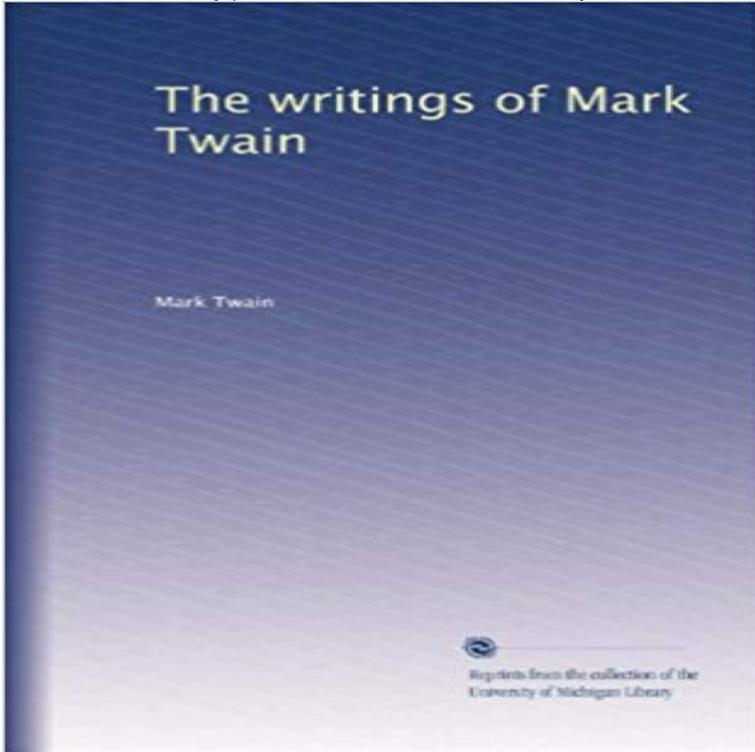


The writings of Mark Twain (Volume 25)



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1907 Excerpt: ...she goes through the motions of making it difficult to get membership in her Church. There is a twofold value in this system: it gives membership a high value in the eyes of the applicant; and at the same time the requirements exacted enable Mrs. Eddy to keep him out if she has doubts about his value to her. A word further as to applications for membership: Applications of students of the Metaphysical College must be signed by the Board of Directors. That is safe. Mrs. Eddy is proprietor of that Board. Children of twelve may be admitted if invited by one of Mrs. Eddy's loyal students, or by a First Member, or by a Director. These sponsors are the property of Mrs. Eddy, therefore her Church is safeguarded from the intrusion of undesirable children. Other Students. Applicants who have not studied with Mrs. Eddy can get in only by invitation and recommendation from students of Mrs. Eddy... or from members of the Mother Church. Other paragraphs explain how two or three other varieties of applicants are to be challenged and obstructed, and tell us who is authorized to invite them, recommend them, indorse them, and all that. The safeguards are definite, and would seem to be sufficiently strenuous--to Mr. Sam Jones, at any rate. Not for Mrs. Eddy. She adds this clincher: The candidates shall be elected by a majority vote of the First Members present. That is the aristocracy, the aborigines, the Sanhedrim It is Mrs. Eddy's property. She herself is the Sanhedrin. No one can get into the Church if she wishes to keep him out. This veto power could some time or other have a large value for her, therefore she was wise to reserve it. It is likely that it

is not frequently used. It is also probable that the difficulties attendant upon getting admis...

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