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Agincourt. Village in France; scene of the battle of 1415 in which the English, under Henry V, though greatly outnumbered, vanquished the French.

Ahriman. The Spirit of Evil. See Ormuzd.

Allmend, Swiss. Common lands. A portion of them served to cover the expenses of public services, schools, churches and welfare. The arable portions, situated near the villages, were distributed in parcels for which lots were drawn every ten or twenty years, with right of use for life.

Allodial (alodial) tenures. Land held in unlimited ownership.

Alva (Alba), Duke of (1508–1582). Spanish general who was sent as governor to the Netherlands in 1567; notorious for his cruelty.

Anderson, Dr. James (1662–1728). Scottish genealogist, antiquarian and historian.

Aeneas. According to Greek mythology, a wrestler who renewed his strength every time he touched the earth. He was lifted from the ground and strangled by Hercules.

Apples of Sodom. A fruit described by ancient writers as externally of fair appearance, but which dissolved into smoke and ashes when plucked.

Astor. An American family founded by John Jacob Astor (1763–1848), a German-born merchant who emigrated to America in 1783. First through fur trading, then through shrewd investments in New York real estate, he amassed the largest fortune of any American up to that time.

"Augustus wept his legions." Refers to the defeat of the Roman army under Varus by the German tribes who refused to submit to Roman tyranny. When news of the disaster reached him, Augustus (the first Roman Emperor) paced his palace crying, "O Varus! Varus! Give me back my legions!"

Bacon, Sir Francis (1561–1626). English philosopher, statesman and author.


Bastiat, Frédéric (1801–1850). French economist, famous for his wit and logic; author of Harmonies Économiques and many brilliant and effective pamphlets and essays opposing government interference with natural economic laws.

Behm, Ernst (1830–1884). German geographer and statistician.

Bentham, Jeremy (1748–1833). English jurist and utilitarian philosopher. "The greatest happiness of the greatest number," was his criterion of moral goodness.

Besant, Annie (1847–1933). British theosophist, once an ardent freethinker; later a leader in a Hindu political movement.

Black Death. Pestilences which destroyed the great reservoir of cheap labor in England in the fourteenth century.

Blackheath Field. An open common in southeast London; famous rallying ground in English history.


Brassev, Earl (1836–1918). Civil lord of the Admiralty who carried out important inquiries into wages, conditions of labor and administration in the English dockyards.

Breton, Irish. A class of lawyers in ancient Ireland. Breton Law derived from precedents, commentaries of brehons, decrees of the national assemblies, and custom, and was in effect over most of Ireland until the end of the sixteenth century.


Burke, Edmund (1729–1797). British statesman and political writer; favored emancipation of the House of Commons from royal control, the freeing of the American colonies and of Ireland and India.

"But for the grace of God, there go I." From *Writings,* by John Bradford (Vol. II). On seeing a criminal passing by he expressed his emotions in the words, "There, but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford."

Bute, Marquises of. Members of a famous British peerage who were the recipients of many royal favors.


Cadmus. The legendary founder of Thebes. According to Greek mythology, he sowed a dragon and sowed its teeth. Men sprang up who fought one another until five remained; these became the ancestors of the Theban families.

Caesar, Prof. John Elliott (1823–1875). British political economist of the classical school.

Caligula ("Little Boot"). Nickname of Gaius Caesar (A.D. 12–41). His savage and voluptuous nature revealed itself in cruelty and licentiousness.

"Camel and the needle's eye." "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Matt. XIX:24.)

Carey, Prof. Henry Charles (1793–1879). American economist, advocate of the protective tariff. He rejected the classical rent theory, contending that cultivation progresses from the poor to better lands and yields increasing rather than diminishing returns.

 Carlyle, Thomas (1795–1881). British essayist, historian and philosopher.

Carnatic (Karnatak). A region and old division between the Eastern Ghats and the Coromandel coast in southern India.

Cato the Censor, Marcus Porcius (234–149 B.C.). Roman patriot, remarkable for the austerity of his life and manners.

Chateaubriand, Francois Rene Vicomte de (1768–1848). French author; a brilliant representative of the reaction against the ideas of the French Revolution.

Chincha Islands in the Pacific Ocean, off Peru.

Christian. See Greatheart.

Clive, Lord Robert (1725–1774). British statesman and general who led in the conquest of India.

Cobett, William (1762–1835). English political writer.

Cobden Club. Founded by seven Manchester merchants to promote a movement for the abolition of the Corn Laws. Out of this grew the Anti-Corn Law League, a national association, which laid the foundation for Britain's great era of free trade. The guiding mind was that of Richard Cobden favoring free trade.

Colonies. Husbandmen or farmers. Under the later Roman Empire, serfs or tenant farmers bound to the soil and required to pay a fixed rent.

Commons. Uninclosed land, especially in England, belonging or pertaining to the community at large and subject to the rights of common use.

Comstock. A celebrated gold and silver lode with many bonanzas; discovered in 1859 in Nevada where Virginia City now stands.

Comte, Isidore Auguste Marie Francois Xavier (1798–1857). "French philosopher; founder of 'positivism,' a system of philosophy."

Cooper, Peter Armed (1791–1883). American inventor and philanthropist.

Cooper, Thomas (1759–1840). American educator and political philosopher.

Copernicus, theory. A theory of astronomy founded by the Pole, Nicholas Copernicus (Koppernigk) (1473–1543).

Crewe. Village in northern France where the English defeated the French in 1346, against tremendous odds.

Cuban slave. Slaves were used in Cuba largely on sugar and tobacco plantations. Cuban slavery was abolished in 1880.

Curule chair. In Roman history, the chair of state in which only those of highest rank were allowed to sit.

Darwin, Charles Robert (1809–1882). British naturalist; author, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection,* which maintains that the process of natural selection tends to favor the survival of individuals whose peculiarities render them best adapted to their environment.

"Deluge, after us the." Ascribed to Maria de Pompadour and also to Louis XV of France.

Demonetization of silver. See Silver.

Deutsch, Emmanuel Oscar Menahem (1829–1873). German Orientalist of Hebrew descent; assistant in the British Museum library.

Dhammapada. A portion of the Buddhist scriptures.

Ditmarsh marsh. A tract of wild land outside the villages in Ditmarschen, a region in southwestern Schleswig-
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Holstein, over which certain rights were exercised in common.


Ecumenical Council. A council convoked from the entire church throughout the world; especially the Roman Catholic Church.

Elia. See Lamb, Charles.

Entail. A law limiting the inheritance of lands to the lineally descendant heirs of persons to whom it is granted. "Ephesian dome, fired the." The Temple of Artemis, at Ephesus, destroyed in 356 B.C. by Herodotus, who, desiring to acquire eternal fame if only by a great crime, set it ablaze.

Erasmus, Desiderius (c. 1466–1536). Dutch scholar.

Faithful. A character in Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress. He is put to death at Vanity Fair.

Fascia. In ancient Rome, a bundle of rods containing an ax, carried before the high magistrate as a symbol of his authority.

Fawcett, Henry (1833–1884). English politician and economist; loyal follower of Mill, whose economic theory he popularized and demonstrated by concrete examples.


Fee simple. A condition of landownership which imposes no restrictions regarding those who may inherit.

Feudal system. The political system which prevailed in Europe in the Middle Ages. It bound the vassal to the land owned by the lord.

Fief. A feudal estate.

Flatheads. American Indian tribes who allowed their heads to grow in the natural way. Other tribes compressed their skulls in order to give the head a pointed shape.

Floods. An American family founded by James Clair Flood (1826–1889), who formed a successful mining partnership to exploit the Comstock Lode.

Fourteenth Amendment. An amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted in 1868, establishing the citizenship of Negroes.

Fox, George (1624–1691). English founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers.

Garonne. A river flowing through Spain and France.

Gautama (Buddha). Indian mystic; founder of Buddhism.

Genghis Khan (c. 1162–1227). Mongol conqueror of many parts of Asia and Europe.

Godoonof (Godunov), Boris Feodorovich (c. 1552–1605). Tsar of Muscovy; later tsar of all Russia. His akase of 1587 forbade the peasantry to transfer themselves from one landowner to another, and led to the institution of serfdom in its most grinding form.

Godwin, William (1756–1836). English political and miscellaneous writer, opponent of Malthus, whose Inquiry provoked Malthus' exposition of his population theory.

Goulds. An American family founded by Jay Gould (1836–1892), who, through manipulation of various railroad combinations, etc., amassed a tremendous fortune.

Gracchus, Tiberius Sempronius (c. 162–133 B.C.) Roman statesman who, with his brother Caicus Sempronius (c. 153–121 B.C.), sought to bring about a class of independent farmers by reviving, with modifications, the Licinian Laws. The brothers, often referred to as the "Gracchi," were murdered by those who feared the results of the reforms they tried to institute.

Great Eastern. A famous British steamship which sailed the seas from 1859 to 1887; for many years the largest vessel afloat.

Greatheart. In Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, the guide of Christian’s wife and children upon their journey to the Celestial City.

Great King, Darius I (c. 558–c. 486 B.C.). The Persian emperor who tried to conquer Greece.


Hallam, Henry (1777–1859). English historian generally described as a "philosophical historian" because he fixed his attention on results rather than on persons.

Hastings, Warren (1732–1818). First governor-general of British India who planned the system of civil administration.

Helotism. A state of serfdom among the ancient Spartans. The helots paid their masters a fixed portion of the products of the ground they cultivated.

Herschel, Sir William (1730–1822). English astronomer; discoverer of the planet Uranus.

Horse leech, he [man] is the daughter of the. "The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give." (Prov. XXX:15.)

House of Bondage. Mentioned in the first of the ten commandments. (Exod. XX:2.)

House of Have and House of Want. Probably inspired by Cervantes’ Don Quixote. "There were but two families in the world, Have-much and Have-little."

Humboldt, Alexander von (1769–1859). German naturalist and traveler who laid the foundation of the sciences of physical geography and meteorology.
Hyder Ali (c 1722–1782), Mohammedan ruler and commander, Maharaja of Mysore; the most formidable Asiatic rival the British ever encountered in India.

Hyksos (Shepherd Kings). Early invaders of Egypt.

Hyndman, H. M. (1842–1921). A founder of British Socialism. On the outbreak of World War I he became a strong nationalist and, later on, an equally vehement anti-Bolshevik.

Inclosure of commons. The Statute of Merton, which became law in 1235, began the inclosure of the common lands of England. During the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI the inclosure was largely completed.

Ishmael, Son of Abraham and Hagar. He and his mother were cast out by Abraham and wandered in the desert. The boy grew up, as had been prophesied, a "wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him." (Gen. XVI:12.)

Jacob. Son of Isaac and Rebekah who bound himself to Laban in order to win the hand of Laban's daughter, Rachel. (Gen. XXV:26.)

Janissaries. A military force of the Ottoman Empire organized in the fourteenth century and suppressed in 1826 because of its unruliness. It was made up largely of children conscripted from Christian families and reared to be fierce warriors.

Koran. The sacred scripture of Islam.

Kubla Khan, sunny dome of. In an unfinished poem by Coleridge, reference is made to "A stately pleasure dome" built "Where Alph, the sacred river ran/Down to a sunless sea." Kubla (Kublai) Khan (1216–1294) founded the Mongol dynasty in China and was the first of his race to rise above the innate barbarism of the Mongols. He built and beautified Peking as his capital city.

Laban. See Jacob.

Lacs. forty. Lac is a Hindu word meaning mark or sign and refers to one hundred thousand; or, broadly, a very large amount.


Land Department, United States. A term growing out of an unsuccessful movement started in 1870's for the formation of an independent Department of Public Lands. A Land Office was started in 1785 as part of the federal treasury and handled the survey, classification and alienation of a billion or more acres of the public domain. Renamed the General Land Office in 1812, it was, in 1849, transferred to the Department of the Interior, where it has remained.

La Plata pampa. A treeless, grassy plain in Argentina.

Latimer, Hugh (c 1485–1555). Bishop and martyr who died at the stake in Oxford in 1555. One of the chief promoters of the Reformation in England. See also, "Play the man, Master Ridley!"

Lavelley, Emile Louis Victor de (1822–1892). Belgian political economist and political writer.

Lazarus. See Dives.

Lazzaroni of Naples. Homeless idlers who live by chance work and begging.

Leperos of Mexico. Similar to lazzaroni of Naples.

Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim (1729–1781). German dramatist and critic who in his last years engaged in bitter theological controversies against Pastor Goze of Hamburg and others.

Licinian law. A body of laws proposed by the Roman tribunes. Licinius Calvus Stolo and Lucius Sextius, and passed in 367 B.C. after a long obstructive contest. These laws curbed the evil of the Roman plebeians. It limited the use of slave labor on large estates and defined the area of public land which any individual might use.

Lucullus, Lucius Licinius (c 110–57 B.C.). Roman naval and military commander who retired as the wealthiest Roman of his time. Famous for his banquets. According to Plutarch, on an occasion when no guests were present, he demanded that the best of everything be served because "Tonight Lucullus dines with Lucullus."

Lycurgus (c 9th century B.C.). A Spartan legislator; the traditional author of the laws and institutions of Sparta.

Macauley, Lord Thomas Babington (1800–1859). English historian, essayist and politician. In a letter to Henry S. Randall, the biographer of Jefferson, written in 1837, he predicted that after her fertile and unoccupied land had been pre-empted, the laborers of the United States would know conditions of poverty such as then prevailed in England and that the nation would at such time destroy itself through its own democratic institutions. "The Huns and Vandals who ravaged the Roman empire came from without; your Huns and Vandals will have been engendered within your own country by your own institutions [because] . . . There is nothing to stop you. Your constitution is all sail and no anchor."

Maccabees. A revolutionary group led by Mattathias and his five sons, dominant in Jerusalem in the second century B.C. They fought against the tyranny of the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, were victorious, and then established a dynasty which ruled more or less tyrannically until Herod (40 B.C.).

Macedon, Caius Cinius (c 73–8 B.C.). Roman patron of letters; friend and patron of Horace and Virgil.
Magna Charta (Carta). Issued at Runnymede by King John in 1215, under compulsion from his barons. It laid a foundation for the security of English political and personal liberties.

Maine, Sir Henry James Sumner (1822–1888). English jurist and historian; author, *Ancient Law*, the object of which was "to indicate some of the earliest ideas of mankind as they are reflected in ancient law, and to point out the relation of those ideas to modern thought."

Malthus, Thomas Robert (1766–1834). English economist. His work, *An Essay on the Principle of Population as It Affects the Future Improvement of Society, with Remarks on the Speculations of Mr. Godwin, M. Condorcet and Other Writers*, published in 1798, influenced opinion in the first half of the nineteenth century. He believed that the realization of a happy society will always be hindered by the miseries consequent on the tendency of population to increase faster than the means of subsistence. A chance reading of Malthus' essay stimulated Charles Darwin to seek the key to biological change in the process of natural selection brought about by the struggle for existence.

McCulloch, John Ramsey (1789–1864). British economist and statistician. "Men with muckrakes." The text refers to a character in *Pilgrim's Progress* who spends his time raking muck and never sees the crown above his head.

Mather (metayage) system. The cultivation of land for a proprietor by one who receives a proportion of the produce. While it never existed in England, in certain provinces of Italy and France it was once almost universal and is still common. It is also practiced in the United States, Portugal, Greece and countries bordering on the Danube.

Mill, John Stuart (1806–1873). English philosopher, economist and author. He showed consistently that any despotism, however benevolent, must in fact cramp and destroy the development of any people. He was torn all his life between his passion for individual liberty and initiative, and his sense of the benefits of social control.

Mirabeau (the elder), Victor Riqueti, Marquis de (1715–1791). French author and economist; one of the Physiocrats. He believed that the means of subsistence are the limit of population.

Mohammed (Mehemet) Ali (1769–1849). Military commander, later Pasha or Viceroy of Egypt. Under his rule, in 1808, most of the land belonging to private individuals was confiscated in return for small pensions to the owners. By this revolutionary method of land "naturalization," Mehemet Ali became proprietor of nearly all the soil of Egypt. He also created for himself a monopoly in the chief products of the country, including dates. Using forced labor, and at the sacrifice of 20,000 of his slaves, he built the Mahmudiya canal between Alexandria and the Nile and then developed the cultivation of cotton in the Delta. He restored the port of Alexandria to a place of importance and re-established the overland transit of goods from Europe to India via Egypt.

Montesquieu, Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de la Brède et de (1689–1755). French philosophical historian who satirized the French social, political, ecclesiastical and literary follies of his day.

More, Sir Thomas (1478–1535). English lord chancellor; author of *Utopia*, and defender of the Roman Catholic faith. He was put to death for his refusal to renounce exiled authority and to sanction Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine. Later canonized.

"Mud-sills" of society. Persons of low social state or condition, so called because the mud still is the foundation timber of a structure, placed directly on the ground.

Nasse, Prof. Erwin (1829–1890). German economist; one of the early professorial Socialists, who insisted on the insufficiency of affording a free field to individual interests and on the necessity for the application of moral ideas.

Nightingale, Florence (1820–1910). English hospital reformer; heroine of the Crimean War.

Ormuzd (Ormazd, Ahura-Mazda). A symbolic figure in the religion taught by Zoroaster. The supreme deity, the principle of good, creator of the world and guardian of mankind; opponent of Ahriman, the spirit of evil.

Patenting of mineral land. A grant conveying the right to extract from a piece of land, the surface of which may or may not be owned by the patentee, such metals as gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, antimony and tin. Along the Atlantic seaboard, the original land grants included mineral as well as all other rights. Elsewhere, chiefly in the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific states, mineral rights are granted only after certain conditions affecting the exploration of the deposits have been fulfilled.

Patmos. The island on which St. John lived as an exile and where he saw the visions of the Apocalypse.

Perry, Prof. Arthur Latham (1830–7). American political economist.

Petroleuse. A woman who, during the fighting of 1871, took part in setting fire with kerosene many of the most magnificent buildings in Paris.

Physiocrats. See *Quesnay*. 

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Pickwick's stone. In Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* it is related that Mr. Pickwick finds a stone marker on which some letters are carved. He believes the letters to be part of an inscription of great antiquity. Then follows an amusing description of the reactions of learned societies, the ingenious and erudite speculations of their members, of rival controversies springing up as to the meaning of the inscription, without anyone solving the question; then, finally, of how they unite in reviling Mr. Blotter after he discovers that it has no historical significance but is simply the idle carvings of the cottager before whose home the stone was found.

Pillars of Hercules. Two promontories at the eastern end of the Strait of Gibraltar. It is fabled that Hercules set them there during his travels to find the oxen of Geryon.

Pisgah. The mountain, or mountaintop, east of the north end of the Dead Sea from which Moses viewed the Land of Promise.

Pitcairn Island. The island in the south Pacific settled by the mutineers from the *Bounty* in 1790.

Plantagenet, the. King John, who was of the House of Plantagenet. See also Magna Charta.

"Play the man, Master Ridley!" The words of Hugh Latimer to Nicholas Ridley as they walked toward the stake in Oxford where they were burned to death. "Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England as (I trust) shall never be put out."


Plutarch (c. A.D. 46-120). Greek biographer and moralist; author, *Parallel Lives*.

Poictiers (Poitiers). A village in France where, in 1356, the English, under the Black Prince, defeated the much greater forces of the French who were led by King John.

Pons asinorum (Lat.) "Bridge of asses." A term given to the fifth proposition of the first book of Euclid because students have so much trouble getting over it. A critical test of ability imposed upon the inexperienced or ignorant.

Preterian Guard. The Roman emperor's bodyguard, instituted by Augustus and consisting at first of nine and later of ten cohorts. This body came to have great power, making and unmaking emperors.


Priestley, Joseph (1733-1804). English chemist and nonconformist minister; author of many political tracts attacking his government's policy toward the American colonies.

Primogeniture, system of. The right of the eldest son, or eldest male relative, to take all the real estate of which the ancestor died seized and intestate, to the exclusion of all female and younger male descendants of equal degree. In England it is common for estates to be entailed so that the owner cannot, by will, change the line of succession.

Ptolemy, Claudius Ptolemaeus, of Alexandria. Celebrated mathematician, geographer and astronomer of the second century A.D.; author of the ancient doctrine that the sun, planets and stars revolve around the earth.

Public domain. As regards land, that held in the name of the people by the United States Government, with which it may sell or otherwise dispose of.

Quarter section. In the United States and Canada, a tract of land containing 160 acres.

Quesnay, Francois (1694-1774). French economist, once physician to the king. About 1750 he became acquainted with C. M. deGournay, and around these two men was formed the philosophic sect of the *Economistes* or *Physiocrates*. Its object was to exhibit by means of certain formulae the way in which the products of agriculture, considered to be the only source of wealth, would, in a state of perfect liberty, be distributed among the several classes of the community, and also to represent by other formulae the modes of distribution which take place under systems of governmental restraint and regulation, with the evil results arising from such violations of the natural order.

Rack-rent. An excessive or unreasonably high rent.

Ramayana. One of the two great epics of India which details the life and adventures of the hero, Ramachandra.

Reductio ad absurdum (Lat.). Reducing to the absurd. A method of proving a proposition by showing the absurdity of all of its alternatives, or of disproving it by showing the absurdity of its implications.

Ricardo, David (1772-1823). English economist who formulated the rent theory contributed earlier by Anderson and Petty. He was expert on the subjects of currency and banking. His chief work is *Principles of Political Economy*.


Rohillas. A tribe of Afghan marauders who, in the early eighteenth century, conquered a district of Hindustan, giving it the name of Rohilkhand.
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Roman peace. A peace imposed by the conqueror upon the conquered. Rothschilds. A family of bankers who acquired an unexampled position from the magnitude of their financial transactions.

Rousseau, Jean Jacques (1712–1778). French philosopher; known for his views on education, tyranny and equality. His most famous work is 'Social Contract; his masterpiece, Conessions'.

Ryot. In India, a peasant or cultivator of the soil.

Sagrista. The daer stock tenancy. Two forms of tenancy under early Irish law. Under the saer (free tenant) form, the tenant might hire stock animals from the "flath" (chief or noble) without surety and without impairing his status in the community. Under the daer (bond tenant) form, stock was borrowed under onerous conditions which degraded the tenant.

St. Gotthard (Gotthard) tunnel. A famous railway tunnel, nine miles long, under an Alpine pass.

Savonarola, Girolamo (1452–1498). Famous Italian moralist and reformer who was excommunicated, tortured and hanged.


Shang. The Shoo. A reference to the two most ancient books of China, the Shu Ching (Canon of History) and the Shih Ching (Canon of Odes). The Chinese emperor referred to is Shih Huang Ti (246 B.C.), by whose order the ancient books of China were burned.

Sieyes, Emmanuel-Joseph (1748–1836). French abbe and statesman; one of the chief theorists of the revolutionary and Napoleonic eras.

Silver, demonetization of. With a number of other nations, the United States for a time endeavored to maintain convertible currency based on both gold and silver specie, with the relative value of the two metals established by statute. The system had created difficulties and had in effect been suspended in the United States as early as the first half of the nineteenth century. During the Civil War, the federal government had issued large amounts of paper currency not redeemable in either gold or silver. Between 1873 and 1879, a number of acts were passed looking to the resumption of specie payments; that is to say, to the restoration of the right to receive from the treasury a fixed amount of a specified metal in exchange for a paper bill. Earlier moves away from the free coinage of silver and the use of silver coinage as legal tender were confirmed and strengthened by this series of acts, and by 1879 currency was again redeemable in gold. Members of Congress from the silver-producing states and states with heavily mortgaged farms dubbed this policy the "Crime of 1873," and the phrase was used by them to explain each of the economic depressions that followed.

Smith, Adam (1723–1790). Famous British economist. He taught logic and moral philosophy at Glasgow University and later took up the study of the science of political economy. His Wealth of Nations established the Classical School in the English-speaking world.

Social Statics. See Spencer, Herbert.

Solon (''Laugiver'') (c 638–c 588 B.C.). Athenian statesman whose law encouraging trade and manufacture laid the foundation of the commercial greatness of Athens.

Spencer, Herbert (1820–1903). English philosopher, founder of the system to which he gave the name 'synthetic philosophy.' Author of many works, including Social Statics.

Sphinx of Fate, riddle of the. According to legend, the Sphinx of Thebes proposed to all passers-by this riddle: What animal walks on four legs in the morning, two legs in the afternoon, three legs at night? Upon their failure to answer the riddle correctly, the Sphinx devoured them. Finally, Oedipus answered correctly, upon which the Sphinx destroyed itself.

Staël, Anne Louise Germaine de Holstein, Baronne de (1766–1817). French author, essays and leader in society; famous for her coterie.

Stanford. A wealthy American family. Leland Stanford, capitalist and politician, was the first president of the Central Pacific Railroad. He gave the Leland Stanford Junior University to California, with an endowment of about $20,000,000.

Stewart, Text reference is probably to Alexander Turney Stewart (1803–1876), an Irish-born American dry-goods merchant and capitalist who amassed great wealth.

Stoic Emperor. Marcus Aurelius. The quotation is from his Meditations.

Stuarts (Stewart, Steuart). Members of the royal family of Scotland, some of whom ascended the throne of England.

Surasiah Dowla (Siraj-ud-Daula). Nawab of Bengal who ordered 146 English prisoners thrown into the Black Hole of Calcutta in 1756. Heat and lack of air killed 123 of them within a few hours. He was defeated by Clive at Plassey in 1757.

Sutro Tunnel. A tunnel, named for its promoter, Adolph Sutro, built at Virginia City, connecting with and draining the mines of the Comstock Lode.

Suzerain. A feudal lord.

Swetchine, Madame Anne Sophie Sylomof (1782–1837). Russian mystic who settled in Paris after 1815 and
there maintained a salon famous for its high courtesy, intellectual brilliance and religious atmosphere.

Swift, Jonathan (1667–1745). British satirist. Author of many works, including Gulliver’s Travels and A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People from being a Burden to their Parents or the Country.


Timour’s (Timur) pyramid of skulls. Two pyramidal towers constructed by Tamerlane (1336–1405) with the skulls of his enemies slain during the battle of Takrit, cemented together with clay from the River Tigris. Upon the foundation stones he inscribed, “Be hold the fate of lawless men and evil doers.”

Tenancy-at-will. A tenancy which either landlord or tenant may terminate at any moment by the mere expression of the wish.

Teutonic mark. Common land. See Dit-marsh mark for one example.

Tibetan Pass. A Greek pass leading from Locris into Thessaly; famous for its heroic defense by the Spartan king, Leonidas, and his 300 soldiers, against the Persian army of Xerxes advancing from Greece in 480 B.C.

Third Estate. The common people. Clergy comprised the First Estate; nobles, the Second. A turning point in French history was reached when the Third Estate one day failed to remain bareheaded in the presence of the king.

Thornton, William Thomas (1813–1880). British writer. Secretary for public works in the India Office; author, Overpopulation and its Remedy, etc.

Titus, Flavius Sabinus Vespasianus (A.D. 40–91). Roman emperor who besieged Jerusalem and then captured it by attacking from the north, where the wall had not been completed.

Tocqueville, Alexis Charles Henri Maurice Clérel, Comte de (1805–1859). French statesman and political writer, famous for his report on his travels through the new United States.


Truce of God. An attempt of the church in the Middle Ages to alleviate the evils of private warfare.

Turgot, Anne Robert Jacques, Baron de Laune (1727–1781). French statesman, political economist and financier; student of Quesnay and one of the Physiocratic school. As the intendant of Limoges and controller-general of finance, he planned many beneficial reforms aimed toward abolishing feudal privileges, shifting taxes to fall on all classes equitably, securing liberty of trade and establishing a comprehensive system of public instruction. However, he was so bitterly opposed by the clergy and nobility that he was dismissed by the king in May, 1776.


Ulster tenant right. A check, imposed by custom in Ulster and elsewhere in Ireland upon the arbitrary raising of rent when the tenant’s term had expired.

Vanderbilt. An American family founded by Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794–1877). He amassed a great fortune by acquiring the controlling interest in many railroads and consolidating them into a single line, New York to Buffalo.

Vanity Fair. In Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, a year-long fair held in the town of Vanity. Hence, the world as a place where vanity and ostentation prevail.

Veda. The most ancient sacred literature of the Hindus.

Vere de Vere, Lady Clara. The typical cold, haughty aristocrat who is the subject of a poem by Tennyson.

Vested rights. Those rights which have become complete and consummated.

Village (villenage). A condition of serfdom among the peasantry during the Middle Ages. The serf was his lord’s slave, but was free in his legal relations with all others. Villeins appear to have had no rights as regards the lord except the right to his protection against their being maimed or killed. They could be sold or removed from the land at his will.


Vishnu. The second god of the Hindu Trimurti.


Wade, Benjamin Franklin (1800–1878). American statesman; member of the Senate from 1851 to 1869, first as an anti-slavery Whig and later as a Republican.

Wagner. The text reference is probably to Moritz Wagner (1813–1887). German traveler, naturalist and geographer, who wrote on evolution.


Walker, Francis Amasa (1840–1897). American soldier, economist and author. He so effectively combated the old theory of the “wage fund” as to lead to its abandonment or material
modification by American students. He was also an advocate of international bimetallism.


Wayland, Francis (1796–1865). American educator; advocate of temperance and of the abolition of slavery.

Wesley, John (1703–1791). English divine; founder of Methodism.


Westminster, Dukes of. The title was bestowed in 1831 upon Robert Grosvenor. Their lands include, today, some of the most fashionable sections of the West End of London.

Winkelried's bosom. Arnold von Winkelried, Swiss patriot, is said to have decided the Swiss victory at Sempach in 1386 by rushing toward the Austrians and grasping all the spears he could reach, burying them in his breast, thus making an opening in the enemy ranks into which the Swiss rushed, over his dead body.

Young, Arthur (1741–1820). English agriculturist and writer on agricultural economy.

Zemindars (zamindars). In countries under Mohammedan rule they were collectors of land taxes. Through extortions they became landowners.

Zend Avesta. The sacred Zoroastrian writings of ancient Persia.