# £1,000,000 BANK-NOTE.

By Mark Twain.

The moment the usual civilities were | but just the million-pound note she 'd heard over, Hastings caught sight of me, and came | so much talk about, and it did n't belong to straight with cordially outstreched hand; me; and that started her curiosity, and then then stopped short when about to shake, I talked low, and told her the whole history and said with an embarrassed look :

knew you.

"Why, you do know me, old fellow." " No! Are you the-the-"

I'm used to it.".

settle the whirl in my head."

than I am. I can't realize it myself."

we went to the Miners' restaurant-"

" No ; the What Cheer." there at two in the morning, and had a chop I brought it frankly out. and coffee after a hard six hours' grind over suade you to come to London with me, gentlemen?" and offered to get leave of absence for you and pay all your expenses, and give you! the sale; and you would not listen to me, | er, do you think?" said I wouldn't succeed, and you could n't end of time getting the hand of things again | so much dependent upon it that-" when you got back home. And yet here happen to come, and whatever did give you

this incredible start?' "Oh, just an accident. It's a long story-a romance, a body may say. I'll it all. You're so beautiful and so lovely and tell you all about it: but not now."

"When ?" "The end of this month."

"That's more than a fortnight yet. It's struggle." con much of a strain on a person's curiosity. Make it a week."

"I can't. You 'll know why, by and by. But how 's the trade getting along ?" and he said with a sigh :

"You were a true prophet, Hal, a true eyes. prophet. I wish I had n't come. I don't want to talk about it."

tell me all about it." "Oh, may I? Are you in earnest?" and prise.

the water showed in his eyes.

every word."

affairs of mine, after what I 've been through here-lord! I could go down on my

knees for it !" was no dinner. Englishmen always eat din- | hilated !" ner before they go out to dinner, because Plague take it! this language gave me them by name. It didn't surprise them; they they know the risks they are running; but | the cold shudders. It scared me broad | knew I would know enough to consult the nobody ever warns the stranger, and so he awake, and made me comprehend that I directory. They seated us, and were very walks placidly into the trap. Of course was standing on a balf-inch crust, with a polite to me, and very solicitous to relieve nobody was hurt this time, because we crater underneath. I didn't know I had her from embarrassment, and put her as had all been to dinner, none of us being been dreaming-that is, I hadn't been al- much at her case as they could. Then I novices except Hastings, and he having been lowing myself to know it for a while back ; said : informed by the minister at the time that he | but now-oh, dear ! Deep in debt, not a invited him that in deference to the English | cent in the world, a lovely girl's happiness custom he had not provided any dinner. or we in my hands, and nothing in front 'for now we can decide the bet which my Everybody took a lady and processioned of me but a salary which might never-oh, brother Abel and I made. If you have won down to the dining room, because it is usual | would never-materialize! Oh, oh, oh, I | for me, you shall have any situation in my to go through the motions; but there the am ruined past hope; nothing can save me! gift. Have you the million-pound note?" lispute began. The Duke of Shoreditch wanted to take precedence, and sit at the of your daily income would-" my rights, and refused to yield: In the sit down and -" gossip column I ranked all dukes not royal, | "Not a bite for me; I'm past it. I can't | twenty thousand pounds, I never would | burg of a sad loss of life among a band of and said so, and claimed precedence of this eat, these days; but I'll drink with you till have believed it. one. It couldn't be settled, of course, I drop. Come!" struggle as we might and did, he finally (and injudiciously) trying to play birth and | Here we go! Now, then, Lloyd, unreel antiquity, and I "seeing" his Conqueror your story while I brew." and "raising" him with Adam, whose direct posterity I was, as shown by my name, while he was of a collateral branch, as shown by his, and by his recent Norman | over again?" origin; so we all processioned back to the ular lunch-plate of sardines and a straw- of that liquid. You don't need it." berry, and you group yourself and stand up and eat it. Here the religion of precedence is not so strenuous; the two persons of highest rank chuck up a shilling, the one that wins has first go at his strawberry, and the loser gets the shilling. The next two chuck up, then the next two, and so on. After refreshment, tables were brought, and we all played cribbage, sixpence a game. The English never play any game for amusement. If they can't make something or lose

We had a lovely time; certainly two of us had, Miss Langham and I. I was so bewitched with her that I couldn't count my hands if they went above a double sequence; and when I struck home I never discovered it, and started up the outside row again, and would have lost the game every time, only the girl did the same, she being in just my condition, you see; and consequently neither of us ever got out, or cared to wonder why we didn't wish to know anything else, and didn't want to be interrupted. And I told her-I did indeed-told her loved her, and she-well, she blushed till her hair turned red, but she liked it; she said she did. Oh, there was never such an evening! Every time I pegged I put on a postscript; every time she pegged she acknowledged receipt of it, counting the hands the same. Why, I couldn't even say "Two for his heels" without adding, "My, how sweet you do look !" and she would say "Fifteen two, fifteen four, fifteen six, and a pair -re eight, and eight are sixteen-do you think so?"-peeping out aslant from under her lashes, you know, so sweet and you do it ?" cunning. Oh, it was just too-too!

something-they don't care which,-they

won't play.

Well, I was perfectly honest and square with her; told her I hadn't a centin the world for my 'option '! Don't, don't refuse !"

right from the start, and it nearly killed "I beg your pardon, sir, I thought I her, laughing. What in the nation she but there it was; every halt minute some fair to you, after your hard work, and the new detail would fetch her, and I would risks you've run. I don't need to buy mines; "Vest-pocket monster? I am, indeed. have to stop as much as a minute and a I can keep my capital moving, in a com-Don't be afraid to call me by my nickname; half to give her a chance to settle down mercial center like London without that; again. Why, she laughed herself lame, it's what I'm at, all the time; but here is and so-" "Well, well, well, this is a surprise. she did indeed; I never saw anything like what I'll do. I know all about that mine, Once or twice I've seen your name coupled it. I mean I never saw a painful story-a of course : I know its immense value, and just try me thirty or forty years, and itwith the nickname, but it never occurred to story of a person's troubles and worries and can swear to it if anybody wishes it. You me that you could be the Henry Adams re- fears-produce just that kind of effect be- shall sell out inside of the fort night for thing to ask. Take her along." ferred to. Why, it isn't six months since fore. So I loved her all the more, seeing three millions cash, using my name freely, you were clerking away for Blake Hopkins she could be so cheerful when there was n't and we'll divide, share and share alike." in Frisco on a salary, and sitting up nights anything to be cheerful about; for I might Do you know, he would have danced the And when London got the whole history, a on an extra allowance, helping me arrange soon need that kind of wife, you know, the furniture to kindling wood in his insane joy, and verify the Gould and Curry Extension way things looked. Of course I told her we and broken everything on the place, if I papers and statistics. The idea of your should have to wait a couple of years, till I hadn't tripped him up and tied him. being in London, and a vast millionaire, and could catch up on my salary; but she did | Then he lay there, perfectly happy, a colossal celebrity! Why, it's the Arabian n't mind that, only she hoped I would be as Nights come again. Man, I can't take it in careful as possible in the matter of expenses at all ; can't realize it ; give me time to and not let them run the least risk of trenching on our third year's pay. Then she "The fact is, Lloyd, you are no worse off began to get a little worried, and wond-"Dear me, it is stunning, now is n't it ? and starting the salary on a higher I live !" Why, it's just three months to-day since figure for the first year than I would get. This was good sense, and it made me feel a little less confident than I had been feel- after day, but sit at home, and say to all the minister's, never should have met her. " Right, it was the What Cheer; went ing before; but it gave me a good idea, and comers :

She shrank a little, but said :

something over if I succeeded in making hearten you. But-would it be quite prop- word to her about the mine; I saved it for

afford to lose the run of busin ss and be no I'm afraid it would n't : but you see, there's

you are. How odd it all is! How did you er," she said, with a beautiful and enerous enthusiasm. "Oh, I shall be so happy to think I'm helping.'

"Helping, dear? Why, you'll be doing so winning, that with you there I can pile | million dollars to my credit in the London our salary up till I break those good old and County Bank, and Hastings was fixed fellows, and they'll never have the heart to in the same way. Dressed at my level best,

mount, and her happy eyes shine!

His cheerfulness vanished like a breath, go with you. Maybe it will teach you not might. She was so excited and anxious to expect other people to look with your that it made her just intolerably beautiful,

Were my doubts dissipated? Was my confidence restored? You may judge by "But you must. You must come and stop this fact; privately I raised my salary to under three thousand a year." with me to-night, when we leave here, and | twelve hundred the first year on the spot. But didn't tell her; I saved it for a sur-

All the way home. I was in the clouds. "Yes; I want to hear the whole story, Hastings talking, I not hearing a word, When he and I entered my parlor, he "I'm so grateful! Just to find a human brought me to myself with my fervent ap pleading with me, and saying: interest once more, in some eye, in me and preciations of my manifold comforts and

"Let me just stand here a little and look my fill ! Dear me it 's a palace; it 's just a | in the world to earn our living ?" He gripped my hand hard, and braced palace! And in it everything a body could up, and was all right and lively after that | desire, including cozy coal fire and supper for the dinner-which didn't come off. No; standing ready. Henry, it doesn't mere- gentlemen. Of course they were surprised the usual thing happened, the thing that is ly make me realize how rich you are; it to see that wonderful creature with me, but always happening under that vicious and ag- makes me realize, to the bone, to the mar- I said : gravating English system-the matter of row, how poor I am-how poor I am, and precedence could n't be settled, and so there how miserable, how defeated, routed, anni-

"Henry, the mere unconsidered drippings

head of the table, holding that he outrank- 'Oh, my daily income! Here, down with ed a minister who represented merely a this hot Scotch, and cheer up your soul. Abel on the back. "Now what do you say, Russian Convicts on the Way to Siberia nation and not a monarch; but I stood for | Here's with you! Or, no-you're hungry;

"Barrel for barrel, I'm with you! Ready?

"Again? What do you mean by that?"

"Unreel it? What, again?"

"Why, I mean do you want to hear it "Do I want to hear it over again? This drawing-room again and had a perpendic- is a puzzler. Wait; don't take any more

> "Look here, Henry, you alarm me. Did n't I tell you the whole story on the way

"You ?"

"Yes, I." "I'll be hanged if I heard a word of it." "Henry, this is a serious thing. It troubles me. What did you take up yonder at the minister's?"

Then it flashed on me, and I owned up,

"I took the dearest girl in this worldorisoner!"

So then he came with a rush, and we shook, and shook, and shook till our hands ached; and he didn't blame me for not having heard a word of a story which had lasted while we walked three miles. He just sat down then, like the patient, good know. I want to give you the situation," fellow he was, and told it all over again. Synopsized, it amounted to this: He had come to England with what he thought was a grand opportunity; he had an "option' to sell the Gould and Curry Extension for the "locators" of it, and keep all he could get over a million dollars. He had worked hard, had pulled every wire he knew of, had left no honest expedient untried, had spent nearly all the money he had in the it for you?" world, had not been able to get a solitary capitalist to listen to him, and his option prove it. Let us see you try." would run out at the end of the month. In

up and cried out : save me, and you're the only man in the universe that can. Will you do it? Won't | Portia said:

"Tell me how. Speak out, my boy." "Give me a million and my passage home as hurt as-"

I was in a kind of agony. I was right on myself down till I was as cold as a capita- you ?" list. Then I said, in a commercial and selfpossessed way :

"I will save you, Lloyd-" "Then I'm already saved ! God be merciful to you forever ! If ever I-"

"Let me finish, Lloyd. I will save you, could find to laugh about, I could n't see, but not in that way; for that would not be

"I may use your name! Your namethink of it ! Man, they'll flock in droves, these rich Londoners; they'll fight for that stock ! I'm a made man, I'm a made man

"Yes; I told him to refer to me. I "Portia, dear, would you mind going know the man, and I know the mine. His those Extension papers, and I tried to per- | with me that day, when I confront those old | character is above reproach, and the mine | article for only about a tenth part of its is worth far more than he asks for it."

> Meantime I spent all my evenings at the "N-o; if my being with you would help minister's with Portia. I didn't say a a surprise. We talked salary; never any-"No, I don't know that it would; in fact | thing but salary and love; sometimes love, sometimes salary, sometimes love and salary together. And my! the interest the "Then I'll go anyway, proper or improp- minister's wife and daughter took in our little affair, and the endless ingenuities they invented to save us from interruption, and to keep the minister in the dark and unsuspicious-well, it was just lovely of them

When the month was up, at last, I had a I drove by the house in Portland Place, Sho! you should have seen the rich blood | judged by the look of things that my birds were home again, went on toward the "You wicked flatterer! There is n't a minister's and got my precious, and we word of truth in what you say, but still I'll started back, talking salary with all our

"Dearie, the way you're looking it's a crime to strike for a salary a single penny "Henry, Henry, you'll ruin us!"

"Don't you be afraid. Just keep up these looks and trust to me. It'll all come out right." So as it turned out, I had to keep bolstering up her courage all the way. She kept

"Oh, please remember that if we ask for too much we may get no salary at all; and then what will become of us, with no way

We were ushered in by that same servant, and there they were, the two old

"It's all right gentlemen; she is my future stay and helpmate."

And I introduced them to her, and called

"Gentlemen, I am ready to report." "We are glad to hear it," said my man "Here it is, sir," and I handed it to

"I've won!" he shouted, and slapped brother?"

"I say he did survive, and I've lost

"and a pretty long one. I want you to let and seventy-four persons, including a large me come soon, and detail my whole month's number of persons sentenced to exile for history; and I promise you it's worth political crimes. In accordance with the hearing. Meantime, take a look at that." £200,000 ? Is it yours?"

judicious use of that little loan you let me A snowstorm was prevailing, and when six have. And the only use I made of it was to buy trifles and offer the bill in charge." Come, this is astonishing ! It's incredi- obliterated. Chained together, the convicts

my word unsupported." But now Portia's turn was come to be surprised. Her eyes were spread wide, and she said :

"Henry, is that really your money Have you been fibbing to me ?" "I have indeed, dearie. But you'll for-

give me, I know." She put up an arch pout, and said : "Don't you be so sure. You are naughty thing to deceive me so !'

"Oh, you'll get over it, sweetheart you'll get over it; it was only fun, you know. Come, let's be going. "But wait, wait! The situation, you

"Well," I said, "I'm just as grateful as I can be, but really I don't want one." "But you can have the very choicest one

in my gift." "Thanks again, with all my heart; but I don't even want that one.'

She walked to my man, got up in his lap, dumfounded, just petrified, as you may say.

Papa, he has said you haven't a situation in your gift that he'd take; and I feel just

"My darling !- is that your papa?"

"Yes; he's my steppapa, and the dearest the point of coming out with the words, one that ever was. You understand now. "Lloyd, I'm a pauper myself-absolutely don't you, why I was able to laugh when penniless, and in debt !" But with a white- you told me at the minister's, not knowing hot idea came flaming through my head, my relationships, what trouble and worry and I gripped my jaws together, and calmed | papa's and Uncle Abel's scheme was giving

Of course I spoke right up, now, without any fooling, and went straight to the point. "Oh, my dearest dear sir, I want to take

open that I want." "Name it."

"Son-in-law." "Well, well, well! But you know, if you haven't ever served in that capacity, you of course can't furnish recommendations of a Peterson, who was clad in a thin black sort to satisfy the conditions of the contract | gown, was worn nearly to a shadow, and

"Try me-oh, do, I beg of you! Only "Oh, well, all right; it's but a little

Happy, we too? There re not words

and cashed it; then the Bank canceled it could get nourishment and a little rest. and made him a present of it, and he gave it to us at our wedding, and it has always our home, ever since. For it gave me my In less than twenty-four hours London Portia. But for it I could not have remainwas abuzz ! I hadn't anything to do, day | ed in London, would not have appeared at | And so I always say, "Yes, it's a million---- The Century. value."

#### English Railroad Rates.

so high as to interfere with the natural de- suffered both mentally and physically. velopment of a trade that has in past years "The Lady Lampson," he said, " was from enjoyed redundant prosperity, have at any Sydney, and we were bound to this port rate been notably higher than the average with 600 tons of coal for Wilder & Co. We rates charged on foreign railways. And left Sydney last November and were fortynot only so, but while the rates on other four days out when the vessel struck. We mained comparatively unaltered.

past threatened the evolution of other canals | with all sail set. designed to provide transport between the Midlands and the sea, as well as the revival of the whole canal system of the country, bottle of Maraschino.

the traders cannot afford to pay for them ? | sen, a German, and a seaman named Mar-The margin lavailable for railroad freight | tin. and for profits is a constantly diminishing one in all industries alike, and in many cases traders can hardly afford a halfyears ago. The exploitation of manufacturing capital and technical knowledge is re-

tions, that the traders should have become and dry. dissatisfied, and should have insisted, as

## NEARLY 300 PERISHED.

## Overtaken by a Snowstorm.

Details have been received at St. Petersconvicts bound for the prisons of Siberia. "I've a further report to make," I said, The band numbered in all three hundred custom the convicts were marching to their night in Tomsk, Western Siberia, and con-"Mine. I carned it by thirty day's tinued their journey early in the morning. hours' march from Tomsk the storm had become so severe that all the roads were struggled on until gradually the weaker ones "Never mind, I'll prove it. Don't take | fell in the deep snow, dragging the stronger of the Cossack guards the exhausted people could make no attempt to save themselves and they were abandoned to freeze to death, while the others were driven forward, those they are all right." in charge of them hoping to get them in shelter. The storm continued to increase in violence, and the travelling became worse and worse. Now and then prisoners would drop by the wayside, where they would soon be covered by the rapidly falling and drifting snow. When the guards managed en, and four children.

### So as to Know What You Take.

"Henry, I'm ashamed of you. You don't | sense method of dealing with persons who | knife into his wife's heart, killing her almost half thank the good gentleman. May I do advertise harmful and poisonous prepara- instantly. Mrs. Smith, hearing the dis-"Indeed you shall, dear, if you can im- putting in motion the tardy and uncertain kitchen, when Frazier, with the cry of a a word, he was ruined. Then he jumped put her arm around his neck, and kissed him publish the announcement that the prepara- minutes. Frazier then nearly severed one right on the mouth. Then the two old gen- | tion above named has been analyzed and is | leg from the body of the child and cut it "Henry, you can save me! You can tlemen shouted with laughter, but I was found to consist of such and such a composi- in other places. Frazier was captured two tion, its intrinsic value being so much. In miles from here and lynched by a mob of this way lately was stopped the sale of a miners. much-advertised cosmetic, the chief component of which was that deadly salt of mercury known as corrosive sublimate. -[Chamber's Journal.

TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS IN A SKIP

#### A Woman One of the Sufferers of a Month -: Hardship on the Pacific.

Capt. Peterson of the bark Lady Lampson, his wife, and five seamen arrived in Honolulu recently in an emaciated condition. They came in an open boat only eighteen feet long, and reported that they had been back what I said. You have got a situation | twenty-eight days tossing about on the Pacific. While the occupants of the frail craft were not entirely without provisions during their long battle with the elements, the effects of short commons and lack of sleep and shelter were palpably apparent. Mrs. her strength failed her completely as she was lifted from the boat and taken to an

The men were sunburned, leaden eyed, and listless. Their heads drooped, and it was with difficulty that they would be got enough in the unabridged to describe it. to speak, but Capt. Peterson told in a few words that the Lady Lampson had been day or two later, of my month's adventures | wrecked at night on a reef near Talmyra with that bank-note, and how they ended, Island when forty-four days out from Syddid London talk, and have a good time? ney, and the crew were compelled to take to the boats. He was very weak, and My Portia's papa took that friendly and spoke in a whisper, at the same time beg-hospitable bill back to the Bank of England ging that his wife be taken where she

The Kanakas lent willing hands to help the waifs of the ocean into hacks and carered if we were making any mistake, forever, and I'll never forget you as long as hung in its frame in the sacredest place in riages, and they were quickly driven to where they could command attention. The little boat in which they had journeyed over 1,000 miles became an object of interest for hundreds of people. It was partly decked with canvas, and strips of the same material pounder as you see; but it never made but had been stretched above the gunwale on one purchase in its life, and then got the either side to prevent her being swamped. In the boat were a couple of nearly empty water kegs and a small quantity of biscuit and canned goods.

"I haven't had my clothes off for twentyeight days," said Capt. Peterson when seen There is sufficient evidence to show that at the hotel. He was hollow-cheeked and English railway rates, if they have not been unshaven and looked indeed as if he had systems have been more or less reduced of had had bad weather near Fiji, having late years, English railway rates have re- been in a hurricane for twenty-four hours, but after that we had fine north-east winds Reductions have, no doubt, been made until we got near Palmyra Island, when here and there, and in some cases over a the weather became dirty. It was 5:30 considerable area, but the railway com- o'clock on the morning of Jan. 16 when we panies adhere to their established principle struck, I had not had an observation for of charging as much as the traffic will bear, two days. The night had been dark and which means in a good many instances fully stormy, but the water was smooth then. I as much as they can get compatibly with knew I was to the east of the island, and keeping the traffic alive. It is this admit- that there was a sunken reef somewhere ted practice which has led to a species of around. I was on deck myself, and had revolt on the part of large bodies of traders, two men on the lookout aloft. There is a which has evolved the Manchester Ship strong westerly current there, and I guess Canal, and which has now for many years | we were going about five knots an hour

"Five minutes after she struck she began to break up, and I ordered the boatsout We lowered the two boats. I took charge in active competition with railway lines. of one and First Mate Harry Miller took The railways again plead the high efficiency | the other. In my boat there were, besides of the service they render, and for this, no my wife and myself, Second Mate C. Brown doubt, they are entitled to all praise, but, and Seaman W. Carloon (both Swedes), to use an aphorism of the late Lord Beacons- | Cabin Boy W. Hayden of Liverpool, F. field, you are not likely to allay the pangs | Veller the cook, who is a German, and E. of hunger by regaling your guest with a Everson, a Norwegian sailor. The mate's boat contained a German sailor named Sny-Of what use are these unique facilities if |der, Oscar Magnersen, a Swede : J. Jorgen-

"We started from Palmyra Island in company about 7 in the morning, having only five gallons of water for the two boats. The penny ton-mile rate, where twice that | island is only forty miles from the reef, but amount would have been little felt a few | the current and tide were so strong that we were trying for nine days to make headway against them, but couldn't. We drifted to ceiving a smaller return, while that of the the westward, so I resolved to put back to means of distribution appears to suffer no the bark. We suffered greatly through want of water, and we had barely enough It is not unnatural under these condi- to moisten our tongues, which were swollen

"We found the bark settling down and they did, upon Parliament seriously grap- the water washing over her, so we got pling with the whole question of railway aboard quickly and put some canned goods. powers and charges, with a view to mak- biscuit, and water into the boats. We riging rough places plain and crooked paths | ged the boats with canvas and then started again for Palmyra Island. We tried for two days to make headway, but the heavy swell and wind bafiled us. Thinking I would lose sight of the mate's boat, I told him to steer for Honolulu, and I steered for here myself. We lost sight of the other boat and have had heavy gales ever since. I have only had an hour's sleep at a time during the day, and have never lain down. At night the spray came over, wetting us all to the skin, and in the day we dried our clothes in the sun, if there was any. The men have been quiet and uncomplaining, even though on short allowance of food and "What, mon! Certificate of deposit for various destinations. They had spent the from our boat. It was a terrible experiwater, and, thank goodness! we lost nobody ence, though, the worst I have met with during fourteen years of scafaring.

"After we passed the Island of Maui we struck a storm and the boat half filled with water. We thought then it was all over after passing through so many other dangers, but we managed to bail her out and keep her right. The first vessel we saw ones down with them. Despite the efforts since we struck, twenty-eight days ago, was a steam schooner off Diamond Head this morning. I hope the mate's boat is safe, and if he steered to the eastward I think

### ORUEL BUTCHERY.

#### A Drunken Miner Murders His Wife and Sister-in-law, and Cuts a Babe.

A despatch from Albia, Ia., says:-A to get what few remained of their charges | shocking tragedy has just occurred at Hiteto a place of safety they found that of the man, a mining town near this place. Will-374 persons they had started with only 91 | iam Frazier was a drunken miner living survived. Sixty two of those who had per- with his wife and babe at Carbondale. A few ished were political prisoners. Among those days ago, on account of Frazier's drunkenlost were Madame Lazarov, six other wom- ness, his wife, taking her babe, left him and went to Hiteman to stay with her sister, Mrs. Smith. On Monday evening Frazier came to this place and yesterday morning he went to Hiteman. He walked into the The Berlin police have adopted a common- | Smith house and without a word plunged a tions for sale, which has the merit of not turbance in the room, was coming from the machinery of the law. Immediately be- demon, sprang upon her, driving his knife neath the objectionable advertisement they to the hilt in her breast. She died in a few

> Madge-"Do you prefer blonde men!" Beatrice-" No; I prefer old rold-very old and plenty of gold !"