FULL MOON ON K STREET
POEMS ABOUT WASHINGTON DC
EDITED BY KIM ROBERTS
MARK TWAIN
“The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”
Mark Twain
aka Samuel Longhorn Clemens

1835-1910
Hannibal, Missouri
The New York Saturday Press, November 1865

Henry Clay, Jr., Editor.
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Afternoon Amusements to-day.

Academy of Music—Palm Beach Jim—Cave of the Patriarch—Frog—Wall Street—Woodward's—Baron de Rothschild

We give up the principal portion of our editorial space, to-day, to an unexpectedly important subject—"Jim Smiley and his Jumping Frog."—By Mark Twain, who will shortly become a regular contributor to our column. Mark Twain is the assumed name of a writer in California who has long been a favorite contributor to the San Francisco press, from whose articles he has been so extensively copied as to make him nearly as well known as Artemus Ward.

We have the pleasure of introducing to our readers this week, Mr. Jim Smiley, whom we will have to speak for himself.

Our dramatic and musical critics being unwell this week, and "Frogs," on account of recent affluence, not being on duty, we are obliged to substitute for that department of the paper a few simple announcements.

The opera Monday evening at the Academy will be "Don Giovanni." This evening's Opera is "Cavalleria Rusticana in Brooklyn.

Mr. Forrest's next performance at Niblo's will be "Othello," which is announced for Monday evening.

Mr. J. S. Clark resume his engagement at the Winter Garden next week, playing the part of Bob Beatty in "The Ticket of Leave Man.

The play of "Arms and the Man," which has been repeated this week at Niblo's, is made more attractive than ever by the delicious music and grace with which the character of Armand is performed by Mrs. Agnes Perry. This lady is conspicuously unknown in New York, but is one of the most finished actresses in her line in the country.

Frank Chadban continues to draw immense crowds to the Broadway, where his "Son" is getting to be nearly as famous as "Daddy." It is rumored, by the way, that an arrangement has been made by which the scenes are not Owen's will return to the Broadway. Chadban will certainly remain, however, through the holidays, and might remain for another year.
The Story That Helped Launch Twain’s Career

THE STORY

• First published in The New York Saturday Press in November 1865 as “Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog.” Also published as “The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.”

• It was quickly reprinted throughout the country. Copyright laws in the 1800s were nearly nonexistent. Magazines and newspapers stole shamelessly from each other.

• Became the first story of a short story collection of the same name.
THE PLOT

- Set in a Western mining camp, much like the one Twain lived in out west.
- The story of a stranger, an outsider, who meets a local and hears a very tall tale, and doesn’t really appreciate it.
- The most amazing frog named Dan’l Webster who can out jump any frog, except with a bunch of lead shot in its stomach.
- The story is a letter – told by an unwilling narrator and listener.
STRUCTURE AND TECHNIQUES

- The frame: A story within a story.
- Regionalism: How does the East encounter the West?
- The tall tale.
- Vernacular – Twain was known for his use of vernacular and dialect. How does this impact how we read?
WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

“Editha”
Howells and Twain. So Dapper.
William Dean Howells: Writer, Editor, Statesman

- Born in Ohio in 1837. Ohio was still considered the West.
- 1860: Publishes a campaign biography of Lincoln before his nomination for president.
- 1861: Moves to Venice to work in the American consulate.
- 1864: Returns to the U.S. and begins to work for The Nation.
- 1866: Becomes an editor at Atlantic Monthly and moves to Boston.
- 1869: Meets Twain! They’re friends for the rest of their lives.
- 1871: Becomes the Editor of the Atlantic, the first westerner to hold the position.
- Would also eventually write for Harper’s.
- Dies 1920.
“Editha”

- Plot: what happens?
- How does the Spanish-American War recall the Civil War? How does it for different characters: George? His mother?
- The media’s role in stirring the nation to war.
- Patriotism
  - “God meant it to be war.”
  - Fighting for American glory.
- How does Editha manipulate George into enlisting? How are we as readers supposed to understand her? Are we supposed to like her?
- Howells’ own views on the war. Fiction as a mouthpiece for political ideas.
“War is Kind” by Stephen Crane

Do not weep, maiden, for war is kind.
Because your lover threw wild hands toward the sky
And the affrighted steed ran on alone,
Do not weep.
War is kind.

Hoarse, booming drums of the regiment,
Little souls who thirst for fight,
These men were born to drill and die.
The unexplained glory files above them,
Great is the battle-god, great, and his kingdom--
A field where a thousand corpses lie.

Do not weep, babe, for war is kind.
Because your father tumbled in the yellow trenches,
Raged at his breast, gulped and died,
Do not weep.
War is kind.
“Is it true?—true to the motives, the impulses, the principles that shape the life of actual men and women?”

– Howells and Literary Realism
The Sentimental vs. the Real

- The sentimental vs. the real. Editha wants to imagine herself as the heroine of a sentimental story. How does that impact George’s reality?
- Is the sentimental dangerous?
- Sentimental women vs. REAL MEN.