



Mark Twain (1835-1910, as Samuel L. Clemens):

Soon after Mark Twain bought a publishing house, a friend bumped into him and asked him how he was.

“Splendid!” replied Twain enthusiastically. “I was fortunate to be let in on the ground floor!”

Some time later, after the publishing firm went bankrupt, the same friend bumped into Twain again, and hearing the sad news, inquired, “What happened? You told me you were let in on the ground floor!”

“So I was,” answered Mark Twain. “But there was a son-of-a-bitch in the basement!”

- *From The Wit & Wisdom of Mark Twain*
Alex Ayres, editor

“Loyalty to petrified opinions never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul in this world – and never will.”

- *“Consistency”, essay, 1923*

“One of my theories is that the hearts of men are about alike, no matter what their skin-complexions may be.”

- *A letter to Alvert Sonnichsen, 1901*

“Nothing so needs reforming as other people’s habits.”

- *Pudd’nhead Wilson, 1894, ch. 15*

“Man – he is the only animal that loves his neighbor as himself, and cuts his throat if his theology isn’t straight.”

- *“The Lowest Animal,” essay, 1897*

“May you always keep your youth.”

- *“Simplified Spelling”, speech, 1906*