

### Group 3: King Leopold's Soliloquy by Mark Twain (1905), 25 f.



Image: Mark Twain, *King Leopold's Soliloquy*, preface

“Another madman wants to construct a memorial for the perpetuation of my name, out of my 15,000,000 skulls and skeletons, and is full of vindictive enthusiasm over his strange project. He has it all ciphered out and drawn to scale. Out of the skulls he will build a combined monument and mausoleum to me, which shall exactly duplicate the Great Pyramid of Cheops [...].

He desires to stuff me and stand me up in the sky on that apex, robed and crowned, with my "pirate flag" in one hand and a butcher-knife and pendant handcuffs in the other.

He will build the pyramid in the centre of a depopulated tract, a brooding solitude covered with weeds and the mouldering ruins of burned villages, where the spirits of the starved and murdered dead will voice their laments forever in the whispers of the wandering winds.

Radiating from the pyramid, like the spokes of a wheel, there are to be forty grand avenues of approach, each thirty-five miles long, and each fenced on both sides by skullless skeletons standing a yard and a half apart and festooned

together in line by short chains stretching from wrist to wrist and attached to tried and true old handcuffs stamped with my private trade mark, a crucifix and butcher-knife crossed.”

- 1) Define the type of writing. Is the text best described as diary, fiction, novella, novel, pamphlet, poem, political satire, travel writing or official report? Find at least three different stylistic devices that the writer uses to set the tone for its genre.
- 2) Analyse what the text reveals about the writer's personal experiences and convictions?