decided to die to save the others.
10. The friends went to different parts of France.
11. They walked for many days, as they could not afford to ride.
12. They sent an article to the newspaper announcing that a new painter had been discovered.
13. Millet got ill, and his condition was reported all over the continent.
14. Millet's funeral made a stir all over the globe.

2. Say what you understand by the following:

1. But I am going to break the seal now.
2. He was lost to me and to the rest of the world during some minutes.
3. The merit of many a great artist has never been acknowledged until after he was starved and dead.
4. Of course he didn't know the cipher; but he was the most grateful man you ever saw, just the same, for being let out of an uncomfortable place on such easy terms.
5. "This songbird was not allowed to pipe out its heart unheard and then be paid with the cold pomp of a big funeral. We looked out for that."
6. They were the sunniest spirits that ever laughed at poverty and had a noble time in all weathers.
7. We had a wind-up champagne supper that night.
8. Let the boy say his say.

3. Answer the following questions citing the text:

1. What is Menton like?
2. What kind of people do not come there?
3. What kind of man is Monsieur Magnan?
4. What kind of man is Smith?
5. Which of Hans Andersen's stories did Smith tell the author?
6. What is Smith's parlor like?
7. Which French artists did Smith tell the story of?
8. What was their life like when they were young?
9. How did they acquaint with François Millet?
10. What made them doting and inseparable friends?
11. Why were their circumstances desperate?
12. Were their pictures of high merit?
13. What law did Carl make bold to found?
14. What project did Carl propose?
15. How did the others accept the project?
16. Who was elected to die?
17. Where did the artists get money for the farewell party and travel?
18. Where did each of them go?
19. How did Smith sell the first sketch of Millet's?
20. What fact about Millet did he try to spread?
21. How did they work with the press?
22. What were they preparing the public for?
23. What was the funeral like?
24. How long did the campaign last?
25. How much did they earn?

4. Imagine that you are:

1. **Millet.** Tell the story of your life after your funeral.
2. **Smith.** Say if you had a talk with Millet in Mentone, or did not; what you talked about, or why you didn't have a talk.

5. What do you think? Give your reasons for your answer.

1. "The merit of many a great artists has never been acknowledged until after he was starved and dead".
2. "The merit of every great unknown and neglected artist must and will be recognized, and his pictures climb to high prices after his death".
3. "Is he living or dead?"
4. Think of another title for this story. Explain your choice.

INFORMATION WANTED

“Could you give me any information about the islands the Government is going to purchase?”

It is an uncle of mine that wants to know. He is an industrious man and well disposed, and wants to make a living in an honest humble way, but more especially he wants to be quiet. He wishes to settle down and be quiet. He has been to the new St. Thomas island, but he says he thinks things are unsettled there. He went there early with an attaché of the State department, who was sent down with money to pay for the island. My uncle had his money in the same box, and so when they went ashore, getting a receipt, the sailors broken open the box and took all the money, not making any distinction between the Government money, which was legitimate money to be stolen, and my uncle's, which was his own private property, and should have been respected. But he came home and got some more and went back. And then he took the fever. There are seven kinds of fever down there, you know; and, as his blood was out of order by reason of loss of sleep and general wear and tear of mind, he failed to cure the first fever, and then somehow he got the other six. He is not a kind of man that enjoys fevers, though he is well meaning and always does what he thinks is right, and so he was a good deal annoyed when it appeared he was going to die.

But he worried through, and got well and started a farm. He fenced it in, and the next day that great storm came on and washed the most of it over to Gibraltar, or around there somewhere. He only said, in his patient way, that it was gone, and he wouldn't bother about trying to find out where it went to, though it was his opinion it went to Gibraltar.

Then he invested in a mountain, and started a farm up there, so as to be out of the way when the sea came ashore again. It was a good mountain, and a good farm, but it wasn't any use; an earthquake came the next night and shook it all down. It was all fragments, you know, and so mixed up with another man's property that he couldn't tell which were his fragments without going to law; and he would not do that, because his main object in going to St Thomas was to be quiet. All that he wanted was to settle down and be quiet.

He thought it all over, and finally he concluded to try the low ground again, especially he wanted to start a brickyard this time. He bought a flat, and put out a hundred thousand bricks to dry preparatory to baking them. But luck appeared to be against him. A volcano erupted there that night, and elevated his brickyard about two thousand feet in the air. It irritated him a good deal. He has been up there, and he says the bricks are all baked right enough, but he can't get them down. At first, he thought maybe the Government would get the bricks down for him, because since the Government bought the island, it ought to protect the property where a man has invested in good faith. But all he wants is quiet, and so he is not going to apply for the subsidy he was thinking about.

He went back there last week in a couple of ships of war, to prospect around the coast for a safe place for a farm where he could be quiet; but a great tidal wave came, and hoisted both of the ships out into one of the interior counties, and he came near losing his life. So he has given up prospecting in a ship, and is discouraged.

Well, now he doesn't know what to do. He has tried Alaska; but the bears kept after him so much, and kept him so much on the jump, as it were, that he had to leave the country. He could not be quiet there with those bears prancing after him all the time. That is how he came to go to the new island we have bought – St. Thomas. But he is getting to think St. Thomas is not quiet enough for a man of his turn of mind, and that is why he wishes me to find out if the Government is likely to buy some more islands shortly. He has heard that the Government is thinking about buying Porto Rico. If that is true, he wishes to try Porto Rico, if it is a quiet place. How is Porto Rico for his style of man? Do you think the Government will buy it?

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Attaché; receipt; legitimate; fever; blood; Gibraltar; earthquake; subsidy.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

С хорошим характером; честно и просто; обосноваться; сойти на берег; взломать; не делая никаких различий; он имеет добрые намерения; он решил ещё раз попытаться в низине; не обращаться в суд; казалось, что удача была против него; обращаться за субсидией; он чуть не расстался с жизнью; человек с таким складом ума.

2. Make the sentences complete.

He wants to settle down and make his living in an honest humble way because ...

His money was stolen because ...

His blood was out of order because ...

He didn't bother where his farm had gone because ...

His farm on a mountain was of no use because ...

He didn't go to law because ...

His brickyard didn't bring him any luck because ...

He is not going to apply for a subsidy because ...

He went back there on a ship of war because ...

He came near losing his life because ...

He gave up the idea of settling down in Alaska because ...

He thinks to try Porto Rico because ...

3. Match the words, which have the same or very close meaning. Use them in the situations from the text.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Industrious | a) trustfully |
| 2. Well-disposed | b) to chase somebody |
| 3. To make a living | c) hard-working |
| 4. To settle down | d) not properly arranged things |
| 5. Unsettled things | e) lawful |
| 6. To make no distinction | f) to ruin |
| 7. Legitimate | g) small pieces |
| 8. A good deal | h) very much |
| 9. In a patient way | i) to make no difference |
| 10. To shake down | j) to earn |
| 11. Fragments | k) with a good character |
| 12. A flat | l) in a quiet way |
| 13. In good faith | m) to find a place to live |
| 14. To be discouraged | n) to be disheartened |
| 15. To keep after somebody | o) a low land |

4. Complete the following sentences using suitable prepositions.

For a man ___ his turn ___ mind St Thomas appeared to be not good enough, so my uncle wants some information ___ the islands the government is going to buy. He went ___ St Thomas ___

money to pay ___ his purchase. But the sailors stole the box ___ all the money ___ making any distinction ___ the government money and my uncle's. Then he took the fevers, and his blood was ___ order, and he was annoyed ___ it. But he worried ___, started a farm, and fenced it ___. But the farm was washed ___ Gibraltar, which did not stop my uncle ___ any way. Then he started a new farm ___ a mountain, then another one ___ a low land. But luck appeared to be ___ him. Nevertheless he still wants to be quiet. Even Alaska bears that kept ___ him all the time did not make him give ___ his project ___ being quiet. Now he is thinking ___ going ___ Porto Rico.

5. Put the sentences in the right order.

1. He wants to settle down in a quiet place.
2. On St. Thomas the uncle took all the seven fevers that there were there.
3. My uncle is an industrious and well-disposed man.
4. The great storm washed his farm over to Gibraltar.
5. Then he started a farm up on the mountain.
6. He didn't go to law to return some fragments of his property.
7. A volcano ruined his brickyard.
8. He bought a plot of land in the low ground.
9. The money he was going for St. Thomas was lost.
10. But he recovered and started a farm.
11. He wanted to start a brickyard there.
12. He nearly lost his life in a tidal wave.
13. But the earthquake shook his farm all down.
14. He had had to give up Alaska.
15. Now he is thinking about buying Purto Rico.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.

1. My uncle is looking for a place to settle down.
2. He thinks St. Thomas is a good place for a man like him.
3. My uncle wants to get back the property stolen by the sailors.
4. All the fevers he got annoyed him very much.
5. He doesn't know where his farm went after the great storm.
6. He had luck with his farm on a mountain.
7. He didn't have time to bake his bricks.
8. A volcano baked his bricks properly.
9. The government helped him to get the bricks down to the brickyard.
10. He is thinking to get a subsidy for his lost bricks.
11. A tidal wave pushed the ships far from the coast.
12. He likes Alaska and is thinking about returning there.
13. Porto Rico is not a place for a man of his turn of mind.

2. Answer the following questions.

1. How does the author's uncle want to make his living?
2. Where does he want to settle down?
3. Where did he have his money when he went to St. Thomas?
4. Did the sailors make any distinction between his money and the government's?
5. How many kinds of fevers are there on St. Thomas?

6. How bad was he feeling when he took the fevers?
7. How was he feeling after his farm had been washed away?
8. Where did he invest then?
9. Was his farm on a mountain of any use?
10. He couldn't tell his farm fragments from another man's property, could he?
11. Did he have any luck with brickyard?
12. He remained true to his principle to be quiet, didn't he?
13. How did the government protect his property this time?
14. What happened to the ships that went prospecting around the coast?

3. Prove with the information from the text that:

1. The uncle is an industrious and well-disposed man.
2. Luck is against him.

4. Imagine that you are the uncle.

- Say a) why St. Thomas is not for you;
b) why you left Alaska;
c) why you are discouraged;
d) what you are going to do next.

5. What do you think? Give your reasons for your answers.

1. Does the uncle want to be quiet?
2. Does he make his living in an honest and humble way?

THE JOKE THAT MADE ED'S FORTUNE

A few years before the outbreak of the Civil War it began to appear that Memphis, Tennessee, was going to be a great tobacco storehouse - the wise could see this signs of it. At that time Memphis had a wharf boat, of course. There was a paved sloping wharf, for the accommodation of freight, but the steamers landed on the outside of the wharf boat, and all loading and unloading was done across it, between steamer and shore. A number of wharf boat clerks were needed, and part of the time, every day, they were very busy, and part of the time tediously idle. They were boiling with youth and spirits, and they had to make the intervals of idleness endurable in some way, and as a rule, they did it by contriving practical jokes and playing them upon each other.

The favorite butt for jokes was Ed Jackson, because he played none himself, and was easy game for others - for he always believed whatever was told him.

One day he told the others his scheme for his holiday. He was not going fishing or hunting this time - no, he had thought out a better plan. Out of his forty dollars a month he had saved enough for his purpose, in an economical way, and he was going to have a look at New York.

It was a great and surprising idea. It meant travel - immense travel - in those days it meant seeing the world; it was the equivalent of a voyage around it in ours. At first the other youths thought his mind was affected, but when they found that he was in earnest, the next thing to be thought of was, what sort of opportunity this venture might afford for a practical joke.

The young men studied over the matter, then held a secret consultation and made a plan. The idea was that one of the conspirators should offer Ed a letter of introduction to Commodore Vanderbilt⁴², and trick him into delivering it. It would be easy to do this. But what would Ed do when he got back to Memphis? That was a serious matter. He was good-hearted, and had always taken the jokes patiently; but they had been jokes which did not humiliate him, did not bring him to shame; whereas this would be a cruel one in that way, and to play it was to meddle with fire; for with all his good nature, Ed was a Southerner - and the English of that was, that when he came back he would kill as many of the conspirators as he could before falling himself. However, the chances must be taken - it wouldn't do to waste such a joke as that.

So the letter was prepared with great care and elaboration. It was signed Alfred Fairchild, and was written in an easy and friendly spirit. It stated that the bearer was the bosom friend of the writer's son, and was of good parts and sterling character, and it begged the Commodore to be kind to the young stranger for the writer's sake. It went on to say, "You may have forgotten me, in this long stretch of time, but you will easily call me back out of your boyhood memories when I remind you of how we robbed Stevenson's orchard that night; and how, while he was chasing down the road after us, we cut across the field and doubled back⁴³ and sold his own apples to his own cook for a hatful of doughnuts; and the time that we -" and so forth and so on, bringing in names of imaginary comrades, and detailing all sorts of wild and absurd and, of course, wholly imaginary school-boy pranks and adventures, but putting them into lively and telling shape.

With all gravity Ed was asked if he could like to have a letter to Commodore Vanderbilt, the great millionaire. It was expected that the question would astonish Ed, and it did.

"What? Do you know that extraordinary man?"

"No; but my father does. They were schoolboys together. And if you like, I will write and ask father. I know he'll be glad to give it to you for my sake."

Ed could not find words capable of expressing his gratitude and delight. The three days passed and the letter was put into his hands. He started on his trip, still pouring out his thanks while he shook good-bye all around. And when he was out of sight his comrades let fly their laughter in a storm of happy satisfaction - and then quieted down, and were less happy, less satisfied. For the old doubts as to the wisdom of this deception began to intrude again.

⁴²Commodore Vanderbilt - капитан Вандербилт, крупный американский миллионер того времени

⁴³Doubled back - вернулись назад

Arrived in New York, Ed found his way to Commodore Vanderbilt's business quarters, and was ushered into a large anteroom, where a score of people were patiently awaiting their turn for a two-minute interview with the millionaire in his private office. A servant asked for Ed's card, and got the letter instead. Ed was sent for a moment later, and found Mr. Vanderbilt alone, with the letter - open - in his hand. "Pray sit down, Mr. - er - Jackson."

"Ah - sit down, Mr. Jackson. By the opening sentences it seems to be from an old friend. Allow me - I will run my eye through it. He says - he says - why, who is it?" He turned the sheet and found the signature. "Alfred Fairchild - hmm - Fairchild - I don't recall the name. But that is nothing - a thousand names have gone from me. He says - he says - hmm - hmm - oh, dear. But it's good! Oh, it's rare! I don't quite remember it, but I seem to - it'll all come back to me presently. He says - he says - hmm - hmm - oh, but that was a game! Oh, splendid! How it carries me back! It's all dim of course - it's long time ago - and the names - some of the names are wavery and indistinct - but sure I know it happened - I can feel it! And lord, how it warms my heart, and brings back my lost youth! Well, well, well, I've got to come back into this workaday world now - business presses and people are waiting - I'll keep the rest for bed to night, and live my youth over again. And you'll thank Fairchild for me when you see him - I used to call him Alf. I think - you'll give him my gratitude for what this letter has done for the tired spirit of a hard-worked man; and tell him there isn't anything that I can do for him or any friend of his that I won't do. And as for you my lad, you are my guest; you can't stop at any hotel in New York. Sit where you are a little while, till I get through with these people, then we'll go home. I'll take care of you, my boy - make yourself easy as to that."

Ed stayed a week, and had an immense time - and never suspected that the Commodore's shrewd eyes were on him, and that he was daily being weighed and measured and analyzed and tried and tested. Yes, he had an immense time, and never wrote home, but saved it all up to tell when he should get back. Twice with proper modesty and decency, he proposed to end his visit, but the Commodore said: "No - wait; leave it me I'll tell you when to go."

In those days the Commodore was making some of those vast combinations of his - consolidations of warring odds and ends of railroads into harmonious systems, and concentrations of floating and rudderless commerce in effective centers - and among other things his far-seeing eye had detected was to bring up that huge tobacco-commerce, already spoken of, toward Memphis, and he had resolved to set his grasp upon it and make it his own.

The week came to an end. Then the Commodore said:

"Now you can start home. But first we will have some more talk about that tobacco matter. I know you now. I know your abilities as well as you know them yourself - perhaps better. You understand that tobacco matter; you understand that I am going to take possession of it, and you also understand the plans, which I have matured for doing it. What I want is a man who knows my mind, and is qualified to represent me in Memphis, and be in supreme command of that important business - and I appoint you."

"Me!"

"Yes. Your salary will be high - of course - for you are representing me. Later you will earn increases of it, and will get them. You will need a small army of assistants; choose them yourself - and carefully. Take no man for friendship's sake; but, all things being equal, take the man you know, take your friend, in preference to the stranger."

After some further talk under this head, the Commodore said: "Good-by, my boy, and thank Alf for me, for sending you to me."

When Ed reached Memphis he rushed down to the wharf in a fever to tell his great news and thank the boys over and over again for thinking to give him the letter to Mr. Vanderbilt. It happened to be one of those idle times. Blazing hot noonday, and no sign of life on the wharf. But as Ed threaded his way among the freight-piles, he saw a white linen figure stretched in sleep upon a pile of grain-sacks, and said to himself, "That's one of them" and hastened his step; next, he said, "It's Charley - it's Fairchild - good"; and the next moment laid an affectionate hand on the sleeper's shoulder. The eyes opened lazily, took another glance, the face blanched, the form whirled itself

from the sack-pile, and in an instant Ed was alone and Fairchild was flying for the wharf boat like the wind!

Ed was paralyzed. Was Fairchild crazy? What could be the meaning of this? He started slowly and dreamily down toward the wharf boat; turned the corner of a freight-pile and came suddenly upon two of the boys. They were lightly laughing over some pleasant matter; they heard his steps, and glanced up just as he discovered them; the laugh died abruptly; and before Ed could speak they were off, and sailing over barrels and bales like hunted deer. Again Ed was paralyzed. Had the boys all gone mad? What could be the explanation of this extraordinary conduct? And so, dreaming along, he reached the wharf boat, and stepped aboard - nothing but silence there, and vacancy. He crossed the deck, turned the corner to go down the outer guard, and heard a fervent -

'O lord! And saw a white linen form plunge overboard.

The youth came up coughing and strangling, and cried out:

"Go away from here! You let me alone. I didn't do it, I swear I didn't do it!"

"Didn't do what?"

"Give you the - "

"Never mind what you didn't do - come out of that! What makes you all act so? What have I done?"

"You? Why, you haven't done anything. But - "

"Well, then, what have you got against me? What do you all treat me so for?"

"I - er- but haven't you got anything against us?"

"Of course not. What put such a thing into your head?"

"Honor bright - you haven't?"

"Honor bright."

"Swear it!"

"I don't know what in the world you mean, but I swear it, anyway."

"And you'll shake hands with me?"

"Goodness knows I'll be glad to! Why, I'm just starving to shake hands with somebody!"

The swimmer muttered, "Hang him, he smelt a rat and never delivered the letter! - but it's all right, I'm not going to fetch up the subject." And he crawled out and came dripping wet to shake hands. First one and then another of the conspirators showed up cautiously - armed to the teeth - took in the amicable situation, then ventured warily forward and joined the love-feast.

And to Ed's eager inquiry as to what made them act as they had been acting, they answered evasively and pretended that they had put it up as a joke, to see what he would do. It was the best explanation they could invent at such short notice. And each said to himself: "He never delivered that letter, and the joke is on us, if he only knew it or we were dull enough to come out and tell."

Then, of course, they wanted to know all about the trip; and he said:

"Come right up on the boiler deck and order the drinks - it's my treat. I'm going to tell you all about it. And tonight it's my treat again - and we'll have oysters and time!"

When the drinks were brought and cigars lighted, Ed said:

"Well, when I delivered the letter to Mr. Vanderbilt."

"Great Scott!"

"Gracious, how you scared me. What's the matter?"

"Oh -er -nothing. Nothing - it was a tack in the chair-seat," said one.

"But you all said it. However, no matter. When I delivered the letter -"

"Did you deliver it?" and they looked at each other as people might who thought that maybe they were dreaming.

Then they settled to listening; and as the story deepened and its marvels grew, the amazement of it made them dumb, and the interest of it took their breath. They hardly uttered a whisper during two hours, but sat like petrifications and drank in the immortal romance. At last the tale was ended, and Ed said:

"And it's all owing to you, boys, and you'll never find me ungrateful - bless your hearts, the best friends a fellow ever had! You'll all have places; I want every one of you. I know you - I know

you "by the back" as the gamblers say. You're Jokers, and all that, but you're sterling, with the hallmark on. And Charley Fairchild, you shall be my first assistant and right hand, because of your first-class ability, and because you got me letter, and for your father's sake who wrote it for me, and to please Mr. Vanderbilt, who said it would! And here's to that great man - drink hearty!"

Yes, when the Moment comes, the Man appears - even if he is a thousand miles away, and has to be discovered by a practical joke.

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Wharf; tediously; idleness; contriving; scheme; immense; commodore; humiliate; southerner; elaboration; bosom; doughnuts; extraordinary; intrude; ushered; signature; shrewd; weighed; measured; modesty; decency; matured; supreme; coughing; amicable; dumb.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

Его легко было одурачить; он тронулся (не в себе); рекомендательное письмо; спокойно относиться к шуткам; не годиться упустить такую возможность; письмо было непринуждённое и дружественное; излагать в живой и выразительной форме; сомнения относительно правильности этого поступка; я просмотрю его (письмо); пусть тебя это не волнует; с должной скромностью и приличием; ради дружбы; за что со мной такое обращение; представили, как шутку; за такое короткое время; я угощаю; упивались вечной романтикой; надёжный человек "высокой пробы"; мы остались в дураках; со всей серьёзностью.

2. Find the correct answer. Use the expression on the left in the situation from the text.

a)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. to humiliate is | a) to get suspicious |
| 2. to bring smb. to shame is | b) to make one's way cautiously |
| 3. to play pranks is | c) to take possession of smth. |
| 4. to have an immense time is | d) to dishonor smb. |
| 5. to take one's grasp upon smth. is | e) to lower pride or self respect of smb. |
| 6. to be in supreme command is | f) to play jokes |
| 7. to thread one's way is | g) to have a wonderful time |
| 8. to venture is | h) to take risks |
| 9. to smell a rat is | i) to make smb. do smth. by deception |
| 10. to trick smb. into smth. is | j) to be the boss |

b)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. bosom friend | a) покатый причал |
| 2. sterling character | b) рекомендательное письмо |
| 3. shrewd eyes | c) закадычный друг |
| 4. sloping wharf | d) дружеский настрой |
| 5. idle clerk | e) школьные шутки |
| 6. practical joke | f) проницательные глаза |
| 7. favorite butt | g) праздный работник |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8. easy game | h) грубая шутка |
| 9. lovely and telling shape | i) любимая мишень |
| 10. supreme command | j) лёгкая добыча |
| 11. extraordinary conduct | k) главное руководство |
| 12. schoolboy pranks | l) живая выразительная манера |
| 13. amicable situation | m) надёжный человек |
| 14. letter of introduction | n) необычное поведение |

3. Match the sentences complete with the words from the box.

carefully	lazily	slowly	dreamily	lightly
abruptly	patiently	cautiously		evasively
	like the wind		like the hunted deer	

- One after another the conspirators showed up _____.
- These youths were _____ laughing over some pleasant matter.
- In an instant Fairchild was flying for the wharf _____.
- Ed Jackson had to choose his assistants _____.
- The sleeper opened his eyes _____.
- Ed started _____ and _____ down toward the wharf boat.
- The conspirators were answering all Ed's questions _____.
- When they saw Ed the laugh died _____.
- Ed had always taken the jokes _____.
- The conspirators were sailing over barrels and bales _____.

4. Say which word doesn't belong and why.

- Storehouse, wharf, southerner, freight
- Grain-sacks, barrels, bales, butt
- Steamer, boat, shore, deck,
- Idle, practical, easy, prank
- Scheme, plan purpose, doughnut,
- Serious, delighted, solemn, earnest,
- Believe, trust, doubt, rely on
- Fishing, hunting, sailing, loading
- Immense, tiny huge, substantial
- Trick, chance, prank, joke
- Venture, care, risky, adventure
- Patiently, calmly, quietly, placidly
- Figure, form, shoulder, body
- Increase, enlarge, decrease, grow
- Instant, moment, mile, while
- Gratitude, delight, deception, satisfaction
- Mutter, fly, cry, whisper
- Oysters, wine, tobacco, grain
- Analyzed, tested, measured, received

5. Put the sentences in the right order.

1. They tricked him into delivering a letter to the richest man in America.
2. Ed was appointed to represent the millionaire in Memphis.
3. The millionaire received Ed and took care of him.
4. The youths played jokes upon each other in their idle intervals.
5. Ed's comrades didn't want to lose the opportunity for a practical joke.
6. Ed was delighted at such an idea.
7. Ed had a plan to look at New York.
8. The youths realized that the joke was on them.
9. Ed rushed to see his comrades and share the news with them.
10. The conspirators got appointments.
11. Ed was astonished to see his comrades running away from him.
12. Ed's story amazed the conspirators.
13. The millionaire had his own plans on Memphis.

6. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. Ed liked to play jokes on others.
2. Ed was planning to move to New York.
3. His comrades asked him to take a letter to one of their friends in New York.
4. Vanderbilt was immeasurably happy to hear from his boyhood friend.
5. Ed put up at a hotel in New York.
6. Ed stayed in New York two weeks and had a good time.
7. Vanderbilt owned tobacco business in the USA.
8. Vanderbilt appointed Ed a representative of tobacco business in Memphis.
9. Ed was told to choose his assistants among his friends only.
10. Ed was promised a high salary with monthly increases.
11. Ed doubted that the job was good for him.
12. Ed's comrades anxiously waited for his arrival.
13. Ed gave them a treat.
14. Ed's comrades didn't believe the story Ed had told him.

7. Say what you understand by these.

1. They were boiling over with youth and spirits
2. And when he was out of sight his comrades let fly their laughter in a storm of happy satisfaction
3. By the opening sentences it seems to be a letter from an old friend.
4. I'll keep the rest for bed tonight, and live my youth over again.
5. And he never suspected that the Commodore's shrewd eyes were on him
6. I'm not going to fetch up the subject.
7. I'm just starving to shake hands with you.
8. I know you "by the back", as gamblers say.
9. And as the story deepened and its marvels grew, the amazement of it made the dumb, and the interest of it took their breath.
10. When the Moment comes, the Man appears.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Answer the following questions.

1. When and where did the story take place?

2. What sort of work did the youths do?
3. Who was the butt of all jokes?
4. Where was Ed planning to have his holiday?
5. What did a journey to New York mean in those days?
6. What kind of fellow was Ed?
7. How did Ed take jokes?
8. What kind of plan did the conspirators make?
9. What did the conspirators try to remind the Commodore of?
10. How did Ed take the request of his comrades?
11. Where did Ed find the Commodore?
12. How did the Commodore take the letter?
13. How long did Ed stay in New York?
14. What sort of work did the Commodore offer Ed?
15. What were the Commodore's plans in Memphis?
16. How did Ed's comrades meet him on his arrival in Memphis?
17. Who treated at the love feast?
18. How did the conspirators take Ed's story?
19. Who played the joke on whom?

2. Prove with the facts from the story that:

1. Memphis is going to become the center of the great tobacco commerce.
2. The youths don't have much work to do.
3. Ed Jackson is easy game for others.
4. Ed Jackson takes the jokes patiently.
5. Ed is a good-hearted fellow.
6. The letter is written in an easy and friendly spirit.
7. Ed is delighted to have a letter to the great millionaire.
8. Vanderbilt takes good care of Ed.
9. Vanderbilt doesn't lose the opportunity to develop his business.
10. The conspirators expect punishment for their practical joke.
11. The joke turns out to be a fortune.

3. Imagine that you are:

1. Ed Jackson.

Say a) why you decided to go to New York;

b) how you spend your time there;

c) what impression Vanderbilt made on you;

d) if you think you are the right man for the job Vanderbilt offered you.

2. Alfred Fairchild.

Say a) why you signed the letter;

b) why you flew away like the wind when you saw Ed;

c) if you were grateful to Ed.

3. Vanderbilt.

Say a) why you took interest in Memphis;

b) why you appointed Ed to head your business in Memphis;

c) if there was anything similar to what the letter say in your boyhood.

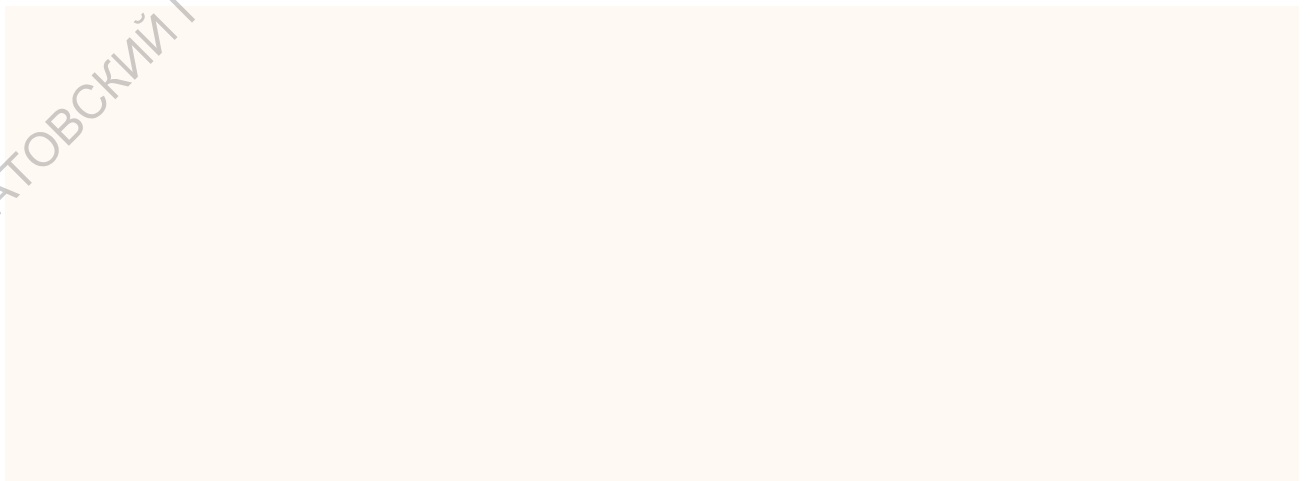
3. Act out a talk between

Ed and Alfred Fairchild (before Ed left for New York);
Ed and Vanderbilt (first meeting);
Ed and Vanderbilt (before parting);
Ed and Fairchild (on Ed's arrival in Memphis).

4. What do you think?

1. Will Ed ever know the truth about the letter? What makes you think so?
2. Will Vanderbilt be ever disappointed in Ed? What makes you think so?
3. Will the conspirators ever play any practical joke upon Ed? What makes you think so?
4. A century and a half ago some young men in the USA contrived practical jokes when they had nothing to do. What do young men in your town (country) do nowadays when they have free time?
5. Do you think it is not good for the young to have time on their hands and nothing to do?
6. Do you think there are many boys and girls with time on their hands and nothing to do?
7. Do you think it's an easy way to get into trouble if you have time on your hands and nothing to do? Give reasons for each of your answer.
8. How can young people earn money in your country (town)? What sort of jobs is available for them?

САРАТОВСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМЕНА Н. Г. КУРНАТОВСКОГО



THE ESQUIMAU MAIDEN'S ROMANCE

PART 1

'Yes, I will tell you anything about my life that you would like to know, Mr. Twain,' she said, in her soft voice, and letting her honest eyes rest placidly upon my face, 'for it is kind and good of you to like me and care to know about me.' She had been absently scraping blubber-grease from her cheeks with a small bone-knife and transferring it to her fur sleeve, while she watched the Aurora Borealis⁴⁴ swing its flaming streamers out of the sky and wash the lonely snow plain and the templed⁴⁵ icebergs with the rich hues of the prism, a spectacle of almost intolerable splendor and beauty; but now she shook off her reverie and prepared to give me the humble little history I had asked for. She settled herself comfortably on the block of ice which we were using as a sofa, and I made ready to listen.

She was a beautiful creature. I speak from the Esquimaux point of view. Others would have thought her a trifle over-plump. She was just twenty years old, and was held to be by far the most bewitching girl in her tribe. Even now, in the open air, with her cumbersome and shapeless fur coat and trousers and boots and vast hood, the beauty of her face was at least apparent; but her figure had to be taken on trust. Among all the guests who came and went, I had seen no girl at her father's hospitable trough who could be called her equal. Yet she was not spoiled. She was sweet and natural and sincere, and if she was aware that she was a belle, there was nothing about her ways to show that she possessed that knowledge.

She had been my daily comrade for a week now, and the better I knew her the better I liked her. She had been tenderly and carefully brought up, in an atmosphere of singularly rare refinement for the Polar Regions, for her father was the most important man of his tribe and ranked at the top of Esquimaux civilization. I made long dog-sledge trips across the mighty ice floes with Lasca--that was her name--and found her company always pleasant and her conversation agreeable. I went fishing with her, but not in her perilous boat: I merely followed along on the ice and watched her strike her game with her fatally accurate spear. We went sealing together; several times I stood by while she and the family dug blubber from a stranded whale, and once I went part of the way when she was hunting a bear, but turned back before the finish, because at bottom I am afraid of bears.

However, she was ready to begin her story, now, and this is what she said:

'Our tribe had always been used to wander about from place to place over the frozen seas, like the other tribes, but my father got tired of that, two years ago, and built this great mansion of frozen snow-blocks--look at it; it is seven feet high and three or four times as long as any of the others--and here we have stayed ever since. He was very proud of his house, and that was reasonable, for if you have examined it with care you must have noticed how much finer and completer it is than houses usually are. But if you have not, you must, for you will find it has luxurious appointments that are quite beyond the common. For instance, in that end of it which you have called the "parlor," the raised platform for the accommodation of guests and the family at meals is the largest you have ever seen in any house--is it not so?'

'Yes, you are quite right, Lasca; it is the largest; we have nothing resembling it in even the finest houses in the United States.' This admission made her eyes sparkle with pride and pleasure. I noted that, and took my cue.

'I thought it must have surprised you,' she said. 'And another thing; it is bedded far deeper in furs than is usual; all kinds of furs--seal, sea-otter, silver-grey fox, bear, marten, sable--every kind of fur in profusion; and the same with the ice-block sleeping-benches along the walls which you call "beds." Are your platforms and sleeping-benches better provided at home?'

⁴⁴ Aurora Borealis - Северное сияние

⁴⁵ Templed - похоже на храмы (словообразование автора)

'Indeed, they are not, Lasca--they do not begin to be.' That pleased her again. All she was thinking of was the number of furs her aesthetic father took the trouble to keep on hand, not their value. I could have told her that those masses of rich furs constituted wealth--or would in my country--but she would not have understood that; those were not the kind of things that ranked as riches with her people. I could have told her that the clothes she had on, or the every-day clothes of the commonest person about her, were worth twelve or fifteen hundred dollars, and that I was not acquainted with anybody at home who wore twelve-hundred dollar toilets to go fishing in; but she would not have understood it, so I said nothing. She resumed:

'And then the slop-tubs. We have two in the parlor, and two in the rest of the house. It is very seldom that one has two in the parlor. Have you two in the parlor at home?'

The memory of those tubs made me gasp, but I recovered myself before she noticed, and said with effusion:

'Why, Lasca, it is a shame of me to expose my country, and you must not let it go further, for I am speaking to you in confidence; but I give you my word of honour that not even the richest man in the city of New York has two slop-tubs in his drawing-room.'

She clapped her fur-clad hands in innocent delight, and exclaimed:

'Oh, but you cannot mean it, you cannot mean it!'

'Indeed, I am in earnest, dear. There is Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt is almost the richest man in the whole world. Now, if I were on my dying bed, I could say to you that not even he has two in his drawing-room. Why, he hasn't even one--I wish I may die in my tracks if it isn't true.'

Her lovely eyes stood wide with amazement, and she said, slowly, and with a sort of awe in her voice:

'How strange--how incredible--one is not able to realize it. Is he stingy?'

'No--it isn't that. It isn't the expense he minds, but--er--well, you know, it would look like showing off. Yes, that is it, that is the idea; he is a plain man in his way, and shrinks from display.'

'Why, that humility is right enough,' said Lasca, 'if one does not carry it too far--but what does the place look like?'

'Well, necessarily it looks pretty barren and unfinished, but--'

'I should think so! I never heard anything like it. Is it a fine house-- that is, otherwise?'

'Pretty fine, yes. It is very well thought of.'

The girl was silent awhile, and sat dreamily gnawing a candle-end, apparently trying to think the thing out. At last she gave her head a little toss and spoke out her opinion with decision:

'Well, to my mind there's a breed of humility which is itself a species of showing off when you get down to the marrow of it⁴⁶; and when a man is able to afford two slop-tubs in his parlor, and doesn't do it, it may be that he is truly humble-minded, but it's a hundred times more likely that he is just trying to strike the public eye. In my judgment, your Mr. Vanderbilt knows what he is about.'

I tried to modify this verdict, feeling that a double slop-tub standard was not a fair one to try everybody by, although a sound enough one in its own habitat; but the girl's head was set, and she was not to be persuaded. Presently she said:

'Do the rich people, with you, have as good sleeping-benches as ours, and made out of as nice broad ice-blocks?'

'Well, they are pretty good--good enough--but they are not made of ice-blocks.'

'I want to know! Why aren't they made of ice-blocks?'

I explained the difficulties in the way, and the expensiveness of ice in a country where you have to keep a sharp eye on your ice-man or your ice-bill will weigh more than your ice. Then she cried out:

'Dear me, do you buy your ice?'

'We most surely do, dear.'

She burst into a gale of guileless laughter, and said:

⁴⁶ To marrow of it - до мозга костей

'Oh, I never heard of anything so silly! My! there's plenty of it--it isn't worth anything. Why, there is a hundred miles of it in sight, right now. I wouldn't give a fish-bladder for the whole of it.'

'Well, it's because you don't know how to value it, you little provincial muggings. If you had it in New York in midsummer, you could buy all the whales in the market with it.'

She looked at me doubtfully, and said:

'Are you speaking true?'

'Absolutely. I take my oath to it.'

This made her thoughtful. Presently she said, with a little sigh:

'I wish I could live there.'

I had merely meant to furnish her a standard of values which she could understand; but my purpose had miscarried. I had only given her the impression that whales were cheap and plenty in New York, and set her mouth to watering for them. It seemed best to try to mitigate the evil which I had done, so I said:

'But you wouldn't care for whale-meat if you lived there. Nobody does.'

'What!'

'Indeed they don't.'

'Why don't they?'

'Well-I-I, I hardly know. It's prejudice, I think. Yes, that is it--just prejudice. I reckon somebody that hadn't anything better to do started a prejudice against it, some time or other, and once you get a caprice like that fairly going, you know it will last no end of time.'

'That is true--perfectly true,' said the girl, reflectively. 'Like our prejudice against soap, here--our tribes had a prejudice against soap at first, you know.'

I glanced at her to see if she was in earnest. Evidently she was. I hesitated, then said, cautiously:

'But pardon me. They had a prejudice against soap? Had?'--with falling inflection.

'Yes--but that was only at first; nobody would eat it.'

'Oh--I understand. I didn't get your idea before.'

She resumed:

'It was just a prejudice. The first time soap came here from the foreigners, nobody liked it; but as soon as it got to be fashionable, everybody liked it, and now everybody has it that can afford it. Are you fond of it?'

'Yes, indeed; I should die if I couldn't have it--especially here. Do you like it?'

'I just adore it! Do you like candles?'

'I regard them as an absolute necessity. Are you fond of them?'

Her eyes fairly danced, and she exclaimed:

'Oh! Don't mention it! Candles!--and soap!--'

'And fish-interiors!--'

'And train-oil--'

'And slush!--'

'And whale-blubber!--'

'And carrion! and sour-kroust! and beeswax! and tar! and turpentine! and molasses! and--'

'Don't--oh, don't--I shall expire with ecstasy!--'

'And then serve it all up in a slush-bucket, and invite the neighbours and sail in!⁴⁷

But this vision of an ideal feast was too much for her, and she swooned away, poor thing. I rubbed snow in her face and brought her to, and after a while got her excitement cooled down. By-and-by she drifted into her story again:

'So we began to live here in the fine house. But I was not happy. The reason was this: I was born for love: for me there could be no true happiness without it. I wanted to be loved for myself alone. I wanted an idol, and I wanted to be my idol's idol; nothing less than mutual idolatry would satisfy my fervent nature. I had suitors in plenty--in over-plenty, indeed--but in each and every case

⁴⁷ Sail in - набрасываешься

they had a fatal defect: sooner or later I discovered that defect--not one of them failed to betray it--it was not me they wanted, but my wealth.'

'Your wealth?'

'Yes; for my father is much the richest man in this tribe--or in any tribe in these regions.'

I wondered what her father's wealth consisted of. It couldn't be the house--anybody could build its mate. It couldn't be the furs--they were not valued. It couldn't be the sledge, the dogs, the harpoons, the boat, the bone fish-hooks and needles, and such things--no, these were not wealth. Then what could it be that made this man so rich and brought this swarm of sordid suitors to his house? It seemed to me, finally, that the best way to find out would be to ask. So I did it. The girl was so manifestly gratified by the question that I saw she had been aching to have me ask it. She was suffering fully as much to tell as I was to know. She snuggled confidentially up to me and said:

'Guess how much he is worth--you never can!'

I pretended to consider the matter deeply, she was watching my anxious and labouring countenance with a devouring and delighted interest; and when, at last, I gave it up and begged her to appease my longing by telling me herself how much this polar Vanderbilt was worth, she put her mouth close to my ear and whispered, impressively:

'Twenty-two fish-hooks--not bone, but foreign--made out of real iron!'

Then she sprang back dramatically, to observe the effect. I did my level best not to disappoint her. I turned pale and murmured:

'Great Scott!'

'It's as true as you live, Mr. Twain!'

'Lasca, you are deceiving me--you cannot mean it.'

She was frightened and troubled. She exclaimed:

'Mr. Twain, every word of it is true--every word. You believe me--you do believe me, now don't you? Say you believe me--do say you believe me!'

'I--well, yes, I do--I am trying to. But it was all so sudden. So sudden and prostrating. You shouldn't do such a thing in that sudden way. It--'

'Oh, I'm so sorry! If I had only thought--'

'Well, it's all right, and I don't blame you any more, for you are young and thoughtless, and of course you couldn't foresee what an effect--'

'But oh, dear, I ought certainly to have known better. Why--'

'You see, Lasca, if you had said five or six hooks, to start with, and then gradually--'

'Oh, I see, I see--then gradually added one, and then two, and then--ah, why couldn't I have thought of that!'

'Never mind, child, it's all right--I am better now--I shall be over it in a little while. But--to spring the whole twenty-two on a person unprepared and not very strong anyway--'

'Oh, it was a crime! But you forgive me--say you forgive me. Do!'

After harvesting a good deal of very pleasant coaxing and petting and persuading, I forgave her and she was happy again, and by-and-by she got under way with her narrative once more. I presently discovered that the family treasury contained still another feature--a jewel of some sort, apparently--and that she was trying to get around speaking squarely about it, lest I get paralyzed again. But I wanted to know about that thing, too, and urged her to tell me what it was. She was afraid. But I insisted, and said I would brace myself this time and be prepared, then the shock would not hurt me. She was full of misgivings, but the temptation to reveal that marvel to me and enjoy my astonishment and admiration was too strong for her, and she confessed that she had it on her person, and said that if I was sure I was prepared--and so on and so on--and with that she reached into her bosom and brought out a battered square of brass, watching my eye anxiously the while. I fell over against her in a quite well-acted faint, which delighted her heart and nearly frightened it out of her, too, at the same time. When I came to and got calm, she was eager to know what I thought of her jewel.

'What do I think of it? I think it is the most exquisite thing I ever saw.'

'Do you really? How nice of you to say that! But it is a love, now isn't it?'

'Well, I should say so! I'd rather own it than the equator.'

'I thought you would admire it,' she said. 'I think it is so lovely. And there isn't another one in all these latitudes. People have come all the way from the open Polar Sea to look at it. Did you ever see one before?'

I said no, this was the first one I had ever seen. It cost me a pang to tell that generous lie, for I had seen a million of them in my time, this humble jewel of hers being nothing but a battered old New York Central baggage check.

'Land!⁴⁸' said I, 'you don't go about with it on your person this way, alone and with no protection, not even a dog?'

'Ssh! not so loud,' she said. 'Nobody knows I carry it with me. They think it is in papa's treasury. That is where it generally is.'

'Where is the treasury?'

It was a blunt question, and for a moment she looked startled and a little suspicious, but I said:

'Oh, come, don't you be afraid about me. At home we have seventy millions of people, and although I say it myself that shouldn't, there is not one person among them all but would trust me with untold fish-hooks.'

This reassured her, and she told me where the hooks were hidden in the house. Then she wandered from her course to brag a little about the size of the sheets of transparent ice that formed the windows of the mansion, and asked me if I had ever seen their like at home, and I came right out frankly and confessed that I hadn't, which pleased her more than she could find words to dress her gratification in. It was so easy to please her, and such a pleasure to do it, that I went on and said-

'Ah, Lasca, you are a fortune girl!--this beautiful house, this dainty jewel, that rich treasure, all this elegant snow, and sumptuous icebergs and limitless sterility, and public bears and walruses, and noble freedom and largeness and everybody's admiring eyes upon you, and everybody's homage and respect at your command without the asking; young, rich, beautiful, sought, courted, envied, not a requirement unsatisfied, not a desire ungratified, nothing to wish for that you cannot have--it is immeasurable good-fortune! I have seen myriads of girls, but none of whom these extraordinary things could be truthfully said but you alone. And you are worthy--worthy of it all, Lasca--I believe it in my heart.'

It made her infinitely proud and happy to hear me say this, and she thanked me over and over again for that closing remark, and her voice and eyes showed that she was touched.

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Transferring; trough; Aurora Borealis; iceberg; hue; esquimau; cumbersome; accurate; whale; awe; otherwise; gnawing; mitigate; prejudice; caprice; interiors; turpentine; molasses; ecstasy; idol; idolatry; mutual; devouring; treasury; urge; bosom; exquisite; sumptuous; sterility; walruses; myriads; species; suitors; guileless; perilous.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

Она удобно устроилась на глыбе льда; другие посчитали бы её слегка полноватой; пришлось принять на веру; это были не те вещи, которые считались богатством у её народа; я говорю

⁴⁸ Land! - боже мой!

тебе по секрету; её глаза расширились от изумления; скромность - это хорошо, если не заходит слишком далеко; она тряхнула головой; решительно высказала своё мнение; её мнение сложилось; клянусь в этом; охладил её пыл; я хотела, чтобы меня любили ради меня самой; никто не сумел скрыть это; я притворился, что серьёзно обдумываю; когда я пришёл в себя и успокоился; среди них нет ни одного, кто бы поверил в эти несчётные рыболовные крючки; и я откровенно признался.

2. Say what connection the following things have with Lasca.

Hood, fur coat, trousers, boots, spear, mansion, bench, slop-tubs, fish-bladder, fish-interiors, soap and candles, baggage-check, treasure.

3. Match English and Russian adjective-noun combinations. Use them to describe the situation from the text.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bewitching girl | a) хорошо сыгранный обморок |
| 2. Cumbersome and shapeless fur coat | b) изящный драгоценный камень |
| 3. Vast hood | c) бестактный вопрос |
| 4. Rare refinement | d) провинциальная простушка |
| 5. Agreeable conversation | e) корыстные поклонники |
| 6. Stranded whale | f) озабоченное выражение лица |
| 7. Luxurious appointments | g) восторженный интерес |
| 8. Innocent delight | h) детский восторг |
| 9. Humble-minded man | i) простой скромный человек |
| 10. Provincial muggings | j) очаровательная девушка |
| 11. Anxious countenance | k) просторный капюшон |
| 12. Delighted interest | l) нескладная бесформенная шуба |
| 13. Sordid suitors | m) необычайная утончённость |
| 14. Well-acted faint | n) безмерное счастье |
| 15. Exquisite jewel | o) приятная беседа |
| 16. Blunt question | p) выброшенный на берег кит |
| 17. Immeasurable good fortune | q) великолепная обстановка |

4. Find the sentences or parts of the sentences, which mean the same as these.

1. She didn't show that she knew how beautiful she was.
2. She was carefully and tenderly looked after and educated.
3. The tribes wouldn't settle down in one place.
4. Her eyes were shining with pride and pleasure.
5. Her father tried very much to have a lot of furs in the house.
6. I was not familiar with anyone who wore those expensive clothes to go fishing.
7. He just wants to impress the people.
8. In my opinion Mr. Vanderbilt knows what he wants.
9. I tried to explain to her that one couldn't judge a person only by a number of certain things in his house.
10. If someone dislikes something very much it often continues quite a long time.
11. Soon she went on with her story again.
12. Lasca longed to admire somebody and be admired by him.
13. Sooner or later all the suitors exposed their real nature.
14. She wanted to tell me about that as much as I wanted to know that.
15. I pretended that I was thinking hard about the matter.
16. I asked her to please me and say how much her father was worth.

17. Lasca was full of doubts but her desire to open the secret was too great, and she admitted that she had it on her.
18. Lasca boasted about the ice windows through which one could clearly see.
19. The author said that Lasca was a fortunate girl because there were plenty of things at her disposal.
20. Lasca deserved the wealth she had.

5. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. Lasca was a beautiful creature but very plump.
2. Lasca had no equal in her tribe.
3. The author didn't find her company very pleasant.
4. Lasca was afraid of bears.
5. The house of ice-blocks was built many years ago.
6. The house was beautifully furnished.
7. The floors in the house were covered with furs.
8. There were four bathtubs in the house.
9. The largest parlor was used for feasts.
10. The tribe people used soap, candles and many other things in a strange way.
11. Lasca's standard of values was quite original.
12. Lasca couldn't imagine a place where there was no snow or ice.
13. Lasca had no suitors in spite of her beauty.
14. She wanted to be loved for herself alone.
15. Her father was the richest man in America.
16. Lasca's family possessed some exquisite jewel.
17. The author nearly fainted when Lasca showed him the family wealth.
18. Lasca always left the house with a dog to protect her.
19. The author sincerely admired Lasca's fortune.

6. Say what you understand by following.

1. The Aurora Borealis swung its flaming streamers out of the sky and washed the lonely snow-plain and templed icebergs with the rich hues of the prism.
2. ... if she was aware that she was a beauty, there was nothing about her ways to show that she possessed the knowledge.
3. ... at bottom I am afraid of bears.
4. The house has luxurious appointments that are quite beyond the common.
5. All she was thinking of was the number of furs ... not their value.
6. It is a shame of me to expose my country, and you must not let it go further, for I am speaking to you in confidence.
7. It's true as you live.
8. I had merely meant to furnish her a standard of values, which she could understand; but my purpose had miscarried.
9. She was suffering fully as much to tell, as I was to know.
10. After harvesting a good deal of very pleasant coaxing and petting and persuading, I forgave her and she was happy again, and by and by she got under way with her narrative once more.
11. It is kind and good of you to like me and care to know about me.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What does Aurora Borealis look like?
2. What is Lasca like?
3. Does she know how beautiful she is?
4. How was she brought up?
5. What was she good at?
6. How long ago did her family settle down?
7. What sort of house did her father built?
8. What was unusual about the house?
9. What was the wealth of the house in the author's standard?
10. What amazed Lasca about ice?
11. What sort of prejudice did the people of her tribe have?
12. What was an ideal feast for Lasca?
13. What was the wealth of the family?
14. What was special about the "jewel"?
15. How did the author take Lasca's revelations?
16. Was Lasca happy? What kind of love did she want?
17. What did she think of her suitors?
18. What does the author say about her fortune?

2. Prove from the facts from the story that:

1. Lasca lived in one of the Polar Regions.
2. Lasca was good at hunting and fishing.
3. Lasca had never been outside the Polar Regions.
4. Lasca's standard of values was different from the author's.
5. The author did not want to hurt Lasca's feelings.
6. The author found pleasure in talking with Lasca.

3. Add more information to the following.

1. Lasca was just twenty years old.
2. The better the author knew Lasca, the better he liked her.
3. Her father got tired of wandering from place to place.
4. Furs were not that kind of things that ranked as riches with her people.
5. Lasca was in delight to know that some people had to buy ice.
6. At first the tribe people did not like soap.
7. Lasca was born for love.
8. Her father was the most important man of the tribe.
9. It was easy to please Lasca.

4. Imagine that you are:

1. Lasca.

- Say a) how you got acquainted with Mark Twain;
b) why you decided to tell him your story;
c) why you liked your house;
d) why you wanted to live in New York;
e) why you are not happy.

2. The author.

- Say a) why you found yourself in the Polar Region;
b) why you liked Lasca

5. Act out the talk between the author and Lasca on:

- a) The house and its appointments;
b) The value of ice in New York and in the Polar Regions;
c) The tribe prejudices;
d) The family wealth;
e) Lasca's jewel.

6. What do you think?

1. What are the advantages (disadvantages) of living in the Polar Regions?
2. Is Lasca a happy girl? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Which of her qualities do you like (dislike)? Why?

PART 2

Presently she said:

'Still, it is not all sunshine--there is a cloudy side. The burden of wealth is a heavy one to bear. Sometimes I have doubted if it were not better to be poor--at least not inordinately rich. It pains me to see neighbouring tribesmen stare as they pass by, and overhear them say, reverently, one to another, "There--that is she--the millionaire's daughter!" And sometimes they say sorrowfully, "She is rolling in fish-hooks, and I--I have nothing." It breaks my heart. When I was a child and we were poor, we slept with the door open, if we chose, but now--now we have to have a night-watchman. In those days my father was gentle and courteous to all; but now he is austere and haughty and cannot abide familiarity. Once his family were his sole thought, but now he goes about thinking of his fish-hooks all the time. And his wealth makes everybody cringing and obsequious to him. Formerly nobody laughed at his jokes, they being always stale and far-fetched and poor, and destitute of the one element that can really justify a joke--the element of humour; but now everybody laughs and cackles at these dismal things, and if any fails to do it my father is deeply displeased, and shows it. Formerly his opinion was not sought upon any matter and was not valuable when he volunteered it; it has that infirmity yet, but, nevertheless, it is sought by all and applauded by all--and he helps do the applauding himself, having no true delicacy and a plentiful want of tact. He has lowered the tone of all our tribe. Once they were a frank and manly race, now they are measly hypocrites, and sodden with servility. In my heart of hearts I hate all the ways of millionaires! Our tribe was once plain, simple folk, and content with the bone fish-hooks of their fathers; now they are eaten up with avarice and would sacrifice every sentiment of honour and honesty to possess themselves of the debasing iron fish-hooks of the foreigner. However, I must not dwell on these sad things. As I have said, it was my dream to be loved for myself alone.

'At last, this dream seemed about to be fulfilled. A stranger came by, one day, who said his name was Kalula. I told him my name, and he said he loved me. My heart gave a great bound of gratitude and pleasure, for I had loved him at sight, and now I said so. He took me to his breast and said he would not wish to be happier than he was now. We went strolling together far over the ice-floes, telling all about each other, and planning, oh, the loveliest future! When we were tired at last we sat down and ate, for he had soap and candles and I had brought along some blubber. We were hungry and nothing was ever so good.

'He belonged to a tribe whose haunts were far to the north, and I found that he had never heard of my father, which rejoiced me exceedingly. I mean he had heard of the millionaire, but had never heard his name--so, you see, he could not know that I was the heiress. You may be sure that I

did not tell him. I was loved for myself at last, and was satisfied. I was so happy--oh, happier than you can think!

'By-and-by it was towards supper time, and I led him home. As we approached our house he was amazed, and cried out:

"How splendid! Is that your father's?"

'It gave me a pang to hear that tone and see that admiring light in his eye, but the feeling quickly passed away, for I loved him so, and he looked so handsome and noble. All my family of aunts and uncles and cousins were pleased with him, and many guests were called in, and the house was shut up tight and the rag lamps lighted, and when everything was hot and comfortable and suffocating, we began a joyous feast in celebration of my betrothal.

'When the feast was over my father's vanity overcame him, and he could not resist the temptation to show off his riches and let Kalula see what grand good-fortune he had stumbled into--and mainly, of course, he wanted to enjoy the poor man's amazement. I could have cried--but it would have done no good to try to dissuade my father, so I said nothing, but merely sat there and suffered.

'My father went straight to the hiding-place in full sight of everybody, and got out the fish-hooks and brought them and flung them scatteringly over my head, so that they fell in glittering confusion on the platform at my lover's knee.

'Of course, the astounding spectacle took the poor lad's breath away. He could only stare in stupid astonishment, and wonder how a single individual could possess such incredible riches. Then presently he glanced brilliantly up and exclaimed:

"Ah, it is you who are the renowned millionaire!"

'My father and all the rest burst into shouts of happy laughter, and when my father gathered the treasure carelessly up as if it might be mere rubbish and of no consequence, and carried it back to its place, poor Kalula's surprise was a study. He said:

"Is it possible that you put such things away without counting them?"

'My father delivered a vain-glorious horse-laugh, and said:

"Well, truly, a body⁴⁹ may know you have never been rich, since a mere matter of a fish-hook or two is such a mighty matter in your eyes."

'Kalula was confused, and hung his head, but said:

"Ah, indeed, sir, I was never worth the value of the barb of one of those precious things, and I have never seen any man before who was so rich in them as to render the counting of his hoard worth while, since the wealthiest man I have ever known, till now, was possessed of but three."

'My foolish father roared again with jejune delight, and allowed the impression to remain that he was not accustomed to count his hooks and keep sharp watch over them. He was showing off, you see. Count them? Why, he counted them every day!

'I had met and got acquainted with my darling just at dawn; I had brought him home just at dark, three hours afterwards--for the days were shortening toward the six-months' night at that time. We kept up the festivities many hours; then, at last, the guests departed and the rest of us distributed ourselves along the walls on sleeping-benches, and soon all were steeped in dreams but me. I was too happy, too excited, to sleep. After I had lain quiet a long, long time, a dim form passed by me and was swallowed up in the gloom that pervaded the farther end of the house. I could not make out who it was, or whether it was man or woman. Presently that figure or another one passed me going the other way. I wondered what it all meant, but wondering did no good; and while I was still wondering I fell asleep.

'I do not know how long I slept, but at last I came suddenly broad awake and heard my father say in a terrible voice, "By the great Snow God, there's a fish-hook gone!" Something told me that that meant sorrow for me, and the blood in my veins turned cold. The presentiment was confirmed in the same instant: my father shouted, "Up, everybody, and seize the stranger!" Then there was an outburst of cries and curses from all sides, and a wild rush of dim forms through the

⁴⁹ A body = one

obscurity. I flew to my beloved's help, but what could I do but wait and wring my hands?--he was already fenced away from me by a living wall, he was being bound hand and foot. Not until he was secured would they let me get to him. I flung myself upon his poor insulted form and cried my grief out upon his breast while my father and all my family scoffed at me and heaped threats and shameful epithets upon him. He bore his ill usage with a tranquil dignity which endeared him to me more than ever, and made me proud and happy to suffer with him and for him. I heard my father order that the elders of the tribe be called together to try my Kalula for his life.

"What!" I said, "before any search has been made for the lost hook?"

"Lost hook!" they all shouted, in derision; and my father added, mockingly, "Stand back, everybody, and be properly serious--she is going to hunt up that lost hook: oh, without doubt she will find it!"--whereat they all laughed again.

I was not disturbed--I had no fears, no doubts. I said:

"It is for you to laugh now; it is your turn. But ours is coming; wait and see."

I got a rag lamp. I thought I should find that miserable thing in one little moment; and I set about that matter with such confidence that those people grew grave, beginning to suspect that perhaps they had been too hasty. But alas and alas!--oh, the bitterness of that search! There was deep silence while one might count his fingers ten or twelve times, then my heart began to sink, and around me the mockings began again, and grew steadily louder and more assured, until at last, when I gave up, they burst into volley after volley of cruel laughter.

None will ever know what I suffered then. But my love was my support and my strength, and I took my rightful place at my Kalula's side, and put my arm about his neck, and whispered in his ear, saying:

"You are innocent, my own--that I know; but say it to me yourself, for my comfort, then I can bear whatever is in store for us."

He answered:

"As surely as I stand upon the brink of death at this moment, I am innocent. Be comforted, then, O bruised heart; be at peace, O thou breath of my nostrils, life of my life!"

"Now, then, let the elders come!"--and as I said the words there was a gathering sound of crunching snow outside, and then a vision of stooping forms filing in at the door--the elders.

My father formally accused the prisoner, and detailed the happenings of the night. He said that the watchman was outside the door, and that in the house were none but the family and the stranger. "Would the family steal their own property?" He paused. The elders sat silent many minutes; at last, one after another said to his neighbour, "This looks bad for the stranger"--sorrowful words for me to hear. Then my father sat down. O miserable, miserable me! At that very moment I could have proved my darling innocent, but I did not know it!

The chief of the court asked:

"Is there any here to defend the prisoner?"

I rose and said:

"Why should he steal that hook, or any or all of them? In another day he would have been heir to the whole!"

I stood waiting. There was a long silence, the steam from the many breaths rising about me like a fog. At last one elder after another nodded his head slowly several times, and muttered, "There is force in what the child has said." Oh, the heart-lift that was in those words!-- so transient, but, oh, so precious! I sat down.

"If any would say further, let him speak now, or after hold his peace," said the chief of the court.

My father rose and said:

"In the night a form passed by me in the gloom, going toward the treasury and presently returned. I think, now, it was the stranger."

"Oh, I was like to swoon! I had supposed that that was my secret; not the grip of the great Ice God himself could have dragged it out of my heart. The chief of the court said sternly to my poor Kalula:

"Speak!"

Kalula hesitated, then answered:

"It was I. I could not sleep for thinking of the beautiful hooks. I went there and kissed them and fondled them, to appease my spirit and drown it in a harmless joy, then I put them back. I may have dropped one, but I stole none."

'Oh, a fatal admission to make in such a place! There was an awful hush. I knew he had pronounced his own doom, and that all was over. On every face you could see the words hieroglyphed: "It is a confession!--and paltry, lame, and thin."

I sat drawing in my breath in faint gasps--and waiting. Presently, I heard the solemn words I knew were coming; and each word, as it came, was a knife in my heart:

"It is the command of the court that the accused be subjected to the trial by water."

'Oh, curses be upon the head of him who brought "trial by water" to our land! It came, generations ago, from some far country that lies none knows where. Before that our fathers used augury and other unsure methods of trial, and doubtless some poor guilty creatures escaped with their lives sometimes; but it is not so with trial by water, which is an invention by wiser men than we poor ignorant savages are. By it the innocent are proved innocent, without doubt or question, for they drown; and the guilty are proven guilty with the same certainty, for they do not drown. My heart was breaking in my bosom, for I said, "He is innocent, and he will go down under the waves and I shall never see him more."

I never left his side after that. I mourned in his arms all the precious hours, and he poured out the deep stream of his love upon me, and oh, I was so miserable and so happy! At last, they tore him from me, and I followed sobbing after them, and saw them fling him into the sea-- then I covered my face with my hands. Agony? Oh, I know the deepest deeps of that word!

The next moment the people burst into a shout of malicious joy, and I took away my hands, startled. Oh, bitter sight--he was swimming! My heart turned instantly to stone, to ice. I said, "He was guilty, and he lied to me!" I turned my back in scorn and went my way homeward.

They took him far out to sea and set him on an iceberg that was drifting southward in the great waters. Then my family came home, and my father said to me:

"Your thief sent his dying message to you, saying, "Tell her I am innocent, and that all the days and all the hours and all the minutes while I starve and perish I shall love her and think of her and bless the day that gave me sight of her sweet face." Quite pretty, even poetical!

I said, "He is dirt--let me never hear mention of him again." And oh, to think--he was innocent all the time!

Nine months--nine dull, sad months--went by, and at last came the day of the Great Annual Sacrifice, when all the maidens of the tribe wash their faces and comb their hair. With the first sweep of my comb out came the fatal fish-hook from where it had been all those months nestling, and I fell fainting into the arms of my remorseful father! Groaning, he said, "We murdered him, and I shall never smile again!" He has kept his word. Listen; from that day to this not a month goes by that I do not comb my hair. But oh, where is the good of it all now!

So ended the poor maid's humble little tale--whereby we learn that since a hundred million dollars in New York and twenty-two fish-hooks on the border of the Arctic Circle represent the same financial supremacy, a man in straitened circumstances is a fool to stay in New York when he can buy ten cents' worth of fish-hooks and emigrate.

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Inordinately; reverently; courteous; austere; haughty; hypocrites, avarice; heiress; floe; dissuade; jejune; epithet; bruised; hieroglyph; paltry; augury; bosom; malicious; supremacy.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

Богатство - тяжёлое бремя; мне больно смотреть; это разбивает моё сердце; он не выносит фамильярности; раньше он думал только о семье; никто не спрашивал его мнения; в глубине души; я не должна думать о грустном; казалось, эта мечта сбывается; с первого взгляда; можете быть уверены, я не сказала ему; на какое счастье он натолкнулся; при всех; исчезла во мраке; праздник продолжался много часов; дурное предчувствие оправдалось немедленно; кровь застыла в жилах; он был связан по рукам и ногам; я принялась за дело с такой уверенностью; я стала падать духом; горько рыдала у него на груди; он переносил дурное обращение с собой со спокойным достоинством; он сам объявил себе приговор.

2. Choose the adjectives describing a) Lasca; b) Lasca's father; c) Kalula.

3. Make the sentences complete (see both parts of the story).

1. Lasca's tribe used to wander about from place to place, but now ...
2. When Lasca was a child they used to sleep with the door open, but now ...
3. Lasca's father used to be gentle and courteous to all, but now ...
4. His family used to be his sole thought, but now ...
5. Nobody used to laugh at Lasca's father's jokes, but now ...
6. Nobody used to listen to his opinion, but now ...
7. Lasca's tribe used to be a frank and manly race, but now ...
8. They used to be content with the bone fishhooks of their fathers, but now ...
9. Lassa used to comb her hair on the day of the Great Annual Sacrifice, but now ...

4. Match English and Russian adjective-noun combinations. Use them to describe the situations from the text.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Stale joke | a) скромные простые люди |
| 2. Dismal things | b) жалкий лицемер |
| 3. Measly hypocrite | c) скучные вещи |
| 4. Night watchman | d) сверкающий беспорядок |
| 5. Valuable opinion | e) ценное мнение |
| 6. True delicacy | f) избитая шутка |
| 7. Frank and manly race | g) настоящая деликатность |
| 8. Plain simple folk | h) унижающие достоинство железные рыболовные крючки |
| 9. Debasing iron fishhooks | i) известный миллионер |
| 10. Lovely future | j) хвастливый смех |
| 11. Joyous feast | k) стесненные обстоятельства |
| 12. Glittering confusion | l) неотчётливая фигура |
| 13. Renowned millionaire | m) чудесное будущее |
| 14. Boasting laugh | n) злорадство |
| 15. Dim form | o) глупое изумление |
| 16. Malicious joy | p) веселый пир |
| 17. Strained circumstances | q) ночной сторож |
| 18. Stupid astonishment | r) искренний мужественный народ |

5. Match the words and word combinations, which have the same or very close meaning. Say in what connection they are used in the text.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Many tribesmen were cringing to Lasca's father, or in other words | a) she could dissuade him from doing it. |
| 2. Lasca's father volunteered his opinion | b) she could not see well who it was. |
| 3. The tribesmen used to content with the bone fishhooks of their fathers, or | c) they used to be satisfied with them. |
| 4. Lasca thought that millionaires were eaten up with avarice, or in other words | d) they were possessed with greed. |
| 5. Lasca and Kalula were strolling in the ice floes planning their future, means that | e) means that he made his free choice to say what he thought. |
| 6. When Lasca's father wanted to show off nobody could dissuade him, means that | f) they were walking without any purpose. |
| 7. Lasca's father pretended that he didn't keep sharp watch over his fishhooks | g) the places where the tribe wandered or frequently visited were there. |
| 8. In the gloom of the night Lasca could not make out the figure, that is | h) his desire to show off made him do that. |
| 9. The family scoffed at Kalula means that | i) they mocked at him. |
| 10. Kalula's tribe's haunts were far in the north | j) because they promised each other to marry. |
| 11. The family feast celebrated Lasca's betrothal | k) he tried to make the impression that he didn't keep his eyes open on them. |
| 12. Lasca's father vanity made him go and bring his treasure fishhooks | l) they were acting like slaves to him. |

6. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. Lasca thinks it would be better if her family were poor.
2. Her father's thoughts are only about his family.
3. Lasca's father is a respected man in his tribe.
4. Lasca's tribe are plain and simple folk.
5. A stranger comes from far off lands.
6. Lasca's family is pleased with Kalula.
7. The feast lasts many hours.
8. Lasca's father takes Kalula to the treasury and shows him the riches of the family.
9. After the feast Lasca falls asleep very soon.
10. At night somebody steals a hook from the hiding place.
11. The whole family suspects Kalula.
12. Kalula confesses that he has taken the hook.
13. The elders sentence Kalula to the trial by water.
14. Trial by water is centuries' old trial of the tribe.

15. Kalula drowns in the icy water.
16. The lost fishhook is found in her furs.

7. Say what you understand by the following.

1. He has lowered the tone of all our tribe.
2. A mere matter of a fishhook is such a mighty matter in your eyes.
3. It gave me a pang to hear that tone ...
4. Poor Kalula's surprise was a study.
5. Many guests were called in and the house shut up tight.
6. I can bear whatever in store for us.
7. As surely as I stand upon the brink of death at this moment, I am innocent.
8. He had pronounced his own doom, and that all was over.
9. On every face you could see the words hieroglyphed ...
10. A hundred million dollars in New York and twenty-two fishhooks on the border of the Arctic Circle represent the same financial supremacy.
11. Oh, curses be upon upon the head of him who brought trial by water to our land!

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Answer the following questions.

1. What was that that pained Lasca to see?
2. What was different when Lasca was a child?
3. What changes did Lasca notice in her father?
4. What changes have taken place in the tribe?
5. Where did Kalula come from?
6. How did they spend their first day?
7. How did Kalula look when he saw Lasca's house?
8. How did the family meet Kalula?
9. What impression did the fishhooks make on Kalula?
10. What made Lasca's father angry next morning?
11. What caused the family to heap threats and shameful epithets upon Kalula?
12. What was the trial like?
13. Who defended Kalula?
14. What did Kalula confess in?
15. What does trial by water mean?
16. Who invented that trial?
17. Was Kalula innocent or guilty?
18. Where was the lost fishhook found?
19. What happened to Kalula?

2. Prove with the facts from the story that:

1. There was a cloudy side in Lasca's life.
2. Lasca's father had changed.
3. Lasca's tribe had changed.
4. Lasca was happy to meet Kalula.
5. Kalula was amazed to see the fishhooks.
6. Lasca's father showed off at the feast.
7. The fishhooks were not mere rubbish for Lasca's father.
8. The family was cruel to Kalula.

9. Kalula pronounced his own doom.
10. Trial by water was unsure.
11. Lasca believed that the trial was sure.
12. Kalula was innocent.

3. Add more information to the following.

1. There was some things in Lasca's life that made her sad.
2. At last, her dream seemed about to be fulfilled.
3. Kalula belonged to another tribe.
4. When the feast was over Lasca's father 's vanity overcame him.
5. Lasca came suddenly broad awake.
6. The elders were called to try Kalula for his life.
7. The trial by water came to the tribe generations ago.
8. Kalula was taken far out to sea.
9. The day of the Great Annual Sacrifice came.

4. Imagine that you are:

1. Lasca.

- Say a) how you spent the day with Kalula;
b) what you saw in the gloom of the night;
c) what you thought of the trial by water after you had found the hook.

2. Kalula.

- Say a) why the fishhooks impressed you so much;
b) how you found yourself far away from your haunts;
c) what you thought of the trial by water, and if it was practiced in your tribe.

3. Lasca's father.

- Say a) if Lasca was right in her judgment of you;
b) if you changed after the fishhook had been found.

5. Make up and act out the talk between:

1. Lasca and Kalula (their first meeting; lunch in the ice floes; on the brink of death);
2. Kalula and Lasca's father (their first meeting);
3. Kalula and an elder (during the trial);
4. Lasca and an elder (defending Kalula);
5. Lasca and her father (after the trial);
6. Lasca and her father (on the day of the Great Annual Sacrifice).

6. What do you think?

1. Say why the tribesmen preferred iron fishhooks to bone ones? Do you think iron lasts longer than bone? Can iron get rusty? What about bone? What are advantages and disadvantages of each of them? Have you ever tried fishhooks? Where?
2. What do you think of the trial by water? Is it a sure method? Why do you think it existed if innocents had to die?
3. A century ago Mark Twain wrote: "A hundred million dollars in New York and twenty-two fishhooks on the border of the Arctic Circle represent the same financial supremacy." Do you think the situation is still the same now?

Can you take the author's advice now and ease your financial difficulties? Give reasons for your answer.

A MYSTERIOUS VISIT

The first notice that was taken of me when I "settled down" recently was by a gentleman who said he was an assessor, and connected with the U. S. Internal Revenue Department⁵⁰. I said I had never heard of his branch of business before, but I was very glad to see him all the same. Would he sit down? He sat down. I did not know anything particular to say, and yet I felt that people who have arrived at the dignity of keeping house must be conversational, must be easy and sociable in company. So, in default of anything else to say, I asked him if he was opening his shop in our neighborhood.

He said he was. [I did not wish to appear ignorant, but I had hoped he would mention what he had for sale.]

I ventured to ask him "How was trade?" And he said "So-so."

I then said we would drop in, and if we liked his house as well as any other, we would give him our custom.

He said he thought we would like his establishment well enough to confine ourselves to it—said he never saw anybody who would go off and hunt up another man in his line after trading with him once.

That sounded pretty complacent, but barring that natural expression of villainy which we all have, the man looked honest enough.

I do not know how it came about exactly, but gradually we appeared to melt down and run together, conversationally speaking, and then everything went along as comfortably as clockwork.

We talked, and talked, and talked—at least I did; and we laughed, and laughed, and laughed—at least he did. But all the time I had my presence of mind about me—I had my native shrewdness turned on "full head," as the engineers say. I was determined to find out all about his business in spite of his obscure answers—and I was determined I would have it out of him without his suspecting what I was at. I meant to trap him with a deep, deep ruse. I would tell him all about my own business, and he would naturally so warm to me during this seductive burst of confidence that he would forget himself, and tell me all about his affairs before he suspected what I was about. I thought to myself, My son, you little know what an old fox you are dealing with. I said:

"Now you never would guess what I made lecturing this winter and last spring?"

"No—don't believe I could, to save me⁵¹. Let me see—let me see. About two thousand dollars, maybe? But no; no, sir, I know you couldn't have made that much. Say seventeen hundred, maybe?"

"Ha! ha! I knew you couldn't. My lecturing receipts for last spring and this winter were fourteen thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. What do you think of that?"

"Why, it is amazing—perfectly amazing. I will make a note of it. And you say even this wasn't all?"

"All! Why bless you, there was my income from the Daily Warwhoop⁵² for four months—about—about—well, what should you say to about eight thousand dollars, for instance?"

"Say! Why, I should say I should like to see myself rolling in just such another ocean of affluence. Eight thousand! I'll make a note of it. Why man!—and on top of all this am I to understand that you had still more income?"

"Ha! ha! ha! Why, you're only in the suburbs of it, so to speak. There's my book, The Innocents Abroad⁵³—price \$3.50 to \$5, according to the binding. Listen to me. Look me in the eye. During the last four months and a half, saying nothing of sales before that, but just simply during

⁵⁰ Internal Revenue Department - Гос. Департамент сборов

⁵¹ No—don't believe I could, to save me - не думаю, боже упаси!

⁵² Daily Warwhoop - название газеты

⁵³ The Innocents Abroad - Простак за границей

the four months and a half, we've sold ninety-five thousand copies of that book. Ninety-five thousand! Think of it. Average four dollars a copy, say. It's nearly four hundred thousand dollars, my son. I get half."

"The suffering Moses! I'll set that down. Fourteen-seven—fifty-eight—two hundred. Total, say—well, upon my word, the grand total is about two hundred and thirteen or fourteen thousand dollars! Is that possible?"

"Possible! If there's any mistake it's the other way. Two hundred and fourteen thousand, cash, is my income for this year if I know how to cipher."

Then the gentleman got up to go. It came over me most uncomfortably that maybe I had made my revelations for nothing, besides being flattered into stretching them considerably by the stranger's astonished exclamations. But no; at the last moment the gentleman handed me a large envelope, and said it contained his advertisement; and that I would find out all about his business in it; and that he would be happy to have my custom—would, in fact, be proud to have the custom of a man of such prodigious income; and that he used to think there were several wealthy men in the city, but when they came to trade with him he discovered that they barely had enough to live on; and that, in truth, it had been such a weary, weary age since he had seen a rich man face to face, and talked to him, and touched him with his hands, that he could hardly refrain from embracing me—in fact, would esteem it a great favour if I would let him embrace me.

This so pleased me that I did not try to resist, but allowed this simple-hearted stranger to throw his arms about me and weep a few tranquilizing tears down the back of my neck. Then he went his way.

As soon as he was gone I opened his advertisement. I studied it attentively for four minutes. I then called up the cook, and said:

"Hold me while I faint! Let Marie turn the griddle-cakes."

By and by, when I came to, I sent down to the rum-mill on the corner and hired an artist⁵⁴ by the week to sit up nights and curse that stranger, and give me a lift occasionally in the daytime when I came to a hard place.

Ah, what a miscreant he was! His "advertisement" was nothing in the world but a wicked tax-return—a string of impertinent questions about my private affairs, occupying the best part of four fools-cap pages of fine print—questions, I may remark, gotten up with such marvelous ingenuity that the oldest man in the world couldn't understand what the most of them were driving at—questions, too, that were calculated to make a man report about four times his actual income to keep from swearing to a falsehood. I looked for a loophole, but there did not appear to be any. Inquiry No. 1 covered my case as generously and as amply as an umbrella could cover an ant-hill:

What were your profits, during the past year, from any trade, business, or vocation, wherever carried on?

And that inquiry was backed up by thirteen others of an equally searching nature, the most modest of which required information as to whether I had committed any burglary or highway robbery, or by any arson or other secret source of emolument had acquired property which was not enumerated in my statement of income as set opposite to inquiry No. 1.

It was plain that that stranger had enabled me to make a goose of myself. It was very, very plain; and so I went out and hired another artist. By working on my vanity, the stranger had seduced me into declaring an income of two hundred and fourteen thousand dollars. By law, one thousand dollars of this was exempt from income tax—the only relief I could see, and it was only a drop in the ocean. At the legal five per cent I must pay to the government the sum of ten thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, income tax!

[I may remark, in this place, that I did not do it.]

I am acquainted with a very opulent man, whose house is a palace, whose table is regal, whose outlays are enormous, yet a man who has no income, as I have often noticed by the revenue returns; and to him I went for advice in my distress. He took my dreadful exhibition of receipts, he

⁵⁴ An artist - мастер своего дела

put on his glasses, he took his pen, and presto⁵⁵!—I was a pauper! It was the neatest thing that ever was. He did it simply by deftly manipulating the bill of "DEDUCTIONS." He set down my "State, national, and municipal taxes" at so much; my "losses by shipwreck; fire, etc.," at so much; my "losses on sales of real estate"—on "live stock sold"—on "payments for rent of homestead"—on "repairs, improvements, interest"—on "previously taxed salary as an officer of the United States army, navy, revenue service," and other things. He got astonishing "deductions" out of each and every one of these matters—each and every one of them. And when he was done he handed me the paper, and I saw at a glance that during the year my income, in the way of profits, had been one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars and forty cents.

"Now," said he, "the thousand dollars is exempt by law. What you want to do is to go and swear this document in and pay tax on the two hundred and fifty dollars."

[While he was making this speech his little boy Willie lifted a two-dollar greenback out of his vest pocket and vanished with it, and I would wager anything that if my stranger were to call on that little boy to-morrow he would make a false return of his income.]

"Do you," said I, "do you always work up the 'deductions' after this fashion in your own case, sir?"

"Well, I should say so! If it weren't for those eleven saving clauses⁵⁶ under the head of 'Deductions' I should be beggared every year to support this hateful and wicked, this extortionate and tyrannical government."

This gentleman stands away up among the very best of the solid men of the city—the men of moral weight, of commercial integrity, of unimpeachable social spotlessness—and so I bowed to his example. I went down to the revenue office, and under the accusing eyes of my old visitor I stood up and swore to lie after lie, fraud after fraud, villainy after villainy, till my soul was coated inches and inches thick with perjury, and my self-respect gone for ever and ever.

But what of it? It is nothing more than thousands of the richest and proudest, and most respected, honored, and courted men in America do every year. And so I don't care. I am not ashamed. I shall simply, for the present, talk little and eschew fire-proof gloves, lest I fall into certain dreadful habits irrevocably.

1

Phonetic exercises

1. Practise the pronunciation of the words from the chapter. When in doubt refer to the English-Russian dictionary.

Assessor; complacent; villainy; obscure; ruse; receipts; suburbs; binding; cipher; prodigious; tranquilizing; ingenuity; amply; modest; regal; pauper; deftly; municipal; extortionate; tyrannical; unimpeachable; perjury; eschew; irrevocably.

Vocabulary and Grammar Tasks

1. Find in the text the English for:

Люди, которые считают себя хорошими хозяевами дома; нам понравится иметь дело только с ним; всё шло гладко; присутствие духа; включил на полную катушку; ты не имеешь представления, с какой хитрой лисой ты имеешь дело; и сверх этого, как я понимаю, у вас ещё есть доход; у них едва хватало на жизнь; считал бы это за большую честь; я позволил ему ... пролить несколько слезинок мне на шею; когда мне было плохо; ну и негодяй; вопросы ... составленные с такой изумительной изобретательностью; не облагаются подоходным налогом; ущерб в результате кораблекрушения, пожара, продажи имущества;

⁵⁵ Presto - quickly

⁵⁶ If it weren't for those eleven saving clauses - если бы не те одиннадцать спасительных пунктов

платежи за аренду жилья, ... на ремонт, благоустройство, проценты на капитал; таким образом; на этот раз; этот человек в обществе стоит намного выше самых солидных людей города.

2. Replace the italicized words with the following expression from the text.

1. To confine oneself to
2. To melt down
3. To determine
4. To look for a loophole
5. To trap
6. To make a note of
7. To refrain from
8. To resist
9. To curse
10. To give a lift
11. To drive at
12. To roll in an ocean of affluence

1. The author hired a man *to wish evil upon* the visitor.
2. The author hoped *to catch in* the visitor with his native shrewdness.
3. He wanted the hired man *to support* him occasionally.
4. Soon they both *got softened* and talked in a friendly way.
5. The gentleman *wrote down* all the author's earnings.
6. The author *decided* to find out all about the visitor's business.
7. The visitor would like the author's custom *to keep within* his business.
8. The visitor could hardly *keep from* embracing the author.
9. This pleased the author so much that he did not try *to withstand*.
10. It was impossible to understand where the questions *were leading to*.
11. The visitor would like to be as *enormously wealthy* as the author seemed to be.
12. The author looked for some *means to avoid* payment that high income tax.

3. Make the sentences complete.

1. In spite of the author's native shrewdness ...
2. In spite of his obscure answers ...
3. In spite of the stranger's astonished exclamations ...
4. In spite of the man's regal table and enormous outlays ...
5. In spite of the marvelous ingenuity of the questions ...
6. In spite of the moral weight and unimpeachable spotlessness of these gentlemen ...
7. In spite of the author's deep ruse ...
8. In spite of his accusing eyes ...

4. Match English and Russian word combination. Use them in situations from the text.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Obscure answers | a) отвратительная привычка |
| 2. Deep ruse | b) чудовищный доход |
| 3. Seductive burst of confidence | c) огромные расходы |
| 4. Astonished exclamations | d) коммерческая честность |
| 5. Prodigious income | e) наглые вопросы |
| 6. Simple-hearted stranger | f) врождённая пронизательность |
| 7. Impertinent questions | g) неясные ответы |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8. Marvelous ingenuity | h) тонкая хитрость |
| 9. Saving clauses | i) соблазнительный порыв откровенности |
| 10. Opulent man | j) восклицания изумления |
| 11. Regal table | k) простодушный незнакомец |
| 12. Wicked tax return | l) богатый человек |
| 13. Hateful and wicked, extortionate and tyrannical government | m) подлая налоговая декларация |
| 14. Moral weight | n) по-царски богатый стол |
| 15. Commercial integrity | o) спасительные пункты |
| 16. Unimpeachable social spotlessness | p) моральный вес |
| 17. Dreadful habit | r) злостное, подлое вымогательское и тираническое правительство |
| 18. Native shrewdness | s) удивительная изобретательность |
| 19. Enormous outlays | u) незапятнанная общественная репутация |
| 20. Accusing eyes | v) обвиняющий взгляд |

5. Say whether the statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

1. The author did his best to be sociable in company.
2. They both talked and laughed.
3. All the time the author had his presence of mind about himself.
4. The gentleman told the author all about his affairs.
5. The author made his living by lecturing and writing books.
6. The book "The Innocent Abroad" was expensive and did not sell well.
7. The author said he had got little for that book.
8. The gentleman handed the author an envelope with an advertisement in it.
9. The gentleman appeared to be a simple hearted man.
10. It took the author a long time to come to himself.
11. The author found a loophole soon.
12. In his distress the author went to one of his acquaintance for advice.
13. Though the man easily manipulated the bill of deductions he could hardly reduce the author's income to a hundred thousand dollars.
14. The author and his opulent acquaintance did not want to support the government.
15. Thousands of the wealthiest men in America honestly pay income tax.

6. Say what you understand by the following.

1. He said he never saw anybody who would go off and hunt up another man in his line after trading with him once.
2. Why, you are only in the suburbs of it, so to speak.
3. If there any mistake, it's the other way.

Reading Comprehension and Discussion Tasks

1. Answer the following questions.

1. Who was the first to take notice of the author after he had settled down?
2. Why did the author tried to be easy and sociable?
3. What made the author think that the visitor sounded complacent?
4. What did the author want to find out about his visitor?
5. What did the author tell the visitor about his lecturing?
6. How much were the author's lecturing receipts?

7. How much did the author earn for his book "The Innocent Abroad" (according to him)?
8. How much was the total income that year?
9. How did the gentleman take the author's declaration of his earnings?
10. What was in the envelope the gentleman handed the author?
11. What was it that the gentleman couldn't resist?
12. What happened to the author when he opened the envelope?
13. What was a tax return like?
14. What sort of information did the questions require?
15. How much was exempt from income tax by law?
16. Where did the author go for advice?
17. How wealthy was the author's acquaintance?
18. What loopholes did he find in the bill of "Deductions:?"
19. What was the man's position among the best of the solid men of the city?
20. What did the author do under the accusing eyes of his visitor?

2. Prove with the facts from the story that:

1. The author was conversational.
2. The author's native shrewdness failed him this time.
3. The stranger turned out to be ingenious.
4. The author rolled in the ocean of affluence.
5. The stranger was astonished at the author's income.
6. The opulent man knew how to manipulate the bill of "Deductions".
7. Income tax was prodigiously high in the United States.
8. High tax made honest men become dishonest.

3. Add more information to the following.

1. The author did not want to appear ignorant.
2. Gradually the author and the stranger melt down.
3. Before leaving the stranger handed the author a large envelope.
4. The author studied the "advertisement".
5. The author looked for a loophole.
6. The author went for advice.
7. Very quickly the author was a pauper.
8. The author went down to the revenue office.

4. Imagine that you are:

1. The stranger.

Say a) what made you visit the famous writer;

- b) why you did not say what you were;
- c) how you made the write so conversational;
- d) what you thought when the writer swore in his document.

2. The author.

Say a) why you were so conversational with the stranger;

- b) whether you really made so much money or you were boasting;
- c) why you did not want to pay the tax;
- d) why you have lost self-respect.

5. Make up and act out the talk between:

1. the author and the stranger;
2. the author and his cook;
3. the author and the hired artist;
4. the author and the opulent man.

6. What do you think?

Who had presence of mind in this case? Give your reasons for your answer.

Who was an old fox in this case? Give reasons for your answer.

Was the author boasting or telling the truth about his income? Why do you think so?

Was it fair of the opulent man to manipulate the bill of "Deductions"?

Why? Why not?

Does high tax make people hide their real income or do you think all people are apt to hide their real income from the revenue office? Say why you think so?

CONTENTS

Biography	p.3
The Belated Russian Passport	
Part 1	p.5
Part 2	p.10
Part 3	p.15
Part 4	p.20
My Watch	p. 29
Edward Mills and George Benton	p. 33
The Californian Tale	p. 43
Is He Living or Is He Dead	p. 51
Information Wanted	p. 61
The Joke that Made Ed's Fortunate	p. 65
The Esquimau Maiden's Romance	
Part 1	p. 73
Part 1	p. 81
A Mysterious Visit	p.89