

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

Preface

What is a “quotation”? It is a saying or piece of writing that strikes people as so true or memorable that they quote it (or allude to it) in speech or writing. Often they will quote it directly, introducing it with a phrase like “As——says” but equally often they will assume that the reader or listener already knows the quotation, and they will simply allude to it without mentioning its source (as in the headline “A rosè is a rosè is a rosè,” referring obliquely to a line by Gertrude Stein).

This dictionary has been compiled from extensive evidence of the quotations that are actually used in this way. The dictionary includes the commonest quotations which were found in a collection of more than 200,000 citations assembled by combing books, magazines, and newspapers. For example, our collections contained more than thirty examples each for Edward Heath’s “unacceptable face of capitalism” and Marshal McLuhan’s “The medium is the message,” so both these quotations had to be included.

As a result, this book is not—like many quotations dictionaries—a subjective anthology of the editor’s favourite quotations, but an objective selection of the quotations which are most widely known and used. Popularity and familiarity are the main criteria for inclusion, although no reader is likely to be familiar with all the quotations in this dictionary.

The book can be used for reference or for browsing: to trace the source of a particular quotation or to find an appropriate saying for a special need.

The quotations are drawn from novels, plays, poems, essays, speeches, films radio and television broadcasts, songs, advertisements, and even book titles. It is difficult to draw the line between quotations and similar sayings like proverbs, catch-phrases, and idioms. For example, some quotations (like “The opera ain’t over till the fat lady sings”) become proverbial. These are usually included if they can be traced to a particular originator. However, we have generally omitted phrases like “agonizing reappraisal” which are covered adequately in the Oxford English Dictionary. Catch-phrases are included if there is evidence that they are widely remembered or used.

We have taken care to verify all the quotations in original or authoritative sources—something which few other quotations dictionaries have tried to do. We have corrected many errors found in other dictionaries, and we have traced the true origins of such phrases as “There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch” and “Shaken and not stirred.”

The quotations are arranged in alphabetical order of authors, with anonymous quotations in the

middle of “A.” Under each author, the quotations are arranged in alphabetical order of their first words. Foreign quotations are, wherever possible, given in the original language as well as in translation. Authors are cited under the names by which they are best known: for example, Graham Greene (not Henry Graham Greene); F. Scott Fitzgerald (not Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald); George Orwell (not Eric Blair); W. C. Fields (not William Claude Dukenfield). Authors’ dates of birth and death are given when ascertainable. The actual writers of the words are credited for quotations from songs, film-scripts, etc.

The references after each quotation are designed to be as helpful as possible, enabling the reader to trace quotations in their original sources if desired.

The index (1) has been carefully prepared—with ingenious computer assistance—to help the reader to trace quotations from their most important keywords. Each reference includes not only the page and the number of the quotation on the page but also the first few letters of the author’s name. The index includes references to book-titles which have become well known as quotations in their own right.

This dictionary could not have been compiled without the work of many people, most notably Paula Clifford, Angela Partington, Fiona Mullan, Penelope Newsome, Julia Cresswell, Michael McKinley, Charles McCreery, Heidi Abbey, Jean Harder, Elizabeth Knowles, George Chowdharay-Best, Tracey Ward, and Ernest Trehern. I am also very grateful to the OUP Dictionary Department’s team of checkers, who verified the quotations at libraries in Oxford, London, Washington, New York, and elsewhere. James Howes deserves credit for his work in computerizing the index.

The Editor is responsible for any errors, which he will be grateful to have drawn to his attention. As the quotation from Simeon Strunsky reminds us, “Famous remarks are very seldom quoted correctly,” but we have endeavoured to make this book more accurate, authoritative, and helpful than any other dictionary of modern quotations.

TONY AUGARDE

(1) Discussions of the index features in this preface and in the “How to Use this Dictionary” section of this book refer to the hard-copy edition. No index has been included in this soft-copy edition. See “Notices” in topic NOTICES for additional information about this soft-copy edition.

How to Use this Dictionary

HOW TO.1 General Principles

The arrangement is alphabetical by the names of authors: usually the names by which each person is best known. So look under Maya Angelou, not Maya Johnson; Princess Anne, not HRH The Princess Royal; Lord Beaverbrook, not William Maxwell Aitken; Irving Berlin, not Israel Balin; Greta Garbo, not Greta Lovisa Gustafsson,

Anonymous quotations are all together, starting in “Anonymous” in topic 1.68 They are arranged in alphabetical order of their first significant word.

Under each author, quotations are arranged by the alphabetical order of the titles of the works from which they come, even if those works were not written by the person who is being quoted. Poems are usually cited from the first book in which they appeared.

Quotations by foreign authors are, where possible, given in the original language and also in an English translation.

A reference is given after each quotation to its original source or to an authoritative record of its use. The reference usually consists of either (a) a book-title with its date of publication and a reference to where the quotation occurs in the book; or (b) the title of a newspaper or magazine with its date of publication. The reference is preceded by “In” if the quotation comes from a secondary source: for example if a writer is quoted by another author in a newspaper article, or if a book refers to a saying but does not indicate where or when it was made.

HOW TO.2 Examples

Here are some typical entries, with notes to clarify the meaning of each part.

Charlie Chaplin (Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin) 1889-1977

All I need to make a comedy is a park, a policeman and a pretty girl.

‘My Autobiography’ (1964) ch. 10

Charlie Chaplin is the name by which this person is best known but Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin is the name which would appear in reference books such as *Who’s Who*. Charlie Chaplin was born in 1889 and died in 1977. The quotation comes from the tenth chapter of Chaplin’s autobiography, which was published in 1964.

Martin Luther King 1929-1968

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Letter from Birmingham Jail, Alabama, 16 Apr. 1963, in ‘Atlantic Monthly’ Aug. 1963, p. 78

Martin Luther King wrote these words in a letter that he sent from Birmingham Jail on 16 April 1963. The letter was published later that year on page 78 of the August issue of the *Atlanta Monthly*.

Dorothy Parker 1893-1967

One more drink and I’d have been under the host.

In Howard Teichmann ‘George S. Kaufman’ (1972) p. 68

Dorothy Parker must have said this before she died in 1967 but the earliest reliable source we can find is a 1972 book by Howard Teichmann. “In” signals the fact that the quotation is cited from a secondary source.

HOW TO.3 Index

If you remember part of a quotation and want to know the rest of it, or who said it, you can trace it by means of the index (1). The index lists the most significant words from each quotation. These keywords are listed alphabetically in the index, each with a section of the text to show the

context of every keyword. These sections are listed in strict alphabetical order under each keyword. Foreign keywords are included in their alphabetical place. The references show the first few letters of the author's name, followed by the page and item numbers (e.g. 163:15 refers to the fifteenth quotation on page 163).

As an example, suppose that you want to verify a quotation which you remember contains the line "to purify the dialect of the tribe." If you decide that tribe is a significant word and refer to it in the index, you will find this entry:

tribe: To purify the dialect of the t. ELIOT 74:19

This will lead you to the poem by T. S. Eliot which is the nineteenth quotation on page 74.

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[2.170 Lord Bowen 1835-94](#)
[2.171 E. E. Bowen 1836-1901](#)
[2.172 Elizabeth Bowen 1899-1973](#)
[2.173 David Bowie \(David Jones\) 1947—](#)
[2.174 William Lisle Bowles 1762-1850](#)
[2.175 Sir Maurice Bowra 1898-1971](#)
[2.176 Lord Brabazon \(Baron Brabazon of Tara\) 1884-1964](#)

[2.177 Charles Brackett 1892-1969, Billy Wilder 1906-, and D. M. Marshman Jr.](#)
[2.178 Charles Brackett 1892-1969, Billy Wilder 1906-, and Walter Reisch 1903-83](#)
[2.179 E. E. Bradford 1860-1944](#)
[2.180 John Bradford c.1510-55](#)
[2.181 F. H. Bradley \(Francis Herbert Bradley\) 1846-1924](#)
[2.182 Omar Bradley 1893-1981](#)
[2.183 John Bradshaw 1602-59](#)
[2.184 Anne Bradstreet c.1612-72](#)
[2.185 Ernest Bramah \(Ernest Bramah Smith\) 1868-1942](#)
[2.186 James Bramston c.1694-1744](#)
[2.187 Georges Braque 1882-1963](#)
[2.188 Richard Brathwaite c.1588-1673](#)
[2.189 Irving Brecher 1914—](#)
[2.190 Bertolt Brecht 1898-1956](#)
[2.191 Gerald Brenan 1894—](#)
[2.192 Nicholas Breton c.1545-1626](#)
[2.193 Aristide Briand 1862-1932](#)
[2.194 Robert Bridges 1844-1930](#)
[2.195 John Bright 1811-89](#)
[2.196 Anthelme Brillat-Savarin 1755-1826](#)
[2.197 David Broder 1929—](#)
[2.198 Alexander Brome 1620-66](#)
[2.199 Jacob Bronowski 1908-74](#)
[2.200 Anne Brontë 1820-49](#)
[2.201 Charlotte Brontë 1816-55](#)
[2.202 Emily Brontë 1818-48](#)
[2.203 Patrick Brontë 1777-1861](#)
[2.204 Henry Brooke 1703-83](#)
[2.205 Rupert Brooke 1887-1915](#)
[2.206 Anita Brookner 1938—](#)
[2.207 Thomas Brooks 1608-80](#)
[2.208 Robert Barnabas Brough 1828-60](#)
[2.209 Lord Brougham \(Henry Peter, Baron Brougham and Vaux\) 1778-1868](#)
[2.210 Heywood Broun 1888-1939](#)
[2.211 H. Rap Brown \(Hubert Geroid Brown\) 1943—](#)
[2.212 John Brown 1715-66](#)

[2.213 John Brown 1800-59](#)
[2.214 Lew Brown \(Louis Brownstein\) 1893-1958](#)
[2.215 Thomas Brown 1663-1704](#)
[2.216 T. E. Brown \(Thomas Edward Brown\) 1830-97](#)
[2.217 Cecil Browne 1932—](#)
[2.218 Coral Browne 1913-91](#)
[2.219 Sir Thomas Browne 1605-82](#)
[2.220 William Browne c.1590-1643](#)
[2.221 Sir William Browne 1692-1774](#)
[2.222 Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806-61](#)
[2.223 Sir Frederick Browning 1896-1965](#)
[2.224 Robert Browning 1812-89](#)
[2.225 Robert I the Bruce 1554-1631](#)
[2.226 Beau Brummell \(George Bryan Brummell\) 1778-1840](#)
[2.227 William Jennings Bryan 1860-1925](#)
[2.228 Martin Buber 1878-1965](#)
[2.229 John Buchan \(first Baron Tweedsmuir\) 1875-1940](#)
[2.230 Robert Buchanan 1841-1901](#)
[2.231 Frank Buchman 1878-1961](#)
[2.232 Gene Buck \(Edward Eugene Buck\) 1885-1957 and Herman Ruby 1891-1959](#)
[2.233 George Villiers, Second Duke of Buckingham 1628-87](#)
[2.234 John Sheffield, First Duke of Buckingham and Normanby 1648-1721](#)
[2.235 H. J. Buckoll 1803-71](#)
[2.236 J. B. Buckstone 1802-79](#)
[2.237 Eustace Budgell 1686-1737](#)
[2.238 Comte de Buffon \(George-Louis Leclerc\) 1707-88](#)
[2.239 Arthur Buller 1874-1944](#)
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[2.242 Edward George Bulwer-Lytton \(first Baron Lytton\) 1803-73](#)
[2.243 Edward Robert Bulwer, Earl of Lytton](#)
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[2.247 Samuel Dickinson Burchard 1812-91](#)
[2.248 Anthony Burgess 1917—](#)

[2.249 Gelett Burgess 1866-1951](#)
[2.250 John William Burgon 1813-88](#)
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[2.252 Edmund Burke 1729-97](#)
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[2.256 John Burns 1858-1943](#)
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[2.259 Sir Fred Burrows 1887-1973](#)
[2.260 Benjamin Hapgood Burt 1880-1950](#)
[2.261 Nat Burton](#)
[2.262 Sir Richard Burton 1821-90](#)
[2.263 Robert Burton \('Democritus Junior'\) 1577-1640](#)
[2.264 Hermann Busenbaum 1600-68](#)
[2.265 Comte de Bussy-Rabutin 1618-1693](#)
[2.266 Joseph Butler 1692-1752](#)
[2.267 Nicholas Murray Butler 1862-1947](#)
[2.268 Samuel Butler 1612-80](#)
[2.269 Samuel Butler 1835-1902](#)
[2.270 William Butler 1535-1618](#)
[2.271 Max Bygraves 1922—](#)
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[3.9 Caligula \(Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus\) A.D. 12-41](#)
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3.11 Callimachus c.305-c.240 B.C.
3.12 Charles Alexandre de Calonne 1734-1802
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3.14 General Cambronne 1770-1842
3.15 Lord Camden (Charles Pratt, Earl Camden) 1714-94
3.16 William Camden 1551-1623
3.17 Mrs Patrick Campbell (Beatrice Stella Campbell) 1865-1940
3.18 Roy Campbell 1901-57
3.19 Thomas Campbell 1777-1844
3.20 Thomas Campion 1567-1620
3.21 Albert Camus 1913-60
3.22 Elias Canetti 1905—
3.23 George Canning 1770-1827
3.24 Hughie Cannon 1877-1912
3.25 Truman Capote 1924-84
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3.28 Ethna Carbery (Anna MacManus) 1866-1902
3.29 Richard Carew 1555-1620
3.30 Thomas Carew c.1595-1640
3.31 Henry Carey c.1687-1743
3.32 Jane Carlyle (Jane Baille Welsh Carlyle) 1801-66
3.33 Thomas Carlyle 1795-1881
3.34 Andrew Carnegie 1835-1919
3.35 Dale Carnegie 1888-1955
3.36 Julia A. Carney 1823-1908
3.37 Joseph Edwards Carpenter 1813-85
3.38 J. L. Carr
3.39 Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) 1832-98
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3.41 Edward Carson (Baron Carson) 1854-1935
3.42 Henry Carter d. 1806
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3.45 Lucius Cassius Longinus Ravilla late 2nd cent. B.C.
3.46 Ted Castle (Baron Castle of Islington) 1907-79

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[3.49 Revd Edward Caswall 1814-78](#)
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[3.54 Charles Causley 1917—](#)
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[3.83 Geoffrey Chaucer c.1343-1400](#)
[3.84 Anton Chekhov 1860-1904](#)
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[3.86 Lord Chesterfield \(Philip Dormer Stanhope, fourth Earl of Chesterfield\) 1694-1773](#)
[3.87 G. K. Chesterton 1874-1936](#)
[3.88 Erskine Childers 1870-1922](#)
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[3.90 Charles Chilton 1914—](#)
[3.91 Rufus Choate 1799-1859](#)
[3.92 Noam Chomsky 1928—](#)
[3.93 Dame Agatha Christie \(nèe Miller\) 1890-1976](#)
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[3.95 Mary, Lady Chudleigh 1656-1710](#)
[3.96 Charles Churchill 1731-64](#)
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[3.100 Count Galeazzo Ciano 1903-44](#)
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[3.102 Cicero \(Marcus Tullius Cicero\) 106-43 B.C.](#)
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[3.105 Claribel \(Mrs C. A. Barnard\) 1840-69](#)
[3.106 Brian Clark 1932—](#)
[3.107 Kenneth Clark \(Baron Clark\) 1903-83](#)
[3.108 Arthur C. Clarke 1917—](#)
[3.109 Grant Clarke 1891-1931 and Edgar Leslie 1885-1976](#)
[3.110 James Stanier Clarke c.1765-1834](#)
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[3.114 Henry Clay 1777-1852](#)
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[3.116 John Cleese 1939—](#)
[3.117 John Cleese 1939—and Connie Booth](#)

[3.118 John Cleland 1710-89](#)
[3.119 Georges Clemenceau 1841-1929](#)
[3.120 Pope Clement XIII 1693-1769](#)
[3.121 Grover Cleveland 1837-1908](#)
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[3.124 Lord Clive \(Robert, Baron Clive of Plassey\) 1725-74](#)
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[3.126 William Cobbett 1762-1835](#)
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[3.128 Claud Cockburn 1904—](#)
[3.129 Jean Cocteau 1889-1963](#)
[3.130 George M. Cohan 1878-1942](#)
[3.131 Sir Aston Cokayne 1608-84](#)
[3.132 Desmond Coke 1879-1931](#)
[3.133 Sir Edward Coke 1552-1634](#)
[3.134 Hartley Coleridge 1796-1849](#)
[3.135 Lord Coleridge 1820-94](#)
[3.136 Mary Coleridge 1861-1907](#)
[3.137 Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1772-1834](#)
[3.138 Colette \(Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette\) 1873-1954](#)
[3.139 Mary Collier c.1690-c.1762](#)
[3.140 William Collingbourne d. 1484](#)
[3.141 Admiral Collingwood \(Cubert, Baron Collingwood\) 1748-1810](#)
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[3.143 Charles Collins and Fred W. Leigh](#)
[3.144 Charles Collins and Fred Murray](#)
[3.145 Charles Collins, E. A. Sheppard, and Fred Terry](#)
[3.146 Churton Collins \(John Churton Collins\) 1848-1908](#)
[3.147 Michael Collins 1890-1922](#)
[3.148 William Collins 1721-59](#)
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[3.152 Betty Comden 1919-and Adolph Green 1915—](#)
[3.153 Dame Ivy Compton-Burnett 1884-1969](#)

[3.154 Auguste Comte 1798-1857](#)
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[3.156 William Congreve 1670-1729](#)
[3.157 James M. Connell 1852-1929](#)
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[3.161 Joseph Conrad \(Teodor Josef Konrad Korzeniowski\) 1857-1924](#)
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[3.170 Calvin Coolidge 1872-1933](#)
[3.171 Duff Cooper \(Viscount Norwich\) 1890-1954](#)
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[3.173 Richard Corbet 1582-1635](#)
[3.174 Pierre Corneille 1606-84](#)
[3.175 Bernard Cornfeld 1927—](#)
[3.176 Frances Cornford 1886-1960](#)
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[3.181 William Cory \(William Johnson, later Cory\) 1823-92](#)
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[3.186 Thomas Coventry \(first Baron Coventry\) 1578-1640](#)
[3.187 Noël Coward 1899-1973](#)
[3.188 Abraham Cowley 1618-67](#)
[3.189 Hannah Cowley \(née Parkhouse\) 1743-1809](#)

[3.190 William Cowper 1731-1800](#)
[3.191 George Crabbe 1754-1832](#)
[3.192 Hart Crane 1899-1932](#)
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[3.194 Thomas Cranmer 1489-1556](#)
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[3.200 Quentin Crisp 1908—](#)
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[3.205 Bing Crosby 1903-77, Roy Turk 1892-1934, and Fred Ahlert 1892-1933](#)
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[3.217 Michael Curtiz 1888-1962](#)
[3.218 Lord Curzon \(George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston\) 1859-1925](#)
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[4.29 Thomas Dekker 1570-1641](#)
[4.30 J. de Knight \(James E. Myers\) 1919—and M. Freedman 1893-1962](#)
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[5.13 Jonathan Edwards 1629-1712](#)
[5.14 Jonathan Edwards 1703-58](#)
[5.15 Oliver Edwards 1711-91](#)
[5.16 Sarah Egerton 1670-1723](#)
[5.17 John Ehrlichman 1925—](#)
[5.18 Albert Einstein 1879-1955](#)
[5.19 Dwight D. Eisenhower 1890-1969](#)
[5.20 Edward Elgar 1857-1934](#)
[5.21 George Eliot \(Mary Ann Evans\) 1819-80](#)
[5.22 T. S. Eliot \(Thomas Stearns Eliot\) 1888-1965](#)
[5.23 Queen Elizabeth I 1533-1603](#)
[5.24 Queen Elizabeth II 1926—](#)
[5.25 Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother 1900—](#)
[5.26 Alf Ellerton](#)
[5.27 John Ellerton 1826-93](#)
[5.28 Jane Elliot 1727-1805](#)
[5.29 Charlotte Elliott 1789-1871](#)
[5.30 Ebenezer Elliott 1781-1849](#)
[5.31 George Ellis 1753-1815](#)
[5.32 Havelock Ellis \(Henry Havelock Ellis\) 1859-1939](#)
[5.33 Elstow](#)
[5.34 Paul Eluard 1895-1952](#)
[5.35 Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-82](#)
[5.36 Sir William Empson 1906-84](#)
[5.37 Friedrich Engels 1820-95](#)
[5.38 Thomas Dunn English 1819-1902](#)
[5.39 Ennius 239-169 B.C.](#)
[5.40 Ephelia fl. 1679](#)
[5.41 Sir Jacob Epstein 1880-1959](#)
[5.42 Julius J. Epstein 1909-, Philip G. Epstein 1909-52, and Howard Koch 1902—](#)
[5.43 Olaudah Equiano c.1745-c.1797](#)
[5.44 Erasmus \(Desiderius Erasmus\) c.1467-1536](#)
[5.45 Susan Ertz 1894-1985](#)
[5.46 Robert Devereux, Earl Of Essex 1566-1601](#)

- [5.47 Henri Estienne 1531-98](#)
- [5.48 Sir George Etherege \(or Etheredge\) c.1635-91](#)
- [5.49 Euclid fl. c.300 B.C.](#)
- [5.50 Euripides c.485-406 B.C.](#)
- [5.51 Abel Evans 1679-1737](#)
- [5.52 John Evelyn 1620-1706](#)
- [5.53 David Everett 1769-1813](#)
- [5.54 Viscount Eversley](#)
- [5.55 William Norman Ewer 1885-1976](#)

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- [6.1 F. W. Faber 1814-63](#)
- [6.2 Robert Fabyan d. 1513](#)
- [6.3 Clifton Fadiman 1904—](#)
- [6.4 Lucius Cary \(second Viscount Falkland\) 1610-43](#)
- [6.5 Sir Richard Fanshawe 1605-66](#)
- [6.6 Michael Faraday 1791-1867](#)
- [6.7 Eleanor Farjeon 1881-1965](#)
- [6.8 Edward Farmer c.1809-76](#)
- [6.9 King Farouk of Egypt 1920-65](#)
- [6.10 George Farquhar c.1677-1707](#)
- [6.11 David Glasgow Farragut 1801-70](#)
- [6.12 William Faulkner 1897-1962](#)
- [6.13 Guy Fawkes 1570-1606](#)
- [6.14 James Fenton 1949—](#)
- [6.15 Edna Ferber 1887-1968](#)
- [6.16 Emperor Ferdinand I 1503-64](#)
- [6.17 Robert Fergusson 1750-74](#)
- [6.18 Ludwig Feuerbach 1804-72](#)
- [6.19 Eric Field](#)
- [6.20 Eugene Field 1850-95](#)
- [6.21 Henry Fielding 1707-54](#)
- [6.22 Dorothy Fields 1905-74](#)
- [6.23 W. C. Fields \(William Claude Dukenfield\) 1880-1946](#)
- [6.24 Harry Julian Fink, Rita M. Fink, and Dean Riesner](#)
- [6.25 Ronald Firbank 1886-1926](#)
- [6.26 L'Abbè Edgeworth De Firmont 1745-1807](#)

[6.27 Fred Fisher 1875-1942](#)
[6.28 H. A. L. Fisher 1856-1940](#)
[6.29 John Arbuthnot Fisher \(Baron Fisher\) 1841-1920](#)
[6.30 Marve Fisher](#)
[6.31 Albert H. Fitz](#)
[6.32 Charles Fitzgeffrey c.1575-1638](#)
[6.33 Edward Fitzgerald 1809-83](#)
[6.34 F. Scott Fitzgerald 1896-1940](#)
[6.35 Bud Flanagan \(Chaim Reeve Weinrop\) 1896-1968](#)
[6.36 Michael Flanders 1922-75 and Donald Swann 1923—](#)
[6.37 Thomas Flatman 1637-88](#)
[6.38 Gustave Flaubert 1821-80](#)
[6.39 James Elroy Flecker 1884-1915](#)
[6.40 Richard Flecknoe d. c.1678](#)
[6.41 Ian Fleming 1908-64](#)
[6.42 Marjory Fleming 1803-11](#)
[6.43 Robert, Marquis de Flers 1872-1927 and Arman de Caillavet 1869-1915](#)
[6.44 Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun 1655-1716](#)
[6.45 John Fletcher 1579-1625](#)
[6.46 Phineas Fletcher 1582-1650](#)
[6.47 Jean-Pierre Claris De Florian 1755-94](#)
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[6.49 Marshal Ferdinand Foch 1851-1929](#)
[6.50 J. Foley](#)
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[6.52 Michael Foot 1913—](#)
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[6.54 Miss C. F. Forbes 1817-1911](#)
[6.55 Gerald Ford 1909—](#)
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[6.59 Thomas Ford d. 1648](#)
[6.60 Howell Forgry 1908-83](#)
[6.61 E. M. Forster 1879-1970](#)
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[6.63 Charles Foster 1828-1904](#)
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[6.74 Francis I 1494-1547](#)
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[6.81 Cliff Freeman](#)
[6.82 E. A. Freeman 1823-92](#)
[6.83 John Freeth c.1731-1808](#)
[6.84 John Hookham Frere 1769-1846](#)
[6.85 Sigmund Freud 1856-1939](#)
[6.86 Betty Friedan 1921—](#)
[6.87 Max Frisch 1911—](#)
[6.88 Charles Frohman 1860-1915](#)
[6.89 Erich Fromm 1900-80](#)
[6.90 Robert Frost 1874-1963](#)
[6.91 Christopher Fry 1907—](#)
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[6.93 R. Buckminster Fuller 1895-1983](#)
[6.94 Sam Fuller](#)
[6.95 Thomas Fuller 1608-61](#)
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[6.97 Alfred Funke b. 1869](#)
[6.98 Douglas Furber, Noel Gay, and Arthur Rose](#)

[6.100 Rose Fyleman 1877-1957](#)

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[7.1 Zsa Zsa Gabor \(Sari Gabor\) 1919—](#)

[7.2 Thomas Gainsborough 1727-88](#)

[7.3 Thomas Gaisford 1779-1855](#)

[7.4 Hugh Gaitskell 1906-63](#)

[7.5 Gaius 2nd century A.D.](#)

[7.6 J. K. Galbraith 1908—](#)

[7.7 Galileo Galilei 1564-1642](#)

[7.8 John Galsworthy 1867-1933](#)

[7.9 John Galt 1779-1839](#)

[7.10 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi 1869-1948](#)

[7.11 Greta Garbo \(Greta Lovisa Gustafsson\) 1905-90](#)

[7.12 Federico García Lorca 1899-1936](#)

[7.13 Richard Gardiner b. c.1533](#)

[7.14 Ed Gardner 1905-63](#)

[7.15 James A. Garfield 1831-81](#)

[7.16 Giuseppe Garibaldi 1807-82](#)

[7.17 John Nance Garner 1868-1967](#)

[7.18 David Garrick 1717-79](#)

[7.19 William Lloyd Garrison 1805-79](#)

[7.20 Sir Samuel Garth 1661-1719](#)

[7.21 Elizabeth Gaskell 1810-65](#)

[7.22 Gavarni \(Guillaume Sulpice Chevallier\) 1804-66](#)

[7.23 John Gay 1685-1732](#)

[7.24 Noel Gay \(Richard Moxon Armitage\) 1898-1954](#)

[7.25 Sir Eric Geddes 1875-1937](#)

[7.26 George I 1660-1727](#)

[7.27 George II 1683-1760](#)

[7.28 George III 1738-1820](#)

[7.29 George IV 1762-1830](#)

[7.30 George V 1865-1936](#)

[7.31 George VI 1895-1952](#)

[7.32 Daniel George \(Daniel George Bunting\)](#)

[7.33 Lloyd George](#)

[7.34 George Gershwin 1898-1937](#)

[7.35 Ira Gershwin 1896-1983](#)
[7.36 Edward Gibbon 1737-94](#)
[7.37 Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625](#)
[7.38 Stella Gibbons 1902-89](#)
[7.39 Wolcott Gibbs 1902-58](#)
[7.40 Kahlil Gibran 1883-1931](#)
[7.41 Wilfrid Wilson Gibson 1878-1962](#)
[7.42 Andr  Gide 1869-1951](#)
[7.43 Sir Humphrey Gilbert c.1539-83](#)
[7.44 W. S. Gilbert 1836-1911](#)
[7.45 Eric Gill 1882-1940](#)
[7.46 Terry Gilliam 1940—](#)
[7.47 Allen Ginsberg 1926—](#)
[7.48 George Gipp d. 1920](#)
[7.49 Jean Giraudoux 1882-1944](#)
[7.50 W. E. Gladstone 1809-98](#)
[7.51 Hannah Glasse fl. 1747](#)
[7.52 Duke of Gloucester 1743-1805](#)
[7.53 Jean-Luc Godard 1930—](#)
[7.54 A. D. Godley 1856-1925](#)
[7.55 Sidney Godolphin 1610-43](#)
[7.56 William Godwin 1756-1836](#)
[7.57 Joseph Goebbels 1897-1945](#)
[7.58 Hermann Goering 1893-1946](#)
[7.59 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 1749-1832](#)
[7.60 Isaac Goldberg 1887-1938](#)
[7.61 Emma Goldman 1869-1940](#)
[7.62 Oliver Goldsmith 1730-74](#)
[7.63 Barry Goldwater 1909—](#)
[7.64 Sam Goldwyn \(Samuel Goldfish\) 1882-1974](#)
[7.65 Adam Lindsay Gordon 1833-70](#)
[7.66 Mack Gordon 1904-59](#)
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[7.68 Lord Goschen 1831-1907](#)
[7.69 Sir Edmund Gosse 1849-1928](#)
[7.70 Dean Goulburn 1818-97](#)

[7.71 John Gower c.1330-1408](#)
[7.72 Sir Ernest Gowers 1880-1966](#)
[7.73 Francisco Josè de Goya y Lucientes 1746-1828](#)
[7.74 Clementina Stirling Graham 1782-1877](#)
[7.75 D. M. Graham 1911—](#)
[7.76 Harry Graham 1874-1936](#)
[7.77 James Graham, Marquis of Montrose 1612-50](#)
[7.78 Kenneth Grahame 1859-1932](#)
[7.79 James Grainger c.1721-66](#)
[7.80 Ulysses S. Grant 1822-85](#)
[7.81 George Granville, Baron Lansdowne 1666-1735](#)
[7.82 John Woodcock Graves 1795-1886](#)
[7.83 Robert Graves 1895-1985](#)
[7.84 John Chipman Gray 1839-1915](#)
[7.85 Patrick, Sixth Lord Gray d. 1612](#)
[7.86 Thomas Gray 1716-71](#)
[7.87 Horace Greely 1811-72](#)
[7.88 Hannah Green \(Joanne Greenberg\)](#)
[7.89 Matthew Green 1696-1737](#)
[7.90 Graham Greene 1904-91](#)
[7.91 Robert Greene c.1560-92](#)
[7.92 Germaine Greer 1939—](#)
[7.93 Gregory the Great c.540-604](#)
[7.94 Gregory VII 1020-85](#)
[7.95 Stephen Grellet 1773-1855](#)
[7.96 Joyce Grenfell 1910-79](#)
[7.97 Julian Grenfell 1888-1915](#)
[7.98 Frances Greville \(nèe Macartney\) c.1724-89](#)
[7.99 Sir Fulke Greville 1554-1628](#)
[7.100 Sir Edward Grey \(Viscount Grey of Fallodon\) 1862-1933](#)
[7.101 Mervyn Griffith-Jones 1909-79](#)
[7.102 Nicholas Grimald 1519-62](#)
[7.103 George and Weedon Grossmith 1847-1912 and 1854-1919](#)
[7.104 Philip Guedalla 1889-1944](#)
[7.105 Texas Guinan \(Mary Louise Cecilia Guinan\) 1884-1933](#)
[7.106 Nubar Gulbenkian 1896-1972](#)

[7.107 Dorothy Frances Gurney 1858-1932](#)

[7.108 Woody Guthrie \(Woodrow Wilson Guthrie\) 1912-67](#)

[7.109 Nell Gwyn 1650-87](#)

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[8.1 Emperor Hadrian A.D. 76-138](#)

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[8.3 C. F. S. Hahnemann 1755-1843](#)

[8.4 Earl Haig 1861-1928](#)

[8.5 Lord Hailsham \(Baron Hailsham, Quintin Hogg\) 1907—](#)

[8.6 J. B. S. Haldane 1892-1964](#)

[8.7 H. R. Haldeman 1929—](#)

[8.8 Edward Everett Hale 1822-1909](#)

[8.9 Sir Matthew Hale 1609-76](#)

[8.10 Nathan Hale 1755-76](#)

[8.11 Sarah Josepha Hale 1788-1879](#)

[8.12 T. C. Haliburton 1796-1865](#)

[8.13 George Savile, Marquis of Halifax 1633-95](#)

[8.14 Joseph Hall 1574-1656](#)

[8.15 Fitz-Greene Halleck 1790-1867](#)

[8.16 Friedrich Halm \(Eligius Francis Joseph, Baron von Münch-Bellinghausen\) 1806-71](#)

[8.17 Margaret Halsey 1910—](#)

[8.18 Admiral W. F. \('Bull'\) Halsey 1882-1959](#)

[8.19 Alex Hamilton 1936—](#)

[8.20 Alexander Hamilton c.1755-1804](#)

[8.21 Gail Hamilton \(Mary A. Dodge\) 1833-96](#)

[8.22 Sir William Hamilton 1788-1856](#)

[8.23 Oscar Hammerstein II 1895-1960](#)

[8.24 Christopher Hampton 1946—](#)

[8.25 John Hancock 1737-93](#)

[8.26 Learned Hand 1872-1961](#)

[8.27 Minnie Hanff 1880-1942](#)

[8.28 Brian Hanrahan 1949—](#)

[8.29 Edmond Haraucourt 1856-1941](#)

[8.30 Otto Harbach 1873-1963](#)

[8.31 E. Y. \('Yip'\) Harburg 1898-1981](#)

[8.32 Keir Hardie 1856-1915](#)

[8.33 Sir William Harcourt 1827-1904](#)
[8.34 Warren G. Harding 1865-1923](#)
[8.35 Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke 1690-1764](#)
[8.36 Godfrey Harold Hardy 1877-1947](#)
[8.37 Thomas Hardy 1840-1928](#)
[8.38 Julius Hare 1795-1855 and Augustus Hare 1792-1834](#)
[8.39 Maurice Evan Hare 1886-1967](#)
[8.40 W. F. Hargreaves 1846-1919](#)
[8.41 Sir John Harington 1561-1612](#)
[8.42 Lord Harlech \(David Ormsby Gore\) 1918-85](#)
[8.43 Harold of England 1022-66](#)
[8.44 Jimmy Harper, Will E. Haines, and Tommie Connor](#)
[8.45 Joel Chandler Harris 1848-1908](#)
[8.46 Lorenz Hart 1895-1943](#)
[8.47 Bret Harte 1836-1902](#)
[8.48 L. P. Hartley 1895-1972](#)
[8.49 F. W. Harvey b. 1888](#)
[8.50 Minnie Louise Haskins 1875-1957](#)
[8.51 Stephen Hawes d. c.1523](#)
[8.52 Lord Haw-Haw](#)
[8.53 R. S. Hawker 1803-75](#)
[8.54 Nathaniel Hawthorne 1804-64](#)
[8.55 Ian Hay \(John Hay Beith\) 1876-1952](#)
[8.56 J. Milton Hayes 1884-1940](#)
[8.57 Eliza Haywood c.1693-1756](#)
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[8.59 Denis Healey 1917—](#)
[8.60 Seamus Heaney 1939—](#)
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[8.62 Reginald Heber 1783-1826](#)
[8.63 G. W. F. Hegel 1770-1831](#)
[8.64 Heinrich Heine 1797-1856](#)
[8.65 Werner Heisenberg 1901-76](#)
[8.66 Joseph Heller 1923—](#)
[8.67 Lillian Hellman 1905-84](#)
[8.68 Helvétius \(Claude Arien Helvétius\) 1715-71](#)

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[8.70 John Heming 1556-1630 and Henry Condell d. 1627](#)
[8.71 Ernest Hemingway 1899-1961](#)
[8.72 Arthur W. D. Henley](#)
[8.73 W. E. Henley 1849-1903](#)
[8.74 Henri IV 1553-1610](#)
[8.75 Henry II 1133-89](#)
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[8.77 Matthew Henry 1662-1714](#)
[8.78 O. Henry \(William Sydney Porter\) 1862-1910](#)
[8.79 Patrick Henry 1736-99](#)
[8.80 Joseph Henshaw 1603-79](#)
[8.81 Heraclitus fl. 513 B.C.](#)
[8.82 A. P. Herbert 1890-1971](#)
[8.83 Lord Herbert of Cherbury 1583-1648](#)
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[8.85 Robert Herrick 1591-1674](#)
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[8.89 Gordon Hewart \(Viscount Hewart\) 1870-1943](#)
[8.90 Du Bose Heyward 1885-1940 and Ira Gershwin 1896-1983](#)
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[8.92 Thomas Heywood c.1574-1641](#)
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[8.95 Joe Hill 1879-1915](#)
[8.96 Pattie S. Hill 1868-1946](#)
[8.97 Rowland Hill 1744-1833](#)
[8.98 Sir Edmund Hillary 1919—](#)
[8.99 Fred Hillebrand 1893—](#)
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[8.115 James Hogg 1770-1835](#)
[8.116 Paul Henri, Baron d'Holbach 1723-89](#)
[8.117 Billie Holiday 1915-59](#)
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[8.119 1st Lord Holland 1705-74](#)
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[8.121 Stanley Holloway 1890-1982](#)
[8.122 John H. Holmes 1879-1964](#)
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[8.124 John Home 1722-1808](#)
[8.125 Lord Home \(fourteenth Earl of Home, formerly Sir Alec Douglas-Home\) 1903—1963-4](#)
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[8.127 William Hone 1780-1842](#)
[8.128 Arthur Honegger 1892-1955](#)
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[8.131 Ellen Sturgis Hooper 1816-41](#)
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[8.133 Anthony Hope \(Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins\) 1863-1933](#)
[8.134 Bob Hope 1903—](#)
[8.135 Francis Hope 1938-74](#)
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[8.137 Gerard Manley Hopkins 1844-89](#)
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[8.140 Samuel Horsley 1733-1806](#)

[8.141 A. E. Housman 1859-1936](#)
[8.142 Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910](#)
[8.143 James Howell c.1593-1666](#)
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[8.146 Elbert Hubbard 1859-1915](#)
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[8.160 Herman Hupfeld 1894-1951](#)
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[8.163 Francis Hutcheson 1694-1746](#)
[8.164 Aldous Huxley 1894-1963](#)
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[9.2 Henrik Ibsen 1828-1906](#)
[9.3 Eric Idle 1943—](#)
[9.4 Francis Iles \(Anthony Berkeley Cox\) 1893-1970](#)
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[9.6 Charles Inge 1868-1957](#)
[9.7 William Ralph Inge \(Dean Inge\) 1860-1954](#)
[9.8 Jean Ingelow 1820-97](#)

[9.9 Robert G. Ingersoll 1833-99](#)

[9.10 J. A. D. Ingres 1780-1867](#)

[9.11 Eugène Ionesco 1912—](#)

[9.12 Weldon J. Irvine](#)

[9.13 Washington Irving 1783-1859](#)

[9.14 Anne Ingram, Viscountess Irwin c.1696-1764](#)

[9.15 Christopher Isherwood 1904-86](#)

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[10.1 Andrew Jackson 1767-1845](#)

[10.2 Holbrook Jackson 1874-1948](#)

[10.3 Joe Jacobs 1896-1940](#)

[10.4 Jacopone da Todi c.1230-1306](#)

[10.5 Mick Jagger 1943—and Keith Richard \(Keith Richards\) 1943—](#)

[10.6 Richard Jago 1715-81](#)

[10.7 James I \(James VI of Scotland\) 1566-1625](#)

[10.8 James V of Scotland 1512-42](#)

[10.9 Henry James 1843-1916](#)

[10.10 William James 1842-1910](#)

[10.11 Randall Jarrell 1914-65](#)

[10.12 Douglas Jay 1907—](#)

[10.13 Jean Paul 1763-1825](#)

[10.14 Sir James Jeans 1877-1946](#)

[10.15 Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826](#)

[10.16 Francis, Lord Jeffrey 1773-1850](#)

[10.17 David Jenkins 1925—](#)

[10.18 Roy Jenkins \(Baron Jenkins of Hillhead\) 1920—](#)

[10.19 Paul Jennings 1918-89](#)

[10.20 Soame Jenyns 1704-87](#)

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[10.22 Jerome K. Jerome 1859-1927](#)

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[10.24 Douglas Jerrold 1803-57](#)

[10.25 John Jewel 1522-71](#)

[10.26 C. E. M. Joad 1891-1953](#)

[10.27 St John of the Cross 1542-91](#)

[10.29 Pope John XXIII \(Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli\) 1881-1963](#)

[10.30 Linton Kwesi Johnson b. 1952](#)
[10.31 Lionel Johnson 1867-1902](#)
[10.32 Lyndon Baines Johnson 1908-73](#)
[10.33 Paul Johnson](#)
[10.34 Philander Chase Johnson 1866-1939](#)
[10.35 Philip Johnson 1906—](#)
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[10.37 John Benn Johnstone 1803-91](#)
[10.38 Hanns Johst 1890-1978](#)
[10.39 Al Jolson 1886-1950](#)
[10.40 Henry Arthur Jones 1851-1929 and Henry Herman 1832-94](#)
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[10.44 Erica Jong 1942—](#)
[10.45 Ben Jonson c.1573-1637](#)
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[10.48 John Jortin 1698-1770](#)
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[10.50 Benjamin Jowett 1817-93](#)
[10.51 James Joyce 1882-1941](#)
[10.52 William Joyce \(Lord Haw-Haw\) 1906-1946](#)
[10.53 Jack Judge 1878-1938 and Harry Williams 1874-1924](#)
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[3.26 Josè Ortega y Gasset 1883-1955](#)
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[8.1 Tacitus A.D. c.56-after 117](#)

[8.2 Sir Rabindranath Tagore 1861-1941](#)

[8.3 Nellie Talbot](#)

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[8.5 Booth Tarkington 1869-1946](#)

[8.6 Nahum Tate 1652-1715](#)

[8.7 Nahum Tate 1652-1715 and Nicholas Brady 1659-1726](#)

[8.8 R. H. Tawney 1880-1962](#)

[8.9 A. J. P. Taylor 1906-90](#)

[8.10 Ann Taylor 1782-1866 and Jane Taylor 1783-1824](#)

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[8.15 Sir William Temple 1628-99](#)

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[8.17 Sir John Tenniel 1820-1914](#)

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[8.19 Terence c.190-159 B.C.](#)

[8.20 St Teresa of Ávila 1512-82](#)

[8.21 Tertullian A.D. c.160-c.225](#)

[8.22 A. S. J. Tessimond 1902-62](#)

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[8.26 Louis Adolphe Thiers 1797-1877](#)

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[8.29 Brandon Thomas 1856-1914](#)

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[8.69 G. M. Trevelyan 1876-1962](#)

[8.70 Calvin Trillin](#)

[8.71 Lionel Trilling 1905-75](#)

[8.72 Tommy Trinder 1909-89](#)

[8.73 Anthony Trollope 1815-82](#)

[8.74 Leon Trotsky \(Lev Davidovich Bronstein\) 1879-1940](#)

[8.75 Harry S. Truman 1884-1972](#)

[8.76 Barbara W. Tuchman 1912-89](#)

[8.77 Sophie Tucker 1884-1966](#)

[8.78 Martin Tupper 1810-89](#)

[8.80 Walter James Redfern Turner 1889-1946](#)

[8.81 Mark Twain \(Samuel Langhorne Clemens\) 1835-191](#)

[8.82 Kenneth Tynan 1927-80](#)

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[9.1 Domitius Ulpian d. 228](#)

[9.2 Miguel de Unamuno 1864-1937](#)

[9.3 John Updike 1932—](#)

[9.4 Archbishop James Ussher 1581-1656](#)

[9.5 Sir Peter Ustinov 1921—](#)

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[10.1 Paul Valéry 1871-1945](#)

[10.2 Sir John Vanbrugh 1664-1726](#)

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[10.4 Vivien van Damm c.1889-1960](#)

[10.5 William Henry Vanderbilt 1821-85](#)

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[10.7 Bartolomeo Vanzetti 1888-1927](#)

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[10.26 Virgil \(Publius Virgilius Maro\) 70-19 B.C.](#)
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[11.2 John Wain 1925—](#)
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[11.21 Andy Warhol 1927-87](#)
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[11.23 George Washington 1732-99](#)
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[11.36 Daniel Webster 1782-1852](#)
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[11.38 Josiah Wedgwood 1730-95](#)
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[11.49 Charles Wesley 1707-88](#)
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[11.51 Revd Samuel Wesley 1662-1735](#)
[11.52 Mae West 1892-1980](#)
[11.53 Dame Rebecca West \(Cicily Isabel Fairfield\) 1892-1983](#)
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[11.60 Thomas, 1st Marquis Of Wharton 1648-1715](#)
[11.61 Richard Whately, Archbishop Of Dublin 1787-1863](#)
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[11.63 James Mcneill Whistler 1834-1903](#)
[11.64 E. B. White 1899-1985](#)
[11.65 T. H. White 1906-64](#)
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[11.68 Katharine Whitehorn 1926—](#)
[11.69 George Whiting](#)
[11.70 William Whiting 1825-78](#)
[11.71 Gough Whitlam 1916—](#)
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[11.78 William H. Whyte 1917—](#)
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[11.80 Anna Wickham \(Edith Alice Mary Harper\) 1884-1947](#)
[11.81 Bishop Samuel Wilberforce 1805-73](#)
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[11.83 Ella Wheeler Wilcox 1855-1919](#)
[11.84 Oscar Wilde 1854-1900](#)
[11.85 Billy Wilder \(Samuel Wilder\) 1906—](#)
[11.86 Billy Wilder 1906—and I. A. L. Diamond](#)
[11.87 Thornton Wilder 1897-1975](#)
[11.88 Kaiser Wilhelm II 1859-1941](#)
[11.89 John Wilkes 1727-97](#)
[11.90 Geoffrey Willans 1911-58 and Ronald Searle 1920—](#)
[11.91 Emma Hart Willard 1787-1870](#)
[11.92 King William III 1650-1702](#)
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[11.94 Kenneth Williams 1926-88](#)
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[11.97 Ted Willis \(Edward Henry Willis, Baron Willis of Chislehurst\) 1918—](#)
[11.98 Nathaniel Parker Willis 1806-67](#)
[11.99 Wendell Willkie 1892-1944](#)

[11.100 Angus Wilson 1913-91](#)
[11.101 Charles E. Wilson 1890-1961](#)
[11.102 Edmund Wilson 1895-1972](#)
[11.103 Harold Wilson \(Baron Wilson of Rievaulx\) 1916—](#)
[11.104 Harriette Wilson 1789-1846](#)
[11.105 John Wilson](#)
[11.106 McLandburgh Wilson 1892—](#)
[11.107 Sandy Wilson 1924—](#)
[11.108 Woodrow Wilson 1856-1924](#)
[11.109 Robb Wilton 1881-1957](#)
[11.110 Arthur Wimperis 1874-1953](#)
[11.111 Anne Finch, Lady Winchilsea 1661-1720](#)
[11.112 William Windham 1750-1810](#)
[11.113 Catherine Winkworth 1827-78](#)
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[11.116 Owen Wister 1860-1938](#)
[11.117 George Wither 1588-1667](#)
[11.118 Ludwig Wittgenstein 1889-1951](#)
[11.119 P. G. Wodehouse 1881-1975](#)
[11.120 Charles Wolfe 1791-1823](#)
[11.121 Humbert Wolfe 1886-1940](#)
[11.122 James Wolfe 1727-59](#)
[11.123 Thomas Wolfe 1900-38](#)
[11.124 Tom Wolfe 1931—](#)
[11.125 Mary Wollstonecraft 1759-97](#)
[11.126 Cardinal Wolsey c.1475-1530](#)
[11.127 Mrs Henry Wood 1814-87](#)
[11.128 Woodbine Willie](#)
[11.129 Lt.-Commander Thomas Woodroffe 1899-1978](#)
[11.130 Harry Woods](#)
[11.131 Virginia Woolf 1882-1941](#)
[11.132 Alexander Woollcott 1887-1943](#)
[11.133 Dorothy Wordsworth 1771-1855](#)
[11.134 Elizabeth Wordsworth 1840-1932](#)
[11.135 William Wordsworth 1770-1850](#)

[11.136 Sir Henry Wotton 1568-1639](#)

[11.137 Frank Lloyd Wright 1867-1959](#)

[11.138 Sir Thomas Wyatt c.1503-42](#)

[11.139 Woodrow Wyatt \(Baron Wyatt\) 1919—](#)

[11.140 William Wycherley c.1640-1716](#)

[11.141 Laurie Wyman](#)

[11.142 George Wyndham 1863-1913](#)

[11.143 Tammy Wynette \(Wynette Pugh\) 1942—and Billy Sherrill](#)

[11.144 Andrew Of Wyntoun c.1350-c.1420](#)

[12.0 X](#)

[12.1 Xenophon c.428/7-c.354 B.C.](#)

[12.2 Augustin, Marquis De Ximénez 1726-1817](#)

[13.0 Y](#)

[13.1 Thomas Russell Ybarra b. 1880](#)

[13.2 W. F. Yeames R. A. 1835-1918](#)

[13.3 R. J. Yeatman 1898-1968](#)

[13.4 W. B. Yeats 1865-1939](#)

[13.5 Jack Yellen 1892-1991](#)

[13.6 Edward Young 1683-1765](#)

[13.7 George W. Young 1846-1919](#)

[13.8 Michael Young 1915—](#)

[13.9 Waldemar Young et al.](#)

[14.0 Z](#)

[14.1 Israel Zangwill 1864-1926](#)

[14.2 Darryl F. Zanuck 1902-79](#)

[14.3 Emiliano Zapata 1879-1919](#)

[14.4 Frank Zappa 1940—](#)

[14.5 Robert Zemeckis 1952—and Bob Gale 1952—](#)

[14.6 Ronald L. Ziegler 1939—](#)

[14.7 Grigori Zinoviev 1883-1936](#)

[14.8 Èmile Zola 1840-1902](#)

1.0 A

1.1 Peter Abelard 1079-1142

O quanta qualia sunt illa sabbata,
Quae semper celebrat superna curia.

O what their joy and glory must be,
Those endless sabbaths the blessed ones see!

‘Hymnarius Paraclitensis’ bk. 1, pars altera ‘Hymni Diurni’ no. 29 ‘Sabbato. Ad Vesperas’ (translated by J. M. Neale, 1854)

1.2 Dannie Abse 1923—

I know the colour rose, and it is lovely,
But not when it ripens in a tumour;
And healing greens, leaves and grass, so springlike,
In limbs that fester are not springlike.

‘Pathology of Colours’ (1968)

So in the simple blessing of a rainbow,
In the bevelled edge of a sunlit mirror,
I have seen visible, Death’s artifact
Like a soldier’s ribbon on a tunic tacked.

‘Pathology of Colours’ (1968)

1.3 Accius 170-c.86 B.C.

Oderint, dum metuant.

Let them hate, so long as they fear.

From ‘Atreus’, in Seneca ‘Dialogues’ bks. 3-5 ‘De Ira’ bk. 1, sect. 20, subsect. 4

1.4 Goodman Ace 1899-1982

TV—a clever contraction derived from the words Terrible Vaudeville....we call it a medium because nothing’s well done.

Letter to Groucho Marx, in ‘The Groucho Letters’ (1967) p. 114

1.5 Dean Acheson 1893-1971

Great Britain has lost an empire and has not yet found a role.

Speech at the Military Academy, West Point, 5 December 1962, in ‘Vital Speeches’ 1 January 1963, p. 163

The first requirement of a statesman is that he be dull.

In ‘Observer’ 21 June 1970

I will undoubtedly have to seek what is happily known as gainful employment, which I am glad to say does not describe holding public office.

In ‘Time’ 22 December 1952

A memorandum is written not to inform the reader but to protect the writer.

In ‘Wall Street Journal’ 8 September 1977

1.6 Lord Acton (John Emerich Edward Dahlberg, first Baron Acton) 1834-1902

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton, 3 April 1887, in Louise Creighton 'Life and Letters of Mandell Creighton' (1904) vol. 1, ch. 13.

1.7 Abigail Adams 1744-1818

In the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could.

Letter to John Adams, 31 March 1776

It is really mortifying, sir, when a woman possessed of a common share of understanding considers the difference of education between the male and female sex, even in those families where education is attended to...Nay why should your sex wish for such a disparity in those whom they one day intend for companions and associates. Pardon me, sir, if I cannot help sometimes suspecting that this neglect arises in some measure from an ungenerous jealousy of rivals near the throne.

Letter to John Thaxter, 15 February 1778

These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or in the repose of a pacific station, that great challenges are formed....Great necessities call out great virtues.

Letter to John Quincy Adams, 19 January 1780

1.8 Charles Francis Adams 1807-86

It would be superfluous in me to point out to your lordship that this is war.

Dispatch to Earl Russell, 5 September 1863, in C. F. Adams 'Charles Francis Adams' (1900)

1.9 Douglas Adams 1952—

The Answer to the Great Question Of...Life, the Universe and Everything...[is] Forty-two.

'The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy' (1979) ch. 27

1.10 Frank Adams and Will M. Hough

I wonder who's kissing her now.

Title of song (1909)

1.11 Franklin P. Adams 1881-1960

When the political columnists say 'Every thinking man' they mean themselves, and when candidates appeal to 'Every intelligent voter' they mean everybody who is going to vote for them.

'Nods and Becks' (1944) p. 3

Years ago we discovered the exact point, the dead centre of middle age. It occurs when you are too young to take up golf and too old to rush up to the net.

‘Nods and Becks’ (1944) p. 53

Elections are won by men and women chiefly because most people vote against somebody rather than for somebody.

‘Nods and Becks’ (1944) p. 206.

1.12 Henry Brooks Adams 1838-1918

Politics, as a practice, whatever its professions, has always been the systematic organization of hatreds.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 1

Accident counts for much in companionship as in marriage.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 4.

Women have, commonly, a very positive moral sense; that which they will, is right; that which they reject, is wrong; and their will, in most cases, ends by settling the moral.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 6

All experience is an arch to build upon.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 6

A friend in power is a friend lost.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 7

The effect of power and publicity on all men is the aggravation of self, a sort of tumour that ends by killing the victim’s sympathies.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 10

These questions of taste, of feeling, of inheritance, need no settlement.

Everyone carries his own inch-rule of taste, and amuses himself by applying it, triumphantly, wherever he travels.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 12

[Charles] Sumner’s mind had reached the calm of water which receives and reflects images without absorbing them; it contained nothing but itself.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 13

Chaos often breeds life, when order breeds habit.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 16

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 20

One friend in a lifetime is much; two are many; three are hardly possible. Friendship needs a certain parallelism of life, a community of thought, a rivalry of aim.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 20

What one knows is, in youth, of little moment; they know enough who know how to learn.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 21

Morality is a private and costly luxury.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 22

Practical politics consists in ignoring facts.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 22

Nothing in education is so astonishing as the amount of ignorance it accumulates in the form of inert facts.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 25

Symbol or energy, the Virgin had acted as the greatest force the Western world had ever felt, and had drawn man’s activities to herself more strongly than any other power, natural or supernatural had ever done.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 25

Modern politics is, at bottom, a struggle not of men but of forces.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 28

We combat obstacles in order to get repose, and, when got, the repose is insupportable.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 29

No one means all he says, and yet very few say all they mean, for words are slippery and thought is viscous.

‘The Education of Henry Adams’ (1907) ch. 31

1.13 John Adams 1735-1826

Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right... and a desire to know; but besides this, they have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge, I mean of the characters and conduct of their rulers.

‘A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law’ (1765)

There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty.

‘Notes for an Oration at Braintree’ (Spring 1772)

A government of laws, and not of men.

‘Boston Gazette’ (1774) no. 7, ‘Novanglus’ papers; later incorporated in the Massachusetts Constitution (1780) Article 30 of the Declaration of Rights

I agree with you that in politics the middle way is none at all.

Letter to Horatio Gates, 23 March 1776

The happiness of society is the end of government.

‘Thoughts on Government’ (1776)

Fear is the foundation of most governments.

‘Thoughts on Government’ (1776)

You and I ought not to die

before we have explained ourselves to each other.

Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 15 July 1813

The fundamental article of my political creed is that despotism, or unlimited sovereignty, or

absolute power, is the same in a majority of a popular assembly, an aristocratic council, an oligarchical junto, and a single emperor.

Letter to Thomas Jefferson, 13 November 1815

1.14 John Quincy Adams 1767-1848

Think of your forefathers! Think of your posterity!

‘Oration at Plymouth’ 22 December 1802, p. 6

Fiat justitia, pereat coelum [Let justice be done though heaven fall]. My toast would be, may our country be always successful, but whether successful or otherwise, always right.

Letter to John Adams, 1 August 1816

1.15 Samuel Adams 1722-1803

What a glorious morning for America.

On hearing gunfire at Lexington, 19 April 1775

We cannot make events. Our business is wisely to improve them....Mankind are governed more by their feelings than by reason. Events which excite those feelings will produce wonderful effects.

In J. N. Rakove ‘The Beginnings of National Politics’ (1979) p. 92

A nation of shop-keepers are very seldom so disinterested.

‘Oration in Philadelphia’ 1 August 1776 (the authenticity of this publication is doubtful).

1.16 Sarah Flower Adams 1805-48

Nearer, my God, to thee,

Nearer to thee!

‘Nearer My God to Thee’ in W. G. Fox ‘Hymns and Anthems’ (1841)

1.17 Harold Adamson 1906-80

Comin’ in on a wing and a pray’r.

Title of song (1943)

1.18 Joseph Addison 1672-1719

He more had pleased us, had he pleased us less.

‘An Account of the Greatest English Poets’ (referring to Cowley)

’Twas then great Marlbro’s mighty soul was proved.

‘The Campaign’ (1705) l. 279

And, pleased th’ Almighty’s orders to perform,

Rides in the whirl-wind, and directs the storm.

‘The Campaign’ (1705) l. 291

And those who paint ’em truest praise ’em most.

‘The Campaign’ (1705) l. 476

’Tis not in mortals to command success,

But we'll do more, Sempronius; we'll deserve it.

'Cato' (1713) act 1, sc. 2, l. 43

'Tis pride, rank pride, and haughtiness of soul;

I think the Romans call it stoicism.

'Cato' (1713) act 1, sc. 4, l. 82

Were you with these, my prince, you'd soon forget

The pale, unripened beauties of the north.

'Cato' (1713) act 1, sc. 4, l. 134

The woman that deliberates is lost.

'Cato' (1713) act 4, sc. 1, l. 31

Curse on his virtues! they've undone his country.

Such popular humanity is treason.

'Cato' (1713) act 4, sc. 1, l. 205

What pity is it

That we can die but once to serve our country!

'Cato' (1713) act 4, sc. 1, l. 258

Content thyself to be obscurely good.

When vice prevails, and impious men bear sway,

The post of honour is a private station.

'Cato' (1713) act 4, sc. 1, l. 319

It must be so—Plato, thou reason'st well!—

Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,

This longing after immortality?

Or whence this secret dread, and inward horror,

Of falling into naught? Why shrinks the soul

Back on herself, and startles at destruction?

'Tis the divinity that stirs within us;

'Tis heaven itself, that points out an hereafter,

And intimates eternity to man.

Eternity! thou pleasing, dreadful thought!

'Cato' (1713) act 5, sc. 1, l. 1

From hence, let fierce contending nations know

What dire effects from civil discord flow.

'Cato' (1713) act 5, sc. 1, closing lines

I should think my self a very bad woman, if I had done what I do, for a farthing less.

'The Drummer' (1716) act 1

There is nothing more requisite in business than dispatch.

'The Drummer' (1716) act 5, sc. 1

For wheresoe'er I turn my ravished eyes,

Gay gilded scenes and shining prospects rise,

Poetic fields encompass me around,
And still I seem to tread on classic ground.

‘Letter from Italy’ (1704)

A painted meadow, or a purling stream.

‘Letter from Italy’ (1704)

Music, the greatest good that mortals know,
And all of heaven we have below.

‘A Song for St Cecilia’s Day’

Should the whole frame of nature round him break,
In ruin and confusion hurled,
He, unconcerned, would hear the mighty crack,
And stand secure amidst a falling world.

Translation of Horace Odes bk. 3, ode 3.

A reader seldom peruses a book with pleasure until he knows whether the writer of it be a black man or a fair man, of a mild or choleric disposition, married or a bachelor.

‘The Spectator’ no. 1, 1 March 1711

In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou’rt such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
There is no living with thee, nor without thee.

‘The Spectator’ no. 68, 18 May 1711.

As Sir Roger is landlord to the whole congregation, he keeps them in very good order, and will suffer nobody to sleep in it [the church] besides himself; for if by chance he has been surprised into a short nap at sermon, upon recovering out of it, he stands up, and looks about him; and if he sees anybody else nodding, either wakes them himself, or sends his servant to them.

‘The Spectator’ no. 112, 9 July 1711

Sir Roger told them, with the air of a man who would not give his judgement rashly, that much might be said on both sides.

‘The Spectator’ no. 122, 20 July 1711

It was a saying of an ancient philosopher, which I find some of our writers have ascribed to Queen Elizabeth, who perhaps might have taken occasion to repeat it, that a good face is a letter of recommendation.

‘The Spectator’ no. 221, 13 November 1711.

I have often thought, says Sir Roger, it happens very well that Christmas should fall out in the Middle of Winter.

‘The Spectator’ no. 269, 8 January 1712

A true critic ought to dwell rather upon excellencies than imperfections, to discover the concealed beauties of a writer, and communicate to the world such things as are worth their observation.

‘The Spectator’ no. 291, 2 February 1712.

These widows, Sir, are the most perverse creatures in the world.

‘The Spectator’ no. 335, 25 March 1712

Mirth is short and transient, cheerfulness fixed and permanent....Mirth is like a flash of lightning that breaks through a gloom of clouds, and glitters for a moment: cheerfulness keeps up a kind of day-light in the mind, and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

‘The Spectator’ no. 381, 17 May 1712

The Knight in the triumph of his heart made several reflections on the greatness of the British Nation; as, that one Englishman could beat three Frenchmen; that we could never be in danger of Popery so long as we took care of our fleet; that the Thames was the noblest river in Europe; that London Bridge was a greater piece of work than any of the Seven Wonders of the World; with many other honest prejudices which naturally cleave to the heart of a true Englishman.

‘The Spectator’ no. 383, 20 May 1712

Wide and undetermined prospects are as pleasing to the fancy, as the speculations of eternity or infinitude are to the understanding.

‘The Spectator’ no. 412, 23 June 1712

Through all Eternity to Thee
A joyful Song I’ll raise,
For oh! Eternity’s too short
To utter all thy Praise.

‘The Spectator’ no. 453, 9 August 1712

We have in England a particular bashfulness in every thing that regards religion.

‘The Spectator’ no. 458, 15 August 1712

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.

‘The Spectator’ no. 465, 23 August 1712, ‘Ode’

In Reason’s ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing, as they shine:
‘The hand that made us is divine.’

‘The Spectator’ no. 465, 23 August 1712, ‘Ode’

A woman seldom asks advice before she has bought her wedding clothes.

‘The Spectator’ no. 475, 4 September 1712

Our disputants put me in mind of the skuttle fish, that when he is unable to extricate himself, blackens all the water about him, till he becomes invisible.

‘The Spectator’ no. 476, 5 September 1712

If we may believe our logicians, man is distinguished from all other creatures by the faculty of laughter.

‘The Spectator’ no. 494, 26 September 1712

‘We are always doing’, says he, ‘something for Posterity, but I would fain see Posterity do something for us.’

‘The Spectator’ no. 583, 20 August 1714

There is sometimes a greater judgement shewn in deviating from the rules of art, than in adhering to them; and...there is more beauty in the works of a great genius who is ignorant of all the rules of art, than in the works of a little genius, who not only knows but scrupulously observes them.

‘The Spectator’ no. 592, 10 September 1714.

I remember when our whole island was shaken with an earthquake some years ago, there was an impudent mountebank who sold pills which (as he told the country people) were very good against an earthquake.

‘The Tatler’ no. 240, 21 October 1710

See in what peace a Christian can die.

Dying words to his stepson Lord Warwick, in Edward Young ‘Conjectures on Original Composition’ (1759)

1.19 George Ade 1866-1944

After being Turned Down by numerous Publishers, he had decided to write for posterity.

‘Fables in Slang’ (1900) p. 158

r-e-m-o-r-s-e!

Those dry Martinis did the work for me;

Last night at twelve I felt immense,

Today I feel like thirty cents.

My eyes are bleared, my coppers hot,

I’ll try to eat, but I cannot.

It is no time for mirth and laughter,

The cold, gray dawn of the morning after.

‘The Sultan of Sulu’ (1903) act 2, p. 63

‘Whom are you?’ he asked, for he had attended business college.

‘The Steel Box’ in ‘Chicago Record’ 16 March 1898

1.20 Alfred Adler 1870-1937

The truth is often a terrible weapon of aggression. It is possible to lie, and even to murder, for the truth.

‘The Problems of Neurosis’ (1929) ch. 2

1.21 Polly Adler 1900-62

A house is not a home.

Title of book (1954)

1.22 AE (A.E., ‘) (George William Russell) 1867-1935

In ancient shadows and twilights

Where childhood had strayed,
The world's great sorrows were born
And its heroes were made.
In the lost boyhood of Judas
Christ was betrayed.

'Germinal' (1931)

1.23 Aeschylus c.525-456 B.C.

Hell to ships, hell to men, hell to cities.

Referring to Helen (literally 'Ship-destroyer, man-destroyer, city-destroyer') in 'Agamemnon' l. 689

Innumerable twinkling of the waves of the sea.

'Prometheus Bound' l. 89

1.24 Herbert Agar 1897-1980

The truth which makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.

'A Time for Greatness' (1942) ch. 7

1.25 James Agate 1877-1947

My mind is not a bed to be made and re-made.

'Ego 6' (1944) 9 June 1943

1.26 Agathon b. c.445 B.C.

Even God cannot change the past.

In Aristotle 'Nicomachean Ethics' bk. 6, sect. 2, 1139b

1.27 Spiro T. Agnew 1918—

A spirit of national masochism prevails, encouraged by an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals.

Speech in New Orleans, 19 October 1969, in 'Frankly Speaking' (1970) ch. 3

1.28 Maria, Marchioness of Ailesbury d. 1902

My dear, my dear, you never know when any beautiful young lady may not blossom into a Duchess!

In Duke of Portland 'Men, Women, and Things' (1937) ch. 3

1.29 Canon Alfred Ainger 1837-1904

No flowers, by request.

Speech, 8 July 1897 (summary of principle of conciseness for contributors to the 'Dictionary of National Biography')

1.30 Max Aitken

See Lord Beaverbrook (2.59)

1.31 Mark Akenside 1721-70

Mind, mind alone, bear witness, earth and heaven!
The living fountains in itself contains
Of beauteous and sublime.

‘The Pleasures of Imagination’ (1744) bk. 1, l. 481

Nor ever yet
The melting rainbow’s vernal-tinctured hues
To me have shone so pleasing, as when first
The hand of science pointed out the path
In which the sun-beams gleaming from the west
Fall on the wat’ry cloud.

‘The Pleasures of Imagination’ (1744) bk. 2, l. 103

1.32 Zoë Akins 1886-1958

The Greeks had a word for it.
Title of play (1930)

1.33 Alain (Émile-Auguste Chartier) 1868-1951

Rien n’est plus dangereux qu’une idée, quand on n’a qu’une idée.

Nothing is more dangerous than an idea, when you have only one idea.

‘Propos sur la religion’ (Remarks on Religion, 1938) no. 74

1.34 Edward Albee 1928—

Who’s afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Title of play (1962).

I have a fine sense of the ridiculous, but no sense of humour.
‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?’ (1962) act 1

1.35 Prince Albert 1819-61

The works of art, by being publicly exhibited and offered for sale, are becoming articles of trade, following as such the unreasoning laws of markets and fashion; and public and even private patronage is swayed by their tyrannical influence.

Speech at the Royal Academy Dinner, 3 May 1851, in ‘Addresses’ (1857) p. 101

1.36 Scipione Alberti

I pensieri stretti ed il viso sciolto.

[Secret thoughts and open countenance] will go safely over the whole world.

On being asked how to behave in Rome, in letter from Sir Henry Wotton to John Milton, 13 April 1638, prefixed to ‘Comus’ in Milton ‘Poems’ (1645 ed.)

1.37 Mary Alcock c.1742-98

A masquerade, a murdered peer,
His throat just cut from ear to ear—
A rake turned hermit—a fond maid
Run mad, by some false loon betrayed—
These stores supply the female pen,
Which writes them o'er and o'er again,
And readers likewise may be found
To circulate them round and round.

'A Receipt for Writing a Novel' l. 65

1.38 Alcuin c.735-804

Nec audiendi qui solent dicere, Vox populi, vox Dei, quum tumultuositas vulgi semper insaniae proxima sit.

And those people should not be listened to who keep saying the voice of the people is the voice of God, since the riotousness of the crowd is always very close to madness.

Letter 164 in 'Works' (1863) vol. 1, p. 438

1.39 Richard Aldington 1892-1962

Patriotism is a lively sense of collective responsibility. Nationalism is a silly cock crowing on its own dunghill.

'The Colonel's Daughter' (1931) pt. 1, ch. 6

1.40 Brian Aldiss 1925—

Keep violence in the mind
Where it belongs.

'Barefoot in the Head' (1969)'Charteris' ad fin.

1.41 Henry Aldrich 1647-1710

If all be true that I do think,
There are five reasons we should drink;
Good wine—a friend—or being dry—
Or lest we should be by and by—
Or any other reason why.

'Reasons for Drinking'

1.42 Thomas Bailey Aldrich 1836-1907

The fair, frail palaces,
The fading alps and archipelagoes,
And great cloud-continent of sunset-seas.

‘Miracles’

1.43 Alexander the Great 356-323 B.C.

If I were not Alexander, I would be Diogenes.

In Plutarch ‘Parallel Lives’ ‘Alexander’ ch. 14, sect. 3

1.44 Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ (1848)

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ (1848)

1.45 Sir William Alexander, Earl of Stirling c.1567-1640

The weaker sex, to piety more prone.

‘Doomsday’ 5th Hour

1.46 Alfonso the Wise 1221-84

Had I been present at the Creation, I would have given some useful hints for the better ordering of the universe.

Said after studying the Ptolemaic system (attributed)

1.47 King Alfred the Great 849-99

Then began I...to turn into English the book that is named in Latin *Pastoralis*...one-while word for word, another-while meaning for meaning.

Preface to the Anglo-Saxon version of Gregory’s ‘Pastoral Care’ in ‘Whole Works’ (Jubilee Edition, 1852)
vol. 3, p. 64

1.48 Nelson Algren 1909—

A walk on the wild side.

Title of novel (1956)

Never play cards with a man called Doc. Never eat at a place called Mom’s. Never sleep with a woman whose troubles are worse than your own.

In ‘Newsweek’ 2 July 1956

1.49 Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) 1942—

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.

Summary of his boxing strategy, in G. Sullivan 'Cassius Clay Story' (1964) ch. 8

I'm the greatest.

Catch-phrase from early 1960s, in 'Louisville Times' 16 November 1962

1.50 *Abbè d'Allainval 1700-53*

L'embarras des richesses.

The embarrassment of riches.

Title of comedy (1726)

1.51 *Fred Allen (John Florence Sullivan) 1894-1956*

Committee—a group of men who individually can do nothing but as a group decide that nothing can be done.

In Laurence J. Peter 'Quotations for our Time' (1978) p. 120

1.52 *Woody Allen (Allen Stewart Konigsberg) 1935—*

Is sex dirty? Only if it's done right.

'Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex' (1972 film)

If it turns out that there is a God, I don't think that he's evil. But the worst that you can say about him is that basically he's an underachiever.

'Love and Death' (1975 film)

A fast word about oral contraception. I asked a girl to go to bed with me and she said 'no'.

'Woody Allen Volume Two' (Colpix CP 488) side 4, b and 6

It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens.

'Death' (1975) p. 63

On the plus side, death is one of the few things that can be done as easily lying down.

'Early Essays' in 'Without Feathers' (1976)

Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.

'Early Essays' in 'Without Feathers' (1976)

The lion and the calf shall lie down together but the calf won't get much sleep.

'The Scrolls' in 'New Republic' 31 August 1974

Not only is there no God, but try getting a plumber on weekends.

'My Philosophy' in 'New Yorker' 27 December 1969

If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name at a Swiss bank.

'Selections from the Allen Notebooks' in 'New Yorker' 5 November 1973

On bisexuality: It immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night.

'New York Times' 1 December 1975, p. 33

My parents finally realize that I'm kidnapped and they snap into action immediately: They rent out my room.

In Eric Lax 'Woody Allen and his Comedy' (1975) ch. 1

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work....I want to achieve it through not dying.

In Eric Lax 'Woody Allen and his Comedy' (1975) ch. 12

1.53 Woody Allen (Allen Stewart Konigsberg) 1935—and Marshall Brickman 1941—

That [sex] was the most fun I ever had without laughing.

'Annie Hall' (1977 film) though probably of earlier origin

Don't knock masturbation. It's sex with someone I love.

'Annie Hall' (1977 film)

My brain? It's my second favourite organ.

'Sleeper' (1973 film)

1.54 Margery Allingham 1904-66

Once sex rears its ugly 'ead it's time to steer clear.

'Flowers for the Judge' (1936) ch. 4.

1.55 William Allingham 1828-89

Up the airy mountain,

Down the rushy glen,

We daren't go a-hunting,

For fear of little men.

'The Fairies'

Four ducks on a pond,

A grass-bank beyond,

A blue sky of spring,

White clouds on the wing:

What a little thing

To remember for years—

To remember with tears!

'A Memory'

1.56 Joseph Alsop b.1910

Gratitude, like love, is never a dependable international emotion.

In 'Observer' 30 November 1952

1.57 Robert Altman 1922—

What's a cult? It just means not enough people to make a minority.

In 'Guardian' 11 April 1981

1.58 St Ambrose c.339-397

Ubi Petrus, ibi ergo ecclesia.

Where Peter is, there must be the Church.

‘Explanatio psalmi 40’ in ‘Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum’ (1919) vol. 64, p. 250

When I go to Rome, I fast on Saturday, but here [Milan] I do not. Do you also follow the custom of whatever church you attend, if you do not want to give or receive scandal.

In St Augustine ‘Letter 54 to Januarius’ (c.400 A.D.) in ‘St Augustine. Letters’ vol. 1 (translated by Sister W. Parsons, 1951) p. 253.

1.59 Leo Amery 1873-1955

For twenty years he has held a season-ticket on the line of least resistance and has gone wherever the train of events has carried him, lucidly justifying his position at whatever point he has happened to find himself.

Referring to Herbert Asquith (q.v.) in ‘Quarterly Review’ July 1914, p. 276

Speak for England.

Said to Arthur Greenwood in House of Commons, 2 September 1939, in ‘My Political Life’ (1955) vol. 3, p. 324

1.60 Fisher Ames 1758-1808

A monarchy is a merchantman which sails well, but will sometimes strike on a rock, and go to the bottom; whilst a republic is a raft which would never sink, but then your feet are always in the water.

Attributed to Ames, speaking in the House of Representatives, 1795; quoted by R. W. Emerson in ‘Essays’ (2nd series, 1844) no. 7, but not traced in Ames’s speeches

1.61 Sir Kingsley Amis 1922—

The delusion that there are thousands of young people about who are capable of benefiting from university training, but have somehow failed to find their way there, is...a necessary component of the expansionist case....More will mean worse.

‘Encounter’ July 1960

Dixon...tried to flail his features into some sort of response to humour. Mentally, however, he was making a different face and promising himself he’d make it actually when next alone. He’d draw his lower lip in under his top teeth and by degrees retract his chin as far as possible, all this while dilating his eyes and nostrils. By these means he would, he was confident, cause a deep dangerous flush to suffuse his face.

‘Lucky Jim’ (1953) ch. 1

Alun’s life was coming to consist more and more exclusively of being told at dictation speed what he knew.

‘The Old Devils’ (1986) ch. 7

Outside every fat man there was an even fatter man trying to close in.

‘One Fat Englishman’ (1963) ch. 3.

He was of the faith chiefly in the sense that the church he currently did not attend was Catholic.

‘One Fat Englishman’ (1963) ch. 8

Women are really much nicer than men:

No wonder we like them.

‘Something Nasty in the Bookshop’

Should poets bicycle-pump the human heart

Or squash it flat?

Man’s love is of man’s love apart;

Girls aren’t like that.

‘Something Nasty in the Bookshop’.

1.62 Hans Christian Andersen 1805-75

‘But the Emperor has nothing on at all!’ cried a little child.

‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’ in ‘Danish Fairy Legends and Tales’ (1846); first Danish collection ‘Eventyr, fortalte for børn’ (1835)

1.63 Maxwell Anderson 1888-1959

But it’s a long, long while

From May to December;

And the days grow short

When you reach September.

‘September Song’ (1938 song; music by Kurt Weill)

1.64 Maxwell Anderson 1888-1959 and Lawrence Stallings 1894-1968

What price glory?

Title of play (1924)

1.65 Robert Anderson 1917—

All you’re supposed to do is every once in a while give the boys a little tea and sympathy.

‘Tea and Sympathy’ (1957) act 1

1.66 Bishop Lancelot Andrewes 1555-1626

What shall become of me (said Righteousness)? What use of Justice, if God will do no justice, if he spare sinners? And what use of me (saith Mercy), if he spare them not? Hard hold there was, inasmuch as, Perii, nisi homo moriatur (said Righteousness) I die, if he die not: And Perii, nisi Misericordiam consequatur (said Mercy) if he die, I die too.

‘Of the Nativity’ (1616) Sermon 11

Verbum infans, the Word without a word, not able to speak a word...He, that (as in the 38. of Job he saith) taketh the vast body of the main Sea, turns it to and fro, as a little child, and rolls it about with the swaddling bands of darkness; He, to come thus into clouts, himself!

‘Of the Nativity’ (1618) Sermon 12

It was no summer progress. A cold coming they had of it, at this time of the year; just, the worst time of the year, to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The ways deep, the

weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off in solstitio brumali, the very dead of Winter.

‘Of the Nativity’ (1622) Sermon 15.

The nearer the Church the further from God.

‘Of the Nativity’ (1622) Sermon 15

1.67 Sir Norman Angell 1872-1967

The great illusion.

Title of book (1910), first published as ‘Europe’s optical illusion’ (1909), on the futility of war

1.68 Anonymous

1.68.1 English

An abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in time of trouble.

Definition of a lie, an amalgamation of Proverbs 12.22 and Psalms 46.1, often attributed to Adlai Stevenson.

Bill Adler ‘The Stevenson Wit’ (1966) p. 84

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Davison ‘Poetical Rhapsody’ 1602

Adam

Had ’em.

On the antiquity of Microbes (claimed to be the shortest poem)

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ (1948) article 1

All present and correct.

‘King’s Regulations (Army)’. Report of the Orderly Sergeant to the Officer of the Day

All this buttoning and unbuttoning.

18th century suicide note

The almighty dollar is the only object of worship.

‘Philadelphia Public Ledger’ 2 December 1836

Along the electric wire the message came:

He is not better—he is much the same.

Said to be from a poem on the illness of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, and often attributed to Alfred Austin (1835-1913), Poet Laureate. Gribble ‘Romance of the Cambridge Colleges’ (1913) p. 226

The children of Lord Lytton organized a charade. The scene displayed a Crusader knight returning from the wars. At his gate he was welcomed by his wife to whom he recounted his triumphs and the number of heathen he had slain. His wife, pointing to a row of dolls of various sizes, replied with pride, ‘And I too, my lord, have not been idle’.

In G. W. E. Russell ‘Collections and Recollections’ (1898) ch. 31

Any officer who shall behave in a scandalous manner, unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman shall...be CASHIERED.

‘Articles of War’ (1872) ‘Disgraceful Conduct’ article 79 (the Naval Discipline Act, 10 August 1860 Article 24, uses the words ‘conduct unbecoming the character of an Officer’)

Appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober.

Valerius Maximus 'Facta ac Dicta Memorabilia' (c. A.D. 32) 6, 2

Are we downhearted? No!

Expression much used by British soldiers in World War I, probably echoing Joseph Chamberlain.

A was an apple-pie;

B bit it;

C cut it.

John Eachard 'Some Observations' (1671)

A bayonet is a weapon with a worker at each end.

British pacifist slogan (1940)

A beast, but a just beast.

Describing Dr Temple, Headmaster of Rugby School, 1857-69

Be happy while y'er leevin,

For y'er a lang time deid.

Scottish motto for a house. 'Notes & Queries' 7 December 1901, 469

The best defence against the atom bomb is not to be there when it goes off.

Contributor to 'British Army Journal', in 'Observer' 20 February 1949

Better red than dead.

Slogan of nuclear disarmament campaigners, late 1950s

Bigamy is having one husband too many. Monogamy is the same.

In Erica Jong 'Fear of Flying' (1973) ch. 1 (epigraph)

A bigger bang for a buck.

Description of Charles E. Wilson's defence policy, in 'Newsweek' 22 March 1954

Black is beautiful.

Slogan of American civil rights campaigners in the mid-1960s

Burn, baby, burn.

Black extremist slogan used in Los Angeles riots, August 1965

But at the coming of the King of Heaven

All's set at six and seven:

We wallow in our sin.

Christ cannot find a chamber in the inn.

We entertain Him always like a stranger,

And as at first still lodge Him in the manger.

From Christ Church MS

A camel is a horse designed by a committee.

In 'Financial Times' 31 January 1976, though probably of earlier origin

Can't act. Slightly bald. Also dances.

Studio official's comment on Fred Astaire, in Bob Thomas 'Astaire' (1985) ch. 3

Careless talk costs lives.

World War II security slogan (popularly invented in the form 'careless lives cost talk')

The children in Holland take pleasure in making
What the children in England take pleasure in breaking.

Nursery Rhyme

Collapse of Stout Party.

Summary of the standard d nouement in Victorian humour, as exemplified by Punch, in R. Pearsall 'Collapse of Stout Party' (1975) introduction

A Company for carrying on an undertaking of Great Advantage, but no one to know what it is.

The South Sea Company Prospectus (1711), in Cowles 'The Great Swindle' (1963) ch. 5

Conduct...to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Army Act, 40

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Trap the germs in your handkerchief.

World War II health slogan (1942)

[Death is] nature's way of telling you to slow down.

'Newsweek' 25 April 1960 p. 70

Defence, not defiance.

Motto of the Volunteers Movement, 1859

Do not fold, spindle or mutilate.

Instruction on punched cards, found in this form in the 1950s and in differing forms from the 1930s

Don't die of ignorance.

Slogan used in the British health awareness campaign against AIDS, 1987

Early one morning, just as the sun was rising,

I heard a maid sing in the valley below:

'Oh, don't deceive me; Oh, never leave me!

How could you use a poor maiden so?'

'Early One Morning' (traditional song)

Earned a precarious living by taking in one another's washing.

Attributed to Mark Twain by William Morris, in 'The Commonweal' 6 August 1887

The eternal triangle.

Book review title in 'Daily Chronicle' 5 December 1907

Even your closest friends won't tell you.

US advertisement for Listerine mouthwash, 1920s

Every country has its own constitution; ours is absolutism moderated by assassination.

Georg Herbert, Count M nster, quoting 'an intelligent Russian', in 'Political Sketches of the State of Europe, 1814-1867' (1868) 19

Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide.

In thy most need to go by thy side.

'Everyman' (c.1509-19) l. 522 (lines spoken by Knowledge)

Every picture tells a story.

Advertisement for Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, early 1900s

Expletive deleted.

‘Submission of Recorded Presidential Conversations to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives by President Richard M. Nixon’ 30 April 1974, appendix 1, p. 2

Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings at a single bound! Look! Up in the sky! It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s Superman! Yes, it’s Superman! Strange visitor from another planet, who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman! Who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel with his bare hands, and who—disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper—fights a never ending battle for truth, justice and the American way!

Preamble to ‘Superman’, US radio show, 1940 onwards

Father of his Country.

Description of George Washington, in Francis Bailey ‘Nordamerikanische Kalender’ (1779)

Frankie and Albert were lovers, O Lordy, how they could love.

Swore to be true to each other, true as the stars above;

He was her man, but he done her wrong.

‘Frankie and Albert’ in John Huston ‘Frankie and Johnny’ (1930) p. 95 (St Louis ballad later better known as ‘Frankie and Johnny’)

The fault is great in man or woman

Who steals a goose from off a common;

But what can plead that man’s excuse

Who steals a common from a goose?

In ‘The Tickler Magazine’ 1 February 1821

The following is a copy of Orders issued by the German Emperor on August 19th: ‘It is my Royal and Imperial command that you concentrate your energies for the immediate present upon one single purpose, and that is that you address all your skill and all the valour of my soldiers to exterminate first, the treacherous English, walk over General French’s contemptible little army....’

Annexe to B.E.F. [British Expeditionary Force] Routine Orders of 24 September 1914, in Arthur Ponsonby ‘Falsehood in Wartime’ (1928) ch. 10 (although often attributed to Kaiser Wilhelm II, this was most probably fabricated by the British)

From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggety beasties

And things that go bump in the night,

Good Lord, deliver us!

Cornish prayer

Full of Eastern promise.

Advertising slogan for Fry’s Turkish Delight, 1950s onwards

A gentleman haranguing on the perfection of our law, and that it was equally open to the poor and the rich, was answered by another, ‘So is the London Tavern’.

‘Tom Paine’s Jests...’ (1794) no. 23; also attributed to John Horne Tooke (1736-1812) in W. Hazlitt ‘The Spirit of the Age’ (1825) ‘Mr Horne Tooke’

God be in my head,

And in my understanding;

God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

‘Sarum Missal’

God gave Noah the rainbow sign,
No more water, the fire next time.

‘Home in that Rock’ (Negro spiritual)

God is not dead but alive and working on a much less ambitious project.

Graffito quoted in ‘Guardian’ 26 November 1975

Gotcha!

Headline on the sinking of the General Belgrano, in ‘Sun’ 4 May 1982

Great Chatham with his sabre drawn
Stood waiting for Sir Richard Strachan;
Sir Richard, longing to be at ’em,
Stood waiting for the Earl of Chatham.

‘At Walcheren, 1809’; attributed to Joseph Jekyll (1753-1837)

Greensleeves was all my joy,
Greensleeves was my delight,
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,
And who but Lady Greensleeves?

‘A new Courtly Sonnet of the Lady Greensleeves, to the new tune of “Greensleeves”’, from ‘A Handful of Pleasant Delites’ (1584)

Happy is that city which in time of peace thinks of war.

Inscription found in the armoury of Venice, in Robert Burton ‘The Anatomy of Melancholy’ (1621-51) pt. 2, sect. 3, member 6.

Hark the herald angels sing

Mrs Simpson’s pinched our king.

1936 children’s rhyme quoted in letter from Clement Attlee, 26 December 1938, in Kenneth Harris ‘Attlee’ (1982) ch. 11

Have you heard? The Prime Minister has resigned and Northcliffe has sent for the King.

Joke circulating in 1919, on Lord Northcliffe succeeding Lloyd George as Prime Minister, in Hamilton Fyfe ‘Northcliffe, an Intimate Biography’ (1930) ch. 16

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired,
For she lived in a place where help wasn’t hired.
Her last words on earth were, Dear friends I am going

Where washing ain't done nor sweeping nor sewing,
And everything there is exact to my wishes,
For there they don't eat and there's no washing of dishes...
Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never,
For I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever.

Epitaph in Bushey churchyard, before 1860, destroyed by 1916, 'Spectator' 2 September 1922, 'Letters to the Editor'

Here lies a valiant warrior
Who never drew a sword;
Here lies a noble courtier
Who never kept his word;
Here lies the Earl of Leicester
Who governed the estates
Whom the earth could never living love,
And the just heaven now hates.

Attributed to Ben Jonson in Tissington 'Collection of Epitaphs' (1857) p.377

Here lies Fred,
Who was alive and is dead:
Had it been his father,
I had much rather;
Had it been his brother,
Still better than another;
Had it been his sister,
No one would have missed her;
Had it been the whole generation,
Still better for the nation:
But since 'tis only Fred,
Who was alive and is dead,—
There's no more to be said.

In Horace Walpole 'Memoirs of George II' (1847) vol. 1, p. 436

Here's tae us; wha's like us?
Gey few, and they're a' deid.

Scottish Toast, probably of nineteenth-century origin. The first line appears in Crosland 'The Unspeakable Scot' (1902) p. 24n; various versions of the second line are current.

He talked shop like a tenth muse.

Referring to Gladstone's Budget speeches, in G. W. E. Russell 'Collections and Recollections' (1898) ch. 12

He tickles this age that can
Call Tullia's ape a marmasyte
And Leda's goose a swan.

'Fara diddle dyno' from Thomas Weelkes 'Airs or Fantastic Spirits' (1608). N. Ault 'Elizabethan Lyrics'

Hierusalem, my happy home
When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end,
Thy joys when shall I see?
‘Hierusalem’. ‘Songs of Praise Discussed’

His foe was folly and his weapon wit.

Inscription on the memorial to W. S. Gilbert, Victoria Embankment, London, 1915

‘How different, how very different from the home life of our own dear Queen!’

Comment from a middle-aged British matron at a performance of Cleopatra by Sarah Bernhardt, in Irvin S. Cobb ‘A Laugh a Day’ (the story probably apocryphal)

I can not eat but little meat,
My stomach is not good:
But sure I think, that I can drink
With him that wears a hood.
Though I go bare, take ye no care,
I am nothing acold:
I stuff my skin, so full within,
Of jolly good ale and old,
Back and side go bare, go bare,
Both foot and hand go cold:
But belly God send thee good ale enough,
Whether it be new or old.

‘Gammer Gurton’s Needle’ (performed 1566, printed 1575) act 2, song; the play attributed to William Stevenson (c.1530-75) and also to John Still (1543-1608), the song being possibly of earlier origin.

I don’t like the family Stein!
There is Gert, there is Ep, there is Ein.
Gert’s writings are punk,
Ep’s statues are junk,
Nor can anyone understand Ein.

Rhyme current in the USA in the 1920s, in R. Graves and A. Hodge ‘The Long Weekend’ (1940) ch. 12

I feel no pain dear mother now
But oh, I am so dry!
O take me to a brewery
And leave me there to die.

Parody of ‘The Collier’s Dying Child’.

If God were to take one or other of us, I should go and live in Paris.

In Samuel Butler ‘Notebooks’ (ed. G. Keynes and B. Hill, 1951) p. 193

If he only knew a little of law, he would know a little of everything.

Said of Lord Brougham, in Ralph Waldo Emerson ‘Quotation and Originality’ (1877)

If it moves, salute it; if it doesn’t move, pick it up; and if you can’t pick it up, paint it.

1940s saying, in Paul Dickson 'The Official Rules' (1978) p. 21

I'll sing you twelve O.
Green grow the rushes O.
What is your twelve O?
Twelve for the twelve apostles,
Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven,
Ten for the ten commandments,
Nine for the nine bright shiners,
Eight for the eight bold rangers,
Seven for the seven stars in the sky,
Six for the six proud walkers,
Five for the symbol at your door,
Four for the Gospel makers,
Three for the rivals,
Two, two, the lily-white boys,
Clothed all in green O,
One is one and all alone
And ever more shall be so.

'The Dilly Song', in G. Grigson 'The Faber Book of Popular Verse'. Revd S. Baring-Gould and Revd H. Fleetwood Sheppard 'Songs and Ballads of the West' (1891) no. 78 for a variant version

I'm armed with more than complete steel—The justice of my quarrel.

'Lust's Dominion' (1657) act 4, sc. 3

I met wid Napper Tandy, and he took me by the hand,
And he said, 'How's poor ould Ireland, and how does she stand?'
She's the most disthressful country that iver yet was seen,
For they're hangin' men an' women there for the wearin' o' the Green.

'The Wearin' o' the Green' (famous street ballad, later added to by Boucicault)

I saw my lady weep,
And Sorrow proud to be exalted so
In those fair eyes where all perfections keep.
Her face was full of woe;
But such a woe, believe me, as wins more hearts,
Than Mirth can do with her enticing parts.

Lute song set by John Dowland, in 'Oxford Book of 16th Century Verse'

It became necessary to destroy the town to save it.

Statement by unidentified US Army Major, referring to Ben Tre in Vietnam, in Associated Press Report, 'New York Times' 8 February 1968

It is positively dangerous to sit to Sargent. It's taking your face in your hands.

Referring to the painter, John Singer Sargent, in W. Graham Robertson 'Time Was' (1931) ch. 21

It's finger lickin' good.

‘American Restaurant Magazine’ June 1958, referring to Kentucky Fried Chicken

It’s that man again...! At the head of a cavalcade of seven black motor cars Hitler swept out of his Berlin Chancellery last night on a mystery journey.

Headline in ‘Daily Express’ 2 May 1939 (the acronym ITMA became the title of a BBC radio show, from September 1939)

It will play in Peoria.

In ‘New York Times’ 9 June 1973 (catch-phrase of the Nixon administration)

Jaques Brel is alive and well and living in Paris.

Title of musical entertainment (1968-72), which spawned numerous imitations of the phrase ‘alive and well and living in...’

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water.

Advertising copy for ‘Jaws 2’ (1978 film)

The King over the Water.

Jacobite toast (18th century)

King’s Moll Reno’d in Wolsey’s Home Town.

American newspaper headline referring to Wallis Simpson’s divorce proceedings in Ipswich, in Frances Donaldson ‘Edward VIII’ (1974) ch. 7

LBJ, LBJ, how many kids have you killed today?

Anti-Vietnam marching slogan, in Jacquin Sanders ‘The Draft and the Vietnam War’ (1966) ch. 3

Let’s get out of these wet clothes and into a dry Martini.

Line coined in 1920s by press agent for Robert Benchley (and often attributed to Benchley), in Howard Teichmann ‘Smart Alec’ (1976) ch. 9; subsequently adopted in a similar form, by Mae West in Every Day’s a Holiday (1937 film)

Liberty is always unfinished business.

Title of 36th Annual Report of the American Civil Liberties Union, 1 July 1955-30 June 1956

Life is a sexually transmitted disease.

Graffiti found on the London Underground, in D. J. Enright (ed.) ‘Faber Book of Fevers and Frets’ (1989)

Like a fine old English gentleman,

All of the olden time.

‘The Fine Old English Gentleman’ (traditional song)

Like Caesar’s wife, all things to all men.

Impartiality, as described by a newly-elected mayor, in G. W. E. Russell ‘Collections and Recollections’ (1898) ch. 30

Lizzie Borden took an axe

And gave her mother forty whacks;

When she saw what she had done

She gave her father forty-one!

Popular rhyme in circulation after the acquittal of Lizzie Borden from the charge of murdering her father and stepmother on 4 August 1892 in Fall River, Massachusetts

Lloyd George knows my father,

My father knows Lloyd George.

Comic song consisting of these two lines sung to the tune of Onward, Christian Soldiers, possibly by Tommy Rhys Roberts (1910-75); sometimes with 'knew' substituted for 'knows'

Lousy but loyal.

London East End slogan at George V's Jubilee (1935), in Nigel Rees 'Slogans' (1982)

Love me little, love me long,

Is the burden of my song.

'Love me little, love me long' (1569-70)

Mademoiselle from Armenteurs,

Hasn't been kissed for forty years,

Hinky, dinky, parley-voo.

Song of World War I, variously attributed to Edward Rowland and to Harry Carlton

Child: Mamma, are Tories born wicked, or do they grow wicked afterwards?

Mother: They are born wicked, and grow worse.

In G. W. E. Russell 'Collections and Recollections' (1898) ch. 10

The man you love to hate.

Billing for Erich von Stroheim in the film 'The Heart of Humanity' (1918), in Peter Noble 'Hollywood Scapegoat' (1950) ch. 2

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,

The bed be blest that I lie on.

Four angels to my bed,

Four angels round my head,

One to watch, and one to pray,

And two to bear my soul away.

Thomas Ady 'A Candle in the Dark' (1656)

The ministry of all the talents.

A name given ironically to Grenville's coalition of 1806, and also applied to later coalitions, in G. W. Cooke 'History of Party' (1837) vol. 3, p. 460

Miss Buss and Miss Beale

Cupid's darts do not feel.

How different from us,

Miss Beale and Miss Buss.

Of the Headmistress of the North London Collegiate School and the Principal of the Ladies' College, Cheltenham, c.1884

Mother may I go and bathe?

Yes, my darling daughter.

Hang your clothes on yonder tree,

But don't go near the water.

In Iona and Peter Opie 'Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes' (1951) p. 314.

Most Gracious Queen, we thee implore

To go away and sin no more,

But if that effort be too great,
To go away at any rate.

Epigram on Queen Caroline, in Lord Colchester's Diary, 15 November 1820

Multiplication is vexation,
Division is as bad;
The Rule of three doth puzzle me,
And Practice drives me mad.

Elizabethan MS. dated 1570

My Love in her attire doth show her wit,
It doth so well become her:
For every season she hath dressings fit,
For winter, spring, and summer.
No beauty she doth miss,
When all her robes are on;
But beauty's self she is,
When all her robes are gone.

Madrigal

My name is George Nathaniel Curzon,
I am a most superior person.

'The Masque of Balliol' composed by and current among members of Balliol College in the late 1870's, in W. G. Hiscock 'The Balliol Rhymes' (1939).

My face is pink, my hair is sleek,
I dine at Blenheim once a week.

A later addition to 'The Masque of Balliol' in W. G. Hiscock 'The Balliol Rhymes' (1939)

My sledge and anvil lie declined
My bellows too have lost their wind
My fire's extinct, my forge decayed,
And in the dust my vice is laid
My coals are spent, my iron's gone
My nails are drove, my work is done.

Epitaph in Nettlebed churchyard on William Strange, d. 6 June 1746, and elsewhere to commemorate other blacksmiths

The nature of God is a circle of which the centre is everywhere and the circumference is nowhere.

Said to have been traced to a lost treatise of Empedocles; quoted in the 'Roman de la Rose', and by S. Bonaventura in 'Itinerarius Mentis in Deum' ch. 5 ad fin.

The nearest thing to death in life
Is David Patrick Maxwell Fyfe,
Though underneath that gloomy shell
He does himself extremely well.

Rhyme about Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, said to have been current on the Northern circuit in the late 1930s, in

E. Grierson 'Confessions of a Country Magistrate' (1972) p. 35

Nil carborundum illegitimi.

Cod Latin for 'Don't let the bastards grind you down', in use during World War II, though possibly of earlier origin; often occurring as nil carborundum or illegitimi non carborundum

The noise, my dear! And the people!

Of the retreat from Dunkirk. Rhodes 'Sword of Bone' (1942) closing words

No more Latin, no more French,

No more sitting on a hard board bench.

No more beetles in my tea

Making googly eyes at me;

No more spiders in my bath

Trying hard to make me laugh.

Children's rhyme for the end of school term, in Iona and Peter Opie 'The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren' (1959) ch. 13; variants include 'No more Latin, no more Greek, No more cares to make me squeak'

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Graffito

Not so much a programme, more a way of life!

Title of BBC television series, 1964

Now I lay me down to sleep;

I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

If I should die before I wake,

I pray the Lord my soul to take.

First printed in a late edition of the 'New England Primer' (1781)

O Death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling,

O grave, thy victory?

The bells of Hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling

For you but not for me.

'For You But Not For Me' (song from World War I) in S. Louis Guiraud (ed.) 'Songs That Won the War' (1930).

O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!

Prayer of a common soldier before the battle of Blenheim, in 'Notes & Queries' vol. 173, p. 264; quoted in John Henry Newman 'Apologia pro Vita Sua' (1864).

An old song made by an aged old pate,

Of an old worshipful gentleman who had a great estate.

'The Old Courtier'

Once again we stop the mighty roar of London's traffic and from the great crowds we bring you some of the interesting people who have come by land, sea and air to be in town tonight.

'In Town Tonight' (BBC radio series, 1933-60) introductory words

One Cartwright brought a Slave from Russia, and would scourge him, for which he was questioned: and it was resolved, That England was too pure an Air for Slaves to breathe in.

‘In the 11th of Elizabeth’ (17 November 1568-16 November 1569), in Rushworth ‘Historical Collections’ (1680-1722) vol. 2, p. 468.

On Waterloo’s ensanguined plain
Full many a gallant man was slain,
But none, by sabre or by shot,
Fell half so flat as Walter Scott.

On Scott’s ‘Field of Waterloo’ (1815)

A place within the meaning of the Act.
‘Betting Act’

Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best.

Printed notice, in Oscar Wilde ‘Impressions of America’ ‘Leadville’

Please to remember the Fifth of November,
Gunpowder Treason and Plot.
We know no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.

Traditional rhyme from the 17th century, about the Gunpowder Plot (1605)

Power to the people.

Slogan of the Black Panther movement, c. 1968 onwards, in ‘Black Panther’ 14 September 1968

Puella Rigensis ridebat
Quam tigris in tergo vehebat;
Externa profecta,
Interna revecta,
Risusque cum tigre manebat.

There was a young lady of Riga
Who went for a ride on a tiger;
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside,
And a smile on the face of the tiger.

In R. L. Green (ed.) ‘A Century of Humorous Verse’ (1959) p. 285

The [or A] quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Used by keyboarders to ensure that all letters of the alphabet are functioning: see R. Hunter Middleton’s introduction to ‘The Quick Brown Fox’ (1945) by Richard H. Templeton Jr.

The rabbit has a charming face:
Its private life is a disgrace.
I really dare not name to you
The awful things that rabbits do.

‘The Rabbit’ in ‘The Week-End Book’ (1925) p. 171

Raise the stone, and there thou shalt find me, cleave the wood and there am I.

Oxyrhynchus Papyri, in B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt (eds.) ‘Sayings of Our Lord’ (1897) Logion 5, l. 23

Says Tweed to Till—

‘What gars ye rin sae still?’

Says Till to Tweed—

‘Though ye rin with speed

And I rin slaw,

For ae man that ye droon

I droon twa’.

‘Two Rivers’ in ‘Oxford Book of English Verse’

See the happy moron,

He doesn’t give a damn,

I wish I were a moron,

My God! perhaps I am!

‘Eugenics Review’ July 1929

Seven wealthy towns contend for HOMER dead

Through which the living HOMER begged his bread.

Epilogue to ‘Aesop at Tunbridge; or, a Few Selected Fables in Verse’ By No Person of Quality (1698).

She was poor but she was honest

Victim of a rich man’s game.

First he loved her, than he left her,

And she lost her maiden name.

See her on the bridge at midnight,

Saying ‘Farewell, blighted love.’

Then a scream, a splash and goodness,

What is she a-doin’ of?

It’s the same the whole world over,

It’s the poor wot gets the blame,

It’s the rich wot gets the gravy.

Ain’t it all a bleedin shame?

‘She was Poor but she was Honest’ (sung by British soldiers in World War I)

Shome mishtake, shurely?

Editorial catch-phrase in ‘Private Eye’, 1980s

Since first I saw your face, I resolved to honour and renown ye;

If now I be disdained, I wish my heart had never known ye.

What? I that loved and you that liked, shall we begin to wrangle?

No, no, no, my heart is fast, and cannot disentangle.

In ‘Music of Sundry Kinds’ (1607)

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.

‘Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation’ (1945), in ‘UK Parliamentary Papers 1945-6’ vol. 26

The singer not the song.

From a West Indian calypso and adopted as the title of a novel (1959) by Audrey Erskine Lindop
Spheres of influence.

Sir Edward Hertslet 'Map of Africa by Treaty' 3rd ed., 868.

Snap! Crackle! Pop!

Slogan for Kellogg's Rice Krispies, from c. 1928

So farewell then....

Standard opening for obituary poems by 'E. J. Thribb' in 'Private Eye' from 1970s

So much chewing gum for the eyes.

Small boy's definition of certain television programmes, 1955, in James Beasley Simpson 'Best Quotes of '50, '55, '56' (1957) p. 233

Sticks nix hick pix.

Frontpage headline on lack of interest in farm dramas among rural populations, in 'Variety' 17 July 1935

Sumer is icumen in,

Lhude sing cuccu!

Groweth sed, and bloweth med,

And springth the wude nu.

'Cuckoo Song' c.1250, sung annually at Reading Abbey gateway and first recorded by John Fornset, a monk of Reading Abbey

The Sun himself cannot forget

His fellow traveller.

'Wit's Recreations' (1640) epigrams no. 146 (on Sir Francis Drake)

That'll do nicely, sir.

Advertisement for American Express credit card, 1970s

Therefore let us sing and dance a galliard,

To the remembrance of the mallard:

And as the mallard dives in pool,

Let us dabble, dive, and duck in Bowl.

Oh! by the blood of King Edward,

Oh! by the blood of King Edward,

It was a swapping, swapping mallard.

All Souls College, Oxford, song (perhaps of Tudor date) in 'The Oxford Sausage' (1764) p. 83. Manuscript sources suggest the song was first printed in 1752; Hearne's Diaries vol. 17, p. 46, May 1708 (see Collections, ed. C. E. Doble, ii, O.H.S. vii, 1886, p. 111) give the form 'duck and dive' in the fourth line

There is a lady sweet and kind,

Was never face so pleased my mind;

I did but see her passing by,

And yet I love her till I die.

Found on the reverse of leaf 53 of 'Popish Kingdome or reigne of Antichrist', in Latin verse by Thomas Naogeorgus, and Englished by Barnabe Googel; printed in 1570. 'Notes & Queries' 9th series, vol. 10, p. 427

There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world; and that is an idea whose time has come.

‘Nation’ 15 April 1943.

There is so much good in the worst of us,
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it hardly becomes any of us
To talk about the rest of us.

Attributed, among others, to Edward Wallis Hoch (1849-1945) on the grounds of it having appeared in his Kansas publication, the Marion Record, though in fact disclaimed by him; ‘behooves’ sometimes substituted for ‘becomes’

There’s nae luck about the house,
There’s nae luck at a’,
There’s nae luck about the house
When our gudeman’s awa’.

‘The Mariner’s Wife’

There was a faith-healer of Deal
Who said, ‘Although pain isn’t real,
If I sit on a pin
And it punctures my skin,
I dislike what I fancy I feel.’

‘The Week-End Book’ (1925) p. 158

They are a form of statuary which no careful father would wish his daughter, or no discerning young man his fiancée, to see.

‘Evening Standard’ 19 June 1908, commenting on Jacob Epstein’s sculptures for the former BMA building in the Strand, London

They come as a boon and a blessing to men,
The Pickwick, the Owl, and the Waverley pen.

Advertisement by MacNiven and H. Cameron Ltd., c. 1920; almost certainly inspired by J. C. Prince ‘The Pen and the Press’ in E. W. Cole (ed.) ‘The Thousand Best Poems in the World’ (1891): It came as a boon and a blessing to men, The peaceful, the pure, the victorious Pen!

Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
And that has twenty-eight days clear
And twenty-nine in each leap year.

Stevens MS. (c.1555)

[This film] is so cryptic as to be almost meaningless. If there is a meaning, it is doubtless objectionable.

The British Board of Film Censors, banning Jean Cocteau’s film ‘The Seashell and the Clergyman’ (1929), in J. C. Robertson ‘Hidden Cinema’ (1989) ch. 1

This is a rotten argument, but it should be good enough for their lordships on a hot summer afternoon.

Annotation to a ministerial brief, said to have been read inadvertently in the House of Lords, in Lord Home
'The Way the Wind Blows' (1976) p. 204

Though I yield to no one in my admiration for Mr Coolidge, I do wish he did not look as if he
had been weaned on a pickle.

Anonymous remark, in Alice Roosevelt Longworth 'Crowded Hours' (1933) ch. 21

Thought shall be the harder, heart the keener, courage the greater, as our might lessens.

'The Battle of Maldon' (translated from Anglo-Saxon by R. K. Gordon, 1926)

To err is human but to really foul things up requires a computer.

'Farmers' Almanac for 1978' (1977) 'Capsules of Wisdom'

Too small to live in and too large to hang on a watch-chain.

Attributed to a guest, describing Chiswick House, in Cecil Roberts 'And so to Bath' (1940) ch. 4 'By Way of
Chiswick'

Two men wrote a lexicon, Liddell and Scott;

Some parts were clever, but some parts were not.

Hear, all ye learned, and read me this riddle,

How the wrong part wrote Scott, and the right part wrote Liddell.

On Henry Liddell (1811-98) and Robert Scott (1811-87), co-authors of the Greek Lexicon (1843)

Wall St. lays an egg.

Crash headline, 'Variety' 30 October 1929

War will cease when men refuse to fight.

Pacifist slogan, from c. 1936 (often quoted 'Wars will cease...') 'Birmingham Gazette' 21 November 1936, p.
3, and 'Peace News' 15 October 1938, p. 12

We are the Ovaltineys,

Little girls and boys.

'We are the Ovaltineys' promotional song for Ovaltine, from c.1935

The weekend starts here.

Catch-phrase from 'Ready, Steady, Go,' British television series, c. 1963

Weep you no more, sad fountains;

What need you flow so fast?

Lute song (1603) set by John Dowland, in 'Oxford Book of 16th Century Verse'

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed
by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit
of happiness.

The American Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776.

We're here

Because

We're here

Because

We're here

Because we're here.

World War I song, to the tune of ‘Auld Lang Syne’, in John Brophy and Eric Partridge ‘Songs and Slang of the British Soldier 1914-18’ (1930) p. 33

We’re number two. We try harder.

Advertising slogan for Avis car rentals

We shall not be moved.

Title of song (1931)

We shall not pretend that there is nothing in his long career which those who respect and admire him would wish otherwise.

On Edward VII’s accession to the throne, in ‘The Times’ 23 January 1901, leading article

We shall overcome,

Title of song, originating from before the American Civil War, adapted as a Baptist hymn (‘I’ll Overcome Some Day’, 1901) by C. Albert Tindley; revived in 1946 as a protest song by black tobacco workers and in 1963 during the black Civil Rights Campaign

Western wind, when will thou blow,

The small rain down can rain?

Christ, if my love were in my arms

And I in my bed again!

‘Western Wind’ (published 1790) in ‘Oxford Book of 16th Century Verse’

What wee gave, wee have;

What wee spent, wee had;

What wee kept, wee lost.

Epitaph on Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire (d. 1419), and his wife, at Tiverton, in Westcote ‘A View of Devonshire in 1630’; variants appear in Risdon ‘Survey of the County of Devon’, and Edmund Spenser ‘The Shepherd’s Calendar’ (1579)

When Israel was in Egypt land,

Let my people go,

Oppressed so hard they could not stand,

Let my people go.

Go down, Moses,

Way-down in Egypt land,

Tell old Pharaoh

To let my people go.

‘Go Down, Moses’ (Negro spiritual).

When I was a little boy, I had but a little wit,

’Tis a long time ago, and I have no more yet;

Nor ever ever shall, until that I die,

For the longer I live the more fool am I.

‘Wit and Mirth, an Antidote against Melancholy’ (1684)

Where is the man who has the power and skill

To stem the torrent of a woman’s will?

For if she will, she will, you may depend on’t;

And if she won't, she won't; so there's an end on't.

From the Pillar Erected on the Mount in the Dane John Field, Canterbury, 'Examiner' 31 May 1829

Whilst Adam slept, Eve from his side arose:

Strange his first sleep should be his last repose.

'The Consequence'

Who dares wins.

Motto on badge of British Special Air Service regiment, from 1942. J. L. Collins 'Elite Forces: the SAS' (1986) introduction

Whose finger do you want on the trigger?

Headline in 'Daily Mirror' 21 September 1951

A willing foe and sea room.

Naval toast in the time of Nelson, in Beckett 'A Few Naval Customs, Expressions, Traditions, and Superstitions' (1931)

Would you like to sin

With Elinor Glyn

On a tigerskin?

Or would you prefer

To err

With her

On some other fur?

In A. Glyn 'Elinor Glyn' (1955) bk. 2

Yet, if his majesty our sovereign lord

Should of his own accord

Friendly himself invite,

And say 'I'll be your guest tomorrow night',

How should we stir ourselves, call and command

All hands to work!

From Christ Church MS

The young Sahib shot divinely, but God was very merciful to the birds.

In G. W. E. Russell 'Collections and Recollections' ch. 30

You pays your money and you takes your choice.

From a peepshow rhyme, in V. S. Lean 'Collectanea' (1902-4)

You should make a point of trying every experience once, excepting incest and folk-dancing.

Sir Arnold Bax (1883-1953), quoting 'a sympathetic Scot', in 'Farewell My Youth' (1943) p. 17

1.68.2 French

Ça ira.

Refrain of 'Carillon national', popular song of the French Revolution, c. July 1790, translated as 'Things will work out' by William Doyle in his 'Oxford History of the French Revolution' (1989) p. 129; the phrase is believed to originate with Benjamin Franklin, who may have used it in 1776 when asked for news of the American Revolution

Cet animal est très méchant,
Quand on l'attaque il se défend.

This animal is very bad; when attacked it defends itself.

'La Mènagerie' by Thèodore P. K. (1828)

Chevalier sans peur et sans reproche.

Knight without fear and without blemish.

Description in contemporary chronicles of Pierre Bayard (1476-1524)

Honi soit qui mal y pense.

Evil be to him who evil thinks [of it].

Motto of the Order of the Garter, originated by Edward III probably on 23 April of 1348 or 1349

Je suis Marxiste—tendance Groucho.

I am a Marxist—of the Groucho tendency.

Slogan found at Nanterre in Paris, 1968

Ils ne passeront pas.

They shall not pass.

Slogan used by the French army at the defence of Verdun in 1916; variously attributed to Marshal Pétain and to General Robert Nivelle, and taken up by the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War in the form No pasaran!

Il y avait un jeune homme de Dijon,

Qui n'avait que peu de religion.

Il dit: 'Quant á moi,

Je détecte tous les trois,

Le Père, et le Fils, et le Pigeon.'

There was a young man of Dijon,

Who had only a little religion,

he said: 'As for me,

I detest all the three,

The Father, the son, and the pigeon.

'The Norman Douglas Limerick Book' (1969, first privately printed in 1928 as 'Some Limericks')
introduction

[Riddle:] Je suis le capitaine de vingt-quatre soldats, et sans moi Paris serait pris?

[Answer:] A.

[Riddle:] [Literally] I am the captain of twenty-four soldiers, and without me Paris would be taken?

[Answer:] A [i.e. the letter 'A']

In Hugh Rowley 'Puniana: or thoughts wise and otherwise a new collection of the best' (1867) p. 42. The saying 'With twenty-six lead soldiers [the characters of the alphabet set up for printing] I can conquer the world' may derive from this riddle, but probably arose independently.

La grande phrase reçue, c'est qu'il ne faut pas être plus royaliste que le roi. Cette phrase n'est pas du moment; elle fut inventée sous Louis XVI: elle enchaîna les mains des fidèles, pour ne

laisser libre que le bras du bourreau.

The big catch-phrase is that you mustn't be more of a royalist than His Royal Highness. This expression is not new; it was coined under the reign of Louis XVI: it chained up the hands of the loyal, leaving free only the arm of the hangman.

Chateaubriand 'De La Monarchie selon la Charte' vol. 2, ch. 41

Laisser-nous-faire.

M. Colbert assembla plusieurs Deputès de commerce chez lui pour leur demander ce qu'il pourroit faire pour le commerce; le plus raisonnable et le moins flatteur d'entre eux, lui dit ce seul mot: 'Laissez-nous-faire.'

Monsieur Colbert assembled several deputies of commerce at his house to ask what could be done for commerce; the most rational and the least flattering among them answered him in one word: 'Laissez-nous-faire' [literally 'Allow us to do [it]'].

In 'Journal Oeconomique' Paris, April 1751.

L'amour est aveugle; l'amitiè ferme les yeux.

Love is blind; friendship closes its eyes.

Proverbial saying

Le monde est plein de fous, et qui n'en veut pas voir

Doit se tenir tout seul, et casser son miroir.

The world is full of fools, and he who would not see it should live alone and smash his mirror.

Adaptation from an original form attributed to Claude Le Petit (1640-65) in 'Discours satiriques' (1686)

Libertè! Ègalitè! Fraternitè!

Freedom! Equality! Brotherhood!

Motto of the French Revolution, but of earlier origin. The Club des Cordeliers passed a motion, 30 June 1793, 'que les propriétaires seront invitès,...de faire peindre sur la façade de leurs maisons, en gros caractères, ces mots: Unitè, indivisibilitè de la Rèpublique, Libertè, Ègalitè, Fraternitè ou la mort that owners should be urged to paint on the front of their houses, in large letters, the words: Unity, indivisibility of the Republic, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity or death'. In 'Journal de Paris' no. 182 (from 1795 the words 'ou la mort' were dropped from this prescription).

L'ordre règne á Varsovie.

Order reigns in Warsaw.

After the brutal suppression of an uprising, the newspaper 'Moniteur' reported (16 September 1831) 'L'ordre et la tranquillitè sont entièrèment rètablis dans la capitale. Order and calm are completely restored in the capital'; on the same day Count Sebastiani, minister of foreign affairs said 'La tranquillitè règne á Varsovie. Peace reigns in Warsaw'

Nous n'irons plus aux bois, les lauriers sont coupès.

We'll to the woods no more,

The laurels all are cut.

Old nursery rhyme quoted by Banville in 'Les Cariatides, les stalactites' (translation by A. E. Housman in 'Last Poems' (1922) introductory)

Revenons á ces moutons.

Let us return to our sheep.

‘Maistre Pierre Pathelin’ l. 1191 (meaning ‘Let us get back to the subject’); often quoted as ‘Retournons á nos moutons’

Si le Roi m’avait donnè,
Paris, sa grand’ville,
Et qu’il me fallût quitter
L’amour de ma mie,
Je dirais au roi Henri:
‘Reprenez votre Paris:
J’aime mieux ma mie, au guè,
J’aime mieux ma mie.’

If the king had given me Paris, his great city, and if I were required to give up my darling’s love, I would say to King Henry: ‘Take your Paris back; I prefer my darling, by the ford, I prefer my darling.’

Popular song, attributed to Antoine de Bourbon (1518-62), father of Henri IV. Ampère ‘Instructions relatives aux poésies populaires de la France’, and quoted in this form by Molière in ‘Le Misanthrope’ act 1, sc. 2

Taisez-vous! Méfiez-vous! Les oreilles ennemies vous ècoutent.

Keep your mouth shut! Be on your guard! Enemy ears are listening to you.

Official Notice in France, 1915

Toujours perdrix!

Always partridge!

Said to originate in a story of Henri IV having ordered that nothing but partridge be served to his confessor, who had rebuked the king for his sexual liasons.

Tout passe, tout casse, tout lasse.

Everything passes, everything perishes, everything palls.

Cahier ‘Quelques six mille proverbes’

1.68.3 German

Arbeit macht frei.

Work liberates.

Words inscribed on the gates of Dachau concentration camp, 1933

Ein Reich, ein Volk, ein Führer.

One realm, one people, one leader.

Nazi Party slogan, early 1930s

Vorsprung durch Technik.

Progress through technology.

Advertising slogan for Audi cars, from 1986

1.68.4 Greek

Know thyself.

Inscribed on the temple of Apollo at Delphi (Plato 'Protagoras' 343 b, ascribes the saying to the Seven Wise Men)

Nothing in excess.

xxx

Whenever God prepares evil for a man, He first damages his mind.

Scholiastic annotation to Sophocles 'Antigone' 622 ff. See R. C. Jebb's ed. (1906), Appendix, p. 255 for the Latin translation in which it is perhaps best known.

Let no one enter who does not know geometry [mathematics].

Inscription on Plato's door, probably at the Academy at Athens. Elias Philosophus 'In Aristotelis Categorias Commentaria', 118.18 (A. Busse ed., Comm. in Arist. Graeca, Berlin, 1900, XVIII, i.)

1.68.5 Italian

Se non é vero, é molto ben trovato.

If it is not true, it is a happy invention.

Apparently a common saying in the sixteenth century. Found in Giordano Bruno (1585) in the above form, and in Antonio Doni (1552) as 'Se non é vero, egli é stato un bel trovato'

1.68.6 Latin

Adeste, fideles,
laeti triumphantes;
venite, venite in Bethlehem;
natum videte regem angelorum
venite, adoremus Dominum

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

French or German hymn (c.1743) in 'Murray's Hymnal' (1852) (translation based on that of F. Oakeley, 1841). 'Songs of Praise Discussed'

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam.

To the greater glory of God.

Motto of the Society of Jesus

Ave Caesar, morituri te salutant.

Hail Caesar, those who are about to die salute you.

Gladiators saluting the Roman Emperor. Suetonius 'Claudius' 21

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum: Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

‘Ave Maria’, also known as ‘The Angelic Salutation’, dating from the 11th century

Ave verum corpus,
Natum Ex Maria Virgine.

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary.

Eucharistic hymn, dating probably from the 14th century

Caveant consules ne quid res publica detrimenti caperet.

Let the consuls see to it that no harm come to the state.

Senatorial ‘ultimate decree’ in the Roman Republic. for example Cicero ‘Pro Milone’ 26, 70

Cras amet qui nunquam amavit, quique amavit cras amet!

Let those love now, who never loved before: Let those who always loved, now love the more.

‘Pervigilium Veneris’ 1 (translated by Parnell)

Et in Arcadia ego.

And I too in Arcadia.

Tomb inscription, of uncertain meaning, often depicted in classical paintings. E. Panofsky ‘Philosophy and History: Essays Presented to E. Cassirer’ (1936)

Gaudeamus igitur,
Juvenes dum sumus
Post jucundam juventutem,
Post molestam senectutem,
Nos habebit humus.

**Let us then rejoice,
While we are young.
After the pleasures of youth
And the tiresomeness of old age
Earth will hold us.**

Medieval students’ song, traced to 1267, but revised in the 18th century

Meum est propositum
In taberna mori,
Ut sint vina proxima
Morientis ori.
Tunc cantabunt laetius
Angelorum chori:
‘Sit Deus propitius
Huic potatori!’

I desire to end my days in a tavern drinking,

May some Christian hold for me the glass when I am shrinking;
That the Cherubim may cry, when they see me sinking,
'God be merciful to a soul of this gentleman's way of thinking.'

The Arch-poet (fl. 1159-67) 'Estuans intrinsecus ira vehementi' (translated by Leigh Hunt)

Nemo me impune lacessit.

No one provokes me with impunity.

Motto of the Crown of Scotland and of all Scottish regiments

Per ardua ad astra.

Through struggle to the stars.

Motto of the Mulvany family, quoted and translated by Rider Haggard 'The People of the Mist' (1894) ch. 1; still in use as motto of the R. A. F., having been proposed by J. S. Yule in 1912 and approved by King George V in 1913.

Post coitum omne animal triste.

After coition every animal is sad.

Post-classical saying

Quidquid agas, prudenter agas, et respice finem.

Whatever you do, do cautiously, and look to the end.

'Gesta Romanorum' no. 103

Salve, regina, mater misericordiae,
Vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve!
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Evae,
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes
In hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
Nobis post hoc exsilium ostende,
O clemens, o pia,
O dulcis virgo Maria.

Hail holy queen, mother of mercy, hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

Attributed to various 11th century authors, in 'Analecta Hymnica' vol. 50 (1907) p. 318

Sic transit gloria mundi.

Thus passes the glory of the world.

Spoken during the coronation of a new Pope, while flax is burned to represent the transitoriness of earthly glory; used at the coronation of Alexander V, Pisa, 7 July 1409, but earlier in origin.

Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.

If you seek for a monument, gaze around.

Inscription in St Paul's Cathedral, London, attributed to the son of the architect, Sir Christopher Wren

Te Deum laudamus: Te Dominum confitemur.

We praise thee, God: we own thee Lord.

'Te Deum', hymn traditionally ascribed to St Ambrose and St Augustine in A.D. 387, though attributed by some modern scholars to St Niceta (d. c.414).

In te Domine, speravi: non confundar in aeternum.

Lord, I have set my hopes in thee, I shall not be destroyed for ever.

'Te Deum'.

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.

Times change, and we change with them.

In William Harrison 'Description of Britain' (1577) vol. 3, ch. 3, p. 99 (attributed to the Emperor Lothar I (795-855) in the form Omnia mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis All things change, and we change with them)

Vox et praeterea nihil.

A voice and nothing more.

Describing a nightingale. Plutarch 'Moralia' 'Sayings of Spartans' no. 233a

1.69 Jean Anouilh 1910-87

Dieu est avec tout le monde....Et, en fin de compte, il est toujours avec ceux qui ont beaucoup d'argent et de grosses armées.

God is on everyone's side....And, in the last analysis, he is on the side with plenty of money and large armies.

'L'Alouette' (The Lark, 1953) p. 120.

Tragedy is clean, it is restful, it is flawless.

'Antigone' (1944)

The spring is wound up tight. It will uncoil of itself. That is what is so convenient in tragedy. The least little turn of the wrist will do the job. Anything will set it going.

'Antigone' (1944)

Il y a l'amour bien sûr. Et puis il y a la vie, son ennemie.

There is love of course. And then there's life, its enemy.

'Ardéle' (1949) p. 8

Vous savez bien que l'amour, c'est avant tout le don de soi!

You know very well that love is, above all, the gift of oneself!

'Ardéle' (1949) p. 79

C'est très jolie la vie, mais cela n'a pas de forme. L'art a pour objet de lui en donner une précisément et de faire par tous les artifices possibles—plus vrai que le vrai.

Life is very nice, but it has no shape. The object of art is actually to give it some and to do it by

every artifice possible—truer than the truth.

‘La Rèpétition’ (The Rehearsal, 1950) act 2

1.70 Christopher Anstey 1724-1805

If ever I ate a good supper at night,
I dreamed of the devil, and waked in a fright.

‘The New Bath Guide’ (1766) Letter 4 ‘A Consultation of the Physicians’

You may go to Carlisle’s, and to Almack’s too;
And I’ll give you my head if you find such a host,
For coffee, tea, chocolate, butter, and toast:
How he welcomes at once all the world and his wife,
And how civil to folk he ne’er saw in his life.

‘The New Bath Guide’ (1766) Letter 13 ‘A Public Breakfast’

1.71 F. Anstey (Thomas Anstey Guthrie) 1856-1934

Drastic measures is Latin for a whopping.

‘Vice Versa’ (1882) ch. 7

1.72 Guillaume Apollinaire 1880-1918

Les souvenirs sont cors de chasse
Dont meurt le bruit parmi le vent.

Memories are hunting horns
Whose sound dies on the wind.

‘Cors de Chasse’ (1912)

Sous le pont Mirabeau coule la Seine.
Et nos amours, faut-il qu’il m’en souviennne?
La joie venait toujours après la peine.
Vienne la nuit, sonne l’heure,
Les jours s’en vont, je demeure.

Under Mirabeau Bridge flows the Seine.
And our loves, must I remember them?
Joy always comes after pain.
Let night come, ring out the hour,
The days go by, I remain.

‘Le Pont Mirabeau’ (1912)

On ne peut pas porter partout le cadavre de son père.

One can’t carry one’s father’s corpse about everywhere.

‘L’Antitradition futuriste’ (1913)

1.73 Sir Edward Appleton 1892-1965

I do not mind what language an opera is sung in so long as it is a language I don't understand.
In 'Observer' 28 August 1955

1.74 Thomas Gold Appleton 1812-84

A Boston man is the east wind made flesh.

Attributed

Good Americans, when they die, go to Paris.

In Oliver Wendell Holmes 'The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table' (1858) ch. 6

1.75 The Arabian Nights Entertainments, or the Thousand and one Nights

Who will change old lamps for new ones?...new lamps for old ones?

'The History of Aladdin'

Open Sesame!

'The History of Ali Baba'

1.76 William Arabin 1773-1841

If ever there was a case of clearer evidence than this of persons acting in concert together, this case is that case.

In Sir R. Megarry 'Arabinesque at Law' (1969)

They will steal the very teeth out of your mouth as you walk through the streets. I know it from experience.

Referring to the citizens of Uxbridge, in Sir R. Megarry 'Arabinesque at Law' (1969)

Prisoner, God has given you good abilities, instead of which you go about the country stealing ducks.

'Notes and Queries' vol. 170, p. 310

1.77 Louis Aragon 1897-1982

O mois des floraisons mois des mètamorphoses

Mai qui fut sans nuage et Juin poignardè mètamorphoses

Je n'oublierai jamais les lilas ni les roses mètamorphoses

Ni ceux que le printemps dans ses plis a gardè.

O month of flowerings, month of metamorphoses, mètamorphoses

May without cloud and June that was stabbed, mètamorphoses

I shall never forget the lilac and the roses mètamorphoses

Nor those whom spring has kept in its folds.

'Les lilas et les roses' (1940)

1.78 John Arbuthnot 1667-1735

He warns the heads of parties against believing their own lies.

'The Art of Political Lying' (1712) p. 19

Law is a bottomless pit.

‘The History of John Bull’ (1712) ch. 24

Hame’s hame, be it never so hamely.

‘Law is a Bottomless Pit’ (1712)

1.79 Archilochus

The fox knows many things—the hedgehog one big one.

E. Diehl (ed.) ‘Anthologia Lyrica Graeca’ (3rd ed., 1949-52) vol. 1, p. 241, no. 103.

1.80 Archimedes 287-212 B.C.

Eureka! [I’ve got it!]

In Vitruvius Pollio ‘De Architectura’ bk. 9, preface, sect. 10

Give me but one firm spot on which to stand, and I will move the earth.

With reference to a lever, in Pappus ‘Synagoge’ bk. 8, sect. 19, proposition 10

1.81 Hannah Arendt 1906-75

It was as though in those last minutes he [Eichmann] was summing up the lessons that this long course in human wickedness had taught us—the lesson of the fearsome, word-and-thought-defying banality of evil.

‘Eichmann in Jerusalem: a Report on the Banality of Evil’ (1963) ch. 15

Only crime and the criminal, it is true, confront us with the perplexity of radical evil; but only the hypocrite is really rotten to the core.

‘On Revolution’ (1963) ch. 2

Under conditions of tyranny it is far easier to act than to think.

In W. H. Auden ‘A Certain World’ (1970) p. 369

The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative on the day after the revolution.

In ‘New Yorker’ 12 September 1970, p. 88

1.82 Marquis d’Argenson (Renè Louis de Voyer d’Argenson) 1694-1757

Laisser-faire.

No interference.

‘Mèmoires’ (1736) vol. 5, p. 364.

1.83 Comte d’Argenson (Marc Pierre de Voyer d’Argenson) 1696-1764

Abbè Guyot Desfontaines: Il faut que je vive.

D’Argenson: Je n’en vois pas la nécessité.

Desfontaines: I must live.

d’Argenson: I do not see the necessity.

In Voltaire ‘Alzire’ (1736) ‘Discours Prèliminaire’

1.84 Ludovico Ariosto 1474-1533

Natura il fece, e poi roppe la stampa.

Nature made him, and then broke the mould.

‘Orlando Furioso’ (1532) canto 10, st. 84

1.85 Aristophanes c.444-c.380 B.C.

How about ‘Cloudcuckooland’?

Naming the capital city of the Birds in ‘The Birds’ (414 B.C.) l. 819

To make the worse appear the better reason.

‘The Clouds’ (423 B.C.) l. 114 and elsewhere

But he was contented there, is contented here.

Referring to Sophocles in ‘The Frogs’ (405 B.C.) l. 82 (there on earth; here in Hades)

Brekekekex koax koax.

Cry of the Frogs in ‘The Frogs’ (405 B.C.) l. 209 and elsewhere

1.86 Aristotle 384-322 B.C.

So the good has been well explained as that at which all things aim.

‘Nicomachean Ethics’ bk. 1, opening sentence

We make war that we may live in peace.

‘Nicomachean Ethics’ bk. 10, ch. 7.

Man is by nature a political animal.

‘Politics’ bk. 1, sect. 2, 1253a

Nature does nothing uselessly.

‘Politics’ bk. 1, sect. 2

He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god.

‘Politics’ bk. 1, sect. 2

Where some people are very wealthy and others have nothing, the result will be either extreme democracy or absolute oligarchy, or despotism will come from either of those excesses.

‘Politics’ bk. 1, sect. 4, 1296a

Tragedy is thus a representation of an action that is worth serious attention, complete in itself and of some amplitude...by means of pity and fear bringing about the purgation of such emotions.

‘Poetics’ ch. 6, 1449b

For this reason poetry is something more philosophical and more worthy of serious attention than history.

‘Poetics’ ch. 9, 1451b

Probable impossibilities are to be preferred to improbable possibilities.

‘Poetics’ ch. 24, 1460a

Amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas.

Plato is dear to me, but dearer still is truth.

Greek original ascribed to Aristotle

What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.

In Diogenes Laertius 'Lives of Eminent Philosophers' bk. 5, sect. 20

1.87 Lewis Addison Armistead 1817-63

Give them the cold steel, boys!

Attributed during the American Civil War, 1863

1.88 Harry Armstrong 1879-1951

There's an old mill by the stream, Nellie Dean,

Where we used to sit and dream, Nellie Dean.

And the waters as they flow

Seem to murmur sweet and low,

'You're my heart's desire; I love you, Nellie Dean.'

'Nellie Dean' (1905 song)

1.89 Dr John Armstrong 1709-79

Much had he read,

Much more had seen; he studied from the life,

And in th' original perused mankind.

'The Art of Preserving Health' (1744) bk. 4, l. 231

'Tis not for mortals always to be blest.

'The Art of Preserving Health' (1744) bk. 4, l. 260

Of right and wrong he taught

Truths as refined as ever Athens heard;

And (strange to tell!) he practised what he preached.

'The Art of Preserving Health' (1744) bk. 4, l. 303

'Tis not too late to-morrow to be brave.

'The Art of Preserving Health' (1744) bk. 4, l. 460

1.90 Louis Satchmo Armstrong 1901-71

All music is folk music, I ain't never heard no horse sing a song.

In 'New York Times' 7 July 1971, p. 41

If you still have to ask...shame on you.

When asked what jazz is, in Max Jones et al. 'Salute to Satchmo' (1970) p. 25 (sometimes quoted as 'Man, if you gotta ask you'll never know').

1.91 Neil Armstrong 1930—

Houston, Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed. That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.

In 'New York Times' 31 July 1969, p. 20

1.92 Lord Armstrong 1927—

It contains a misleading impression, not a lie. It was being economical with the truth.

Referring to a letter during the 'Spycatcher' trial, Supreme Court, New South Wales, 18 November 1986, in 'Daily Telegraph' 19 November 1986. Edmund Burke 'Two letters on Proposals for Peace' (1796) pt. 1, p. 137, 'Falsehood and delusion are allowed in no case whatsoever: But, as in the exercise of all the virtues, there is an economy of truth.'

1.93 Sir Edwin Arnold 1832-1904

Nor ever once ashamed

So we be named

Press-men; Slaves of the Lamp; Servants of Light.

'The Tenth Muse' (1895) st. 18

1.94 George Arnold 1834-65

The living need charity more than the dead.

'The Jolly Old Pedagogue'

1.95 Matthew Arnold 1822-88

And we forget because we must

And not because we will.

'Absence'

Only—but this is rare—

When a belovèd hand is laid in ours,

When, jaded with the rush and glare

Of the interminable hours,

Our eyes can in another's eyes read clear,

When our world-deafened ear

Is by the tones of a loved voice caressed—

A bolt is shot back somewhere in our breast,

And a lost pulse of feeling stirs again.

The eye sinks inward, and the heart lies plain,

And what we mean, we say, and what we would, we know.

'The Buried Life' (1852) l. 77

The Sea of Faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore

Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.

But now I only hear

Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,

Retreating, to the breath

Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear

And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

‘Dover Beach’ (1867) l. 21

Be neither saint nor sophist-led, but be a man.

‘Empedocles on Etna’ (1852) act 1, sc. 2, l. 136

Is it so small a thing
To have enjoyed the sun,
To have lived light in the spring,
To have loved, to have thought, to have done.

‘Empedocles on Etna’ (1852) act 1, sc. 2, l. 397

Because thou must not dream, thou needst not then despair!

‘Empedocles on Etna’ (1852) act 1, sc. 2, l. 426

Come to me in my dreams, and then
By day I shall be well again!
For then the night will more than pay
The hopeless longing of the day.

‘Faded Leaves’ (1855) no. 5 (first published, 1852, as ‘Longing’)

Come, dear children, let us away;
Down and away below!

‘The Forsaken Merman’ (1849) l. 1

Now the great winds shorewards blow;
Now the salt tides seawards flow;
Now the wild white horses play,
Champ and chafe and toss in the spray.

‘The Forsaken Merman’ (1849) l. 4

Sand-strewn caverns, cool and deep,
Where the winds are all asleep;
Where the spent lights quiver and gleam;
Where the salt weed sways in the stream;

‘The Forsaken Merman’ (1849) l. 35

Where great whales come sailing by,
Sail and sail, with unshut eye,

Round the world for ever and aye.

‘The Forsaken Merman’ (1849) l. 43

This truth—to prove, and make thine own: ‘Thou hast been, shalt be, art, alone.’

‘Isolation. To Marguerite’ (1857) l. 29

Creep into thy narrow bed,

Creep, and let no more be said!

Vain thy onset! all stands fast.

Thou thyself must break at last.

Let the long contention cease!

Geese are swans, and swans are geese.

Let them have it how they will!

Thou art tired; best be still.

‘The Last Word’ (1867)

Calm soul of all things! make it mine

To feel, amid the city’s jar,

That there abides a peace of thine,

Man did not make, and cannot mar.

‘Lines written in Kensington Gardens’ (1852)

He spoke, and loosed our heart in tears.

He laid us as we lay at birth

On the cool flowery lap of earth.

Lines on Wordsworth in ‘Memorial Verses, April 1850’ l. 47

Ere the parting hour go by,

Quick, thy tablets, Memory!

‘A Memory Picture’ (1849)

With aching hands and bleeding feet

We dig and heap, lay stone on stone;

We bear the burden and the heat

Of the long day, and wish ’twere done.

Not till the hours of light return,

All we have built do we discern.

‘Morality’ (1852).

Say, has some wet bird-haunted English lawn

Lent it the music of its trees at dawn?

‘Parting’ (1852) l. 19

Hark! ah, the Nightingale!

The tawny-throated!

Hark! from that moonlit cedar what a burst!

What triumph! hark—what pain!

‘Philomela’ (1853) l. 1

Eternal Passion!

Eternal Pain!

‘Philomela’ l. 31

Cruel, but composed and bland,
Dumb, inscrutable and grand,
So Tiberius might have sat,
Had Tiberius been a cat.

‘Poor Matthias’ (1885) l. 40

Her cabined ample Spirit,
It fluttered and failed for breath.
To-night it doth inherit
The vasty hall of death.

‘Requiescat’ (1853)

Not deep the Poet sees, but wide.

‘Resignation’ (1849) l. 214

Yet they, believe me, who await
No gifts from chance, have conquered fate.

‘Resignation’ (1849) l. 247

Not milder is the general lot
Because our spirits have forgot,
In action’s dizzying eddy whirled,
The something that infects the world.

‘Resignation’ (1849) l. 247

Coldly, sadly descends
The autumn evening. The Field
Strewn with its dank yellow drifts
Of withered leaves, and the elms,
Fade into dimness apace,
Silent;—hardly a shout
From a few boys late at their play!

‘Rugby Chapel, November 1857’

Go, for they call you, Shepherd, from the hill.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 1

All the live murmur of a summer’s day.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 20

Tired of knocking at Preferment’s door.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 35

Crossing the stripling Thames at Bab-lock-hithe,
Trailing in the cool stream thy fingers wet,
As the slow punt swings round.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 74

Rapt, twirling in thy hand a withered spray,
And waiting for the spark from heaven to fall.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 119

The line of festal light in Christ-Church hall.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 129

Thou waitest for the spark from heaven! and we,
Light half-believers in our casual creeds...

Who hesitate and falter life away,
And lose to-morrow the ground won to-day—
Ah, do not we, Wanderer, await it too?

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 171

O born in days when wits were fresh and clear,
And life ran gaily as the sparkling Thames;
Before this strange disease of modern life,
With its sick hurry, its divided aims,
Its heads o’ertaken, its palsied hearts, was rife—
Fly hence, our contact fear!

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 201

Still nursing the unconquerable hope,
Still clutching the inviolable shade.

‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (1853) l. 211

Resolve to be thyself: and know, that he
Who finds himself, loses his misery.

‘Self-Dependence’ (1852) l. 31

Others abide our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask: Thou smilest and art still,
Out-topping knowledge.

‘Shakespeare’ (1849)

And thou, who didst the stars and sunbeams know,
Self-schooled, self-scanned, self-honoured, self-secure,
Didst tread on Earth unguessed at.—Better so!
All pains the immortal spirit must endure,
All weakness which impairs, all griefs which bow,
Find their sole speech in that victorious brow.

‘Shakespeare’ (1849)

Curled minion, dancer, coiner of sweet words!

‘Sohrab and Rustum’ (1853) l. 458

No horse’s cry was that, most like the roar
Of some pained desert lion, who all day

Hath trailed the hunter's javelin in his side,
And comes at night to die upon the sand.

'Sohrab and Rustum' (1853) l. 501

Truth sits upon the lips of dying men.

'Sohrab and Rustum' (1853) l. 656

But the majestic River floated on,
Out of the mist and hum of that low land,
Into the frosty starlight.

'Sohrab and Rustum' (1853) l. 875

Oxus, forgetting the bright speed he had
In his high mountain cradle in Pamere,
A foiled circuitous wanderer—till at last
The longed-for dash of waves is heard, and wide
His luminous home of waters opens, bright
And tranquil, from whose floor the new-bathed stars
Emerge, and shine upon the Aral Sea.

'Sohrab and Rustum' (1853) l. 886

For rigorous teachers seized my youth,
And purged its faith, and trimmed its fire,
Showed me the high, white star of Truth,
There bade me gaze, and there aspire.

'Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse' (1855) l. 67

Wandering between two worlds, one dead,
The other powerless to be born,
With nowhere yet to rest my head,
Like these, on earth I wait forlorn.

'Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse' (1855) l. 85

What helps it now, that Byron bore,
With haughty scorn which mocked the smart,
Through Europe to the Aetolian shore
The pageant of his bleeding heart?
That thousands counted every groan,
And Europe made his woe her own?

'Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse' (1855) l. 133

Ah! two desires toss about
The poet's feverish blood.
One drives him to the world without,
And one to solitude.

'Stanzas in Memory of the Author of "Obermann", November 1849' l. 93

Still bent to make some port he knows not where,

Still standing for some false impossible shore.

‘A Summer Night’ l. 68

The signal-elm, that looks on Ilsley downs,
The Vale, the three lone weirs, the youthful Thames.

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 14

And that sweet City with her dreaming spires,
She needs not June for beauty’s heightening.

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 19

So have I heard the cuckoo’s parting cry,
From the wet field, through the vext garden-trees,
Come with the volleying rain and tossing breeze:
‘The bloom is gone, and with the bloom go I.’

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 57

Too quick despairer, wherefore wilt thou go?
Soon will the high Midsummer pomps come on,
Soon will the musk carnations break and swell.

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 61

For Time, not Corydon, hath conquered thee.

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 80

The foot less prompt to meet the morning dew,
The heart less bounding at emotion new,
And hope, once crushed, less quick to spring again.

‘Thyrsis’ (1866) l. 138

Who saw life steadily, and saw it whole:
The mellow glory of the Attic stage;
Singer of sweet Colonus, and its child.

Lines on Sophocles in ‘To a Friend’ (1849)

France, famed in all great arts, in none supreme.

‘To a Republican Friend, 1848. Continued’

Yes! in the sea of life enisled,
With echoing straits between us thrown,
Dotting the shoreless watery wild,
We mortal millions live alone.

‘To Marguerite—Continued’ (1852) l. 1

A God, a God their severance ruled!
And bade betwixt their shores to be
The unplumbed, salt, estranging sea.

‘To Marguerite—Continued’ (1852) l. 22

Nor bring, to see me cease to live,
Some doctor full of phrase and fame,

To shake his sapient head and give
The ill he cannot cure a name.

‘A Wish’ (1867)

And sigh that one thing only has been lent
To youth and age in common—discontent.

‘Youth’s Agitations’ (1852)

Our society distributes itself into Barbarians, Philistines, and Populace; and America is just
ourselves, with the Barbarians quite left out, and the Populace nearly.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) preface

The pursuit of perfection, then, is the pursuit of sweetness and light....He who works for
sweetness and light united, works to make reason and the will of God prevail.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 1.

The men of culture are the true apostles of equality.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 1

When I want to distinguish clearly the aristocratic class from the Philistines proper, or middle
class, [I] name the former, in my own mind the Barbarians.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 3

That vast portion...of the working-class which, raw and half-developed, has long lain half-
hidden amidst its poverty and squalor, and is now issuing from its hiding-place to assert an
Englishman’s heaven-born privilege of doing as he likes, and is beginning to perplex us by
marching where it likes, meeting where it likes, bawling what it likes, breaking what it likes—to
this vast residuum we may with great propriety give the name of Populace.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 3

Hebraism and Hellenism—between these two points of influence moves our
World.

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 4

‘He knows’ says Hebraism, ‘his Bible!’—whenever we hear this said, we may, without any
elaborate defence of culture, content ourselves with answering simply: ‘No man, who knows
nothing else, knows even his Bible.’

‘Culture and Anarchy’ (1869) ch. 5

Nothing could moderate, in the bosom of the great English middle class, their passionate,
absorbing, almost blood-thirsty clinging to life.

‘Essays in Criticism’ First Series (1865) preface

Beautiful city! so venerable, so lovely, so unravaged by the fierce intellectual life of our
century, so serene!...whispering from her towers the last enchantments of the Middle Age....
Home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties!

On Oxford in ‘Essays in Criticism’ First Series (1865) preface

‘Our unrivalled happiness’;—what an element of grimness, bareness, and hideousness mixes
with it and blurs it; the workhouse, the dismal Mapperly Hills,—how dismal those who have seen
them will remember;—the gloom, the smoke, the cold, the strangled illegitimate child!...And the

final touch,—short, bleak and inhuman: Wragg is in custody. The sex lost in the confusion of our unrivalled happiness; or (shall I say?) the superfluous Christian name lopped off by the straightforward vigour of our old Anglo-Saxon breed!

Prompted by a newspaper report of the murder of her illegitimate child by a girl named Wragg; 'Essays in Criticism' First Series (1865) 'The Function of Criticism at the Present Time'

I am bound by my own definition of criticism: a disinterested endeavour to learn and propagate the best that is known and thought in the world.

'Essays in Criticism' First Series (1865) 'The Function of Criticism at the Present Time'

Philistinism!—We have not the expression in English. Perhaps we have not the word because we have so much of the thing.

'Essays in Criticism' First Series (1865) 'Heinrich Heine'

The great apostle of the Philistines, Lord Macaulay.

'Essays in Criticism' First Series (1865) 'Joubert'

The absence, in this country, of any force of educated literary and scientific opinion.

'Essays in Criticism' First Series (1865) 'The Literary Influence of Academies'

In poetry, no less than in life, he is 'a beautiful and ineffectual angel, beating in the void his luminous wings in vain'.

'Essays in Criticism' Second Series (1888) 'Shelley'; Arnold is quoting from his own essay on Byron in the same work.

More and more mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us. Without poetry our science will appear incomplete; and most of what now passes for religion and philosophy will be replaced by poetry.

'Essays in Criticism' Second Series (1888) 'The Study of Poetry'

The difference between genuine poetry and the poetry of Dryden, Pope, and all their school, is briefly this: their poetry is conceived and composed in their wits, genuine poetry is conceived and composed in the soul.

'Essays in Criticism' Second Series (1888) 'Thomas Gray'

Poetry is at bottom a criticism of life.

'Essays in Criticism' Second Series (1888) 'Wordsworth'

His expression may often be called bald...but it is bald as the bare mountain tops are bald, with a baldness full of grandeur.

'Wordsworth' in 'Essays in Criticism' Second Series (1888)

I am past thirty, and three parts iced over.

Howard Foster Lowry (ed.) 'The Letters of Matthew Arnold to Arthur Hugh Clough' (1932) 12 February 1853

Culture, the acquainting ourselves with the best that has been known and said in the world, and thus with the history of the human spirit.

'Literature and Dogma' (1873) preface

Terms like grace, new birth, justification...terms, in short, which with

St Paul are literary terms, theologians have employed as if they were scientific terms.

‘Literature and Dogma’ (1873) ch. 1

The true meaning of religion is thus not simply morality, but morality touched by emotion.

‘Literature and Dogma’ (1873) ch. 1

Conduct is three-fourths of our life and its largest concern.

‘Literature and Dogma’ (1873) ch. 1

But there remains the question: what righteousness really is. The method and secret and sweet reasonableness of Jesus.

‘Literature and Dogma’ (1873) ch. 12

So we have the Philistine of genius in religion—Luther; the Philistine of genius in politics—Cromwell; the Philistine of genius in literature—Bunyan.

‘Mixed Essays’ (1879) ‘Lord Falkland’

Wordsworth says somewhere that wherever Virgil seems to have composed

‘with his eye on the object’, Dryden fails to render him. Homer invariably composes ‘with his eye on the object’, whether the object be a moral or a material one: Pope composes with his eye on his style, into which he translates his object, whatever it is.

‘On Translating Homer’ (1861) Lecture 1

Of these two literatures [French and German], as of the intellect of

Europe in general, the main effort, for now many years, has been a critical effort; the endeavours, in all branches of knowledge—theology, philosophy, history, art, science—to see the object as in itself it really is.

‘On Translating Homer’ (1861) Lecture 2

He [the translator] will find one English book and one only, where, as in the Iliad itself, perfect plainness of speech is allied with perfect nobleness; and that book is the Bible.

‘On Translating Homer’ (1861) Lecture 3

Nothing has raised more questioning among my critics than these words—noble, the grand style....I think it will be found that the grand style arises in poetry, when a noble nature, poetically gifted, treats with simplicity or with severity a serious subject.

‘On Translating Homer’ ‘Last Words’ (1862)

People think that I can teach them style. What stuff it all is! Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret of style.

In G. W. E. Russell ‘Collections and Recollections’ (1898) ch. 13

1.96 S. J. Arnold

England, home and beauty.

‘The Death of Nelson’ (1811 song) from ‘The Americans. A Comic Opera’

1.97 Dr Thomas Arnold 1795-1842

My object will be, if possible, to form Christian men, for Christian boys
I can scarcely hope to make.

Letter to Revd John Tucker, 2 March 1828, on appointment to the Headmastership of Rugby School, in Arthur Penrhyn Stanley 'The Life and Correspondence of Thomas Arnold' (1844) vol. 1, ch. 2

What we must look for here is, 1st, religious and moral principles: 2ndly, gentlemanly conduct: 3rdly, intellectual ability.

Address to the Praepostors of Rugby School, in Arthur Penrhyn Stanley 'The Life and Correspondence of Thomas Arnold' (1844) vol. 1, ch. 3

As for rioting, the old Roman way of dealing with that is always the right one; flog the rank and file, and fling the ringleaders from the Tarpeian rock.

From an unpublished letter written before 1828, quoted by Matthew Arnold in 'Cornhill Magazine' August 1868 'Anarchy and Authority'

1.98 Raymond Aron 1905—

La pensèe politique, en France, est rètrospective ou utopique.

Political thought, in France, is retrospective or utopian.

'L'opium des intellectuels' (1955) ch. 1

1.99 Antonin Artaud 1896-1948

Il faut nous laver de la littérature. Nous voulons être hommes avant tout, être humains.

We must wash literature off ourselves. We want to be men first of all; to be human.

'Les Oeuvres et les Hommes' unpublished MS, 17 May 1922

1.100 George Asaf 1880-1951

What's the use of worrying?

It never was worth while,

So, pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag,

And smile, smile, smile.

'Pack up your Troubles' (1915 song)

1.101 Roger Ascham 1515-68

I said...how, and why, young children, were sooner allured by love, than driven by beating, to attain good learning.

'The Schoolmaster' (1570) preface

There is no such whetstone, to sharpen a good wit and encourage a will to learning, as is praise.

'The Schoolmaster' (1570) bk. 1

Inglese Italianato, é un diavolo incarnato, that is to say, you remain men in shape and fashion, but become devils in life and condition.

'The Schoolmaster' (1570) bk. 1 (referring to Englishmen travelling in Italy)

He that will write well in any tongue, must follow this counsel of Aristotle, to speak as the common people do, to think as wise men do; and so should every man understand him, and the judgment of wise men allow him.

‘To all gentlemen and yeomen of England’ in ‘Toxophilus’ (1545)

1.102 John Dunning, Baron Ashburton 1731-83

The power of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished.

House of Commons, 1780

1.103 Daisy Ashford 1881-1972

Mr Salteena was an elderly man of 42.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 1

I am not quite a gentleman but you would hardly notice it but can’t be helped anyhow.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 1

You look rather rash my dear your colors dont quite match your face.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 2

Bernard always had a few prayers in the hall and some whiskey afterwards as he was rather pious but Mr Salteena was not very addicted to prayers so he marched up to bed.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 3

Oh this is must kind said Mr Salteena. Minnit closed his eyes with a tired smile. Not kind sir he muttered quite usual.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 5

It was a sumpshous spot all done up in gold with plenty of looking glasses.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 5

Oh I see said the Earl but my own idear is that these things are as piffle before the wind.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 5

The bearer of this letter is an old friend of mine not quite the right side of the blanket as they say in fact he is the son of a first rate butcher but his mother was a decent family called Hyssopps of the Glen so you see he is not so bad and is desirous of being the correct article.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 5

My life will be sour grapes and ashes without you.

‘The Young Visitors’ (1919) ch. 8

1.104 Isaac Asimov 1920—

The three fundamental Rules of Robotics....One, a robot may not injure a human being, or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm....Two...a robot must obey the orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law...Three, a robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Laws.

‘I, Robot’ (1950) in ‘Runaround’

1.105 Herbert Asquith (first Earl of Oxford and Asquith) 1852-1928

We had better wait and see.

Phrased used repeatedly in speeches in 1910, referring to the rumour that the House of Lords was to be flooded with new Liberal peers to ensure the passage of the Finance Bill. Roy Jenkins 'Asquith' (1964) ch. 14

We shall never sheath the sword which we have not lightly drawn until Belgium recovers in full measure all and more than all that she has sacrificed, until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed.

Speech at the Guildhall, London, 9 November 1914, in 'The Times' 10 November 1914

It is fitting that we should have buried the Unknown Prime Minister by the side of the Unknown Soldier.

Referring to Bonar Law, in Robert Blake 'The Unknown Prime Minister' (1955) p. 531

[The War Office kept three sets of figures:] one to mislead the public, another to mislead the Cabinet, and the third to mislead itself.

In Alistair Horne 'Price of Glory' (1962) ch. 2

1.106 Margot Asquith (Countess of Oxford and Asquith) 1864-1945

The t is silent, as in Harlow.

To Jean Harlow, who had been calling her Margot (as in argot), in T. S. Matthews 'Great Tom' (1973) ch. 7

Lord Birkenhead is very clever but sometimes his brains go to his head.

In 'Listener' 11 June 1953 'Margot Oxford' by Lady Violet Bonham Carter

She tells enough white lies to ice a wedding cake.

Referring to Lady Desborough, in 'Listener' 11 June 1953 'Margot Oxford' by Lady Violet Bonham Carter

He can't see a belt without hitting below it.

Referring to Lloyd George, in 'Listener' 11 June 1953 'Margot Oxford' by

Lady Violet Bonham Carter

1.107 Mary Astell 1668-1731

Their sophistry I can control

Who falsely say that women have no soul.

'Ambition' l. 7

Happy am I who out of danger sit,

Can see and pity them who wade thro it;

Need take no thought my treasure to dispose,

What I ne're had I cannot fear to lose.

'Awake my Lute' l. 18

Our opposers usually miscall our quickness of thought, fancy and flash, and christen their own heaviness by the specious names of judgement and solidity; but it is easy to retort upon them the reproachful ones of dullness and stupidity.

'An Essay in Defence of the Female Sex' (1696) p. 19

Fetters of gold are still fetters, and the softest lining can never make them so easy as liberty.

'An Essay in Defence of the Female Sex' (1696) p. 25

If all men are born free, how is it that all women are born slaves?

‘Some Reflections upon Marriage’ (1706 ed.) preface

1.108 Sir Jacob Astley 1579-1652

O Lord! thou knowest how busy I must be this day: if I forget thee, do not thou forget me.

Prayer before the Battle of Edgehill, in Sir Philip Warwick ‘Memoires’ (1701) p. 229

1.109 Nancy Astor (Viscountess Astor) 1879-1964

I married beneath me, all women do.

In ‘Dictionary of National Biography 1961-1970’ (1981) p. 43

1.110 Brooks Atkinson 1894-1984

After each war there is a little less democracy to save.

‘Once Around the Sun’ (1951) 7 January

1.111 E. L. Atkinson 1882-1929 and Apsley Cherry-Garrard 1882-1959

Hereabouts died a very gallant gentleman, Captain L. E. G. Oates of the Inniskilling Dragoons. In March 1912, returning from the Pole, he walked willingly to his death in a blizzard to try and save his comrades, beset by hardships.

Epitaph on cairn erected in the Antarctic, 15 November 1912, in Apsley Cherry-Garrard ‘The Worst Journey in the World’ (1922) p. 487

1.112 Clement Attlee (first Earl Attlee) 1883-1967

The voice we heard was that of Mr Churchill but the mind was that of Lord Beaverbrook.

Speech on radio, 5 June 1945, in Francis Williams ‘A Prime Minister Remembers’ (1961) ch. 6

I think the British have the distinction above all other nations of being able to put new wine into old bottles without bursting them.

‘Hansard’ 24 October 1950, col. 2705

Few thought he was even a starter

There were many who thought themselves smarter

But he ended PM

CH and OM

An earl and a knight of the garter.

Describing himself in a letter to Tom Attlee, 8 April 1956; in Kenneth Harris ‘Attlee’ (1982) p. 545

[Russian Communism is] the illegitimate child of Karl Marx and Catherine the Great.

Speech at Aarhus University, 11 April 1956, in ‘The Times’ 12 April 1956

Democracy means government by discussion, but it is only effective if you can stop people talking.

Speech at Oxford, 14 June 1957, in ‘The Times’ 15 June 1957

A monologue is not a decision.

To Winston Churchill, who had complained that a matter had been brought up several times in Cabinet, in Francis Williams 'A Prime Minister Remembers' (1961) ch. 7

1.113 John Aubrey 1626-97

The Bishop sometimes would take the key of the wine-cellar, and he and his chaplain would go and lock themselves in and be merry. Then first he lays down his episcopal hat—There lies the Doctor. Then he puts off his gown—There lies the Bishop. Then 'twas, Here's to thee, Corbet, and Here's to thee, Lushington.

'Brief Lives' 'Richard Corbet'

How these curiosities would be quite forgot, did not such idle fellows as I am put them down.

'Brief Lives' 'Venetia Digby'

Extreme pleasant in his conversation, and at dinner, supper, etc; but satirical. (He pronounced the letter R (littera canina) very hard—a certain sign of a satirical wit).

'Brief Lives' 'John Dryden'

He had read much, if one considers his long life; but his contemplation was much more than his reading. He was wont to say that if he had read as much as other men, he should have known no more than other men.

'Brief Lives' 'Thomas Hobbes'

As they were reading of inscribing and circumscribing figures, said he, I will show you how to inscribe a triangle in a quadrangle. Bring a pig into the quadrangle and I will set the college dog at him, & he will take the pig by the ear, then I come & take the dog by the tail & the hog by the tail, and so there you have a triangle in a quadrangle; quod erat faciendum.

'Brief Lives' 'Ralph Kettel'

He was so fair that they called him the lady of Christ's College.

'Brief Lives' 'John Milton'

His harmonical and ingenious soul did lodge in a beautiful and well proportioned body. He was a spare man.

'Brief Lives' 'John Milton'

Sciatica: he cured it, by boiling his buttock.

'Brief Lives' 'Sir Jonas Moore'

She was when a child much against the Bishops, and prayed to God to take them to him, but afterwards was reconciled to them. Prayed aloud, as the hypocritical fashion then was, and was overheard.

'Brief Lives' 'Katherine Philips'

Sir Walter, being strangely surprised and put out of his countenance at so great a table, gives his son a damned blow over the face. His son, as rude as he was, would not strike his father, but strikes over the face the gentleman that sat next to him and said 'Box about: 'twill come to my father anon'.

'Brief Lives' 'Sir Walter Raleigh'

When he killed a calf he would do it in a high style, and make a speech.

‘Brief Lives’ ‘William Shakespeare’

He was a handsome, well-shaped man: very good company, and of a very ready and pleasant smooth wit.

‘Brief Lives’ ‘William Shakespeare’

Anno 1670, not far from Cirencester, was an apparition; being demanded whether a good spirit or a bad? returned no answer, but disappeared with a curious perfume and most melodious twang. Mr W. Lilly believes it was a fairy.

‘Miscellanies’ (1696) ‘Apparitions’

1.114 W. H. Auden (Wystan Hugh Auden) 1907-73

Some thirty inches from my nose
The frontier of my Person goes,
And all the untilled air between
Is private pagus or demesne.
Stranger, unless with bedroom eyes
I beckon you to fraternize,
Beware of rudely crossing it:
I have no gun, but I can spit.

‘About the House’ (1966) ‘Prologue: the Birth of Architecture’

Sob, heavy world,
Sob as you spin
Mantled in mist, remote from the happy.

‘The Age of Anxiety’ (1947) p. 104

Lay your sleeping head, my love,
Human on my faithless arm;
Time and fevers burn away
Individual beauty from
Thoughtful children, and the grave
Proves the child ephemeral:
But in my arms till break of day
Let the living creature lie,
Mortal, guilty, but to me
The entirely beautiful.

‘Another Time’ (1940) no. 18, p. 43

I’ll love you, dear, I’ll love you
Till China and Africa meet
And the river jumps over the mountain
And the salmon sing in the street.

I’ll love you till the ocean
Is folded and hung up to dry

And the seven stars go squawking
Like geese about the sky.

‘As I Walked Out One Evening’ (1940)

O plunge your hands in water,
Plunge them in up to the wrist;
Stare, stare in the basin
And wonder what you’ve missed.

The glacier knocks in the cupboard,
The desert sighs in the bed,
And the crack in the tea-cup opens
A lane to the land of the dead.

‘As I Walked Out One Evening’ (1940)

A poet’s hope: to be,
like some valley cheese,
local, but prized elsewhere.

‘Collected Poems’ (1976) p. 639

To save your world you asked this man to die:
Would this man, could he see you now, ask why?

‘Epitaph for the Unknown Soldier’ (1955)

Perfection, of a kind, was what he was after,
And the poetry he invented was easy to understand;
He knew human folly like the back of his hand,
And was greatly interested in armies and fleets;
When he laughed, respectable senators burst with laughter,
And when he cried the little children died in the streets.

‘Epitaph on a Tyrant’ (1940).

Altogether elsewhere, vast
Herds of reindeer move across
Miles and miles of golden moss,
Silently and very fast.

‘The Fall of Rome’ (1951)

To us he is no more a person
Now but a whole climate of opinion.

‘In Memory of Sigmund Freud’ (1940)

He disappeared in the dead of winter:
The brooks were frozen, the airports almost deserted,
And snow disfigured the public statues;
The mercury sank in the mouth of the dying day.
What instruments we have agree
The day of his death was a dark cold day.

'In Memory of W. B. Yeats' (1940)

You were silly like us: your gift survived it all;
The parish of rich women, physical decay,
Yourself; mad Ireland hurt you into poetry.
Now Ireland has her madness and her weather still,
For poetry makes nothing happen: it survives
In the valley of its saying where executives
Would never want to tamper; it flows south
From ranches of isolation and the busy griefs,
Raw towns that we believe and die in; it survives,
A way of happening, a mouth.

'In Memory of W. B. Yeats' (1940)

Earth, receive an honoured guest;
William Yeats is laid to rest:
Let the Irish vessel lie
Emptied of its poetry.

'In Memory of W. B. Yeats' (1940)

In the nightmare of the dark
All the dogs of Europe bark,
And the living nations wait,
Each sequestered in its hate;

Intellectual disgrace
Stares from every human face,
And the seas of pity lie
Locked and frozen in each eye.

'In Memory of W. B. Yeats' (1940)

In the deserts of the heart
Let the healing fountain start,
In the prison of his days
Teach the free man how to praise.

'In Memory of W. B. Yeats' (1940)

There is no love;
There are only the various envies, all of them sad.

'In Praise of Limestone' (1951) l. 58

This land is not the sweet home that it looks,
Nor its peace the historical calm of a site
Where something was settled once and for all: A backward
And dilapidated province, connected
To the big busy world by a tunnel, with a certain
Seedy appeal.

'In Praise of Limestone' (1951) l. 61

The desires of the heart are as crooked as corkscrews
Not to be born is the best for man
The second best is a formal order
The dance's pattern, dance while you can.
Dance, dance, for the figure is easy
The tune is catching and will not stop
Dance till the stars come down with the rafters
Dance, dance, dance till you drop.

'Letter to William Coldstream, Esq.' (1937).

And make us as Newton was, who in his garden watching
The apple falling towards England, became aware
Between himself and her of an eternal tie.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 1

Out on the lawn I lie in bed,
Vega conspicuous overhead.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 2

Let the florid music praise,
The flute and the trumpet,
Beauty's conquest of your face:
In that land of flesh and bone,
Where from citadels on high
Her imperial standards fly,
Let the hot sun
Shine on, shine on.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 4

Look, stranger, at this island now
The leaping light for your delight discovers,
Stand stable here
And silent be,
That through the channels of the ear
May wander like a river
The swaying sound of the sea.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 5

O what is that sound which so thrills the ear
Down in the valley drumming, drumming?
Only the scarlet soldiers, dear,
The soldiers coming.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 6

O it's broken the lock and splintered the door,

O it's the gate where they're turning, turning;
Their boots are heavy on the floor
And their eyes are burning.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 6

A shilling life will give you all the facts.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 13

August for the people and their favourite islands.

Daily the steamers sidle up to meet

The effusive welcome of the pier.

'Look, Stranger!' (1936) no. 30

About suffering they were never wrong,

The Old Masters: how well they understood

Its human position; how it takes place

While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along.

'Musée des Beaux Arts' (1940)

They never forgot

That even the dreadful martyrdom must run its course

Anyhow in a corner, some untidy spot

Where the dogs go on with their doggy life and the torturer's horse

Scratches its innocent behind on a tree.

'Musée des Beaux Arts' (1940)

I see it often since you've been away:

The island, the veranda, and the fruit;

The tiny steamer breaking from the bay;

The literary mornings with its hoot;

Our ugly comic servant; and then you,

Lovely and willing every afternoon.

'New Verse' October 1933, p. 15

At the far end of the enormous room

An orchestra is playing to the rich.

'New Verse' October 1933, p. 15

To the man-in-the-street, who, I'm sorry to say,

Is a keen observer of life,

The word 'Intellectual' suggests straight away

A man who's untrue to his wife.

'New Year Letter' (1941) note to l. 1277

This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,

Bringing the cheque and the postal order,

Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,

The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb:
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.
Past cotton-grass and moorland border,
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder.

'Night Mail' (1936)

Letters of thanks, letters from banks,
Letters of joy from girl and boy,
Receipted bills and invitations
To inspect new stock or to visit relations,
And applications for situations,
And timid lovers' declarations,
And gossip, gossip from all the nations.

'Night Mail' (1936)

Private faces in public places
Are wiser and nicer
Than public faces in private places.

'Orators' (1932) dedication

To ask the hard question is simple.

'Poems' (1933) no. 27

At Dirty Dick's and Sloppy Joe's
We drank our liquor straight,
Some went upstairs with Margery,
And some, alas, with Kate.

'The Sea and the Mirror—Master and Boatswain' (1944)

My Dear One is mine as mirrors are lonely.

'The Sea and the Mirror—Miranda' (1944)

I and the public know
What all schoolchildren learn,
Those to whom evil is done
Do evil in return.

'September 1, 1939' (1940)

All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice

To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.

‘September 1, 1939’ (1940)

Out of the air a voice without a face
Proved by statistics that some cause was just
In tones as dry and level as the place.

‘The Shield of Achilles’ (1955)

Sir, no man’s enemy, forgiving all
But will his negative inversion, be prodigal:
Send to us power and light, a sovereign touch
Curing the intolerable neutral itch,
The exhaustion of weaning, the liar’s quinsy,
And the distortions of ingrown virginity.

‘Sir, No Man’s Enemy’ (1955)

Harrow the house of the dead; look shining at
New styles of architecture, a change of heart.

‘Sir, No Man’s Enemy’ (1955)

Tomorrow for the young the poets exploding like bombs,
The walks by the lake, the weeks of perfect communion;
Tomorrow the bicycle races
Through the suburbs on summer evenings. But today the struggle.

‘Spain’ (1937) p. 11

The stars are dead. The animals will not look:
We are left alone with our day, and the time is short, and
History to the defeated
May say Alas but cannot help nor pardon.

‘Spain’ (1937) p. 12

In a garden shady this holy lady
With reverent cadence and subtle psalm,
Like a black swan as death came on
Poured forth her song in perfect calm:
And by ocean’s margin this innocent virgin
Constructed an organ to enlarge her prayer,
And notes tremendous from her great engine
Thundered out on the Roman air.

Blonde Aphrodite rose up excited,
Moved to delight by the melody,
White as an orchid she rode quite naked
In an oyster shell on top of the sea.

‘Three Songs for St Cecilia’s Day’ (1941); set to music by Benjamin Britten, to whom it was dedicated, as

‘Hymn to St Cecilia’ op. 27 (1942)

Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions
To all musicians, appear and inspire:
Translated Daughter, come down and startle
Composing mortals with immortal fire.

‘Three Songs for St Cecilia’s Day’ (1941)

Let us honour if we can
The vertical man
Though we value none
But the horizontal one.

‘To Christopher Isherwood’ (1930)

Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace; when there was war, he went.

‘The Unknown Citizen’ (1940)

Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

‘The Unknown Citizen’ (1940)

The sky is darkening like a stain;
Something is going to fall like rain,
And it won’t be flowers.

‘The Witnesses’ (1935) l. 67

All sin tends to be addictive, and the terminal point of addiction is what is called damnation.

‘A Certain World’ (1970) ‘Hell’

Man is a history-making creature who can neither repeat his past nor leave it behind.

‘The Dyer’s Hand’ (1963) ‘D. H. Lawrence’

The true men of action in our time, those who transform the world, are not the politicians and statesmen, but the scientists. Unfortunately poetry cannot celebrate them, because their deeds are concerned with things, not persons, and are, therefore, speechless. When I find myself in the company of scientists, I feel like a shabby curate who has strayed by mistake into a drawing room full of dukes.

‘The Dyer’s Hand’ (1963) ‘The Poet and the City’

Some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered.

‘The Dyer’s Hand’ (1963) ‘Reading’

My face looks like a wedding-cake left out in the rain.

In Humphrey Carpenter ‘W. H. Auden’ (1981) pt. 2, ch. 6

Art is born of humiliation.

In Stephen Spender ‘World Within World’ (1951) ch. 2

Happy the hare at morning, for she cannot read
The Hunter's waking thoughts.

'The Dog beneath the Skin' (1935) chorus following act 2, sc. 2

1.116 Èmile Augier 1820-89

Marquis: Mettez un canard sur un lac au milieu des cygnes, vous verrez qu'il regrettera sa mare et finira par y retourner.

Montrichard: La nostalgie de la boue!

Marquis: Put a duck on a lake in the midst of some swans, and you'll see he'll miss his pond and eventually return to it.

Montrichard: Longing to be back in the mud!

'Le Mariage d'Olympe' (1855) act 1, sc. 1

1.117 St Augustine of Hippo A.D. 354-430

Nondum amabam, et amare amabam...quaerebam quid amarem, amans amare.

I loved not yet, yet I loved to love...I sought what I might love, in love with loving.

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 3, ch. 1

Et illa erant fercula, in quibus mihi esurienti te inferebatur sol et luna.

And these were the dishes wherein to me, hunger-starven for thee, they served up the sun and moon.

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 3, ch.6

Da mihi castitatem et continentiam, sed noli modo.

Give me chastity and continency—but not yet!

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 8, ch. 7

Tolle lege, tolle lege.

Take up and read, take up and read.

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 8, ch.12

Sero te amavi, pulchritudo tam antiqua et tam nova, sero te amavi! et ecce intus eras et ego foris, et ibi te quaerebam.

Too late came I to love thee, O thou Beauty both so ancient and so fresh, yea too late came I to love thee. And behold, thou wert within me, and I out of myself, where I made search for thee.

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 10, ch. 27

Continentiam iubes; da quod iubes et iube quod vis.

You command continence; give what you command, and command what you will.

'Confessions' (397-8) bk. 10, ch. 29

Securus iudicat orbis terrarum.

The world judges with certainty.

'Contra Epistolam Parmeniani' (400) bk. 3, sect. 24

Salus extra ecclesiam non est.

There is no salvation outside the church.

‘De Baptismo contra Donatistas’ bk. 4, 100, 17, 24.

Audi partem alteram.

Hear the other side.

‘De Duabus Animabus contra Manicheos’ ch. 14

Dilige et quod vis fac.

Love and do what you will.

‘In Epistolam Joannis ad Parthos’ (413) tractatus 7, sect. 8 (often quoted as Ama et fac quod vis)

Multi quidem facilius se abstinent ut non utantur, quam temperent ut bene utantur.

To many, total abstinence is easier than perfect moderation.

‘On the Good of Marriage’ (401) ch. 21

Cum dilectione hominum et odio vitiorum.

With love for mankind and hatred of sins.

‘Opera Omnia’ vol. 2, col. 962, letter 211 in J.-P. Migne (ed.) ‘Patrologiae Latinae’ (1845) vol. 33 (often quoted in the form: ‘Love the sinner but hate the sin’)

Roma locuta est; causa finita est.

Rome has spoken; the case is concluded.

‘Sermons’ bk. 1

We make ourselves a ladder out of our vices if we trample the vices themselves underfoot.

‘Sermons’ bk. 3 ‘De Ascensione’

1.118 Emperor Augustus 63 B.C.-A.D. 14

Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions.

In Suetonius ‘Lives of the Caesars’ ‘Divus Augustus’ sect. 23

I inherited it brick and left it marble.

In Suetonius ‘Lives of the Caesars’ ‘Divus Augustus’ sect. 28 (referring to the city of Rome)

It will be paid at the Greek Kalends.

In Suetonius ‘Lives of the Caesars’ ‘Divus Augustus’ sect. 87 (meaning never)

1.119 Jane Austen 1775-1817

Miss Bates stood in the very worst predicament in the world for having much of the public favour; and she had no intellectual superiority to make atonement for herself, or frighten those who might hate her, into outward respect.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 3

An egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 3 (Mr Woodhouse)

One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 9 (Emma)

It did not often happen...but it was too often for Emma’s charity, especially as there was all the

pain of apprehension to be frequently endured, though the offence came not.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 11

With men he can be rational and unaffected, but when he has ladies to please, every feature works.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 13 (Mr John Knightley, of Mr Elton)

The folly of allowing people to be comfortable at home—and the folly of people’s not staying comfortable at home when they can!...five dull hours in another man’s house, with nothing to say or to hear that was not said and heard yesterday, and may not be said and heard again tomorrow.... four horses and four servants taken out for nothing but to convey five idle, shivering creatures into colder rooms and worse company than they might have had at home.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 13 (Mr John Knightley)

My mother’s deafness is very trifling, you see, just nothing at all. By only raising my voice, and saying anything two or three times over, she is sure to hear.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 19 (Miss Bates)

The sooner every party breaks up the better.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 25 (Mr Woodhouse)

Surprises are foolish things. The pleasure is not enhanced, and the inconvenience is often considerable.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 26 (Mr John Knightley)

That young man is not quite the thing. He has been opening the doors very often this evening and keeping them open very inconsiderately. He does not think of the draught. I do not mean to set you against him, but indeed he is not quite the thing.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 29 (Mr Woodhouse)

One has no great hopes from Birmingham. I always say there is something direful in the sound.

‘Emma’ (1816) ch. 36 (Mrs Elton)

Henry the 4th ascended the throne of England much to his own satisfaction in the year 1399.

‘The History of England’ (written 1791)

One of Edward’s Mistresses was Jane Shore, who has had a play written about her, but it is a tragedy and therefore not worth reading.

‘The History of England’ (written 1791)

Nothing can be said in his vindication, but that his abolishing Religious Houses and leaving them to the ruinous depredations of time has been of infinite use to the landscape of England in general.

‘The History of England’ (written 1791)

Lady Jane Grey, who has been already mentioned as reading Greek.

‘The History of England’ (written 1791)

It was too pathetic for the feelings of Sophia and myself—we fainted Alternately on a Sofa.

‘Love and Freindship’ (written 1790) ‘Letter the 8th’

She was nothing more than a mere good-tempered, civil and obliging young woman; as such we could scarcely dislike her—she was only an Object of Contempt.

‘Love and Freindship’ (written 1790) ‘Letter the 13th’

The true London maxim, that everything is to be got with money.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 6 (Mary Crawford)

We do not look in great cities for our best morality.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 9 (Edmund Bertram)

A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of. It certainly may secure all the myrtle and turkey part of it.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 22

Shakespeare one gets acquainted with without knowing how. It is part of an Englishman’s constitution. His thoughts and beauties are so spread abroad that one touches them everywhere, one is intimate with him by instinct.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 34 (Henry Crawford)

Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. I quit such odious subjects as soon as I can.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 48

He feared that principle, active principle, had been wanting, that they had never been properly taught to govern their inclinations and tempers, by that sense of duty which can alone suffice. They had been instructed theoretically in their religion, but never required to bring it into daily practice.

‘Mansfield Park’ (1814) ch. 48 (of Sir Thomas Bertram)

‘Oh! it is only a novel!...only Cecilia, or Camilla, or Belinda:’ or, in short, only some work in which the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour are conveyed to the world in the best chosen language.

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 5

Oh! who can ever be tired of Bath?

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 10 (Catherine Morland)

Real solemn history, I cannot be interested in....The quarrels of popes and kings, with wars or pestilences, in every page; the men all so good for nothing, and hardly any women at all.

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 14 (Catherine Morland)

Where people wish to attach, they should always be ignorant. To come with a well-informed mind, is to come with an inability of administering to the vanity of others, which a sensible person would always wish to avoid. A woman especially, if she have the misfortune of knowing any thing, should conceal it as well as she can.

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 14

From politics, it was an easy step to silence.

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 14

Remember the country and the age we live in. Remember that we are English, that we are Christians....Does our education prepare us for such atrocities? Do our laws connive at them? Could they be perpetrated without being known, in a country like this, where social and literary intercourse is on such a footing; where every man is surrounded by a neighbourhood of voluntary spies, and where roads and newspapers lay every thing open?

‘Northanger Abbey’ (1818) ch. 34 (Henry Tilney)

Sir Walter Elliot, of Kellynch-hall, in Somersetshire, was a man who, for his own amusement, never took up any book but the Baronetage; there he found occupation for an idle hour, and consolation in a distressed one.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 1

She had been forced into prudence in her youth, she learned romance as she grew older—the natural sequel of an unnatural beginning.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 4

She ventured to hope he did not always read only poetry; and to say, that she thought it was the misfortune of poetry, to be seldom safely enjoyed by those who enjoyed it completely; and that the strong feelings while alone could estimate it truly, were the very feelings which ought to taste it but sparingly.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 11

‘My idea of good company, Mr Elliot, is the company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company.’

‘You are mistaken,’ said he gently, ‘that is not good company, that is the best.’

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 16 (Anne Elliot and William Elliot)

Men have had every advantage of us in telling their own story. Education has been theirs in so much higher a degree; the pen has been in their hands.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 23 (Anne Eliot)

All the privilege I claim for my own sex...is that of loving longest, when existence or when hope is gone.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 23 (Anne Eliot)

It was, perhaps, one of those cases in which advice is good or bad only as the event decides.

‘Persuasion’ (1818) ch. 23

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 1.

May I ask whether these pleasing attentions proceed from the impulse of the moment, or are the result of previous study?

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 14 (Mr Bennet)

Mr Collins had only to change from Jane to Elizabeth—and it was soon done—done while Mrs Bennet was stirring the fire.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 15

From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents.—Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr Collins, and I will never see you again if you do.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 20 (Mr Bennet)

Are the shades of Pemberley to be thus polluted?

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 56 (Lady Catherine de Burgh)

You ought certainly to forgive them as a christian, but never to admit them in your sight, or

allow their names to be mentioned in your hearing.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 57 (Mr Collins)

For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbours, and laugh at them in our turn?

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 57 (Mr Bennet)

I have been a selfish being all my life, in practice, though not in principle.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (1813) ch. 58 (Mr Darcy)

An annuity is a very serious business.

‘Sense and Sensibility’ (1811) ch. 2 (Mrs Dashwood)

‘I am afraid,’ replied Elinor, ‘that the pleasantness of an employment does not always evince its propriety.’

‘Sense and Sensibility’ (1811) ch. 13

A person and face, of strong, natural, sterling insignificance, though adorned in the first style of fashion.

‘Sense and Sensibility’ (1811) ch. 33

We met...Dr Hall in such very deep mourning that either his mother, his wife, or himself must be dead.

Letter to Cassandra Austen, 17 May 1799, in R. W. Chapman (ed.) ‘Jane Austen’s Letters’ (1952)

How horrible it is to have so many people killed!—And what a blessing that one cares for none of them!

Letter to Cassandra Austen, 31 May 1811, after the battle of Albuera, 16 May 1811, in R. W. Chapman (ed.) ‘Jane Austen’s Letters’ (1952)

3 or 4 families in a country village is the very thing to work on.

Letter to Anna Austen, 9 September 1814, in R. W. Chapman (ed.) ‘Jane Austen’s Letters’ (1952)

What should I do with your strong, manly, spirited sketches, full of variety and glow?—How could I possibly join them on to the little bit (two inches wide) of ivory on which I work with so fine a brush, as produces little effect after much labour?

Letter to J. Edward Austen, 16 December 1816, in R. W. Chapman (ed.) ‘Jane Austen’s Letters’ (1952)

He and I should not in the least agree of course, in our ideas of novels and heroines;—pictures of perfection as you know make me sick and wicked.

Letter to Fanny Knight, 23 March 1817, in R. W. Chapman (ed.) ‘Jane Austen’s Letters’ (1952)

1.120 Earl of Avon

See Sir Anthony Eden (5.2)

1.121 Alan Ayckbourn 1939—

My mother used to say, Delia, if S-E-X ever rears its ugly head, close your eyes before you see the rest of it.

‘Bedroom Farce’ (1978) act 2.

This place, you tell them you’re interested in the arts, you get messages of sympathy.

‘Chorus of Disapproval’ (1986) act 2

Do you realize, Mrs Foster, the hours I've put into that woman? When I met her, you know, she was nothing. Nothing at all. With my own hands I have built her up. Encouraging her to join the public library and make use of her non-fiction tickets.

'How the Other Half Loves' (1972) act 2, sc. 1

If you gave Ruth a rose, she'd peel all the petals off to make sure there weren't any greenfly. And when she'd done that, she'd turn round and say, do you call that a rose? Look at it, it's all in bits.

'Table Manners' (1975) act 1, sc. 2

I always feel with Norman that I have him on loan from somewhere. Like one of his library books.

'Table Manners' (1975) act 2, sc. 1

1.122 A. J. Ayer (Sir Alfred Jules Ayer) 1910-89

The criterion which we use to test the genuineness of apparent statements of fact is the criterion of verifiability. We say that a sentence is factually significant to any given person, if, and only if, he knows how to verify the proposition which it purports to express—that is, if he knows what observations would lead him, under certain conditions, to accept the proposition as being true, or reject it as being false.

'Language, Truth, and Logic' (2nd ed., 1946) p. 35

If I...say 'Stealing money is wrong,' I produce a sentence which has no factual meaning—that is, expresses no proposition which can be either true or false. It is as if I had written 'Stealing money!!'—where the shape and thickness of the exclamation marks show, by a suitable convention, that a special sort of moral disapproval is the feeling which is being expressed.

'Language, Truth, and Logic' (2nd ed., 1946) p. 107

[We] offer the theist the same comfort as we gave to the moralist. His assertions cannot possibly be valid, but they cannot be invalid either. As he says nothing at all about the world, he cannot justly be accused of saying anything false, or anything for which he has insufficient grounds. It is only when the theist claims that in asserting the existence of a transcendent god he is expressing a genuine proposition that we are entitled to disagree with him.

'Language, Truth, and Logic' (2nd ed., 1946) p. 116

1.123 Pam Ayres 1947—

Medicinal discovery,
It moves in mighty leaps,
It leapt straight past the common cold
And gave it us for keeps.

'Oh no, I got a cold'

1.124 Sir Robert Aytoun 1570-1638

I loved thee once. I'll love no more,

Thine be the grief, as is the blame;
Thou art not what thou wast before,
What reason I should be the same?
‘To an Inconstant Mistress’

1.125 W. E. Aytoun 1813-65

‘He is coming! he is coming!’
Like a bridegroom from his room,
Came the hero from his prison
To the scaffold and the doom.
‘The Execution of Montrose’ st. 14

The grim Geneva ministers
With anxious scowl drew near,
As you have seen the ravens flock
Around the dying deer.
‘The Execution of Montrose’ st. 17

They bore within their breasts the grief
That fame can never heal—
The deep, unutterable woe
Which none save exiles feel.
‘The Island of the Scots’ st. 12

The earth is all the home I have,
The heavens my wide roof-tree.
‘The Wandering Jew’ l. 49

2.0 B

2.1 Charles Babbage 1792-1871

Every moment dies a man,
Every moment 1-1/16 is born.

Parody of Tennyson’s ‘Vision of Sin’ in an unpublished letter to the poet. ‘New Scientist’ 4 December 1958, p. 1428.

2.2 Francis Bacon (Baron Verulam and Viscount St Albans) 1561-1626

For all knowledge and wonder (which is the seed of knowledge) is an impression of pleasure in itself.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 1, ch. 1, sect. 3

So let great authors have their due, as time, which is the author of authors, be not deprived of his due, which is further and further to discover truth.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 1, ch. 4, sect. 12

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 1, ch. 5, sect. 8

[Knowledge is] a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator and the relief of man’s estate.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 1, ch. 5, sect. 11

Antiquities are history defaced, or some remnants of history which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 2, sect. 1

Poesy was ever thought to have some participation of divineness, because it doth raise and erect the mind, by submitting the shows of things to the desires of the mind; whereas reason doth buckle and bow the mind unto the nature of things.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 4, sect. 2

The knowledge of man is as the waters, some descending from above, and some springing from beneath; the one informed by the light of nature, the other inspired by divine revelation.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 5, sect. 1

They are ill discoverers that think there is no land, when they can see nothing but sea.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 7, sect. 5

Words are the tokens current and accepted for conceits, as moneys are for values.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 16, sect. 3

A dance is a measured pace, as a verse is a measured speech.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 16, sect. 5

But men must know, that in this theatre of man’s life it is reserved only for God and angels to be lookers on.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 20, sect. 8

Did not one of the fathers in great indignation call poesy vinum daemonum?

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 22, sect. 13

All good moral philosophy is but an handmaid to religion.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 22, sect. 14

It is in life as it is in ways, the shortest way is commonly the foulest, and surely the fairer way is not much about.

‘The Advancement of Learning’ (1605) bk. 2, ch. 23, sect. 45

That all things are changed, and that nothing really perishes, and that the sum of matter remains exactly the same, is sufficiently certain.

‘Cogitationes de Natura Rerum’ Cogitatio 5 in J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Works of Francis Bacon’ vol. 3 (1857) p. 22 (Latin) and vol. 5 (1858) p. 426 (English translation)

Riches are a good handmaid, but the worst mistress.

‘De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum’ (1640 ed., translated by Gilbert Watts) I, vi, 3. Antitheta, 6

Antiquitas saeculi juvenus mundi.

Ancient times were the youth of the world.

‘De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum’ (1640 ed., translated by Gilbert Watts) I, vii, 81

No terms of moderation takes place with the vulgar.

‘De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum’ (1640 ed., translated by Gilbert Watts) I, vii, 30

Silence is the virtue of fools.

‘De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum’ (1640 ed., translated by Gilbert Watts) I, vii, 31

I hold every man a debtor to his profession.

‘The Elements of the Common Law’ (1596) preface

Why should a man be in love with his fetters, though of gold?

‘Essay of Death’ in *The Remaines of...Lord Verulam* (1648)

He is the fountain of honour.

‘An Essay of a King’ (1642); attribution doubtful

Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament, adversity is the blessing of the New.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Adversity’

The pencil of the Holy Ghost hath laboured more in describing the afflictions of Job than the felicities of Solomon.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Adversity’

Prosperity is not without many fears and distastes; and adversity is not without comforts and hopes.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Adversity’

Prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Adversity’

I had rather believe all the fables in the legend, and the Talmud, and the Alcoran, than that this universal frame is without a mind.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Atheism’

A little philosophy inclineth man’s mind to atheism, but depth in philosophy bringeth men’s minds about to religion.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Atheism’

They that deny a God destroy man’s nobility; for certainly man is of kin to the beasts by his body; and, if he be not of kin to God by his spirit, he is a base and ignoble creature.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Atheism’

Virtue is like a rich stone, best plain set.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Beauty’

That is the best part of beauty, which a picture cannot express.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Beauty’

There is no excellent beauty that hath not some strangeness in the proportion.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Beauty’

He said it that knew it best.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Boldness’ (referring to Demosthenes)

In civil business; what first? boldness; what second and third? boldness: and yet boldness is a child of ignorance and baseness.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Boldness'.

Boldness is an ill keeper of promise.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Boldness'

Houses are built to live in and not to look on; therefore let use be preferred before uniformity, except where both may be had.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Building'

Light gains make heavy purses.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Ceremonies and Respects'

He that is too much in anything, so that he giveth another occasion of satiety, maketh himself cheap.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Ceremonies and Respects'

Books will speak plain when counsellors blanch.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Counsel'

There be that can pack the cards and yet cannot play well; so there are some that are good in canvasses and factions, that are otherwise weak men.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Cunning'

In things that are tender and unpleasing, it is good to break the ice by some whose words are of less weight, and to reserve the more weighty voice to come in as by chance.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Cunning'

I knew one that when he wrote a letter he would put that which was most material in the postscript, as if it had been a bymatter.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Cunning'

Nothing doth more hurt in a state than that cunning men pass for wise.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Cunning'

Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Death'

There is no passion in the mind of man so weak, but it mates and masters the fear of death. And therefore death is no such terrible enemy, when a man hath so many attendants about him that can win the combat of him. Revenge triumphs over death; love slights it; honour aspireth to it; grief flieth to it.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Death'

It is as natural to die as to be born; and to a little infant, perhaps, the one is as painful as the other.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Death'

Above all, believe it, the sweetest canticle is Nunc dimittis, when a man hath obtained worthy ends and expectations. Death hath this also, that it openeth the gate to good fame, and extinguisheth envy.

'Essays' (1625) 'Of Death'

If you dissemble sometimes your knowledge of that you are thought to know, you shall be thought, another time, to know that you know not.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Discourse’

I knew a wise man that had it for a by-word, when he saw men hasten to a conclusion. ‘Stay a little, that we may make an end the sooner.’

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Dispatch’

To choose time is to save time.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Dispatch’

Riches are for spending.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Expense’

A man ought warily to begin charges which once begun will continue.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Expense’

There is little friendship in the world, and least of all between equals.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Followers and Friends’

Chiefly the mould of a man’s fortune is in his own hands.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Fortune’

If a man look sharply, and attentively, he shall see Fortune: for though she be blind, yet she is not invisible.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Fortune’

It had been hard for him that spake it to have put more truth and untruth together, in a few words, than in that speech: ‘Whosoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast, or a god.’

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Friendship’.

A crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Friendship’

It redoubleth joys, and cutteth griefs in halves.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Friendship’

As if you would call a physician, that is thought good for the cure of the disease you complain of but is unacquainted with your body, and therefore may put you in the way for a present cure but overthrowth your health in some other kind; and so cure the disease and kill the patient.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Friendship’

God Almighty first planted a garden; and, indeed, it is the purest of human pleasures.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Gardens’

The inclination to goodness is imprinted deeply in the nature of man: insomuch, that if it issue not towards men, it will take unto other living creatures.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Goodness, and Goodness of Nature’

If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Goodness, and Goodness of Nature’

Men in great place are thrice servants: servants of the sovereign or state, servants of fame, and servants of business.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Great Place’

It is a strange desire to seek power and to lose liberty.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Great Place’

The rising unto place is laborious, and by pains men come to greater pains; and it is sometimes base, and by indignities men come to dignities. The standing is slippery, and the regress is either a downfall, or at least an eclipse.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Great Place’

Severity breedeth fear, but roughness breedeth hate. Even reproofs from authority ought to be grave, and not taunting.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Great Place’

All rising to great place is by a winding stair.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Great Place’

As the births of living creatures at first are ill-shapen, so are all innovations, which are the births of time.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Innovations’

He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Innovations’

The speaking in a perpetual hyperbole is comely in nothing but in love.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Love’

It has been well said that ‘the arch-flatterer with whom all the petty flatterers have intelligence is a man’s self.’

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Love’

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Marriage and the Single Life’.

A single life doth well with churchmen, for charity will hardly water the ground where it must first fill a pool.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Marriage and the Single Life’

Wives are young men’s mistresses, companions for middle age, and old men’s nurses.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Marriage and the Single Life’

He was reputed one of the wise men that made answer to the question when a man should marry? ‘A young man not yet, an elder man not at all.’

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Marriage and the Single Life’.

Nature is often hidden, sometimes overcome, seldom extinguished.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Nature in Men’

It is generally better to deal by speech than by letter.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Negotiating’

New nobility is but the act of power, but ancient nobility is the act of time.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Nobility’

Nobility of birth commonly abateth industry.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Nobility’

The joys of parents are secret, and so are their griefs and fears.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Parents and Children’

Children sweeten labours, but they make misfortunes more bitter.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Parents and Children’

Fame is like a river, that beareth up things light and swollen, and drowns things weighty and solid.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Praise’

Age will not be defied.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Regimen of Health’

Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more man’s nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Revenge’

A man that studieth revenge keeps his own wounds green.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Revenge’

Defer not charities till death; for certainly, if a man weigh it rightly, he that doth so is rather liberal of another man’s than of his own.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Riches’

The four pillars of government...(which are religion, justice, counsel, and treasure).

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Seditions and Troubles’

The surest way to prevent seditions (if the times do bear it) is to take away the matter of them.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Seditions and Troubles’

Money is like muck, not good except it be spread.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Seditions and Troubles’

The remedy is worse than the disease.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Seditions and Troubles’

The French are wiser than they seem, and the Spaniards seem wiser than they are.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Seeming Wise’

Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

To spend too much time in studies is sloth.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

They perfect nature and are perfected by experience.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read but not curiously; and some few

to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtile; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Studies’

There is a superstition in avoiding superstition.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Superstition’

Suspensions amongst thoughts are like bats amongst birds, they ever fly by twilight.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Suspicion’

There is nothing makes a man suspect much, more than to know little.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Suspicion’

Neither is money the sinews of war (as it is trivially said).

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of the True Greatness of Kingdoms’.

Neither will it be, that a people overlaid with taxes should ever become valiant and martial.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of the True Greatness of Kingdoms’

Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience. He that travelleth into a country before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school, and not to travel.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Travel’

What is truth? said jesting Pilate; and would not stay for an answer.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Truth’.

A mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Truth’

It is not the lie that passeth through the mind, but the lie that sinketh in, and settleth in it, that doth the hurt.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Truth’

The inquiry of truth, which is the love-making, or wooing of it, the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it, and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it, is the sovereign good of human nature.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Truth’

All colours will agree in the dark.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Unity in Religion’

It was prettily devised of Aesop, ‘The fly sat upon the axletree of the chariot-wheel and said, what a dust do I raise.’

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Vain-Glory’

In the youth of a state arms do flourish; in the middle age of a state, learning; and then both of

them together for a time; in the declining age of a state, mechanical arts and merchandise.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Vicissitude of Things’

Be so true to thyself as thou be not false to others.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Wisdom for a Man’s Self’.

It is the nature of extreme self-lovers, as they will set a house on fire, and it were but to roast their eggs.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Wisdom for a Man’s Self’

It is the wisdom of the crocodiles, that shed tears when they would devour.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Wisdom for a Man’s Self’

Young men are fitter to invent than to judge, fitter for execution than for counsel, and fitter for new projects than for settled business.

‘Essays’ (1625) ‘Of Youth and Age’

For they thought generally that he was a Prince as ordained, and sent down from heaven to unite and put to an end the long dissensions of the two houses; which although they had had, in the times of Henry the Fourth, Henry the Fifth, and a part of Henry the Sixth on the one side, and the times of Edward the Fourth on the other, lucid intervals and happy pauses; yet they did ever hang over the kingdom, ready to break forth into new perturbations and calamities.

‘History of King Henry VII’ (1622) para. 3 in J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Works of Francis Bacon’ vol. 6 (1858) p. 32

I have rather studied books than men.

‘A Letter of Advice...to the Duke of Buckingham, When he became Favourite to King James’ (1661)

I have taken all knowledge to be my province.

‘To My Lord Treasurer Burghley’ (1592) in J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Letters and Life of Francis Bacon’ vol. 1 (1861) p. 109

Opportunity makes a thief.

‘A Letter of Advice to the Earl of Essex...’ (1598) in J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Letters and Life of Francis Bacon’ vol. 2 (1862) p. 99

Universities incline wits to sophistry and affectation.

‘Valerius Terminus of the Interpretation of Nature’ ch. 26 in ‘Letters and Remains of the Lord Chancellor Bacon’ (collected by Robert Stephens, 1734) p. 450

Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.

Knowledge itself is power.

‘Meditationes Sacrae’ (1597) ‘Of Heresies’

I would live to study, and not study to live.

‘Memorial of Access’

God’s first Creature, which was Light.

‘New Atlantis’ (1627)

The end of our foundation is the knowledge of causes, and secret motions of things; and the enlarging of the bounds of human Empire, to the effecting of all things possible.

‘New Atlantis’ (1627)

Quod enim mavult homo verum esse, id potius credit.

For what a man would like to be true, that he more readily believes.

‘Novum Organum’ (1620) bk. 1, Aphorism 49 (translated by J. Spedding).

Magna ista scientiarum mater.

That great mother of sciences.

‘Novum Organum’ (1620) bk. 1, Aphorism 80 (translated by J. Spedding) on natural philosophy

Vim et virtutem et consequentias rerum inventarum notare juvat; quae non in aliis manifestius occurrunt, quam in illis tribus quae antiquis incognitae, et quarum primordia, licet recentia, obscura et ingloria sunt: Artis nimirum Imprimendi, Pulveris Tormentarii, et Acus Nauticae. Haec enim tria rerum faciem et statum in orbe terrarum mutaverunt.

It is well to observe the force and virtue and consequence of discoveries, and these are to be seen nowhere more conspicuously than in those three which were unknown to the ancients, and of which the origin, though recent, is obscure and inglorious; namely, printing, gunpowder and the magnet [Mariner’s Needle]. For these three have changed the whole face and state of things throughout the world.

‘Novum Organum’ (1620) bk. 1, Aphorism 129 (translated by J. Spedding).

Naturae enim non imperatur, nisi parendo.

Nature cannot be ordered about, except by obeying her.

‘Novum Organum’ (1620) bk. 1, Aphorism 129 (translated by J. Spedding)

Books must follow sciences, and not sciences books.

‘Resuscitatio’ (1657) ‘Proposition touching Amendment of Laws’

Wise nature did never put her precious jewels into a garret four stories high: and therefore... exceeding tall men had ever very empty heads.

J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Works of Francis Bacon’ vol. 7 (1859) ‘Additional Apophthegms’ no. 17

Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper.

J. Spedding (ed.) ‘The Works of Francis Bacon’ vol. 7 (1859) ‘Apophthegms contained in Resuscitatio’ no. 36

The world’s a bubble; and the life of man

Less than a span.

‘The World’ (1629)

Who then to frail mortality shall trust,

But limns the water, or but writes in dust.

‘The World’ (1629)

What is it then to have or have no wife,

But single thralldom, or a double strife?

‘The World’ (1629)

What then remains, but that we still should cry,

Not to be born, or being born, to die?

‘The World’ (1629)

2.3 Robert Baden-Powell (Baron Baden-Powell) 1857-1941

The scouts' motto is founded on my initials, it is: be prepared, which means, you are always to be in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.

'Scouting for Boys' (1908) pt. 1

2.4 Karl Baedeker 1801-59

Oxford is on the whole more attractive than Cambridge to the ordinary visitor; and the traveller is therefore recommended to visit Cambridge first, or to omit it altogether if he cannot visit both.

'Great Britain' (1887) Route 30 'From London to Oxford'

The traveller need have no scruple in limiting his donations to the smallest possible sums, as liberality frequently becomes a source of annoyance and embarrassment.

'Northern Italy' (1895) 'Gratuities'

Passports. On arrival at a Syrian port the traveller's passport is sometimes asked for, but an ordinary visiting-card will answer the purpose equally well.

'Palestine and Syria' (1876) 'Passports and Custom House'

2.5 Joan Baez 1941—

The only thing that's been a worse flop than the organization of non-violence has been the organization of violence.

'Daybreak' (1970) 'What Would You Do If?'

2.6 Walter Bagehot 1826-77

A constitutional statesman is in general a man of common opinion and uncommon abilities.

'Biographical Studies' (1881) 'The Character of Sir Robert Peel'

He believes, with all his heart and soul and strength, that there is such a thing as truth; he has the soul of a martyr with the intellect of an advocate.

'Biographical Studies' (1881) 'Mr Gladstone'

The mystic reverence, the religious allegiance, which are essential to a true monarchy, are imaginative sentiments that no legislature can manufacture in any people.

'The English Constitution' (1867) 'The Cabinet'

In such constitutions [as England's] there are two parts...first, those which excite and preserve the reverence of the population—the dignified parts...and next, the efficient parts—those by which it, in fact, works and rules.

'The English Constitution' (1867) 'The Cabinet'

No orator ever made an impression by appealing to men as to their plainest physical wants, except when he could allege that those wants were caused by some one's tyranny.

'The English Constitution' (1867) 'The Cabinet'

The Crown is according to the saying, the 'fountain of honour'; but the Treasury is the spring of business.

'The English Constitution' (1867) 'The Cabinet'.

A cabinet is a combining committee—a hyphen which joins, a buckle which fastens, the legislative part of the state to the executive part of the state.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Cabinet’

It has been said that England invented the phrase, ‘Her Majesty’s Opposition’; that it was the first government which made a criticism of administration as much a part of the polity as administration itself. This critical opposition is the consequence of cabinet government.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Cabinet’

The Times has made many ministries.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Cabinet’

The great qualities, the imperious will, the rapid energy, the eager nature fit for a great crisis are not required—are impediments—in common times. A Lord Liverpool is better in everyday politics than a Chatham—a Louis Philippe far better than a Napoleon.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Cabinet’

The soldier—that is, the great soldier—of to-day is not a romantic animal, dashing at forlorn hopes, animated by frantic sentiment, full of fancies as to a love-lady or a sovereign; but a quiet, grave man, busied in charts, exact in sums, master of the art of tactics, occupied in trivial detail; thinking, as the Duke of Wellington was said to do, most of the shoes of his soldiers; despising all manner of éclat and eloquence; perhaps, like Count Moltke, ‘silent in seven languages’.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘Checks and Balances’

The order of nobility is of great use, too, not only in what it creates, but in what it prevents. It prevents the rule of wealth—the religion of gold. This is the obvious and natural idol of the Anglo-Saxon.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The House of Lords’

A severe though not unfriendly critic of our institutions said that ‘the cure for admiring the House of Lords was to go and look at it.’

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The House of Lords’

Nations touch at their summits.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The House of Lords’

The best reason why Monarchy is a strong government is, that it is an intelligible government. The mass of mankind understand it, and they hardly anywhere in the world understand any other.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy’

The characteristic of the English Monarchy is that it retains the feelings by which the heroic kings governed their rude age, and has added the feelings by which the constitutions of later Greece ruled in more refined ages.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy’

Women—one half the human race at least—care fifty times more for a marriage than a ministry.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy’

Royalty is a government in which the attention of the nation is concentrated on one person doing interesting actions. A Republic is a government in which that attention is divided between

many, who are all doing uninteresting actions. Accordingly, so long as the human heart is strong and the human reason weak, Royalty will be strong because it appeals to diffused feeling, and Republics weak because they appeal to the understanding.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy’

Throughout the greater part of his life George III was a kind of ‘consecrated obstruction’.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy’

The Sovereign has, under a constitutional monarchy such as ours, three rights—the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn.

‘The English Constitution’ (1867) ‘The Monarchy (continued)’

No real English gentleman, in his secret soul, was ever sorry for the death of a political economist.

‘Estimates of some Englishmen and Scotchmen’ (1858) ‘The First Edinburgh Reviewers’

Writers, like teeth, are divided into incisors and grinders.

‘Estimates of some Englishmen and Scotchmen’ (1858) ‘The First Edinburgh Reviewers’

To a great experience one thing is essential, an experiencing nature.

‘Estimates of some Englishmen and Scotchmen’ (1858) ‘Shakespeare—the Individual’

One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea.

‘Physics and Politics’ (1872) ‘The Age of Discussion’

The most melancholy of human reflections, perhaps, is that, on the whole, it is a question whether the benevolence of mankind does most good or harm.

‘Physics and Politics’ (1872) ‘The Age of Discussion’

He describes London like a special correspondent for posterity.

‘National Review’ 7 October 1858 ‘Charles Dickens’

Wordsworth, Tennyson and Browning; or, pure, ornate, and grotesque art in English poetry.

‘The National Review’ November 1864: essay title

2.7 Philip James Bailey 1816-1902

We should count time by heart-throbs.

‘Festus’ (1839) sc. 5

America, thou half-brother of the world;

With something good and bad of every land.

‘Festus’ (1839) sc. 10

2.8 Bruce Bairnsfather 1888-1959

Well, if you knows of a better ’ole, go to it.

‘Fragments from France’ (1915) p. 1

2.9 Hylde Baker 1908-86

She knows, you know!

Catch-phrase for her friend Cynthia; later used as title of her BBC radio comedy series, from 10 July 1956

2.10 Michael Bakunin 1814-76

Die Lust der Zerstörung ist zugleich eine schaffende Lust!

The urge for destruction is also a creative urge!

‘Jahrbuch für Wissenschaft und Kunst’ (1842) ‘Die Reaktion in Deutschland’ (under the pseudonym ‘Jules Elysard’)

We wish, in a word, equality—equality in fact as corollary, or rather, as primordial condition of liberty. From each according to his faculties, to each according to his needs; that is what we wish sincerely and energetically.

Declaration signed by forty-seven anarchists on trial after the failure of their uprising at Lyons in 1870, in J. Morrison Davidson ‘The Old and the New’ (1890).

2.11 James Baldwin 1924-87

Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. They must, they have no other models.

‘Nobody Knows My Name’ (1961) ‘Fifth Avenue, Uptown: a letter from Harlem’

Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.

‘Nobody Knows My Name’ (1961) ‘Fifth Avenue, Uptown: a letter from Harlem’

Freedom is not something that anybody can be given; freedom is something people take and people are as free as they want to be.

‘Nobody Knows My Name’ (1961) ‘Notes for a Hypothetical Novel’

If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving. If God cannot do this, then it is time we got rid of Him.

‘New Yorker’ 17 November 1962 ‘Down at the Cross’

If they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night.

‘New York Review of Books’ 7 January 1971 ‘Open Letter to my Sister, Angela Davis’

It comes as a great shock around the age of 5, 6 or 7 to discover that the flag to which you have pledged allegiance, along with everybody else, has not pledged allegiance to you. It comes as a great shock to see Gary Cooper killing off the Indians and, although you are rooting for Gary Cooper, that the Indians are you.

Speech at Cambridge University, 17 February 1965, in ‘New York Times Magazine’ 7 March 1965, p. 32

2.12 Stanley Baldwin (Earl Baldwin of Bewdley) 1867-1947

A platitude is simply a truth repeated until people get tired of hearing it.

‘Hansard’ 29 May 1924, col. 727

I think it is well also for the man in the street to realize that there is no power on earth that can protect him from being bombed. Whatever people may tell him, the bomber will always get through. The only defence is in offence, which means that you have to kill more women and children more quickly than the enemy if you want to save yourselves.

‘Hansard’ 10 November 1932, col. 632

Since the day of the air, the old frontiers are gone. When you think of the defence of England

you no longer think of the chalk cliffs of Dover; you think of the Rhine. That is where our frontier lies.

‘Hansard’ 30 July 1934, col. 2339

I shall be but a short time tonight. I have seldom spoken with greater regret, for my lips are not yet unsealed. Were these troubles over I would make a case, and I guarantee that not a man would go into the lobby against us.

‘Hansard’ 10 December 1935, col. 856, on the Abyssinian crisis (usually quoted: ‘My lips are sealed’)

Do not run up your nose dead against the Pope or the NUM!

In Lord Butler ‘The Art of Memory’ (1982) ‘Iain Macleod’.

They [parliament] are a lot of hard-faced men who look as if they had done very well out of the war.

In J. M. Keynes ‘Economic Consequences of the Peace’ (1919) ch. 5

There are three classes which need sanctuary more than others—birds, wild flowers, and Prime Ministers.

In ‘Observer’ 24 May 1925

The intelligent are to the intelligentsia what a gentleman is to a gent.

In G. M. Young ‘Stanley Baldwin’ (1952) ch. 13

2.13 *Arthur James Balfour (First Earl of Balfour) 1848-1930*

‘Christianity, of course...but why journalism?’

Replying to Frank Harris, who had claimed that ‘all the faults of the age come from Christianity and journalism’, in Margot Asquith ‘Autobiography’ (1920) vol. 1, ch. 10

[Our] whole political machinery pre-supposes a people so fundamentally at one that they can safely afford to bicker.

In Walter Bagehot ‘The English Constitution’ (World Classics ed., 1928) Introduction

I thought he was a young man of promise, but it appears he is a young man of promises.

Describing Churchill, in Winston Churchill ‘My Early Life’ (1930) ch. 17

It is unfortunate, considering that enthusiasm moves the world, that so few enthusiasts can be trusted to speak the truth.

Letter to Mrs Drew, 19 May 1891, in L. March-Phillips and B. Christian (eds.) ‘Some Hawarden Letters’ (1917) ch. 7

2.14 *Ballads*

There was a youth, and a well-beloved youth,
And he was an esquire’s son,
He loved the bailiff’s daughter dear,
That lived in Islington.

‘The Bailiff’s Daughter of Islington’

All in the merry month of May,
When green buds they were swellin’,

Young Jemmy Grove on his death-bed lay,
For love of Barbara Allen.

‘Barbara Allen’s Cruelty’

‘O mother, mother, make my bed,
O make it saft and narrow:
My love has died for me to-day,
I’ll die for him to-morrow.’

‘Barbara Allen’s Cruelty’

It fell about the Lammastide,
When the muir-men win their hay,
The doughty Douglas bound him to ride
Into England, to drive a prey.

‘Battle of Otterburn’ (win harvest)

Ye Highlands and ye Lawlands,
O where hae ye been?
They hae slain the Earl of Murray,
And hae laid him on the green.

‘The Bonny Earl of Murray’

He was a braw gallant,
And he play’d at the gluve;
And the bonny Earl of Murray,
O he was the Queen’s luve!

O lang will his Lady
Look owre the Castle Downe,
Ere she see the Earl of Murray
Come sounding through the town!

‘The Bonny Earl of Murray’

Is there any room at your head, Sanders?
Is there any room at your feet?
Or any room at your twa sides,
Where fain, fain I would sleep?

There is na room at my head, Margaret,
There is na room at my feet;
My bed it is the cold, cold grave;
Among the hungry worms I sleep.

‘Clerk Sanders’

She hadna sail’d a league, a league,
A league but barely three,
Till grim, grim grew his countenance
And gurlly grew the sea.

‘The Daemon Lover’

‘What hills are yon, yon pleasant hills,
The sun shines sweetly on?’—
‘O yon are the hills o’ Heaven,’ he said,
‘Where you will never won.’

‘The Daemon Lover’

‘Let me have length and breadth enough,
And under my head a sod;
That they may say when I am dead,
—Here lies bold Robin Hood!’

‘The Death of Robin Hood’

There were three lords drinking at the wine
On the dowie dens o’ Yarrow;
They made a compact them between
They would go fight tomorrow.

‘Dowie Dens of Yarrow’ (dowie melancholy; den river valley)

O well’s me o’ my gay goss-hawk,
That he can speak and flee!
He’ll carry a letter to my love,
Bring another back to me.

‘The Gay Goss Hawk’

I am a man upon the land,
I am a selkie in the sea;
When I am far and far from land,
My home it is the Sule Skerry.

‘The Great Selkie of Sule Skerry’ (selkie seal)

A ship I have got in the North Country
And she goes by the name of the Golden Vanity,
O I fear she will be taken by a Spanish Ga-la-lee,
As she sails by the Low-lands low.

‘The Golden Vanity’

He bored with his augur, he bored once and twice,
And some were playing cards, and some were playing dice,
When the water flowed in it dazzled their eyes,
And she sank by the Low-lands low.

‘The Golden Vanity’

I wish I were where Helen lies,
Night and day on me she cries;
O that I were where Helen lies,
On fair Kirkconnell lea!

Curst be the heart that thought the thought,
And curst the hand that fired the shot,
When in my arms burd Helen dropt,
And died to succour me!

‘Helen of Kirconnell’

Blair Atholl’s mine, Jeanie,
Little Dunkeld is mine, lassie,
St Johnston’s bower, and Huntingtower,
And all that’s mine is thine, lassie.

‘Huntingtower’ (St Johnston Perth)

Where are your eyes that looked so mild
When my poor heart you first beguiled?
Why did you run from me and the child?
Och, Johnny, I hardly knew ye!

‘Johnny, I hardly knew Ye’

I was but seven years auld
When my mither she did die;
My father married the ae warst woman
The warld did ever see.

For she has made me the laily worm
That lies at the fit o’ the tree
And my sister Masery she’s made
The machrel of the sea.

An’ evry Saturday at noon
The machrel comes to me
An’ she takes my laily head
An’ lays it on her knee;
An’ she kaims it wi’ a siller kaim
An’ washes ’t in the sea.

‘The Laily Worm and the Machrel’ (laily worm loathsome serpent)

‘What gat ye to your dinner, Lord Randal, my Son?
What gat ye to your dinner, my handsome young man?’
‘I gat eels boil’d in broo’; mother, make my bed soon,
For I’m weary wi’ hunting, and fain wald lie down.’

‘Lord Randal’

This ae nighte, this ae nighte,
—Every nighte and alle,
Fire and fleet and candle-lighte,
And Christe receive thy saule.

‘Lyke-Wake Dirge’ (fleet floor; other readings of fleet are sleet and salt)

From Brig o' Dread when thou may'st pass,
—Every nighte and alle,
To Purgatory fire thou com'st at last;
And Christe receive thy saule.

If ever thou gavest meat or drink,
—Every nighte and alle,
The fire sall never make thee shrink
And Christe receive thy saule.

'Lyke-Wake Dirge'

When captains courageous whom death could not daunt,
Did march to the siege of the city of Gaunt,
They mustered their soldiers by two and by three,
And the foremost in battle was Mary Ambree.

'Mary Ambree'

For in my mind, of all mankind
I love but you alone.

'The Nut Brown Maid'

For I must to the greenwood go
Alone, a banished man.

'The Nut Brown Maid'

Marie Hamilton's to the kirk gane
Wi' ribbons on her breast;
The King thought mair o' Marie Hamilton
Than he listen'd to the priest.

'The Queen's Maries'

Yestreen the Queen had four Maries,
The night she'll hae but three;
There was Marie Seaton, and Marie Beaton,
And Marie Carmichael, and me.

'The Queen's Maries'

'O what is longer than the wave?
And what is deeper than the sea?

What is greener than the grass?
And what is more wicked than a woman once was?...'

'Love is longer than the wave,
And hell is deeper than the sea.

Envy's greener than the grass,
And the de'il more wicked than a woman e'er was.'

As soon as she the fiend did name,

He flew awa' in a bleezing flame.

'Riddles Wisely Expounded'

There are twelve months in all the year,
As I hear many men say,
But the merriest month in all the year
Is the merry month of May.

'Robin Hood and the Widow's Three Sons'

Fight on, my men, sayes Sir Andrew Bartton,
I am hurt but I am not slain;
Ile lay mee downe and bleed a while
And then Ile rise and fight againe.

'Sir Andrew Bartton'

The king sits in Dunfermline town
Drinking the blude-red wine.

'Sir Patrick Spens'

'To Noroway, to Noroway,
To Noroway o'er the faem;
The king's daughter o' Noroway,
'Tis thou must bring her hame.'

The first word that Sir Patrick read
So loud, loud laughed he;
The neist word that Sir Patrick read
The tear blinded his e'e.

'Sir Patrick Spens'

'I saw the new moon late yestreen
Wi' the auld moon in her arm;
And if we gang to sea master,
I fear we'll come to harm.'

'Sir Patrick Spens'

Go fetch a web o' the silken claith,
Another o' the twine,
And wap them into our ship's side,
And let nae the sea come in.

'Sir Patrick Spens' (wap wrap)

O laith, laith were our gude Scots lords
To wat their cork-heel'd shoon;
But lang or a' the play was play'd
They wat their hats aboon.

'Sir Patrick Spens'

O lang, lang may the ladies sit,

Wi' their fans into their hand,
Before they see Sir Patrick Spens
Come sailing to the strand!

And lang, lang may the maidens sit
Wi' their gowd kames in their hair,
A-waiting for their ain dear loves!
For them they'll see nae mair.

Half-owre, half-owre to Aberdour,
'Tis fifty fathoms deep;
And there lies good Sir Patrick Spens,
Wi' the Scots lords at his feet!

'Sir Patrick Spens'

And she has kilted her green kirtle
A little abune her knee;
And she has braided her yellow hair
A little abune her bree.

'Tam Lin' st. 5

'But what I ken this night, Tam Lin,
Gin I had kent yestreen,
I wad ta'en out thy heart o' flesh,
And put in a heart o' stane.'

'Tam Lin' st. 50

She's mounted on her milk-white steed,
She's ta'en true Thomas up behind.

'Thomas the Rhymer' st. 8

'And see ye not yon braid, braid road,
That lies across the lily leven?
That is the Path of Wickedness,
Though some call it the Road to Heaven.'

'Thomas the Rhymer' st. 12

It was mirk, mirk night, there was nae starlight,
They waded thro' red blude to the knee;
For a' the blude that's shed on the earth
Rins through the springs o' that countrie.

'Thomas the Rhymer' st. 16

There were three ravens sat on a tree,
They were as black as they might be.
The one of them said to his make,
'Where shall we our breakfast take?'

'The Three Ravens'

God send every gentleman
Such hounds, such hawks, and such leman.

‘The Three Ravens’

As I was walking all alane,
I heard twa corbies making a mane:
The tane unto the tither did say,
‘Where sall we gang and dine the day?’

‘—In behint yon auld fail dyke
I wot there lies a new—slain knight;
And naebody kens that he lies there
But his hawk, his hound, and his lady fair.

‘His hound is to the hunting gane,
His hawk to fetch the wild-fowl hame,
His lady’s ta’en anither mate,
So we may make our dinner sweet.

‘Ye’ll sit on his white hause-bane,
And I’ll pike out his bonny blue e’en:
Wi’ ae lock o’ his gowden hair
We’ll theek our nest when it grows bare.’

‘The Twa Corbies’ (corbies ravens, fail turf, hause neck, theek thatch)

‘The wind doth blow to-day, my love,
And a few small drops of rain;
I never had but one true love;
In cold grave she was lain.

‘I’ll do as much for my true-love
As any young man may;
I’ll sit and mourn all at her grave
For a twelvemonth and a day.’

‘The Unquiet Grave’

O waly, waly, up the bank,
And waly, waly, doun the brae,
And waly, waly, yon burn-side,
Where I and my Love wont to gae!

I lean’d my back unto an aik,
I thocht it was a trustie tree;
But first it bow’d and syne it brake—
Sae my true love did lichtlie me.

O waly, waly, gin love be bonnie
A little time while it is new!

But when 'tis auld it waxeth cauld,
And fades awa' like morning dew.

'Waly, Waly'

But had I wist, before I kist,
That love had been sae ill to win,
I had lock'd my heart in a case o' gowd,
And pinn'd it wi' a siller pin.

And O! if my young babe were born,
And set upon the nurse's knee;
And I mysel' were dead and gane,
And the green grass growing over me!

'Waly, Waly'

'Tom Pearse, Tom Pearse, lend me your grey mare,
All along, down along, out along, lee.
For I want for to go to Widdicombe Fair,
Wi' Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davey, Dan'l Whiddon,
Harry Hawk,
Old Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all.
Old Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all.'

'Widdicombe Fair'

2.15 *Whitney Balliett 1926—*

A critic is a bundle of biases held loosely together by a sense of taste.

'Dinosaurs in the Morning' (1962) introductory note

The sound of surprise.

Title of book on jazz (1959)

2.16 *Pierre Balmain 1914-82*

The trick of wearing mink is to look as though you were wearing a cloth coat. The trick of wearing a cloth coat is to look as though you are wearing mink.

In 'Observer' 25 December 1955

2.17 *George Bancroft 1800-91*

Calvinism [in Switzerland]...established a religion without a prelate, a government without a king.

'History of the United States' (1855 ed.) vol. 3, ch. 6

2.18 *Richard Bancroft 1544-1610*

Where Christ erecteth his Church, the devil in the same churchyard will have his chapel.

Sermon at Paul's Cross, 9 February 1588.

2.19 *Edward Bangs*

Yankee Doodle came to town
Riding on a pony;
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it Macaroni.

‘Yankee Doodle’. Nicholas Smith ‘Stories of Great National Songs’

2.20 *Tallulah Bankhead 1903-68*

I’m as pure as the driven slush.

In ‘Saturday Evening Post’ 12 April 1947 (quoted by Maurice Zolotow)

There is less in this than meets the eye.

Describing a revival of Maeterlinck’s play *Aglavaine and Selysette*, in Alexander Woollcott ‘Shouts and Murmurs’ (1922) ch. 4

2.21 *Nancy Banks-Smith*

If you have to keep the lavatory door shut by extending your left leg, it’s modern architecture.

‘Guardian’ 20 February 1979

2.22 *Théodore Faullain de Banville 1823-91*

Jeune homme sans mélancolie,
Blond comme un soleil d’Italie,
Garde bien ta belle folie.

Young man untroubled by melancholy, fair as an Italian sun, take good care of your fine carelessness.

‘A Adolphe Gaiffe’

Licences poétiques. Il n’y en a pas.

Poetic licence. There’s no such thing.

‘Petit traité de poésie française’ (1872) ch. 4

2.23 *Imamu Amiri Baraka (Everett LeRoi Jones) 1934—*

A man is either free or he is not. There cannot be any apprenticeship for freedom.

‘Kulchur’ Spring 1962 ‘Tokenism’

God has been replaced, as he has all over the West, with respectability and airconditioning.

‘Midstream’ (1963) p. 39

2.24 *Anna Laetitia Barbauld 1743-1825*

If e’er thy breast with freedom glowed,
And spurned a tyrant’s chain,
Let not thy strong oppressive force
A free-born mouse detain.

‘The Mouse’s Petition to Doctor Priestley Found in the Trap where he had been confined all Night’ l. 9

Beware, lest in the worm you crush

A brother’s soul you find.

‘The Mouse’s Petition’ l. 33

Yes, injured Woman! rise, assert thy right!

‘The Rights of Woman’ l. 1

2.25 W. N. P. Barbellion (*Bruce Frederick Cummings*) 1889-1919

Give me the man who will surrender the whole world for a moss or a caterpillar, and impracticable visions for a simple human delight. Yes, that shall be my practice. I prefer Richard Jefferies to Swedenborg and Oscar Wilde to Thomas á Kempis.

‘Enjoying Life and Other Literary Remains’ (1919) ‘Crying for the Moon’

Am writing an essay on the life-history of insects and have abandoned the idea of writing on ‘How Cats Spend their Time’.

‘Journal of a Disappointed Man’ (1919) 3 Jan. 1903

I can remember wondering as a child if I were a young Macaulay or Ruskin and secretly deciding that I was. My infant mind even was bitter with those who insisted on regarding me as a normal child and not as a prodigy.

‘Journal of a Disappointed Man’ (1919) 23 Oct. 1910

2.26 Mary Barber c.1690-1757

What is it our mammas bewitches

To plague us little boys with breeches?

‘Written for My Son, and Spoken by Him at His First Putting on Breeches’ l. 1

A husband’s first praise is a Friend and Protector;

Then change not these titles for Tyrant and Hector.

‘Conclusion of a Letter to the Revd Mr C—’ l. 67

2.27 John Barbour c.1320-95

Storys to rede ar delitabill,

Suppos that thai be nocht bot fabill.

‘The Bruce’ (1375) bk. 1, l. 1

A! fredome is a noble thing!

Fredome mayse man to haiff liking.

‘The Bruce’ (1375) bk. 1, l. 225

2.28 Revd R. H. Barham (*Richard Harris Barham*) 1788-1845

Though I’ve always considered Sir Christopher Wren,

As an architect, one of the greatest of men;

And, talking of Epitaphs,—much I admire his,

‘Circumspice, si Monumentum requiris’;
Which an erudite Verger translated to me,
‘If you ask for his Monument, Sir—come—spy—see!’
‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Cynotaph’.

What was to be done?—’twas perfectly plain
That they could not well hang the man over again;
What was to be done?—The man was dead!
Nought could be done—nought could be said;
So—my Lord Tomnoddy went home to bed!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘Hon. Mr Sucklethumbkin’s Story’

The Jackdaw sat on the Cardinal’s chair!
Bishop, and abbot, and prior were there;
Many a monk, and many a friar,
Many a knight, and many a squire,
With a great many more of lesser degree,—
In sooth a goodly company;
And they served the Lord Primate on bended knee.

Never, I ween,
Was a prouder seen,

Read of in books, or dreamt of in dreams,
Than the Cardinal Lord Archbishop of Rheims!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Jackdaw of Rheims’

And six little Singing-boys,—dear little souls!
In nice clean faces, and nice white stoles.

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Jackdaw of Rheims’

He cursed him in sleeping, that every night
He should dream of the devil, and wake in a fright.

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Jackdaw of Rheims’

Never was heard such a terrible curse!
But what gave rise
To no little surprise,
Nobody seemed one penny the worse!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Jackdaw of Rheims’

Heedless of grammar, they all cried, ‘That’s him!’

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Jackdaw of Rheims’

Here’s a corpse in the case with a sad swelled face,
And a ‘Crownier’s Quest’ is a queer sort of thing!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘A Lay of St Gengulphus’ (in later editions: ‘a Medical Crownier’s a queer sort of thing!’)

So put that in your pipe, my Lord Otto, and smoke it!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (First Series, 1840) ‘The Lay of St Odille’

A servant’s too often a negligent elf;

—If it’s business of consequence, do it yourself!

‘The Ingoldsby Legends’ (Second Series, 1842) ‘The Ingoldsby Penance!—Moral’

2.29 *Maurice Baring 1874-1945*

In Mozart and Salieri we see the contrast between the genius which does what it must and the talent which does what it can.

‘Outline of Russian Literature’ (1914) ch. 3

2.30 *Ronnie Barker 1929—*

The marvellous thing about a joke with a double meaning is that it can only mean one thing.

‘Sauce’ (1977) ‘Daddie’s Sauce’

2.31 *Frederick R. Barnard*

One picture is worth ten thousand words.

‘Printers’ Ink’ 10 March 1927

2.32 *Barnabe Barnes c.1569-1609*

Ah, sweet Content! where doth thy harbour hold?

‘Parthenophil and Parthenophe’ (1593) sonnet 66

2.33 *Julian Barnes 1946—*

What does this journey seem like to those who aren’t British—as they head towards the land of embarrassment and breakfast?

‘Flaubert’s Parrot’ (1984) ch. 7

The writer must be universal in sympathy and an outcast by nature: only then can he see clearly.

‘Flaubert’s Parrot’ (1984) ch. 10

Do not imagine that Art is something which is designed to give gentle uplift and self-confidence. Art is not a brassière. At least, not in the English sense. But do not forget that brassière is the French for life-jacket.

‘Flaubert’s Parrot’ (1984) ch. 10

Books say: she did this because. Life says: she did this. Books are where things are explained to you; life is where things aren’t. I’m not surprised some people prefer books. Books make sense of life. The only problem is that the lives they make sense of are other people’s lives, never your own.

‘Flaubert’s Parrot’ (1984) ch. 13

Love is just a system for getting someone to call you Darling after sex.

‘Talking It Over’ (1991) ch. 16

2.34 *Peter Barnes 1931*—

Claire: How do you know you're...God?

Earl of Gurney: Simple. When I pray to Him I find I'm talking to myself.

'The Ruling Class' (1969) act 1, sc. 4

2.35 *William Barnes 1801-86*

An' there vor me the apple tree

Do leän down low in Linden Lea.

'Hwomely Rhymes' (1859) 'My Orcha'd in Linden Lea'

But still the neäme do bide the seäme—

'Tis Pentridge—Pentridge by the river.

'Hwomely Rhymes' (1859) 'Pentridge by the River'

My love is the maïd ov all maïdens,

Though all mid be comely.

'Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect' (1862) 'In the Spring'

2.36 *Richard Barnfield 1574-1627*

The waters were his winding sheet, the sea was made his tomb;

Yet for his fame the ocean sea, was not sufficient room.

'The Encomion of Lady Pecunia' (1598) 'To the Gentlemen Readers' (on the death of Sir John Hawkins)

My flocks feed not, my ewes breed not,

My rams speed not, all is amiss:

Love in dying, Faith is defying,

Heart's renying, Causer of this.

'England's Helicon' (1600) 'The Unknown Shepherd's Complaint' (renying ?reneging)

As it fell upon a day

In the merry month of May,

Sitting in a pleasant shade,

Which a grove of myrtles made.

Beasts did leap and birds did sing,

Trees did grow and plants did spring,

Everything did banish moan,

Save the nightingale alone.

She, poor bird, as all forlorn,

Leaned her breast up-till a thorn,

And there sung the dolefull'st ditty

That to hear it was great pity.

Fie, fie, fie, now would she cry;

Tereu, Tereu, by and by.

'Poems: In Divers Humours' (1598) 'An Ode'

If Music and sweet Poetry agree,
As they must needs (the Sister and the Brother)
Then must the love be great, 'twixt thee and me,
Because thou lov'st the one, and I the other.

'Poems: in Divers Humours' (1598) 'To his friend Mister R. L.'

2.37 *Phineas T. Barnum 1810-91*

There's a sucker born every minute.

Attributed

2.38 *Sir J. M. Barrie 1860-1937*

His lordship may compel us to be equal upstairs, but there will never be equality in the servants' hall.

'The Admirable Crichton' (performed 1902, published 1914) act 1

It's my deserts; I'm a second eleven sort of chap.

'The Admirable Crichton' (performed 1902, published 1914) act 3

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it.

'The Little Minister' (1891) vol. 1, ch. 1

It's grand, and you canna expect to be baith grand and comfortable.

'The Little Minister' (1891) vol. 1, ch. 10

Facts were never pleasing to him. He acquired them with reluctance and got rid of them with relief. He was never on terms with them until he had stood them on their heads.

'Love Me Never or For Ever'

When the first baby laughed for the first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies.

'Peter Pan' (1928) act 1

Every time a child says 'I don't believe in fairies' there is a little fairy somewhere that falls down dead.

'Peter Pan' (1928) act 1

To die will be an awfully big adventure.

'Peter Pan' (1928) act 3.

Do you believe in fairies? Say quick that you believe! If you believe, clap your hands!

'Peter Pan' (1928) act 4

That is ever the way. 'Tis all jealousy to the bride and good wishes to the corpse.

'Quality Street' (performed 1901, published 1913) act 1

One's religion is whatever he is most interested in, and yours is Success.

'The Twelve-Pound Look' (1921)

Charm...it's a sort of bloom on a woman. If you have it, you don't need to have anything else; and if you don't have it, it doesn't much matter what else you have. Some women, the few, have

charm for all; and most have charm for one. But some have charm for none.

‘What Every Woman Knows’ (performed 1908, published 1918) act 1

There are few more impressive sights in the world than a Scotsman on the make.

‘What Every Woman Knows’ (performed 1908, published 1918) act 2

The tragedy of a man who has found himself out.

‘What Every Woman Knows’ (performed 1908, published 1918) act 4

Every man who is high up loves to think that he has done it all himself; and the wife smiles, and lets it go at that. It’s our only joke. Every woman knows that.

‘What Every Woman Knows’ (performed 1908, published 1918) act 4

2.39 *Ethel Barrymore 1879-1959*

For an actress to be a success, she must have the face of a Venus, the brains of a Minerva, the grace of Terpsichore, the memory of a Macaulay, the figure of Juno, and the hide of a rhinoceros.

In George Jean Nathan ‘The Theatre in the Fifties’ (1953) p. 30

2.40 *Lionel Bart 1930—*

See Frank Norman (2.33) in Volume II

2.41 *Roland Barthes 1915-80*

Ce que le public rèclame, c’est l’image de la passion, non la passion elle-même.

What the public wants is the image of passion, not passion itself.

‘Mythologies’ (1957) ‘Le monde o—l’on catche’

Je crois que l’automobile est aujourd’hui l’équivalent assez exact des grandes cathédrales gothiques: je veux dire une grande création d’époque, conçue passionnément par des artistes inconnus, consommée dans son image, si non dans son usage, par un peuple entier qui s’approprie en elle un objet parfaitement magique.

I think that cars today are almost the exact equivalent of the great Gothic cathedrals: I mean the supreme creation of an era, conceived with passion by unknown artists, and consumed in image if not in usage by a whole population which appropriates them as a purely magical object.

‘Mythologies’ (1957) ‘La nouvelle Citroën’

2.42 *Bernard Baruch 1870-1965*

Let us not be deceived—we are today in the midst of a cold war.

Speech to South Carolina Legislature 16 April 1947, in ‘New York Times’ 17 April 1947, p. 21 (the expression ‘cold war’ was suggested to him by H. B. Swope, former editor of the New York ‘World’)

To me old age is always fifteen years older than I am.

In ‘Newsweek’ 29 August 1955

Vote for the man who promises least; he’ll be the least disappointing.

In Meyer Berger ‘New York’ (1960)

A political leader must keep looking over his shoulder all the time to see if the boys are still

there. If they aren't still there, he's no longer a political leader.

In 'New York Times' 21 June 1965, p. 16

2.43 Jacques Barzun 1907—

If it were possible to talk to the unborn, one could never explain to them how it feels to be alive, for life is washed in the speechless real.

'The House of Intellect' (1959) ch. 6

2.44 William Basse d. c.1653

The first men that our Saviour dear
Did choose to wait upon him here,
Blest fishers were; and fish the last
Food was, that he on earth did taste:
I therefore strive to follow those
Whom he to follow him hath chose.

'The Angler's Song'

Renowned Spenser, lie a thought more nigh
To learned Chaucer, and rare Beaumont lie
A little nearer Spenser, to make more room
For Shakespeare, in your threefold, fourfold tomb.

'On Mr Wm. Shakespeare' (1633)

2.45 Thomas Bastard 1566-1618

Age is deformed, youth unkind,
We scorn their bodies, they our mind.

'Chrestoleros' (1598) bk. 7, epigram 9

2.46 Edgar Bateman and George Le Brunn

Wiv a ladder and some glasses,
You could see to 'Ackney Marshes,
If it wasn't for the 'ouses in between.

'If it wasn't for the 'Ouses in between' (1894 song)

2.47 Katherine Lee Bates 1859-1929

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

'America the Beautiful' (1893)

2.48 Charles Baudelaire 1821-67

Hypocrite lecteur,—mon semblable,—mon frère.

Hypocrite reader—my likeness—my brother.

‘Les Fleurs du Mal’ (1857) ‘Au Lecteur’

Le poète est semblable au prince des nuées
Qui hante la tempête et se rit de l’archer;
Exilé sur le sol, au milieu des huées,
Ses ailes de géant l’empêchent de marcher.

**The poet is like the prince of the clouds, who rides out the tempest and laughs at the archer.
But when he is exiled on the ground, amidst the clamour, his giant’s wings prevent him from walking.**

‘Les fleurs du mal’ (1857) ‘L’Albatross’-‘Spleen et idéal’ no. 2

Lá, tout n’est qu’ordre et beauté,
Luxe, calme et volupté.

Everything there is simply order and beauty, luxury, peace and sensual indulgence.

‘Les fleurs du mal’ (1857) ‘L’Invitation au voyage’-‘Spleen et idéal’ no. 56

Quelle est cette île triste et noire? C’est Cythère,
Nous dit-on, un pays fameux dans les chansons,
Eldorado banal de tous les vieux garçons.
Regardez, après tout, c’est un pauvre terre.

**What sad, black isle is that? It’s Cythera, so they say, a land celebrated in song, the banal
Eldorado of all the old fools. Look, after all, it’s a land of poverty.**

‘Les fleurs du mal’ (1857) ‘Un voyage á Cythère’-‘Les fleurs du mal’ no. 121

2.49 L. Frank Baum 1856-1919

The road to the City of Emeralds is paved with yellow brick.

‘The Wonderful Wizard of Oz’ (1900) ch. 2

2.50 Vicki Baum 1888-1960

Verheiratet sein verlangt immer und überall die feinsten Kunst der Unaufrichtigkeit zwischen
Mensch und Mensch.

Marriage always demands the finest arts of insincerity possible between two human beings.

‘Zwischenfall in Lohwinckel’ (1930) p. 140 (translated by Margaret Goldsmith as ‘Results of an
Accident’ (1931) p. 140)

2.51 Thomas Haynes Bayly 1797-1839

Oh! no! we never mention her,
Her name is never heard;
My lips are now forbid to speak
That once familiar word.

‘Songs, Ballads, and other Poems’ (1844) ‘Oh! No! We Never Mention Her’

2.52 *Beachcomber*

See J. B. Morton (1.182) in Volume II

2.53 *James Beattie 1735-1803*

Some deemed him wondrous wise, and some believed him mad.

‘The Minstrel’ bk. 1 (1771) st. 16

Fancy a thousand wondrous forms describes
More wildly great than ever pencil drew,
Rocks, torrents, gulfs, and shapes of giant size,
And glittering cliffs on cliffs, and fiery ramparts rise.

‘The Minstrel’ bk. 1 (1771) st. 53

In the deep windings of the grove, no more
The hag obscene, and grisly phantom dwell;
Nor in the fall of mountain-stream, or roar
Of winds, is heard the angry spirit’s yell.

‘The Minstrel’ bk. 2 (1774) st. 48

2.54 *David Beatty (First Earl Beatty) 1871-1936*

There’s something wrong with our bloody ships today, Chatfield.

At the Battle of Jutland, 1916, in Winston Churchill ‘The World Crisis’ (1927) vol. 1, p. 129. The additional words, ‘Steer two points nearer the enemy’, though attributed to Beatty, are denied by Lord Chatfield, the only person to have heard the remark

2.55 *Topham Beauclerk 1739-80*

[On Boswell saying that a certain person was ‘a man of good principles’]
Then he does not wear them out in practice.

In James Boswell ‘The Life of Samuel Johnson’ (1934 ed.) vol. 3, p. 281 (14 April 1778)

2.56 *Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais 1732-99*

Aujourd’hui ce qui ne vaut pas la peine d’être dit, on le chante.

Today if something is not worth saying, people sing it.

‘Le Barbier de Seville’ (1775) act 1, sc. 2

Je me presse de rire de tout, de peur d’être obligé d’en pleurer.

I make myself laugh at everything, for fear of having to weep.

‘Le Barbier de Seville’ (1775) act 1, sc. 2

Boire sans soif et faire l’amour en tout temps, madame, il n’y a que ça qui nous distingue des autres bêtes.

Drinking when we are not thirsty and making love all year round, madam; that is all there is to distinguish us from other animals.

‘Le Mariage de Figaro’ (1785) act 2, sc. 21

Parce que vous êtes un grand seigneur, vous vous croyez un grand génie!...Vous vous êtes donné la peine de naître, et rien de plus.

Because you are a great lord, you believe yourself to be a great genius!...You took the trouble to be born, but no more.

‘Le Mariage de Figaro’ (1785) act 5, sc. 3

2.57 Francis Beaumont 1584-1616

Nose, nose, jolly red nose,
Who gave thee this jolly red nose?...
Nutmegs and ginger, cinnamon and cloves,
And they gave me this jolly red nose.

‘The Knight of the Burning Pestle’ act 1

What things have we seen,
Done at the Mermaid! heard words that have been
So nimble, and so full of subtil flame,
As if that every one from whence they came,
Had meant to put his whole wit in a jest,
And had resolved to live a fool, the rest
Of his dull life.

‘Letter to Ben Jonson’

Here are sands, ignoble things,
Dropt from the ruined sides of kings;
Here’s a world of pomp and state,
Buried in dust, once dead by fate.

‘On the Tombs in Westminster Abbey’

2.58 Francis Beaumont 1584-1616 and John Fletcher 1579-1625

Those have most power to hurt us that we love.

‘The Maid’s Tragedy’ (written 1610-11) act 5

Philaster: Oh, but thou dost not know
What ’tis to die.

Bellario: Yes, I do know, my Lord:
’Tis less than to be born; a lasting sleep;
A quiet resting from all jealousy,
A thing we all pursue; I know besides,
It is but giving over of a game,
That must be lost.

‘Philaster’ (written 1609) act 3

There is no other purgatory but a woman.

‘The Scornful Lady’ (1616) act 3

It would talk: Lord how it talk’t!

‘The Scornful Lady’ (1616) act 4

See also John Fletcher (6.45)

2.59 *Lord Beaverbrook* (William Maxwell Aitken, first Baron Beaverbrook) 1879-1964

The Flying Scotsman is no less splendid a sight when it travels north to Edinburgh than when it travels south to London. Mr Baldwin denouncing sanctions was as dignified as Mr Baldwin imposing them.

‘Daily Express’ 29 May 1937

[Lloyd George] did not seem to care which way he travelled providing he was in the driver’s seat.

‘The Decline and Fall of Lloyd George’ (1963) ch. 7

With the publication of his Private Papers in 1952, he committed suicide 25 years after his death.

‘Men and Power’ (1956) p. xviii (of Earl Haig)

Our cock won’t fight.

Said to Winston Churchill, of Edward VIII, during the abdication crisis of 1936, in Frances Donaldson

‘Edward VIII’ (1974) ch. 22

2.60 *Carl Becker* 1873-1945

The significance of man is that he is that part of the universe that asks the question, What is the significance of Man? He alone can stand apart imaginatively and, regarding himself and the universe in their eternal aspects, pronounce a judgment: The significance of man is that he is insignificant and is aware of it.

‘Progress and Power’ (1936) ch. 3

2.61 *Samuel Beckett* 1906-89

It is suicide to be abroad. But what is it to be at home, Mr Tyler, what is it to be at home? A lingering dissolution.

‘All That Fall’ (1957) p. 10

We could have saved sixpence. We have saved fivepence. (Pause) But at what cost?

‘All That Fall’ (1957) p. 25

Clov: Do you believe in the life to come?

Hamm: Mine was always that.

‘Endgame’ (1958) p. 35

Let us pray to God...the bastard! He doesn’t exist!

‘Endgame’ (1958) p. 38

Personally I have no bone to pick with graveyards, I take the air there willingly, perhaps more willingly than elsewhere, when take the air I must.

'First Love' (1973) p. 8

If I had the use of my body I would throw it out of the window.

'Malone Dies' (1958) p. 44

There is no use indicting words, they are no shoddier than what they peddle.

'Malone Dies' (1958) p.

Where I am, I don't know, I'll never know, in the silence you don't know, you must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on.

'The Unnamable' (1959) p. 418

Nothing to be done.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

One of the thieves was saved. (Pause) It's a reasonable percentage.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

Estragon: Charming spot. Inspiring prospects. Let's go.

Vladimir: We can't.

Estragon: Why not?

Vladimir: We're waiting for Godot.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes, it's awful!

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

He can't think without his hat.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

Vladimir: That passed the time.

Estragon: It would have passed in any case.

Vladimir: Yes, but not so rapidly.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 1

We always find something, eh, Didi, to give us the impression that we exist?

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 2

We are not saints, but we have kept our appointment. How many people can boast as much?

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 2

We all are born mad. Some remain so.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 2

They give birth astride of a grave, the light gleams an instant, then it's night once more.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 2

The air is full of our cries. (He listens) But habit is a great deadener.

'Waiting for Godot' (1955) act 2

2.62 William Beckford 1759-1844

When he was angry, one of his eyes became so terrible, that no person could bear to behold it; and the wretch upon whom it was fixed, instantly fell backward, and sometimes expired. For fear, however, of depopulating his dominions and making his palace desolate, he but rarely gave way

to his anger.

‘Vathek’ (1782, 3rd ed., 1816) opening para.

He did not think, with the Caliph Omar Ben Adalaziz, that it was necessary to make a hell of this world to enjoy Paradise in the next.

‘Vathek’ (3rd ed., 1816) para. 2

Your presence I condescend to accept; but beg you will let me be quiet; for, I am not over-fond of resisting temptation.

‘Vathek’ (3rd ed., 1816) para. 215

2.63 Thomas Becon 1512-67

When the wine is in, the wit is out.

‘Catechism’ (ed. J. Ayre, 1844) p. 375

2.64 Thomas Lovell Beddoes 1803-49

If thou wilt ease thine heart

Of love and all its smart,

Then sleep, dear, sleep.

‘Death’s Jest Book 1825-8’ (1850) act. 2, sc. 2 ‘Dirge’

But wilt thou cure thine heart

Of love and all its smart,

Then die, dear, die.

‘Death’s Jest Book 1825-8’ (1850) act. 2, sc. 2 ‘Dirge’

I have a bit of fiat in my soul,

And can myself create my little world.

‘Death’s Jest Book 1825-8’ (1850) act. 5, sc. 1, l. 39

King Death hath asses’ ears.

‘Death’s Jest Book 1825-8’ (1850) act. 5, sc. 4, l. 245

If there were dreams to sell,

What would you buy?

Some cost a passing bell;

Some a light sigh,

That shakes from Life’s fresh crown

Only a rose-leaf down.

If there were dreams to sell,

Merry and sad to tell,

And the crier rung the bell,

What would you buy?

‘Dream-Pedlary’

2.65 The Venerable Bede 673-735

Talis, inquiens, mihi videtur, rex, vita hominum praesens in terris, ad conparationem eius, quod nobis incertum est, temporis, quale cum te residente ad caenam cum ducibus ac ministris tuis tempore brumali,...adveniens unus passerum domum ci tissime, pervolaverit; qui cum per unum ostium ingrediens, mox per aliud exierit. Ipso quidem tempore, quo intus est, hiemis tempestate non tangitur, sed tamen parvissimo spatio serenitatis ad momentum excurso, mox de hieme in hiemem regrediens, tuis oculis elabatur. Ita haec vita hominum ad modicum apparet; quid autem sequatur, quidve praecesserit, prorsus ignoramus.

‘Such,’ he said, ‘O King, seems to me the present life of men on earth, in comparison with the time which to us is uncertain, as if when on a winter’s night you sit feasting with your ealdormen and thegns,—a single sparrow should fly swiftly into the hall, and coming in at one door, instantly fly out through another. In that time in which it is indoors it is indeed not touched by the fury of the winter, but yet, this smallest space of calmness being passed almost in a flash, from winter going into winter again, it is lost to your eyes. Somewhat like this appears the life of man; but of what follows or what went before, we are utterly ignorant.’

‘Ecclesiastical History of the English People’ bk. 2, ch. 13

2.66 *Harry Bedford and Terry Sullivan*

I’m a bit of a ruin that Cromwell knocked about a bit.

‘It’s a Bit of a Ruin that Cromwell Knocked about a Bit’ (1920 song; written for Marie Lloyd)

2.67 *Barnard Elliott Bee 1823-61*

There is Jackson with his Virginians, standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer.

Referring to General T. J. (‘Stonewall’) Jackson at the battle of Bull Run, 21 July, 1861 (in which Bee himself was killed), in B. Perley Poore ‘Perley’s Reminiscences’ (1886) vol. 2, ch. 7

2.68 *Sir Thomas Beecham 1879-1961*

There are two golden rules for an orchestra: start together and finish together. The public doesn’t give a damn what goes on in between.

In Harold Atkins and Archie Newman ‘Beecham Stories’ (1978) p. 27

Like two skeletons copulating on a corrugated tin roof.

Describing the harpsichord, in Harold Atkins and Archie Newman ‘Beecham Stories’ (1978) p. 34

A kind of musical Malcolm Sargent.

Describing Herbert von Karajan, in Harold Atkins and Archie Newman ‘Beecham Stories’ (1978) p. 61

Why do we have to have all these third-rate foreign conductors around—when we have so many second-rate ones of our own?

In L. Ayre ‘Wit of Music’ (1966) p. 70

Hark! the herald angels sing!

Beecham’s Pills are just the thing,

Two for a woman, one for a child...

Peace on earth and mercy mild!

In Neville Cardus 'Sir Thomas Beecham' (1961) p. 23

A very long work, the musical equivalent of the Towers of St Pancras Station—neo-Gothic, you know.

Describing Elgar's 1st Symphony, in Neville Cardus 'Sir Thomas Beecham' (1961) p. 113

Please do try to keep in touch with us from time to time.

To an orchestral musician at rehearsal, in Neville Cardus 'Sir Thomas Beecham' (1961) p. 113

I am not the greatest conductor in this country. On the other hand I'm better than any damned foreigner.

In 'Daily Express' 9 March 1961

Too much counterpoint; what is worse, Protestant counterpoint.

Describing Bach, in 'Guardian' 8 March 1971

All the arts in America are a gigantic racket run by unscrupulous men for unhealthy women.

In 'Observer' 5 May 1946

Madam, you have between your legs an instrument capable of giving pleasure to thousands—and all you can do is scratch it.

To a cellist; attributed, no source found

2.69 Revd H. C. Beeching 1859-1919

Not when the sense is dim,

But now from the heart of joy,

I would remember Him:

Take the thanks of a boy.

'In a Garden and Other Poems' (1895) 'Prayers'

First come I; my name is Jowett.

There's no knowledge but I know it.

I am Master of this college:

What I don't know isn't knowledge.

'The Masque of Balliol', composed by and current among members of Balliol College in the late 1870s, in W. G. Hiscock (ed.) 'The Balliol Rhymes' (1939).

2.70 Sir Max Beerbohm 1872-1956

Mankind is divisible into two great classes: hosts and guests.

'And Even Now' (1920) 'Hosts and Guests'

I maintain that though you would often in the fifteenth century have heard the snobbish Roman say, in a would-be off-hand tone, 'I am dining with the Borgias tonight,' no Roman ever was able to say, 'I dined last night with the Borgias.'

'And Even Now' (1920) 'Hosts and Guests'

They so very indubitably are, you know!

'Christmas Garland' (1912) 'Mote in the Middle Distance'

A swear-word in a rustic slum
A simple swear-word is to some,
To Masfield something more.
'Fifty Caricatures' (1912) no. 12

I was not unpopular [at school]...It is Oxford that has made me insufferable.
'More' (1899) 'Going Back to School'

Undergraduates owe their happiness chiefly to the consciousness that they are no longer at school. The nonsense which was knocked out of them at school is all put gently back at Oxford or Cambridge.

'More' (1899) 'Going Back to School'

Enter Michael Angelo. Andrea del Sarto appears for a moment at a window. Pippa passes.
'Seven Men' (1919) "'Savonarola" Brown' act 3

The fading signals and grey eternal walls of that antique station, which, familiar to them and insignificant, does yet whisper to the tourist the last enchantments of the Middle Age.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 1.

The dullard's envy of brilliant men is always assuaged by the suspicion that they will come to a bad end.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 4

Women who love the same man have a kind of bitter freemasonry.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 4

Deeply regret inform your grace last night two black owls came and perched on battlements remained there through night hooting at dawn flew away none knows whither awaiting instructions Jellings.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 14

Prepare vault for funeral Monday Dorset.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 14

The Socratic manner is not a game at which two can play.
'Zuleika Dobson' (1911) ch. 15

Most women are not so young as they are painted.
'The Yellow Book' (1894) vol. 1, p. 67

Fate wrote her a most tremendous tragedy, and she played it in tights.
'The Yellow Book' (1894) vol. 3, p. 260 (of Queen Caroline of Brunswick)

2.71 *Ethel Lynn Beers 1827-79*

All quiet along the Potomac to-night,
No sound save the rush of the river,
While soft falls the dew on the face of the dead—
The picket's off duty forever.
'The Picket Guard' (1861) st. 6.

2.72 *Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827*

Muss es sein? Es muss sein.

Must it be? It must be.

String Quartet in F Major, Opus 135, epigraph

2.73 *Brendan Behan 1923-64*

He was born an Englishman and remained one for years.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 1

Pat: He was an Anglo-Irishman.

Meg: In the blessed name of God what’s that?

Pat: A Protestant with a horse.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 1

Meanwhile I’ll sing that famous old song, ‘The Hound that Caught the Pubic Hare’.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 1

When I came back to Dublin, I was courtmartialled in my absence and sentenced to death in my absence, so I said they could shoot me in my absence.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 1

I am a sociable worker. Have you your testament?

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 2

Go on, abuse me—your own husband that took you off the streets on a Sunday morning, when there wasn’t a pub open in the city.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 2

We’re here because we’re queer

Because we’re queer because we’re here.

‘Hostage’ (1958) act 3.

There’s no such thing as bad publicity except your own obituary.

In Dominic Behan ‘My Brother Brendan’ (1965) p. 158

2.74 *Aphra Behn née Johnson*

Oh, what a dear ravishing thing is the beginning of an Amour!

‘The Emperor of the Moon’ (1687) act 1, sc. 1

Love ceases to be a pleasure, when it ceases to be a secret.

‘The Lover’s Watch’ (1686) ‘Four o’ Clock. General Conversation’

Since man with that inconstancy was born,

To love the absent, and the present scorn,

Why do we deck, why do we dress

For such a short-lived happiness?

Why do we put attraction on,

Since either way ’tis we must be undone?

‘Lycidus’ (1688) ‘To Alexis, in Answer to his Poem against Fruition’

I owe a duty, where I cannot love.

‘The Moor’s Revenge’ act 3, sc. 3

Be just, my lovely swain, and do not take

Freedoms you’ll not to me allow;

Or give Amynta so much freedom back

That she may rove as well as you.

Let us then love upon the honest square,

Since interest neither have designed.

For the sly gamester, who ne’er plays me fair,

Must trick for trick expect to find.

‘Poems upon Several Occasions’ (1684) ‘To Lysander, on some Verses he writ, and asking more for his Heart than ’twas worth’

A brave world, Sir, full of religion, knavery, and change: we shall shortly see better days.

‘The Roundheads’ act 1, sc. 1

Variety is the soul of pleasure.

‘The Rover’ pt. 2 (1681) act 1

Come away; poverty’s catching.

‘The Rover’ pt. 2 (1681) act 1

Money speaks sense in a language all nations understand.

‘The Rover’ pt. 2 (1681) act 3

Do you not daily see fine clothes, rich furniture, jewels and plate are more inviting than beauty unadorned?

‘The Rover’ pt. 2 (1681) act 4

The soft, unhappy sex.

‘The Wandering Beauty’ (1698) para. 1

2.75 John Hay Beith

See Ian Hay (8.55)

2.76 Clive Bell 1881-1964

Art and Religion are, then, two roads by which men escape from circumstance to ecstasy.

Between aesthetic and religious rapture there is a family alliance. Art and Religion are means to similar states of mind.

‘Art’ (1914) pt. 2, ch. 1

I will try to account for the degree of my aesthetic emotion. That, I conceive, is the function of the critic.

‘Art’ (1914) pt. 3 ch. 3

Only reason can convince us of those three fundamental truths without a recognition of which there can be no effective liberty: that what we believe is not necessarily true; that what we like is not necessarily good; and that all questions are open.

2.77 Hilaire Belloc 1870-1953

When people call this beast to mind,
They marvel more and more
At such a little tail behind,
So large a trunk before.

‘A Bad Child’s Book of Beasts’ (1896) ‘The Elephant’

I shoot the Hippopotamus
With bullets made of platinum,
Because if I use leaden ones
His hide is sure to flatten ’em.

‘A Bad Child’s Book of Beasts’ (1896) ‘The Hippopotamus’.

The Tiger, on the other hand, is kittenish and mild,
He makes a pretty play fellow for any little child;
And mothers of large families (who claim to common sense)
Will find a Tiger well repay the trouble and expense.

‘A Bad Child’s Book of Beasts’ (1896) ‘The Tiger’

Believing Truth is staring at the sun
Which but destroys the power that could perceive.
So naught of our poor selves can be at one
With burning Truth, nor utterly believe

‘Believing Truth is staring at the sun’ (1923)

Physicians of the Utmost Fame
Were called at once; but when they came
They answered, as they took their Fees,
‘There is no Cure for this Disease.’

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Henry King’

And always keep a-hold of Nurse
For fear of finding something worse.

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Jim’

In my opinion, Butlers ought
To know their place, and not to play
The Old Retainer night and day.

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Lord Lundy’

Sir! you have disappointed us!
We had intended you to be
The next Prime Minister but three:
The stocks were sold; the Press was squared;
The Middle Class was quite prepared.

But as it is!...My language fails!
Go out and govern New South Wales!

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Lord Lundy’

A Trick that everyone abhors
In Little Girls is slamming Doors.

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Rebecca’

She was not really bad at heart,
But only rather rude and wild:
She was an aggravating child.

‘Cautionary Tales’ (1907) ‘Rebecca’

Of Courtesy, it is much less
Than Courage of Heart or Holiness,
Yet in my Walks it seems to me
That the Grace of God is in Courtesy.

‘Courtesy’ (1910)

John Henderson, an unbeliever,
Had lately lost his Joie de Vivre
From reading far too many books...
Moral: The moral is (it is indeed!)
You mustn’t monkey with the Creed.

‘Ladies and Gentlemen’ (1932) ‘The Example’

I said to Heart, ‘How goes it ?’ Heart replied:
‘Right as a Ribstone Pippin!’ But it lied.

‘The False Heart’ (1910)

I’m tired of Love: I’m still more tired of Rhyme.
But Money gives me pleasure all the time.

‘Fatigued’ (1923)

Strong brother in God and last companion, Wine.

‘Heroic Poem upon Wine’ (1926)

Remote and ineffectual Don
That dared attack my Chesterton.

‘Lines to a Don’ (1910)

Dons admirable! Dons of Might!
Uprising on my inward sight
Compact of ancient tales, and port
And sleep—and learning of a sort.

‘Lines to a Don’ (1910)

Whatever happens we have got
The Maxim Gun, and they have not.

‘The Modern Traveller’ (1898) pt. 6

The Llama is a woolly sort of fleecy hairy goat,
With an indolent expression and an undulating throat
Like an unsuccessful literary man.

‘More Beasts for Worse Children’ (1897) ‘The Llama’

The Microbe is so very small
You cannot make him out at all.
But many sanguine people hope
To see him through a microscope.

‘More Beasts for Worse Children’ (1897) ‘The Microbe’

Lord Finchley tried to mend the Electric Light
Himself. It struck him dead: And serve him right!
It is the business of the wealthy man
To give employment to the artisan.

‘More Peers’ (1911) ‘Lord Finchley’

Like many of the Upper Class
He liked the Sound of Broken Glass.

‘New Cautionary Tales’ (1930) ‘About John’.

And even now, at twenty-five,
He has to work to keep alive!
Yes! All day long from 10 till 4!
For half the year or even more;
With but an hour or two to spend
At luncheon with a city friend.

‘New Cautionary Tales’ (1930) ‘Peter Goole’

A smell of burning fills the startled Air—
The Electrician is no longer there!

‘Newdigate Poem’ (1910)

The accursed power which stands on Privilege
(And goes with Women, and Champagne, and Bridge)
Broke—and Democracy resumed her reign:
(Which goes with Bridge, and Women and Champagne).

‘On a Great Election’ (1923)

I am a sundial, and I make a botch
Of what is done much better by a watch.

‘On a Sundial’ (1938)

When I am dead, I hope it may be said:
‘His sins were scarlet, but his books were read.’

‘On His Books’ (1923)

Pale Ebenezer thought it wrong to fight,
But Roaring Bill (who killed him) thought it right.

‘The Pacifist’ (1938)

When I am living in the Midlands
That are sodden and unkind...
And the great hills of the South Country
Come back into my mind.

‘The South Country’ (1910)

Do you remember an Inn, Miranda?
Do you remember an Inn?
And the tedding and the spreading
Of the straw for a bedding,
And the fleas that tease in the High Pyrenees
And the wine that tasted of the tar?

‘Tarantella’ (1923)

Balliol made me, Balliol fed me,
Whatever I had she gave me again:
And the best of Balliol loved and led me.
God be with you, Balliol men.

‘To the Balliol Men Still in Africa’ (1910)

From quiet homes and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There’s nothing worth the wear of winning,
But laughter and the love of friends.

‘Verses’ (1910) ‘Dedicatory Ode’

Is there no Latin word for Tea? Upon my soul, if I had known that I would have let the vulgar stuff alone.

‘On Nothing’ (1908) ‘On Tea’

Gentlemen, I am a Catholic...If you reject me on account of my religion, I shall thank God that He has spared me the indignity of being your representative.

Speech to voters of South Salford, 1906, in R. Speaight ‘Life of Hilaire Belloc’ (1957) ch. 10

2.78 *Saul Bellow 1915—*

If I am out of my mind, it’s all right with me, thought Moses Herzog.

‘Herzog’ (1961) opening sentence

A novel is balanced between a few true impressions and the multitude of false ones that make up most of what we call life. It tells us that for every human being there is a diversity of existences, that the single existence is itself an illusion in part...it promises us meaning, harmony, and even justice.

Speech on receiving the Nobel Prize, 1976

Art has something to do with the achievement of stillness in the midst of chaos. A stillness which characterizes prayer, too, and the eye of the storm...an arrest of attention in the midst of