

ness; but the financial crash of 1837 destroyed his business, and his instruments were finally sold under a sheriff's execution. This reverse again threw him back into political life, and, as the best preparation for it, he vigorously pursued his legal studies. [He had previously failed as a country store-keeper. His goods were bought on credit.]—RAYMOND'S LINCOLN, ch. 1, p. 26.

84. ADVERSITY, Instructed by. *Frederick V.* [Elector Palatine of the Bohemians.] Frederick was seated at table in Prague, while his army was thus cut to pieces. . . . A messenger summoned him from table to show him from the walls the whole frightful scene. He requested a cessation of hostilities for twenty-four hours for deliberation; but eight was all the Duke of Bavaria would allow him. Frederick availed himself of these to fly by night from the capital, with his wife and the chief officers of his army. This flight was so hurried that the Prince of Anhalt left behind him his most private papers, and Frederick his crown. "I know now what I am," said this unfortunate prince to those who endeavored to comfort him; "there are virtues which misfortune only can teach us, and it is in adversity alone that princes learn to know themselves."—THIRTY YEARS' WAR, § 138.

85. ADVERSITY, Lessons of. *Siege of Rome by the Goths.* In the last months of the siege the people were exposed to the miseries of scarcity, unwholesome food, and contagious disorders. Bellarius saw and pitied their sufferings; but he had foreseen, and he watched the decay of their loyalty, and the progress of their discontent. Adversity had awakened the Romans from the dreams of grandeur and freedom, and taught them the humiliating lesson, that it was of small moment to their real happiness whether the name of their master was derived from the Gothic or the Latin language.—GIMON'S *ROME*, ch. 41.

86. ADVERSITY, Manhood through. *Sir Humphry Davy.* The death of his father, an intelligent, speculative man, who left his affairs in great disorder, consigned his mother to a milliner's shop, and changed him from a school-boy into an apothecary's apprentice. A shade of seriousness gathered over him. He had become a man. His private note-books of the first two years of his apprenticeship have been preserved, and they show us, that when his day's work of compounding drugs was done, and in the morning before it began, he was a hard student. He went through a complete course of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, besides reading the metaphysical works of Locke, Hartley, Berkeley, Hume, Helvetius, Condorcet, and Reid. He also learned the French language.—CYCLOPEDIA OF BIOG., p. 302.

87. ADVERSITY, National. *Reign of Edward III.* Only fourteen years had gone by since the treaty of Bretigny raised England to a height of glory such as it had never known before. But the years had been years of a shame and suffering which stung the people to madness. Never had England fallen so low. Her conquests were lost, her shores insulted, her commerce swept from the seas. Within she was drained by the taxation and bloodshed of the war. Its popularity had wholly died away.

When the commons were asked in 1354 whether they would assent to a treaty of perpetual peace if they might have it, "the said commons responded all, and altogether, 'Yes, yes!'" The population was thinned by the ravages of pestilence, for till 1369, which saw its last visitation, the black death returned again and again.—HIST. OF ENG. PEOPLE, § 356.

88. ADVERSITY overruled. *Eli Whitney.* Eli Whitney was a young Massachusetts Yankee, who had come to Georgia to teach, and, having been taken sick, had been invited by this hospitable lady to reside in her house till he should recover. He was the son of a poor farmer, and had worked his way through college without assistance—as Yankee boys often do. From early boyhood he had exhibited wonderful skill in mechanics, and in college he used to repair the philosophical apparatus with remarkable nicety—to the great admiration of professors and students. During his residence with Mrs. Greene he had made for her an ingenious tambour-frame, on a new principle, as well as many curious toys for her children. Hence her advice: "Apply to my young friend, Mr. Whitney; he can make anything." [He there invented the cotton-gin machine.]—CYCLOPEDIA OF BIOG., p. 160.

89. ADVERSITY precedes Success. *Timour the Tartar.* [In his twenty-fifth year he stood forth as the deliverer of his country.] The chiefs of the law and of the army had pledged their salvation to support him with their lives and fortunes; but in the hour of danger they were silent and afraid; and, after waiting seven days on the hills of Samarcand, he retreated to the desert with only sixty horsemen. The fugitives were overtaken by a thousand Gotes, whom he repulsed with incredible slaughter, and his enemies were forced to exclaim, "Timour is a wonderful man; fortune and the Divine favor are with him." But in this bloody action his own followers were reduced to ten, a number which was soon diminished by the desertion of three Carizmans. He wandered in the desert with his wife, seven companions, and four horses; and sixty-two days was he plunged in a loathsome dungeon, from whence he escaped by his own courage and the remorse of the oppressor. [Greatness followed.]—GIMON'S *ROME*, ch. 65.

90. ADVERSITY, Struggle with. *"An old Struggler."* When he [Sir Walter Scott] was in Ireland . . . a poor woman who had offered to sell him gooseberries, but whose offer had not been accepted, remarked, on seeing his daughter give some pence to a beggar, that they might as well give her an alms, too, as she was "an old struggler." Sir Walter was struck with the expression, and said that it deserved to become classical, as a name for those who take up arms against a sea of troubles, instead of yielding to the waves.—HURTON'S SCOTT, ch. 15.

91. ADVERSITY a Tonic. *Sir W. Scott.* [He lost a great property, was fearfully in debt, and his family distressed.] On the 22d he says: "I feel neither dishonored nor broken down by the bad, now truly bad, news I have received. I have walked my last in the domains I have planted—sat the last time in the halls I have built. But death would have taken them from