

■ The Author's Lecture in Newark ■

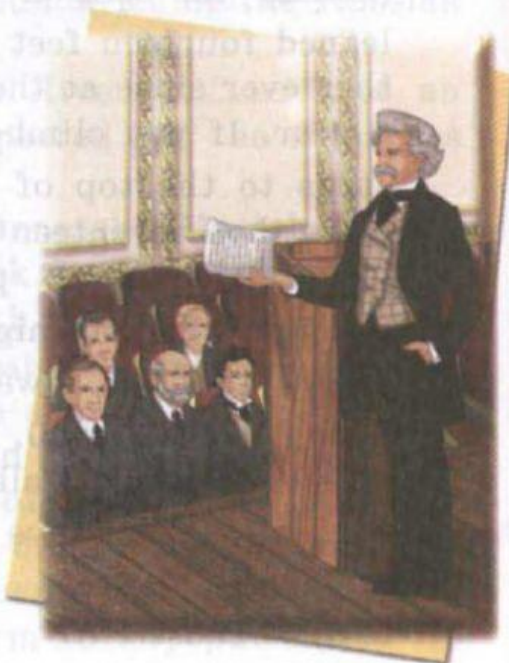
(after Mark Twain)

Not long ago I lectured in Newark for the young gentlemen of the society. During the afternoon of that day I (talk)¹ to one of them. He said he (have)² an uncle who for some reason or other (stop)³ (feel)⁴ any emotion. With tears in his eyes, this young man (exclaim)⁵, "Oh, if I (can)⁶ only (see)⁷ him (laugh)⁸ once more or (notice)⁹ tears in his eyes!" I (move)¹⁰. I (feel)¹¹ quite sorry for the young man. I said, "Bring him to my lecture. I (make)¹² him (show)¹³ some emotion!" I explained to the young man that I (know)¹⁴ some jokes that always (make)¹⁵ people (laugh)¹⁶. "But," I went on, "if those (not, work)¹⁷ I've got some others that (make)¹⁸ him (cry)¹⁹ or (kill)²⁰ him, one way or the other."

"Oh, if you (do)²¹ it, our family (be)²² very grateful to you," said the young man and went to get his uncle.

The next day the young gentleman's uncle (put)²³ in the first row of benches and I (begin)²⁴ on him. I (try)²⁵ him with light jokes, then with heavy jokes; I told him bad jokes and told him good ones; I fired old jokes at him, I fired red-hot new ones; I talked until I was hoarse and sick and angry but I never moved him once — I never (see)²⁶ a smile or a tear on his face. I more (surprise)²⁷

than ever. I closed the lecture with one last shout and fired my best joke on him. The president of the society (come)²⁸ up and asked, "What (make)²⁹ you so excited towards the end?" I explained. He (shake)³⁰ his head and said I (waste)³¹ my time as the old man was deaf and dumb and blind.



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