



# Failures and Those Who Love Them

WISE Spring 2020

# Course schedule

Date	Topics
2/4	Introduction
2/11	Technology and Education
2/18	<b>History and Politics</b>
2/25	Sports and the Performing Arts
3/5	Conclusions

# Info

- **Course materials**

- Course slides and related materials are available on <https://queenlake.com/wise/wise-spring-2020/failures/>.

- **Contact information**

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# In the news - Coronavirus

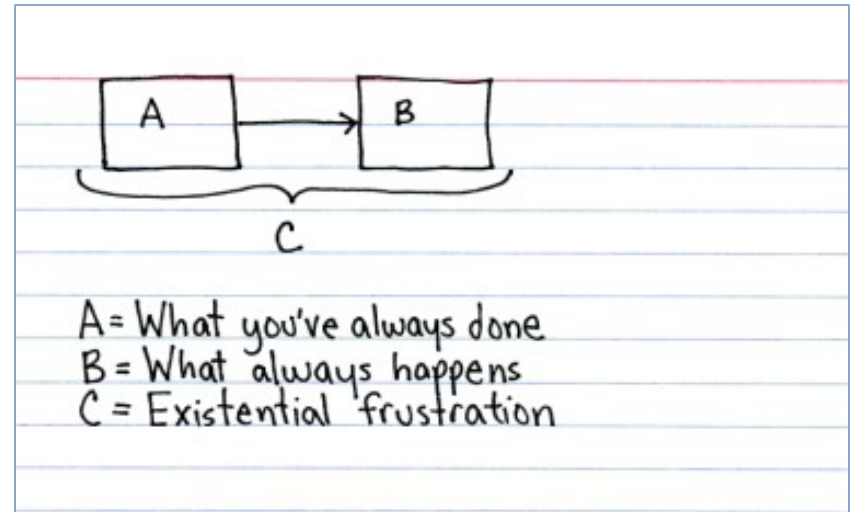
- U.S. officials have expressed frustrations with their Chinese counterparts over the levels of information they have shared about the virus.
- Apple says the coronavirus will cause it to miss its revenue goals
- Baseless Conspiracy Theories Claim New Coronavirus Was Bioengineered
- We're Reading the Coronavirus Numbers Wrong

# In the news – Democratic caucuses and primaries

- Iowa Democratic Party chairman resigns over caucus debacle
- Past remarks are challenging for Bloomberg, and fair game for rivals

# Growth, change, and all that

- Dweck – Growth mindset embraces mistakes as paths to learning
- Taleb – Antifragile people, systems, and countries depend on challenges in order to grow. Those that safe become fragile and die.
- Weinberger – “The internet has taught us many things, and one is that anticipation doesn’t scale.”

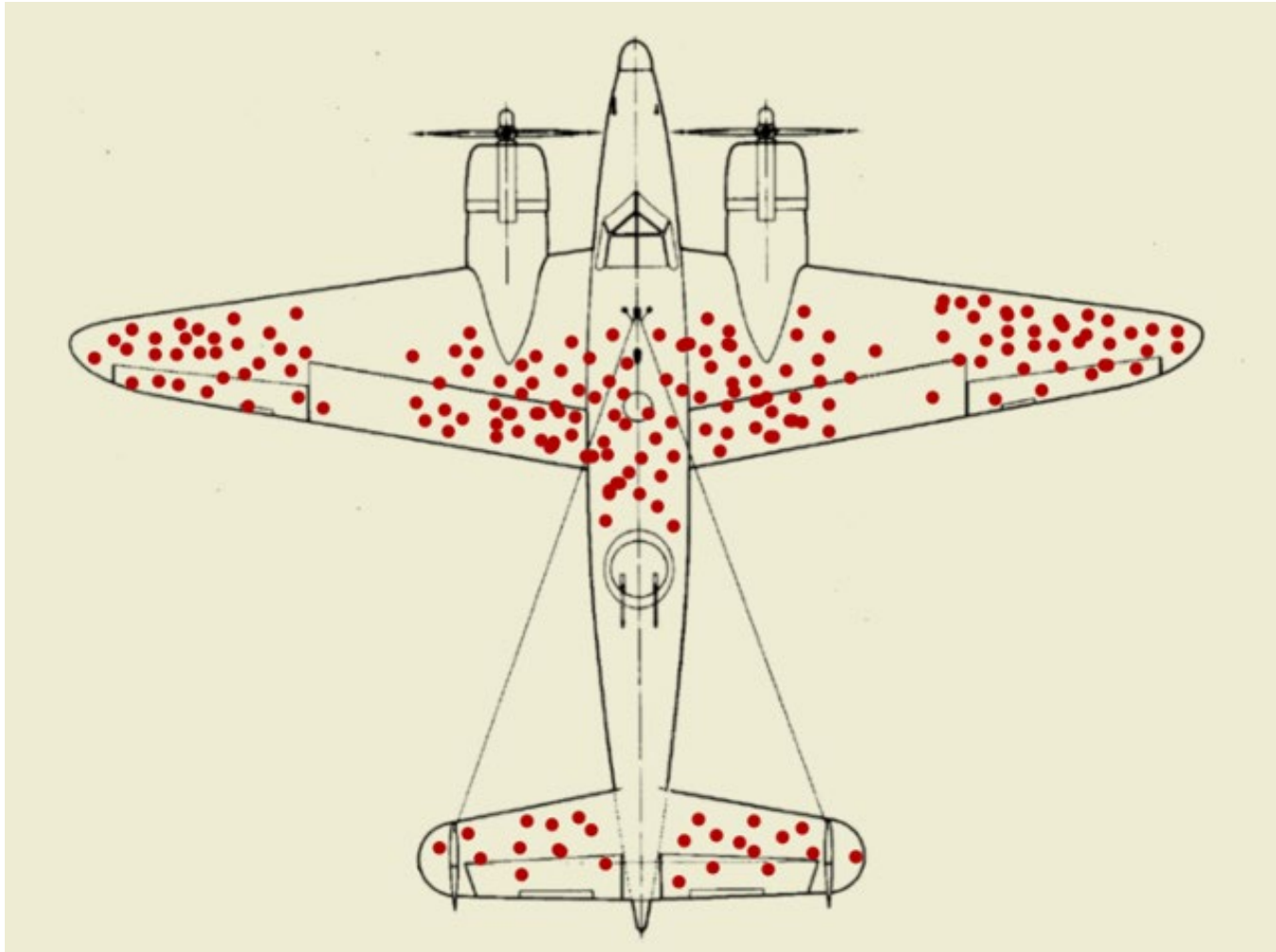


Five studies demonstrated the name-pronunciation effect: easy-to-pronounce names (and the people who bear them) are evaluated more positively than difficult-to-pronounce names.

-- “The name-pronunciation effect: Why people like Mr. Smith more than Mr. Colquhoun”

Luck as a success factor

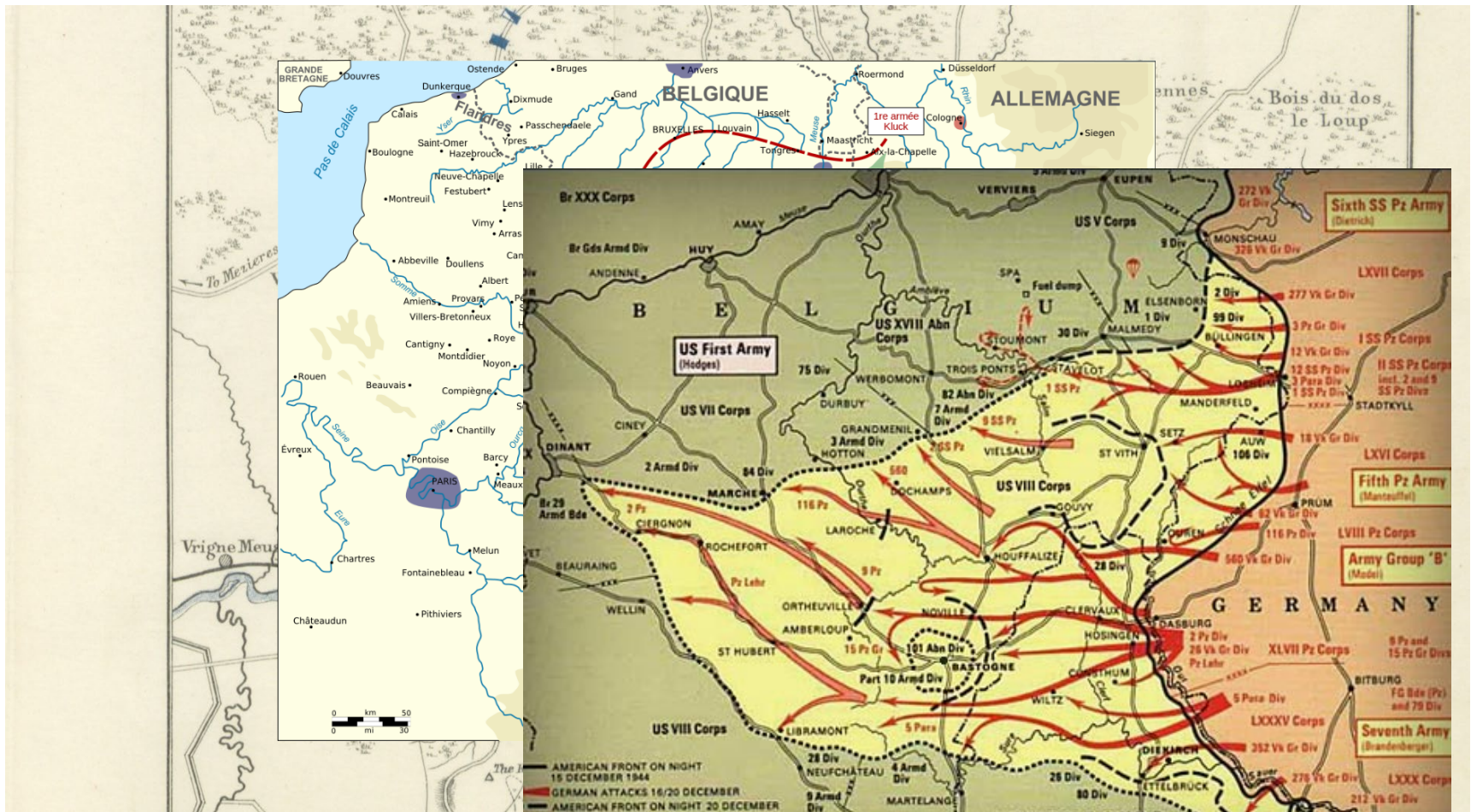




## 'A Method of Estimating Plane Vulnerability Based on Damage of Survivors'



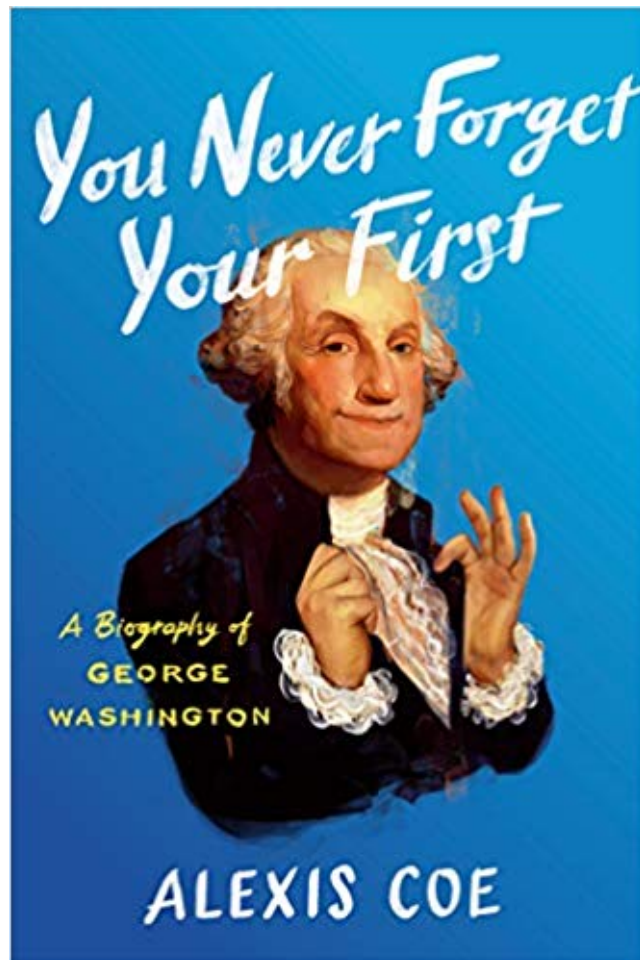
Humans are hardwired to dismiss facts that don't fit their worldview



“If you want to prepare for war, don't study military history.”

## How History Gets Things Wrong The Neuroscience of Our Addiction to Stories – Alex Rosenberg

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## What We Still Don't Get About George Washington – Alexis Coe, NYT, 2/18/20





He lost in Long Island. And then he won again when he crossed the Delaware,

## George Washington

# Robert Mugabe –

**As revolutionary**



BBCL Robert Mugabe: Is Zimbabwe's ex-president a hero or villain?

**As autocrat**



France 24: Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe: From liberation hero to autocrat

## MULHOLLAND WINS ORATORICAL PRIZE

### South Pasadena High School Youth Takes Second Place At Whittier Contest

SOUTH PASADENA, April 13.—With "Our Constitution: 'The Exemplification of Public Opinion,'" as his subject, Charles Mulholland of the South Pasadena high school, last night took second place in the divisional meet of the Southern California Oratorical contest held at Whittier. The winner was Richard Nixon of Whittier high school.

South Pasadena and Whittier were honored this year by being placed in Division 41 by themselves. Recently each school held an elimination contest, selecting four students each to meet last night.

#### Stirring Speech

Mulholland's speech in part was as follows:

"Embedded deeply in the souls of men from the earliest period of recorded time to the birth of Democracy, there has always been a muffled spark of ambition. At certain intervals of history this spark has flamed into a full-blown declaration, forcing itself to be heard by the mightiest powers of

## South Pasadena Services and Activities Are

SOUTH PASADENA, April 13.—Sunday and week-day activities for South Pasadena today are as follows:

**South Pasadena Christian Church**  
Corner Fremont avenue and Lyndon dena. Sunday services—9:30 a. m., ch

Richardson, Ganaway, taught by t Lyndon str a.m. sermon Vow." Spe Rogers con dress, "Hov The pasto present a l Testament dent who v of the add to the Bun South Pasai Notices—Dr pastor of speak Wed cliffe, the sion No. 1 and urge at ternoon the church at hall. Frida rehearsal, for Ascensi

## PRIZEWINNER



I don't get no respect.



## Fragile, Anti-Fragile, or Madman?

“Well, when the president does it ... that means that it is not illegal.”

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## Jared Diamond – Upheaval



## Is Trump Fragile or Anti-Fragile?



## London Mayor and future Prime Minister Boris Johnson



## Boris Johnson prepares for the 2012 Olympics





The stories we tell ourselves

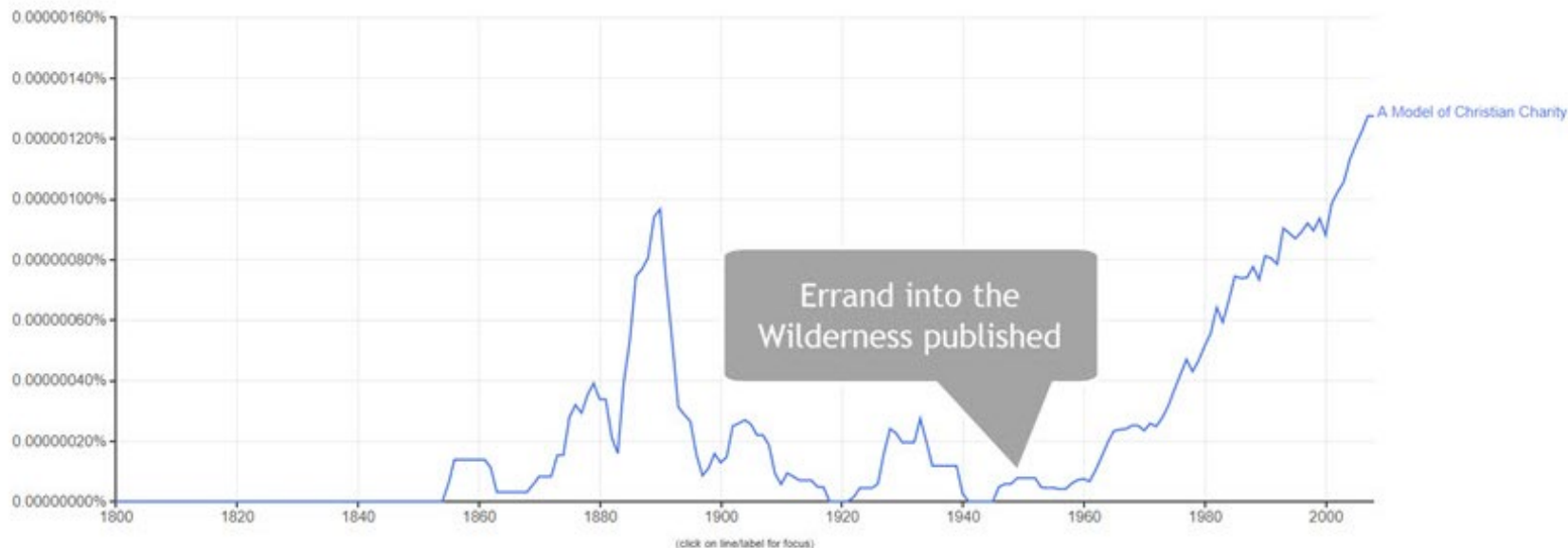
**How America Became “A City Upon a Hill”**  
**Perry Miller and John Winthrop**

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Graph these comma-separated phrases:  ☐ case-insensitive

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# Popularity of John Winthrop's essay

The place and the people struck me as the most democratic I had ever met. It was a place to extinguish all aristocratic pretensions. There was no high, no low, no masters, no servants, no white, no black.

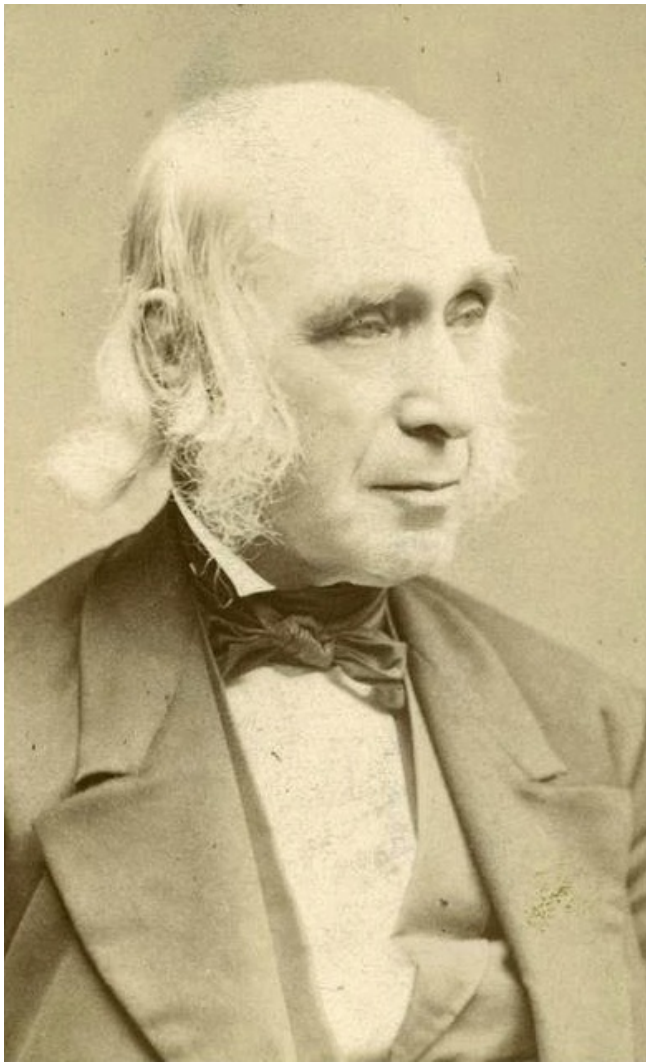
“What I found at the Northampton Association”  
– Frederick Douglass, 1895



Samuel Whitmarsh's second factory,  
later the home of the Northampton  
Association for Education and Industry

## Utopian communities of the 19th century





## Amos Bronson and Louisa May Alcott

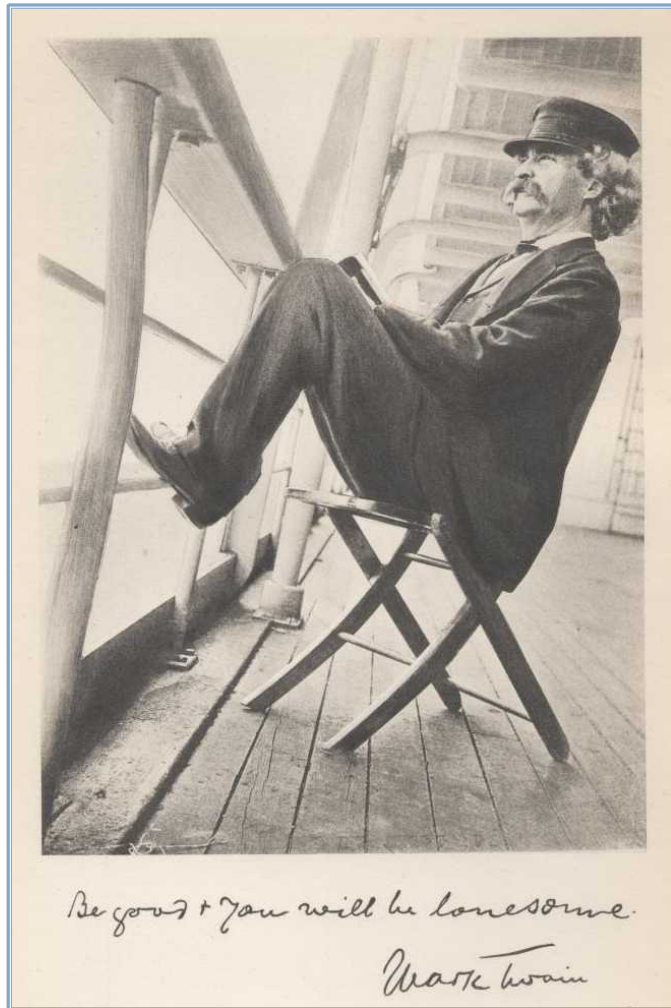


Paige and I always meet on effusively affectionate terms and yet he knows perfectly well that if I had his nuts in a steel-trap I would shut out all human succor and watch that trap till he died.

Mark Twain *Autobiography*

A hustler got out-hustled

# Following the Equator



**MARK TWAIN**  
**MARK TWAIN**  
THE  
**Greatest Humourist of the Age**  
WHO  
On Friday afternoon held a thronged and fashionable audience in a ripple of laughter from start to finish will  
**Next Monday Afternoon at 5-30**  
GIVE HIS FAMOUS  
**SECOND MARK TWAIN "AT HOME"**  
**SECOND MARK TWAIN "AT HOME"**  
IN THE  
**NOVELTY THEATRE**  
WHEN AN  
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ENTERTAINMENT  
Will be presented.  
In compliance with the desire of many who are unable to attend the afternoon recitals, Mr. Clemens will  
**Next Tuesday Evening at 9-30**  
**Next Tuesday Evening at 9-30**  
GIVE  
**Farewell Mark Twain "At Home"**  
WITH  
More Life and Character Sketches.  
Rs. 4 ; 3 ; 2 ; 1. Plan & Tickets at SOUNDY'S.  
R. S. SMYTHE.

*If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on  
one turn of pitch-and-toss, And lose and start again at your  
beginnings And never breathe a word about your loss; If you can  
force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long  
after they are gone, And so bold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them "Hold on!"*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk  
with Kings, nor lose the common touch, If neither for nor loving  
friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too  
much; If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds'  
worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's  
in it, And which is more - you'll be a Man my son!*



*Written by Rudyard Kipling circa 1895*

## Rudyard Kipling "If –"



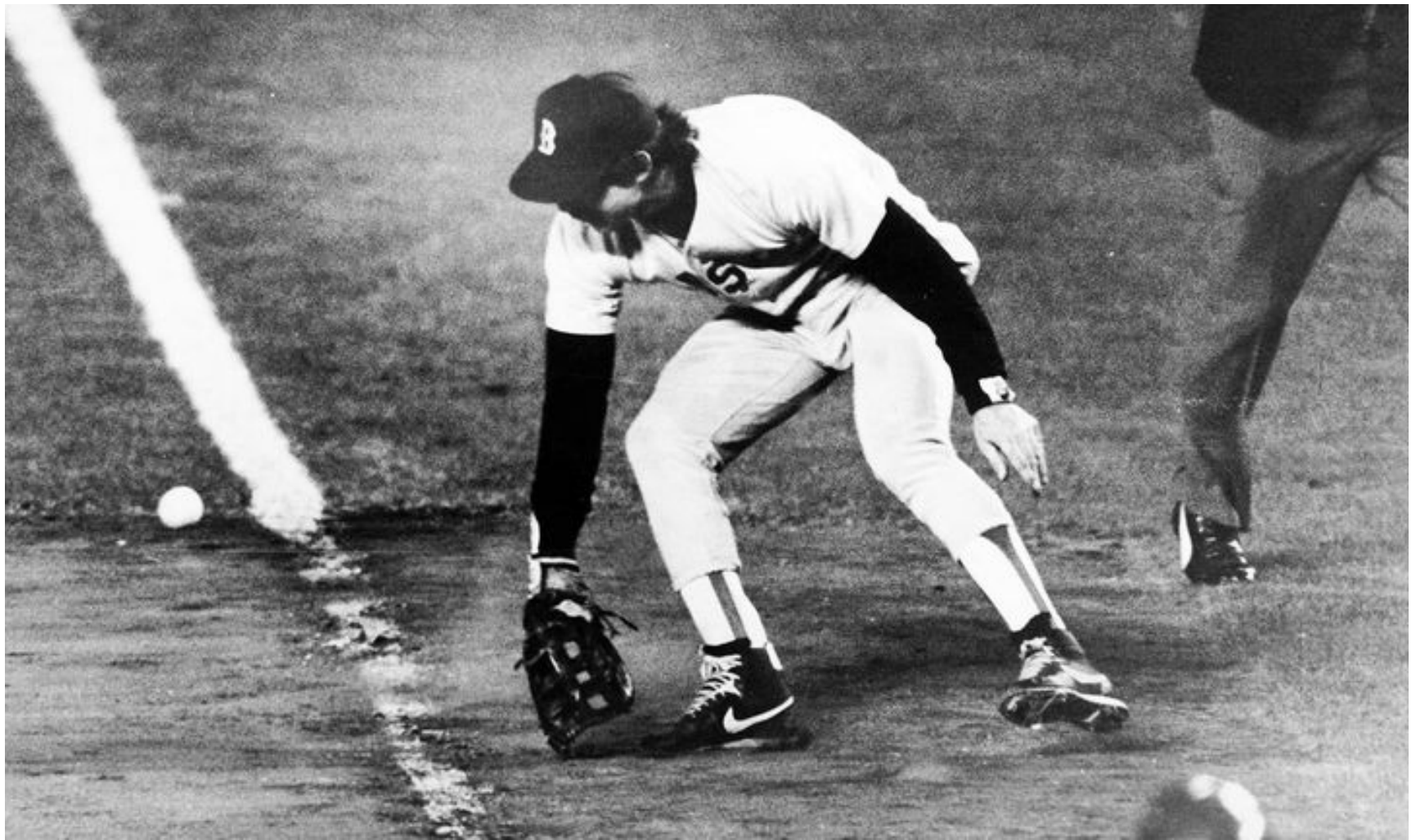
## Kipling's Vermont home

**Naulakha, Dummerston VT – “Where Kipling Reared Mowgli (in Vermont)”**  
*New York Times*, March 18, 2010

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Next week