

CHAPTER 23

Summary

Miles tells Edward to be quiet so he can get out of the situation. When the constable comes forward to take Edward, Miles goes with them. In court, Edward is accused and found guilty. The contents of the bundle is a fattened, dressed pig worth three shillings and eightpence. The law states that the penalty for any stolen goods valued over 13 pence is hanging. The woman changes the total value to eightpence to save Edward. The constable follows the woman out of court and forces her to sell him the pig for eightpence or else suffer blackmail because she changed the value. Edward is astonished to be sentenced to a short imprisonment and a public flogging. Hendon advises him to stay calm and to let God's will happen.

Historical Note

- Henry VIII debased British currency by reducing the amount of silver in coins in order to reduce debts incurred in war and personal extravagance.

Question to think about

- I. What is Twain's intent in showing the blackmailing scene between the constable and the woman?

CHAPTER 24

Summary

Hendon blackmails the constable about the pig purchase to let Edward escape. When the constable says it was a joke, Hendon says he'll ask the judge if it seems like a joke. Hendon names the constable's crime, "*Non compos mentis lex talionis sic transit gloria mundi*," which, literally translated, means "Not of sound mind law of retaliation thus passes away the glory of the world" in other words, gobbledegook. The constable believes it. Miles adds, "*Ad hominem expurgatis in statu quo*" (To the man you cleanse in the existing state) for good measure.

Question

- I. What does the crime Hendon cites literally mean? How does this add to the humor of the situation? What does this say about Hendon's education? About the constable's education?