

so frequently employed by way of reproach to the New England people, is said to be as follows. A farmer, by name Jonathan Hastings, of Cambridge, about the year 1713, used it as a cant, favorite word, to express excellency when applied to any thing; as a Yankee good horse, Yankee cider, &c., meaning an excellent horse and excellent cider. The students at college, having frequent intercourse with Mr. Hastings, and hearing him employ the term on all occasions, adopted it themselves, and gave him the name of Yankee Jonathan; this soon became a cant word among the collegians to express a weak, simple, awkward person, and from college it was carried and circulated through the country, till, from its currency in New England, it was at length taken up and unjustly applied to the New Englanders in common, as a term of reproach. It was in consequence of this that a particular song, called 'Yankee doodle,' was composed in derision of those scornfully called Yankees."—J. Thatcher, *Military Journal during the Revolutionary War*, p. 19.—"Dr. William Gordon, in his Hist. of the American War, ed. 1789, vol. I., pp. 324, 325, says it was a favourite cant word in Cambridge, Mass., as early as 1713, and that it meant 'excellent.' . . . Cf. Lowland Sc. 'yankle,' a sharp, clever, forward woman; 'yanker,' an agile girl, an incessant speaker; 'yanker,' a smart stroke, a great falsehood; 'yank,' a sudden and severe blow, a sharp stroke; 'yanking,' active, pushing (Jamieson). . . . If Dr. Gordon's view be right, the word 'yankee' may be identified with the Sc. 'yankie,' as above; and all the Scotch words appear to be of Scand. origin, due, ultimately Icel. 'jaga,' to move about. . . . The fundamental idea's that of 'quick motion'; see 'yacht.' But the word cannot be said to be solved."—W. W. Skeat, *Etymolog. Dict.*—"The best authorities on the subject now agree upon the derivation of this term from the imperfect effort made by the Northern Indians to pronounce the word 'English.'"—M. Schele de Vere, *Americanisms*, p. 22.

ALSO IN: *Notes and Queries*, series 1, v. 6, p. 57.

YANKTONS, The. See AMERICAN ABO-RIGINES: SIOUAN FAMILY.

YAP. See CAROLINE ISLANDS.

YARD-LAND. See HIDE OF LAND; and MANORS.

YATASSEES, The. See TEXAS: THE ABO-RIGINAL INHABITANTS.

YEAR BOOKS, English. See LAW, COM-MON: A. D. 1307-1509.

YEAR OF ANARCHY, The. See ATHENS: B. C. 404-403.

YEAR OF METON, The. See METON, THE YEAR OF.

YELLOW FEVER, Appearance of. See PLAQUE: 18TH CENTURY.

YELLOW FORD, Battle of the (1598). See IRELAND: A. D. 1559-1603.

YELLOW LORD, The. See CHINA: THE GREAT BASINS.

YELLOW TAVERN, Battle of. See UNITED STATES OF AM.: A. D. 1864 (MAY: VIR-GINIA)—SHERIDAN'S RAID.

YELLOW (of Venezuela), The. See VENEZUELA: A. D. 1829-1886.

YEMAMA, Battle of. See AGRABA.

YEOMEN.—"A 'yeoman' is defined by Sir Tho. Smith (Rep. Anglor. lib. 1, c. 24) as he whom our law calls 'legalem hominem,' a free-

born man that may dispense of his own free land in yearly revenues to the sum of forty shillings. But it had also a more general application, denoting like 'valet' a higher kind of service, which still survives in the current phrase to do 'yeoman's service.' In the household of the mediæval knight or baron the younger sons of yeomen would form a large proportion of the servitors, and share with the younger sons of knight or squire the common name of 'valetti.' The yeomen too who lived on their own land, but wore the 'livery of company' of some baron or lesser territorial magnate, would also be his 'valets.' The mediæval 'yeoman' was the tenant of land in free socage. The extent of his holding might be large or small."—T. P. Taswell Langmead, *Eng. Const. Hist.*, p. 348, foot-note.—"At the period when the higher gentry began to absorb what remained of the feudal nobility, and established themselves definitely as an upper class, the small landowners—freeholders holding estates of inheritance or for life—long leaseholders and the larger copyholders made corresponding progress, and the yeomen (the common term applied to all of them) began in their turn to fill the position and take the rank of an agricultural middle class. The reign of Henry VI. had marked the zenith of their influence; they had by that time fully realized the fact of their existence as a body. The inferior limit of their class was approximately determined by the electoral qualification of the forty-shilling freeholder (under the Act of 1430), or by the £4 qualification for the office of juror. The superior limit was marked from a legal point of view by the property qualification of a magistrate, but socially there was not on this side any definite boundary line. In 1446 it was considered necessary to forbid the county electors to return 'valetti,' that is yeomen, to the House of Commons, a proof that custom and opinion left to themselves did not look upon the higher section of their class as unworthy of a seat in Parliament, an honour originally confined to the knights. Fortescue testifies almost with triumph to the fact that in no country of Europe were yeomen so numerous as in England."—E. Boutmy, *The English Constitution*, pt. 2, ch. 4.—In later English use the word "yeoman" has signified "a man of small estate in land, not ranking among the gentry."

YEOMEN OF THE GUARD.—"This corps was instituted by Henry VII. in 1485. It now consists of 100 men, six of whom are called Yeomen Hangers, and two Yeomen Bedgoers; the first attending to the hangings and tapestries of the royal apartments, and the second taking charge of all beds during any royal removals. The yeomen of the guard carry up the royal dinner, and are popularly designated as 'beef-eaters,' respecting the origin of which name some differences of opinion exist, for many maintain that they never had any duties connected with the royal beaufet. A yeoman usher and a party of yeomen attend in the great chamber of the palace on drawing-room and levee days, to keep the passage clear."—C. R. Dodd, *Manual of Dignities*, pt. 2, sect. 1.

YERMOUK, Battle of (A. D. 636). See MAHOMETAN CONQUEST: A. D. 632-639.

YEZID I., Caliph, A. D. 679-683. . . . **YEZID II.**, Caliph, 720-724. . . . **YEZID III.**, Caliph, 744.

YNCAS, OR INCAS. See PERU.