

31. ACCIDENT, Significant. *Norman Duke William.* [Battle of Hastings.] When he prepared to arm himself, he called first for his good hauberk, and a man brought it on his arm, and placed it before him; but in putting his head in, to get it on, he unawares turned it the wrong way, with the back part in front. He soon changed it; but when he saw those who stood by were sorely alarmed, he said, "I have seen many a man who, if such a thing had happened to him, would not have borne arms, or entered the field the same day; but I never believed in omens, and I never will. I trust in God, for He does in all things His pleasure, and ordains what is to come to pass according to His will. I have never liked fortune-tellers, nor believed in diviners; but I commend myself to Our Lady. Let not this mischance give you trouble. The hauberk which was turned wrong, and then set right by me, signifies that a change will arise out of the matter which we are now stirring. You shall see the name of the duke changed into king. Yea, a king shall I be, who hitherto have been but duke." [He was unharmed in battle.] —**DECISIVE BATTLES**, § 309.

32. ACCIDENT utilized. *Son of Ali.* A familiar story is related of the benevolence of one of the sons of Ali. In serving at table, a slave had inadvertently dropped a dish of scalding broth on his master; the heedless wretch fell prostrate, to deprecate his punishment, and repeated a verse of the Koran: "Paradise is for those who command their anger:"—"I am not angry:"—"and for those who pardon offences:"—"I pardon your offence:"—"and for those who return good for evil:"—"I give you your liberty, and four hundred pieces of silver."—**GIBBON'S ROME**, ch. 50.

33. — — — Norman Invasion. When Duke William himself landed, as he stepped on the shore he slipped, and fell forward upon his two hands. Forthwith all raised a loud cry of distress. "An evil sign," said they, "is here." But he cried out lustily, "See, my lords, by the splendor of God, I have taken possession of England with both my hands. It is now mine, and what is mine is yours."—**DECISIVE BATTLES**, § 297.

34. ACCOMPLISHMENTS, Worthy. *Themistocles.* [The prudent Athenian general] was laughed at, in company where free scope was given to raillery, by persons who passed as more accomplished in what was called gentle breeding; he was obliged to answer them with some asperity: "'Tis true I never learned how to tune a harp or play upon a lute, but I know how to raise a small and inconsiderable city to glory and greatness."—**PLUTARCH**.

35. ACKNOWLEDGMENT, Slender. *Postage.* The only acknowledgment of his twenty-five years' services which John Adams carried with him in his unwelcome and mortifying retirement, was the privilege which had been granted to Washington on his withdrawal from the presidency, and after his death to his widow, and bestowed likewise upon all subsequent ex-presidents and their widows, of receiving his letters free of postage for the remainder of his life.—**AM. CYC.**, "JOHN ADAMS."

36. ACQUAINTANCE, Brief. *Am. Indians.* The English [colonists] received a friendly wel-

come . . . on the island of Roanoke. . . "The people were most gentle and loving and faithful, void of all guile and treason, and such as live after the manner of the Golden Age." [They afterward learned] the practice of inviting men to a feast, that they might be murdered in the hour of confidence.—**BANCROFT'S HIST. OF U. S.**, ch. 3.

37. ACQUAINTANCE, Unwelcome. *Samuel Johnson.* He gave us an entertaining account of *Bet Flint*, a woman of the town, who, with some eccentric talents and much effrontery, forced herself upon his acquaintance. "Bet (said he) wrote her own life in verse, which she brought to me, wishing that I would furnish her with a preface to it. (Laughing.) I used to say of her, that she was generally slut and drunkard—occasionally, whore and thief. She had, however, genteel lodgings, a spinnet on which she played, and a boy that walked before her chair."—**BOSWELL'S JOHNSON**, p. 461.

38. ACROSTIC, Political. *Reign of Charles II.* It happened by a whimsical coincidence that, in 1671, the cabinet consisted of five persons, the initial letters of whose names made up the word Cabal: Clifford, Arlington, Buckingham, Ashley, and Lauderdale.—**MACAULAY'S HIST. OF ENGL.**, ch. 2.

39. ACTIVITY, Roman. *Roman Navy.* In the first Punic war the republic had exerted such incredible diligence, that within sixty days after the first stroke of the axe had been given in the forest a fleet of one hundred and sixty galleys proudly rode at anchor in the sea.—**GIBBON'S ROME**, ch. 3.

40. ACTION, Decisive. *Colonel Gordon.* [Lord George Gordon was a contemptible demagogue, who brought a clamorous mob of sixty thousand persons to the House of Parliament; he reported for their vengeance the names of the members who spoke against the petition in their behalf which he had presented, while they waited in palace yard with many threatening demonstrations. His crowd twice attempted to force the doors. Expostulation with the fanatic was in vain.] At last, Colonel Gordon, a near relative, went up to him and said: "My Lord George, do you intend to bring your rascally adherents into the House of Commons? If you do, the first man of them that enters—I will plunge my sword, not into him, but into your body." A party of horse-guards at length arrived, and the rabble went home.—**KNIIGHT'S ENGL.**, vol. 6, ch. 26.

41. ACTIONS speak. *Declaring War.* [Ancus, one of the early kings of Rome,] created a college of sacred Heralds, called Fetiales, whose business it was to demand reparation for injuries in a regular and formal manner, and in case of refusal to declare war by hurling a spear into the enemy's land.—**LIDDELL'S ROME**.

42. — — — Cutting off . . . tallest Pop-pies. The only Latin town that defied Tarquin's power was Gabii; and Sextus, the king's youngest son, promised to win this place also for his father. So he fled from Rome and presented himself at Gabii; and there he made complaints of his father's tyranny and prayed for protection. The Gabians believed him, and took him into their city, and they