



BEN BOLT,

❧NOTES.❧

Miss Mary Johnston's romance, *Sir Mortimer*, which, after a long postponement, begins in *Harper's Magazine* for November, has been written under unusual circumstances. The story, which has commenced publication in May, 1902, and the first instalments had been placed in the hands of the artist, Mr. C. Yohn, for illustration: Just as the story, Miss Johnston felt ill, and was unable to continue the work. Messrs. Harper & Brothers then announced the necessary postponement of the novel. Meanwhile Miss Johnston had ordered Dr. Bernadine, a physician and an avowed Quaker, to be kept to write for an hour each day, pluckily resumed her work, expending, as is her custom, the most minute care in her writing, and the pages poured out received the polish. No content with the usual work of revision, however, it is remarkable under the circumstances that Miss Johnston has composed a novel in the past tense, a revised proof so anxious has she been to make *Sir Mortimer* her greatest novel. Evidence of this careful work is quite apparent in the November instalment, which is a masterpiece of style and art, but has more of the natural spirit of the language of Queen Elizabeth's court, of the true Shakespearean language, than almost any modern work that has appeared. The scene is laid in a setting upon Elizabeth; (he hero, *Sir Mortimer*, an officer in her majesty's fleet, commanded by Sir John Nevill. It is interesting to conjecture what rows of soldiers would have been seen to read and absorb to enable her so richly to preserve the very aroma of

CHARACTER.

Mark Twain's story in the Christmas

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OUR LONDON LITERARY LETTER.

It was quite a happy thought on the part of the members of the Dickens fellowship of this country to elect as its new president Henry Fielding Dickens, the novelist's only living son. Appropriate, too, for there is no more enthusiastic "Dickensite" in England than the prominent king's counsel, who literally knows his father's works by

kept on hand, and ready, like a life preserver, a kind of emergency "word strap," which he usually pulled out and fastened overboard in a sudden way—that was the word synonymous. When she happened to fetch out a long word which had had no day weeks before, it was as if she were saying, "I mean you here,"—the message got to her, and she dumped it. If there was a stranger's name, for example, she would say, "For of course, it knocked him GROGGERY for a couple of minutes, then he would come to, and by that time the wind on another tack, and not expecting anything; so when he'd halt and ask her to cash in (the only dog on the inside of her game) come back, and she would say, "But only just a moment—then it would belly out taut and full, and she would say, as calm as a summer's day, "It's synonymous with sympathy." It was a little bit of a simile of the sea, like that, and go placidly about and skim away on the next tack, perfectly comfortable, you know, and enable that stranger looking on to remember that she initiated slapping the floor with their tails in unison and their faces transfigured with a holy joy—Mark Twain.

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-39	80%
40-49	75%
50-59	70%
60-69	65%
70+	60%

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