Abstract

Mark Twain had an opinion on everything (1). Because he was a keen social critic of his times these opinions are of interest in offering some insight into what our country was like during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth. Twain has been called the "American Voltaire" (2). George Bernard Shaw regarded him as a sociologist before all else (3) and said, "I am persuaded that the future historian of America will find [his] works indispensable" (4). Recently, an entire book has been published on the theme that Mark Twain was more a
Quite old criticism of Mark Twain from The Cambridge History of English and American Literature in 18 Volumes (1907-21). Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N. "Traveling with Twain in an Age of Simulations: Rereading and reliving The Innocents Abroad." Using manuscripts, nineteenth century reviews, images, and interactive exhibits drawn from the Special Collections at the U of Virginia, Professor Railton has created a visual web site on Mark Twain, "to allow readers, scholars, students and teachers to see what Mark Twain and His Times said about each other, in a way that can speak to us today." "The Twain Web," the web site of the Mark Twain Forum. Contains book reviews from book review editor Barbara Schmidt, access to the list's archives back to 1992, and several scholarly articles. As Mark Twain said later, many events in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" really took place and the characters were from real life. Tom Sawyer was very often a portrait of the writer; Huckleberry Finn was his friend, Tom Blankenhip; Aunt Polly was his mother; Tom's brother Sid was like his own brother Henry. When Samuel was eleven years old, his father died leaving nothing to his wife and four children. Samuel had to leave school and look for work. His elder brother was working as a printer and he helped the boy to learn printing. For some years Samuel worked as a printer for the in addition to his novels, Mark Twain wrote a great deal of short fiction, which can be divided, although often only arbitrarily, into short stories, tales, and humorous sketches. One of the best examples of his short stories is "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," and one of the best examples of his humorous sketches is the jumping frog story. As Mark Twain said later, many events in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" really took place and the characters were from real life. 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