

Antony his uncle Lucius Caesar; Octavius his guardian Tullius and his friend Cicero.—*TYTLER'S UNIVERSAL HIST.*, Book 4, ch. 2.

193. AMBITION, Insensibility of. *Surgeons.* A great surgeon is frequently tempted, by the mere love of his art, to perform an operation not strictly necessary. Dr. [Valentine] Mott held this practice in abhorrence. . . . A celebrated Paris surgeon asked him one day if he would like to see him perform his original operation. "Nothing would give me more pleasure," replied Dr. Mott. The Frenchman mused a moment, and then said: "However, now I think of it, there is no patient in the hospital who has that malady. No matter, my dear friend, there is a poor devil in Ward No. —, who is of no use to himself or anybody else; and if you'll come to-morrow, I'll operate beautifully on him." It need not be said that Dr. Mott declined to witness the perpetration of a crime so atrocious.—*CYCLOPEDIA OF BIOG.*, p. 531.

194. AMBITION, Literary. *Milton.* It was during his residence in Italy that his literary ambition was born. From an early period of his youth he had been accustomed to write Latin poems, some of which he carried to Italy and showed to his learned friends there. They were struck with wonder that a man from distant England should have attained such mastery of the Latin language, and they were not less astounded that a Briton should be so excellent a poet. It was their hearty praise, he says in one of his letters, that first suggested to him the idea of devoting his life to literature. Then and there it was, he tells us, that he began to think that "by labor and intent study" he might, perhaps, produce something so written that posterity would not let it die. A great Christian poem was the object to which he aspired. He desired to do for England what Homer had done for Greece, Virgil for Rome, Dante for Italy, and he saw those religious dramas, representing the temptation of Adam and Eve and its consequences, which are supposed to have given him the idea of his "Paradise Lost."—*CYCLOPEDIA OF BIOG.*, p. 168.

195. AMBITION, Lofty. *Timour or Tamerlane.* The conquest and monarchy of the world was the first object of the ambition of Timour. To live in the memory and esteem of future ages was the second wish of his magnanimous spirit.—*Gibbon's Rome*, ch. 65.

196. AMBITION, Maternal. *Mother of Emp. Nero.* On the accession of Claudius, Agrippina was restored to her rank and fortune, and once more undertook the management of her child. He was, as we see from his early busts, a child of exquisite beauty. His beauty made him an object of special pride to his mother. From this time forward it seems to have been her one desire to elevate the boy to the rank of Emperor. In vain did the astrologers warn her that his elevation involved her murder. To such dark hints of the future she had but one reply—"Occidat dum imperet!" "Let him slay me, so he do but reign!" [He did slay her.]—*FARRAR'S EARLY DAYS*, ch. 2.

197. AMBITION mortified. *Poet Shelley.* "I despair of rivalling Lord Byron, as well I may,

and there is no other with whom it is worth contending." To Oller, in 1820, he wrote: "I content either with the hell or the paradise of poetry; but the torments of its purgatory vex put an end to the vexation."—*SYMONDS'S SHELLEY*, ch. 6.

198. AMBITION, National. *Continental Progress.* A period of more than a hundred years followed, during which the chief object of the English was to establish, by force of arms, a great empire on the Continent. . . . The effect of the successes of Edward III. and of Henry V. was to make France, for a time, a province of England. The disdain with which, in the twelfth century, the conquerors from the Continent had regarded the islanders, was now retorted by the islanders on the people of the Continent. Every yeoman from Kent to Northumberland valued himself as one of a race born for victory and dominion, and looked down with scorn on the nation before which his ancestors had trembled. . . . In no long time our arrogance altogether lost sight of the original ground of quarrel. They began to consider the crown of France as a mere appendage to the crown of England.—*MACAULAY'S HIST. OF ENG.*, ch. 1.

199. AMBITION, Persistent. *Charlemagne.* In the course of a glorious reign of forty-five years, this prince, who, in more respects than as a conqueror, deserved the surname of Great, extended the limits of his empire beyond the Danube, subdued Dacia, Dalmatia, and Istria; conquered, and rendered tributary to his crown, all the barbarous nations as far as the Vistula or Weser; made himself master of the greatest part of Italy, and alarmed the fears of the empire of the Saracens. The longest of his wars was that with the Saxons. It was thirty years before he reduced to subjection this ferocious and warlike people. The motive of this obstinate war, on the part of Charlemagne, against a people who possessed nothing alluring to the avarice of a conqueror, was ambition alone; unless we shall suppose that the ardor for making proselytes had its weight with a prince, whose zeal for the propagation of Christianity was a remarkable feature in his character—a zeal, however, which carried him far beyond the bounds which humanity ought to have assigned to it. Charlemagne left the Saxons but the alternative of being baptized or drowned in the Weser.—*TYTLER'S HIST.*, Book 6, ch. 3.

200. AMBITION proclaimed. *Robert Guiscard.* After this inauguration [as duke] Robert styled himself, "By the grace of God and St. Peter, Duke of Apulia, Calabria, and hereafter of Sicily;" and it was the labor of twenty years to deserve and realize these lofty appellations.—*Gibbon's Rome*, ch. 56.

201. AMBITION restrained. *Theodoric the Ostrogoth.* The life of Theodoric represents the rare and meritorious example of a barbarian, who sheathed his sword in the pride of victory and the vigor of his age. A reign of three and thirty years was consecrated to the duties of civil government, and the hostilities in which he was sometimes involved were speedily terminated by the conduct of his lieutenants, the discipline of his troops, the arms of his allies,