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and David Widger**

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WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS \*\*\*

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**THE WRITINGS OF WILLIAM  
DEAN HOWELLS**

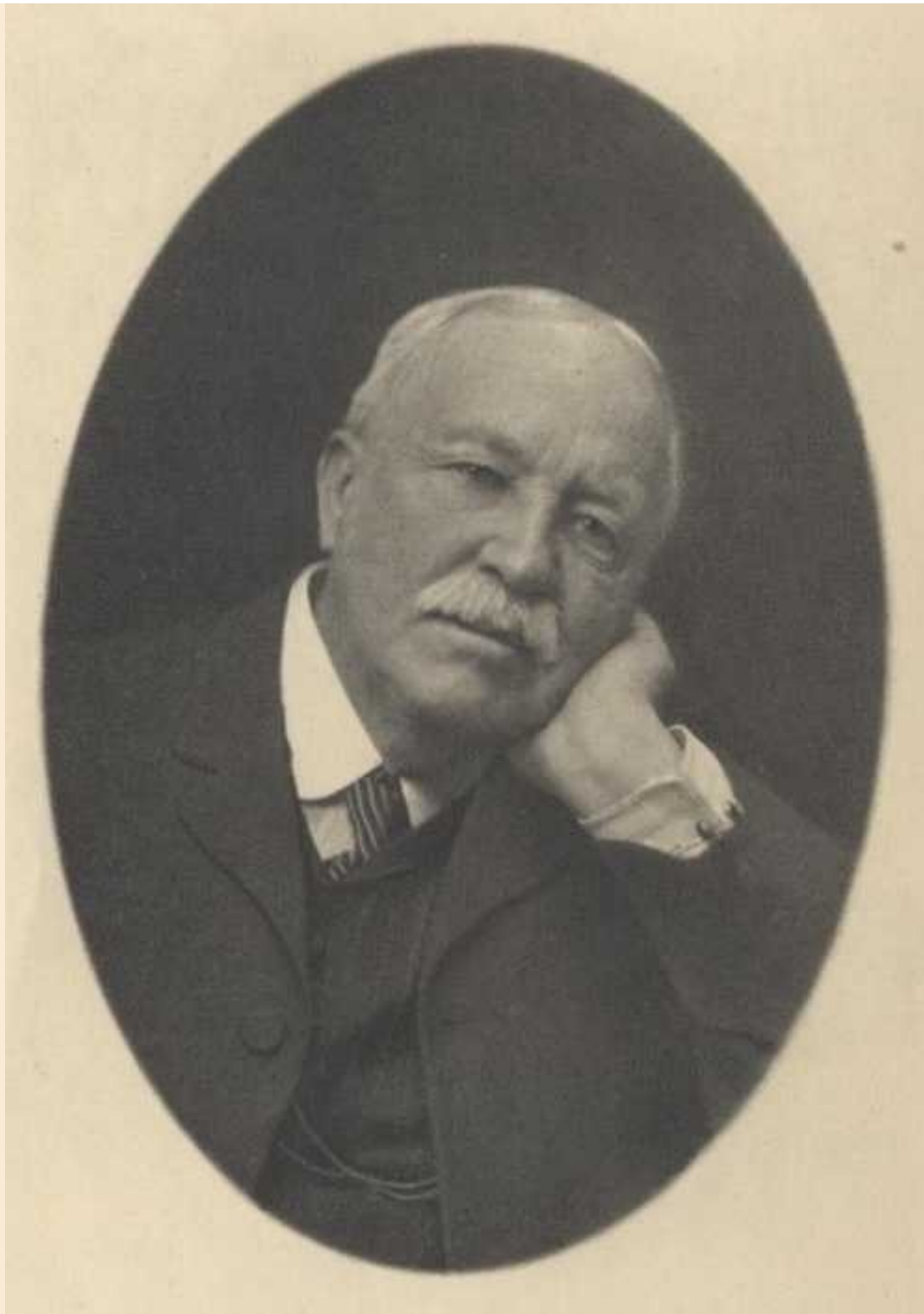
**T**he Writings of  
William Dean Howells

Library Edition

Illustrated



Harpers & Brothers Publishers  
New York & London



*Absolutely, so positively, so almost  
aggressively truthful*

*Account of one's reading is an account of  
one's life*

*Affections will not be bidden*

*Beginning to grow old with touching courage*

*Book that they are content to know at  
second hand*

*Christianity had done nothing to improve morals  
and conditions*

*Clemens was sole, incomparable, the Lincoln of  
our literature*

*Comfort from the thought that most things cannot  
be helped*

*Contemptible he found our pseudo-equality*

*Critical vanity and self-righteousness*

*Critics are in no sense the legislators of literature*

*Despair broke in laughter*

*Dickens rescued Christmas from Puritan distrust*

*Didn't reason about their beliefs, but only argued*

*Disbeliever in punishments of all sorts*

*Even a day's rest is more than most people can bear*

*Everlasting rock of human credulity and folly*

*Exchanging inaudible banalities*

*Fear of asking too much and the folly of asking too little*

*For most people choice is a curse*

*Forbear the excesses of analysis*

*Gift of waiting for things to happen*

*Got out of it all the fun there was in it*

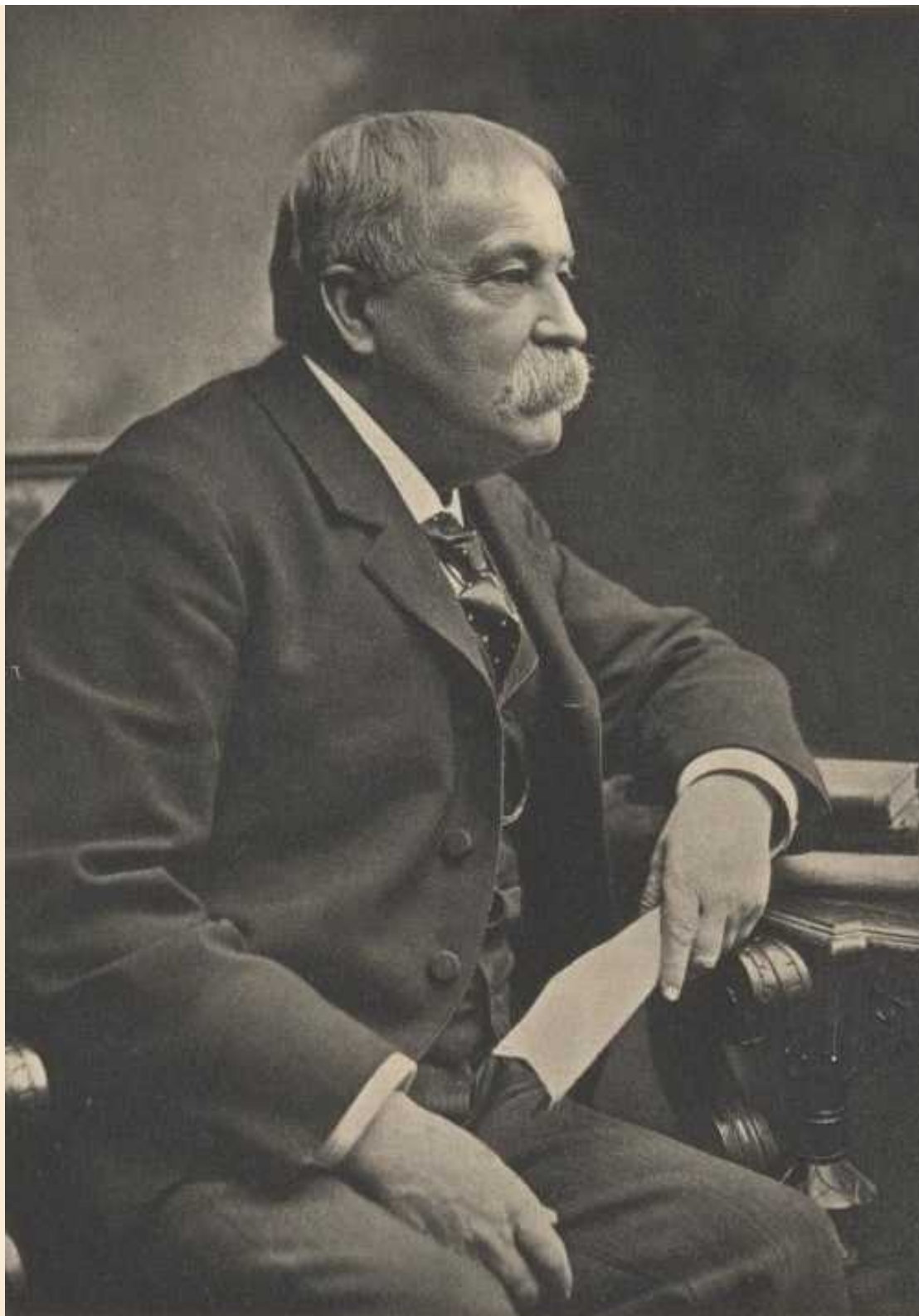
*Government is best which governs least*

*Habit of saying some friendly lying thing*

*He was not bored because he would not be*

*He had no time to make money*

*He's so resting*



*He's the same kind of a man that he was a boy*

*Heighten our suffering by anticipation*

*Heroic lies*

*His readers trusted and loved him*

*I do not think any man ought to live by an art*

*If one were poor, one ought to be deserving*

*If he was half as bad, he would have been too bad to be*

*Incredible in their insipidity*

*Industrial slavery*

*Lewd literature seems to give a sanction to lewdness in the life*

*Lie, of course, and did to save others from  
grief or harm*

*Life alone is credible to the young*

*Livy: Well, if you are to be lost, I want to be  
lost with you*

*Livy Clemens: the loveliest person I have  
ever seen*

*Luxury of helplessness*

*Married Man: after the first start-off he  
don't try*

*Meet here to the purpose of a common ostentation*

*Morbid egotism*

*My reading gave me no standing among the boys*

*Neatness that brings despair*

*Never paid in anything but hopes of paying*

*Never saw a dead man whom he did not envy*

*New England necessity of blaming some one*

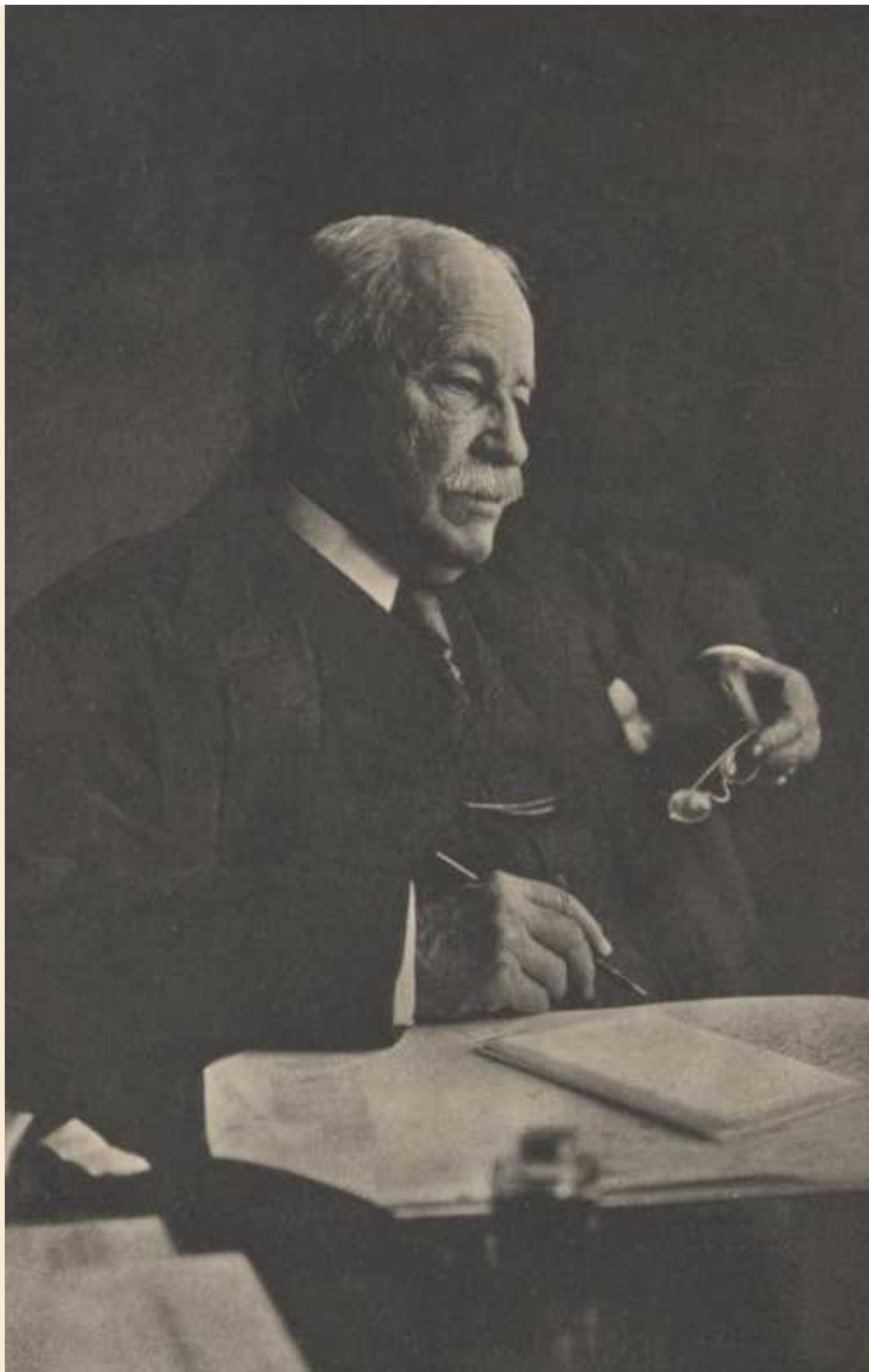
*None of the passions are reasoned*

*NYC, a city where money counts for more and  
goes for less*

*Old man's disposition to speak of his  
infirmities*

*Pathetic hopefulness*





*Plain-speaking or Rude Speaking*

*Praised it enough to satisfy the author*

*Pseudo-realists*

*Public wish to be amused rather than edified*

*Real aristocracy is above social prejudice*

*Reformers, who are so often tedious and  
ridiculous*

*Refused to see us as we see ourselves*

*Shackles of belief worn so long*

*She liked to get all she could out of her emotions*

*Society interested in a woman's past, not her future*

*Teach what they do not know*

*Somewhat too studied grace*

*Sunny gayety of self-forgetfulness*

*Secretly admires the splendors he affects to despise*

*Self-satisfied, intolerant, and hypocritical provinciality*

*Submitted, as people always do with the trials of others*

*Tediously analytical*

*They are so many and I am so few*

*Truth is beyond invention*

*Used to ingratitude from those he helped*

*Vacuous vulgarity*

*We did not know that we were poor*

*We're company enough for ourselves*

*What we thought ruin, but what was really release*

*When she's really sick, she's better*

*Wonder why we hate the past so?—"It's so damned humiliating!"*

*You can't go back to anything*

*You may do a great deal (of work), and not get on*

*You marry a man's future as well as his past*

*You cannot be at perfect ease with a friend who does not joke*

## COMPLETE QUOTATIONS

*Absolutely, so positively, so almost aggressively truthful*

*Abstract, the airdrawn, afflicted me like physical discomforts*

*Account of one's reading is an account of one's life*

*Adroitness in flattery is not necessary for its successful use*

*Affections will not be bidden*

*Aim at nothing higher than the amusement of your readers*

*Air of looking down on the highest*

*All in all to each other*

*Always sumptuously providing out of his destitution*



*Amiable perception, and yet with a sort of remote absence*

*Amiably satirical*

*Any man's country could get on without him*

*Appeal, which he had come to recognize as invasive*

*Artist has seasons, as trees, when he cannot blossom*

*Authorities*

*Authors I must call my masters*

*Became gratefully strange*

*Beginning to grow old with touching courage*

*Begun to fight with want from their cradles*

*Best talkers are willing that you should talk if you like*

*Boldest man is commonly a little behind a timid woman*

*Book that they are content to know at second hand*

*Browbeat wholesome common-sense into the self-distrust*

*Business to take advantage of his necessity*

*But now I remember that he gets twenty dollars a month*

*Buzz of activities and pretences*

*Capriciousness of memory: what it will hold and what lose*

*Chained to the restless pursuit of an ideal not his own*

*Christianity had done nothing to improve morals and conditions*

*Church: "Oh yes, I go! It 'most kills me, but I go"*

*Clemens was sole, incomparable, the Lincoln of our literature*

*Cold-slaw*

*Collective opacity*

*Comfort from the thought that most things cannot be helped*

*Competition has deformed human nature*

*Composed her features and her ideas to receive her visitor*

*Concerning popularity as a test of merit in a book*

*Conditions of hucksters imposed upon poets*

*Contemptible he found our pseudo-equality*

*Could only by chance be caught in earnest about anything*

*Could make us feel that our faults were other people's*

*Could not, as the saying is, find a stone to throw at a dog*

*Could easily believe now that it was some one else who saw it*

*Couldn't fire your revolver without bringing down a two volumer*

*Crimson which stained the tops and steeps of snow*

*Crimson torch of a maple, kindled before its time*

*Critical vanity and self-righteousness*

*Criticism still remains behind all the other literary arts*

*Critics are in no sense the legislators of literature*

*Dawn upon him through a cloud of other half remembered faces*

*Death of the joy that ought to come from work*

*Death's vague conjectures to the broken expectations of life*

*Despair broke in laughter*

*Despised the avoidance of repetitions out of fear of tautology*

*Dickens rescued Christmas from Puritan distrust*

*Dickens is purely democratic*

*Did not feel the effect I would so willingly have experienced*

*Didn't reason about their beliefs, but only argued*

*Dinner was at the old-fashioned Boston hour of two*

*Disbeliever in punishments of all sorts*

*Disposition to use his friends*

*Do not want to know about such squalid lives*

*Dollars were of so much farther flight than now*

*Dull, cold self-absorption*

*Early self-helpfulness of children is very remarkable*

*Effort to do and say exactly the truth, and to find it out*

*Either to deny the substance of things unseen, or to affirm it*

*Encounter of old friends after the lapse of years*

*Enjoying whatever was amusing in the disadvantage to himself*

*Errors of a weak man, which were usually the basest*

*Escaped at night and got into the boy's dreams*

*Espoused the theory of Bacon's authorship of Shakespeare*

*Ethical sense, not the aesthetical sense*

*Even a day's rest is more than most people can bear*

*Everlasting rock of human credulity and folly*

*Exchanging inaudible banalities*

*Express the appreciation of another's fit word*

*Eyes fixed steadfastly upon the future*

*Fact that it is hash many times warmed over that reassures them*

*Fate of a book is in the hands of the women*

*Fear of asking too much and the folly of asking too little*

*Feigned the gratitude which I could see that he expected*

*Felt that this was my misfortune more than my fault*

*Few men last over from one reform to another*

*Fictions subtle effect for good and for evil on the young*

*Flowers with which we garland our despair in that pitiless hour*

*For most people choice is a curse*

*Forbear the excesses of analysis*

*Forbearance of a wise man content to bide his time*

*Found life was not all poetry*

*Gay laugh comes across the abyss of the years*

*General worsening of things, familiar after middle life*

*Generous lover of all that was excellent in literature*

*Gift of waiting for things to happen*

*Glance of the common eye, is and always was the best light*

*God of chance leads them into temptation and adversity*

*Got out of it all the fun there was in it*

*Government is best which governs least*

*Greatest classics are sometimes not at all great*

*Greeting of great impersonal cordiality*

*Grieving that there could be such ire in heavenly minds*

*Habit of saying some friendly lying thing*

*Happy in the indifference which ignorance breeds in us*

*Hard to think up anything new*

*Hard of hearing on one side. But it isn't deafness!*

*Hardly any sort of bloodshed which I would not pardon*

*Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Autocrat clashed upon homeopathy*

*Hate of hate, The scorn of scorn, The love of love*

*He was a youth to the end of his days*

*He was not bored because he would not be*

*He had no time to make money*

*He was not constructive; he was essentially observant*

*He might walk home with her if he would not seem to do so*

*He's so resting*

*He's the same kind of a man that he was a boy*

*Heart of youth aching for their stoical sorrows*

*Heighten our suffering by anticipation*

*Heroic lies*

*His readers trusted and loved him*

*His plays were too bad for the stage, or else too good for it*

*His coming almost killed her, but it was worth it*

*His remembrance absolutely ceased with an event*

*Historian, who is a kind of inferior realist*

*Holiday literature*

*Hollow hilarities which people use to mask their indifference*

*Hollowness, the hopelessness, the unworthiness of life*

*Honest men are few when it comes to themselves*

*Honesty is difficult*

*Hopeful apathy in his face*

*Hospitable gift of making you at home with him*

*I do not think any man ought to live by an art*

*I did not know, and I hated to ask*

*If one were poor, one ought to be deserving*

*If he was half as bad, he would have been too bad to be*

*If one must, it ought to be champagne*  
*If he has not enjoyed writing no one will enjoy reading*  
*Imitators of one another than of nature*  
*Impropriety if not indecency promises literary success*  
*In the South there was nothing but a mistaken social ideal*  
*In school there was as little literature then as there is now*  
*Incoherencies of people meeting after a long time*  
*Incredible in their insipidity*  
*Industrial slavery*  
*Inexhaustible flow of statement, conjecture and misgiving*  
*Inexperience takes this effect (literary lewdness) for reality*  
*Insatiable English fancy for the wild America no longer there*  
*Insensate pride that mothers have in their children's faults*  
*Intellectual poseurs*  
*Intent upon some point in the future*  
*It was mighty pretty, as Pepys would say*  
*Joyful shame of children who have escaped punishment*  
*Kept her talking vacuities when her heart was full*  
*Kindness and gentleness are never out of fashion*  
*Kissing goes by favor, in literature as in life*  
*Languages, while they live, are perpetually changing*  
*Led a life of public seclusion*  
*Left him to do what the cat might*  
*Let fiction cease to lie about life*  
*Lewd literature seems to give a sanction to lewdness in the life*  
*Lie, of course, and did to save others from grief or harm*  
*Life alone is credible to the young*  
*Liked to find out good things and great things for himself*  
*Literature beautiful only through the intelligence*  
*Literature is Business as well as Art*  
*Literature has no objective value*  
*Little knot of conscience between her pretty eyebrows*  
*Lived a thousand little lies every day*  
*Livy: Well, if you are to be lost, I want to be lost with you*  
*Livy Clemens: the loveliest person I have ever seen*  
*Long-puerilized fancy will bear an endless repetition*  
*Long breath was not his; he could not write a novel*  
*Look of challenge, of interrogation, almost of reproof*  
*Looked as if Destiny had sat upon it*  
*Love of freedom and the hope of justice*  
*Luxury of helplessness*

*Made many of my acquaintances very tired of my favorite authors*

*Made them talk as seldom man and never woman talked*

*Malevolent agitators*

*Man is strange to himself as long as he lives*

*Man who had so much of the boy in him*

*Man who may any moment be out of work is industrially a slave*

*Marriages are what the parties to them alone really know*

*Married Man: after the first start-off he don't try*

*Meet here to the purpose of a common ostentation*

*Mellow cordial of a voice that was like no other*

*Men read the newspapers, but our women read the books*

*Men's lives ended where they began, in the keeping of women*

*Met with kindness, if not honor*

*Mind and soul were with those who do the hard work of the world*

*Mind of a man is the court of final appeal for the wisest women*

*Morbid egotism*

*Most desouthernized Southerner I ever knew*

*Most journalists would have been literary men if they could*

*Most serious, the most humane, the most conscientious of men*

*Motives lie nearer the surface than most people commonly pretend*

*Mustache, which in those days devoted a man to wickedness*

*My own youth now seems to me rather more alien*

*My reading gave me no standing among the boys*

*Napoleonic height which spiritually overtops the Alps*

*Nearly nothing as chaos could be*

*Neatness that brings despair*

*Never saw a man more regardful of negroes*

*Never paid in anything but hopes of paying*

*Never quite sure of life unless I find literature in it*

*Never appeals to the principle which sniffs, in his reader*

*Never saw a dead man whom he did not envy*

*New England necessity of blaming some one*

*No greatness, no beauty, which does not come from truth*

*No man more perfectly sensed and more entirely abhorred slavery*

*No man ever yet told the truth about himself*

*No rose blooms right along*

*No two men see the same star*

*No greatness, no beauty, which does not come from truth*

*No object in life except to deprive it of all object*

*Noble uselessness*

*None of the passions are reasoned*

*Not quite himself till he had made you aware of his quality*

*Not possible for Clemens to write like anybody else*

*Not much patience with the unmanly craving for sympathy*

*Not a man who cared to transcend; he liked bounds*

*Nothing in the way of sport, as people commonly understand it*

*Novels hurt because they are not true*

*Now little notion what it was about, but I love its memory*

*Now death has come to join its vague conjectures*

*NYC, a city where money counts for more and goes for less*

*Odious hilarity, without meaning and without remission*

*Offers mortifyingly mean, and others insultingly vague*

*Old man's disposition to speak of his infirmities*

*Old man's tendency to revert to the past*

*One could be openly poor in Cambridge without open shame*

*Only one concerned who was quite unconcerned*

*Openly depraved by shows of wealth*

*Ought not to call coarse without calling one's self prudish*

*Our huckstering civilization*

*Outer integument of pretence*

*Passive elegance which only ancestral uselessness can give*

*Pathetic hopefulness*

*Pathos of revolt from the colorless rigidities*

*People whom we think unequal to their good fortune*

*People of wealth and fashion always dissemble their joy*

*People have never had ideals, but only moods and fashions*

*Picture which, he said to himself, no one would believe in*

*Plagiarism carries inevitable detection with it*

*Plain-speaking or Rude Speaking*

*Plain industry and plodding perseverance are despised*

*Pointed the moral in all they did*

*Polite learning hesitated his praise*

*Praised it enough to satisfy the author*

*Praised extravagantly, and in the wrong place*

*Prejudice against certain words that I cannot overcome*

*Provisional reprehension of possible shiftlessness*

*Pseudo-realists*

*Public wish to be amused rather than edified*

*Public whose taste is so crude that they cannot enjoy the best*

*Put your finger on the present moment and enjoy it*

*Quiet but rather dull look of people slightly deaf*

*Rapture of the new convert could not last*

*Real artistocracy is above social prejudice*

*Reformers, who are so often tedious and ridiculous*  
*Refused to see us as we see ourselves*  
*Reparation due from every white to every black man*  
*Responsibility of finding him all we have been told he is*  
*Rogues in every walk of life*  
*Satirical smile with which men witness the effusion of women*  
*Secret of the man who is universally interesting*  
*Secretly admires the splendors he affects to despise*  
*Seen through the wrong end of the telescope*  
*Seldom talked, but there came times when he would'nt even listen*  
*Self-satisfied, intolerant, and hypocritical provinciality*  
*Shackles of belief worn so long*  
*She liked to get all she could out of her emotions*  
*Should probably have wasted the time if I had not read them*  
*Singleness of a nature that was all pose*  
*So long as we have social inequality we shall have snobs*  
*So refined, after the gigantic coarseness of California*  
*So many millionaires and so many tramps*  
*Society interested in a woman's past, not her future*  
*Sometimes they sacrificed the song to the sermon*  
*Somewhat shy of his fellow-men, as the scholar seems always to be.*  
*Somewhat too studied grace*  
*Sought the things that he could agree with you upon*  
*Spare his years the fatigue of recalling your identity*  
*Speaks it is not with words and blood, but with words and ink*  
*Spit some hapless victim: make him suffer and the reader laugh*  
*Standards were their own, and they were satisfied with them*  
*Study in a corner by the porch*  
*Stupefied by a life of unalloyed prosperity and propriety*  
*Stupidly truthful*  
*Style is the man, and he cannot hide himself in any garb*  
*Submitted, as people always do with the trials of others*  
*Sunny gayety of self-forgetfulness*  
*Superiority one likes to feel towards the rich and great*  
*Take our pleasures ungraciously*  
*Teach what they do not know*  
*Tediously analytical*  
*The old and ugly are fastidious as to the looks of others*  
*The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it*  
*The great trouble is for the man to be honest with her*  
*There is small love of pure literature*  
*They are so many and I am so few*



*Things common to all, however peculiar in each*

*Those who work too much and those who rest too much*

*Those who have sorrowed deepest will understand this best*

*Times when a man's city was a man's country*

*Tired themselves out in trying to catch up with him*

*To break new ground*

*To be exemplary is as dangerous as to be complimentary*

*Tone was a snuffle expressive of deep-seated affliction*

*Trace no discrepancy between reading his plays and seeing them*

*Tried to like whatever they bade me like*

*True to an ideal of life rather than to life itself*

*Truth is beyond invention*

*Two branches of the novelist's trade: Novelist and Historian*

*Under a fire of conjecture and asseveration*

*Understood when I've said something that doesn't mean anything*

*Unfailing American kindness*

*Unless we prefer a luxury of grief*

*Used to ingratitude from those he helped*

*Vacuous vulgarity*

*Visitors of the more inquisitive sex*

*Vulgarity: bad art to lug it in*

*Walter-Scotticized, pseudo-chivalry of the Southern ideal*

*Want something hard, don't you know; but I want it to be easy*

*Wasted face, and his gay eyes had the death-look*

*We have never ended before, and we do not see how we can end*

*We change whether we ought, or not*

*We see nothing whole, neither life nor art*

*We who have neither youth nor beauty should always expect it*

*We cannot all be hard-working donkeys*

*We did not know that we were poor*

*We're company enough for ourselves*

*What I had not I could hope for without unreason*

*What he had done he owned to, good, bad, or indifferent*

*What makes a better fashion change for a worse*

*What we thought ruin, but what was really release*

*Whatever is established is sacred with those who do not think*

*Whatever choice you make, you are pretty sure to regret it*

*When to be an agnostic was to be almost an outcast*

*When she's really sick, she's better*

*When was love ever reasoned?*

*Whether every human motive was not selfish*

*Wide leisure of a country village*

*Wishes of a mistress who did not know what she wanted*

*Wit that tries its teeth upon everything*

*With all her insight, to have very little artistic sense*

*Women don't seem to belong very much to themselves*

*Women talked their follies and men acted theirs*

*Wonder why we hate the past so?—"It's so damned humiliating!"*

*Wonderful to me how it should remain so unintelligible*

*Words of learned length and thundering sound*

*Work gives the impression of an uncommon continuity*

*Work not truly priced in money cannot be truly paid in money*

*World made up of two kinds of people*

*World seems to always come out at the same hole it went in at!*

*World's memory is equally bad for failure and success*

*Worldlier than the world*

*Worst came it was not half so bad as what had gone before*

*Wrote them first and last in the spirit of Dickens*

*You can't go back to anything*

*You cannot be at perfect ease with a friend who does not joke*

*You may do a great deal (of work), and not get on*

*You marry a man's future as well as his past*

*You were not afraid, and you were not bold; you were just right*

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