**Mardi** – references
page numbers refer to Northwestern University Press edition (1998)

**Page 5**

**Bowditch**: book on nautical navigation

**Hamilton Moore**: author/compiler of the textbook/anthology, *The Young Gentleman and Lady's Monitor, and English Teacher's Assistant* (1802). According to his own insanely long subtitle, the book was meant to be “A COLLECTION OF SELECT PIECES FROM OUR BEST MODERN WRITERS; CALCULATED TO Eradicate vulgar Prejudices and Rusticity of Manners; Improve the Understanding; Rectify the Will; Purify the Passions; Direct the Minds of Youth to the Pursuit of proper Objects; and to facilitate their Reading, Writing, and Speaking the English language, with Elegance and Propriety. Particularly adapted for the use of our eminent Schools and Academies, as well as private persons, who have not an opportunity of perusing the Works of those celebrated Authors, from whence this collection is made. DIVIDED INTO SMALL PORTIONS, FOR THE EASE OF READING IN CLASSES.”

**Burton**: Robert Burton (1577-1640). English churchman and prose writer who was a passionate scholar with a consuming curiosity about every phase of learning: medicine, history, literature, science and theology. Except for a few minor pieces in Latin, he left only one work, *The Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621). This work is elaborately organized as a medical treatise, but it not only deals with various morbid mental states, their causes, symptoms and cures, but is a compendium of notable utterances of the human condition in general, compiled from classical, scholastic and contemporary sources.

**Black-eyed Susan**: a popular song written by English playwright John Gay in 1720. The singer of the song is a sailor who defends himself to his love, Susan, who has heard he has a lover in every port.

**Bill Marvel**

**Ned Ballad**

**Whistonian**: William Whiston (1667-1752). Wrote *A New Theory of the Earth* (1696), in which he claimed that the biblical stories of the creation, flood etc. could be explained scientifically as descriptions of events with historical bases. For example he claimed that the biblical flood was due to a comet hitting the Earth.

**Cachalot**: the sperm whale

**Page 6**

**Halidome**: something held sacred

**Oleaginous**: oily, unctuous

**Page 7**

**Newgate**: notorious London prison

**Bagatelle**: trifle, a small matter.

**Page 9**

**Priestly**: Joseph Priestly, English theologian and scientist. Priestley was a pioneer in the erection of chemistry into a science, in the investigation of gases, and the discovery of oxygen. In *Philosophical Necessity* (1777) he explained his theory called materialism. He had adopted the theory that matter consists only of points of force.

**Sir Anthony Absolute**: a character in *The Rivals* (1775), a comedic play by English playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Sir Absolute is an overbearing and meddling father whose role in the plot is to try to keep the romantic hero and heroine apart.
Malte Brun: Conrad MalteBrun (1775–1826). Danish geographer. Melville’s reference seems to be a complicated way of saying “the mapped known world.”

page 10
Doctors’ commons: formerly a self-governing teaching body of practitioners of canon and civil law. Located in London, it was similar to the Inns of Court, where English common law, rather than civil law, was taught.

page 14
Chesterfield: Philip Dormer Stanhope, Fourth Earl of Chesterfield (1694-1773). Statesman and man of letters, friends with Alexander Pope. Shorthand for the ideal 18th century English gentleman. He is also famous for trying to patronize Samuel Johnson’s *Dictionary of the English Language* after it had been completed. Johnson’s rebuke is famous: “Is not a patron, My Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a Man struggling in the water and when he has reached ground encumbers him with help?”

Sesotris: an Egyptian pharaoh

page 16
Manfred: (1817) A dramatic poem by Byron. The hero, Count Manfred, sells himself to the Prince of Darkness and lives wholly without human sympathies in the splendid solitude among the Alps.

Blanchard and Jeffries. French aeronaut, Jean Pierre Blanchard (1753-1809), and American physician, Dr John Jeffries (1744-1819), made the first aerial crossing of the English Channel (i.e. Dover, England to Calais, France) in a hydrogen balloon on 7 January 1785.

page 18
Mercator: Gerardus Mercator (1512 - 1594) a famous Flemish cartographer. First to use word “atlas” to describe collection of maps.

page 20
Janizary: A soldier of a privileged military class, which formed the nucleus of the Turkish infantry.

page 30
Geoffry Hudson: a famous English little person (b. 1619). Until he was 30, he was reportedly only 18 inches tall (then he supposedly suddenly grew to 45 inches). He was a popular and graceful courtier, and known for his courage in duels. He was accused of participation in the Papist Plot and imprisoned by his political enemies in the Gate House at Westminster, where he died in 1682 at the advanced age of sixty-three.

Cranmer: Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556). Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1553 he was persuaded to sign the dying request of Edward VI to give the crown to Lady Jane Grey. After Lady Jane’s brief reign and the accession of the Catholic Mary, Cranmer was sent to the Tower. He was burned at the stake for heresy in 1556.

page 31
Epaminondas: (c. 418-362 BC), was a Theban general and statesman, born about 418 BC of a noble but impoverished family. His title to fame rests mainly on his brilliant qualities both as a strategist and as a tactician; his influence on military art in Greece was of the greatest. He died from a wound in a battle that resulted in the capture of two important Greek cities.

page 39
ichthyology: branch of zoology that deals with fish

Sir Thomas Brown: (1605-1682) English writer, scholar and physician famous for his antiquarian scholarship. Also a lover of language and classical learning, and his sonorous,
stirringly cadenced prose style is rich in exotic coinages and striking images. Published *Vulgar Errors* in 1658.

**Pentateuch**: first five books of the Hebrew bible

**Dr. Faustus**: (1588), play by Christopher Marlowe in which Dr. Faustus sells his soul to the devil for knowledge.

**page 40**

**Essex**: a real-life ship that had reportedly been sunk by a vicious whale. Melville would later turn to this source material for *Moby Dick*.

**Hagar and Ishmael**: In the Old Testament, Hagar was the Egyptian servant of Abraham’s wife, Sarah. When Hagar bore Abraham a son, Ishmael, she grew haughty towards her mistress, who remained childless, but after the birth of Sarah’s son, Isaac, Hagar and Ishmael were cast out into the wilderness. On one occasion, when they were perishing of thirst, an angel of the Lord pointed out a spring of water in the desert, thereby saving their lives.

**page 41**

**Stanhope**: see note for “Chesterfield” for p. 14, above.

**Timon**: *Timon of Athens* (1607), a tragedy by Shakespeare. The title character, Timon falls on hard times financially and his friends desert him. In response, he leaves Athens and lives by himself in a cave, swearing off contact with humanity.

**Nimrod**: In the Old Testament, the son of Cush, famous for his exploits as “mighty hunter before the Lord” (Gen. 10:9).

**Wouvermans, Gudin, Isabey & Claude**: all European painters

**page 54**

**Webster**: Noah Webster (1758-1843). American lexicographer and author, in brief, author of first *American* dictionaries and grammar books (rather than English). In politics, he was an ardent partisan of Federalism, advocating the adoption of the Constitution and a strong federal government.

**Tamerlane**: Mongol conqueror, great grandson of Genghis Khan. *Tamburlaine the Great*, a tragedy in blank verse, was Christopher Marlowe’s first play. In it Tamburlaine becomes a bloodthirsty, inhuman villain, and the action consists of one atrocity after another.

**page 60**

**Sir Humphrey Davy**: (1778-1829) Cornish chemist, known for experimenting with gases. Invented a lamp used by miners, was first to iron-clad a ship; his lab assistant, Michael Faraday, went on to become more famous than his predecessor.

**page 63**

**Bishop Berkeley**: George Berkeley (1685-1753), Irish-born English bishop and philosopher. One of the earliest thinkers of the “idealist” school, and he denied the existence of matter. He maintained that to be is to be perceived; that is, nothing exists unless it perceives or is perceived.

**page 64**

**Elgin Marbles**: The Elgin Marbles is the popular term for the Parthenon Marbles, a large collection of marble sculptures brought to Britain between 1801 and 1805. They include some of the statuary from the pediments, the Meope panels depicting battles between the Lapiths and the Centaurs, as well as the Parthenon Frieze which decorated the horizontal course set above the interior architrave of the temple.

**Daniel**: A biblical hero whose deeds and prophesies are recorded in the Old Testament book of his name. He was cast into the den of lions but was divinely delivered; he successfully exercised
his gifts of “understanding” by interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s disquieting dreams, as well as the mysterious handwriting on the wall that disturbed the revelry of Belshazzar (Dan. 5:5).

_page 66_  
**Cid:** Originally an epic poem in Spanish, adapted by French playwright Pierre Corneille in 1637 into play of same name. The original medieval poem is notable for its simplicity and directness and for its exact, picturesque detail. El Cid is the model Castilian knight who fought both for and against the Moorish rulers, who at the time controlled much of the Iberian peninsula.

_page 75_  
**Marlborough and Belisarius:** Both were famous and skilled military officers (former, 17th-century England, latter, 6th-century Byzantine empire) who also reportedly had strong and domineering wives.

_page 78_  
**Nelson:** Horatio Nelson (1758-1805) was an English naval hero who, although he was victorious at the battle of Trafalgar, was fatally wounded. This passage continues to list great war heroes who were wounded in the pursuit of impressive military victories.

_page 79_  
**Edmund Burke:** (1729-1797). Irish-born English statesman and author, known for his orations in the House of Commons. Burke was sympathetic toward the American colonies and the Irish Catholics and was a strong enemy of the French Revolution.

_page 81_  
**Madame De Maintenon:** the second wife of French King Louis XIV. She was once a Protestant, but converted to Catholicism. It is believed that she vigorously promoted the persecution of the Protestants, and that she urged Louis XIV to revoke the Edict of Nantes (1598), which granted a degree of religious freedom to the Huguenots (the members of the Protestant Reformed Church).

_page 90_  
**Penthesilea:** In classical mythology, a queen of the Amazons. She was killed by Achilles when she came to the aid of the Trojans after the death of Hector. Her beauty and courage won for her a sincere lament from her slayer.

_page 92_  
**Load-Stone Rock:** a lodestone is a naturally occurring magnetic rock.

_page 94_  
**Camden:** William Camden (1551 - 1623) was an English antiquarian and historian. He wrote the first topographical survey of Britain and the first detailed historical account of the reign of Elizabeth I. Stowe also seems to be the name of an historian.

_page 97_  
**Alexander:** The son of Philip of Macedon, and conqueror of the civilized world. Bucephalus was his horse. Bucephalus was supposedly a terror, unable to be ridden and devouring the flesh of all who tried. Alexander, however, managed to tame him.

_page 105_  
**Thucydides:** (460-400 BC). An Athenian historian who wrote the history of the Peloponnesian War.

Black Prince Edward: (1330 -1376). He was the eldest son of Edward III of England and the father of Richard II. He was one of England's ablest military commanders in the Hundred Years War. His nickname probably was derived from the color of his armor.
Saladin: Saladin (1137 -1193) founded the ethnically Kurdish Ayubid dynasty of Egypt and Syria. He was also renowned in both the Christian and Muslim worlds for his leadership and military prowess tempered by his chivalry and merciful nature during the Crusades.

Otard: an expensive French cognac.

Joe Miller: a comic actor, whose name was attached, after his death, to a popular jest book published in 1739.

Orestes: A drama by Euripides. Orestes is tormented by the Furies (snaky-haired and hideous women who sprang from the blood of Uranus when he was castrated by his son, Cronos. They pursue and drive mad those who had committed crimes such as patricide) because he killed his mother.

Hafiz: (1300-1388) Persian poet known for his collection of complicated odes (ghazals).

Paracelsus: (1493 - 1541) was a famous Swiss alchemist, physician, astrologer, and general occultist. Paracelsus, sometimes called the "father" of toxicology, wrote: "The dose makes the poison." In other words, the amount of a substance a person is exposed to is as important as the nature of the substance.

Parry at the Pole: Sir William Edward Parry (1790–1855). British arctic explorer who discovered the entrance to the Northwest Passage and the way to the north magnetic pole. In 1827 he made an attempt to reach the North Pole but was forced to turn back mainly by the fatigue of his exploring party. He published three journals describing his quest for the passage as well as a narrative of his attempt to reach the pole.


Murat: Joachim Murat (1767 - 1815). French general, brilliant and dashing cavalry leader who played a crucial role in Napoleon’s victories.

Hero and Leander: the hero and heroine of a romantic Greek legend. Leander, who lived in Abydos, swam across the Hellespont (Mediterranean bay between two Greek peninsulas) every night to court Hero in Sestos.

Sanscrit...Champollion: French Egyptologist Jean François Champollion was one of the men to decipher the Rosetta Stone, which included some writing in Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language.

Eleusinian Mysteries: Ancient Greek religious rites in honor of the goddess Demeter and her daughter, Persephone. The secrets of the rites were so successfully guarded no one can say precisely what they were.

Ammonite: Ammonites are an extinct group of marine animals; their fossil shells have the form of flat spirals.

philippic: tirade
page 166
portmanteau: a large traveling bag

page 179
Hesperus: personification of the evening start, Venus
Golondas: (from India, famous for its diamonds); a rich mine, or more generally, a source of great wealth
sybil: The word comes (via Latin) from the ancient Greek word sibylla, meaning prophetess. The earlier oracular seeresses known as the sibyls of antiquity prophesied at certain holy sites, probably all of pre-Indo-European origin, under the divine influence of a deity, originally one of the chthonic earth-goddesses.

page 180
Sèvres: an often elaborately decorated French porcelain

page 181
Hetman of the Cossacs: Following the title of hetmans of Poland and Lithuania, at the end of 16th century commanders of the Cossacks were also called Hetmans (or atamans). From the time of the 1648 Bohdan Khmelnitsky uprising, Hetman was the head of the Cossack state. Cossack hetmans had very broad powers and acted as heads of the Cossack state, their supreme military commanders, the top legislators (by issuing administrative decrees).

page 182
Nimrod: see note, page 141

page 183
Gracci: The Gracchi were a noble plebeian family of ancient Rome.
Acepheli: is a term applied to several sects as having no head or leader. The name is also given to certain legendary races described by ancient naturalists and geographers as having no heads, their mouths and eyes being in their breasts
Levelers: The Levellers were a 17th century English political party, and were one of the largest factions on the Parliamentarian side during the English Civil War. The Levellers' political ambitions involved a remodelling of the English political process along the lines of a more egalitarian, less class-driven regime.
Nebuchadnezzar: Nebuchadnezzar (or Nebudchadrezzar) II (ca. 630 BC - ca. 562 BC), perhaps the best known ruler of Babylon in the Neo-Babylonian Dynasty. He is (in)famous for his conquests of Judah and Jerusalem, in addition to his monumental building within his capital of Babylon. He is sometimes called "Nebuchadnezzar the Great", but because of his destruction of temples in Jerusalem and the conquest of Judah, he was vilified in the Bible and the appellation of "Great" was difficult to survive.
Scone: a large village, a mile north of Perth, Scotland. The village was moved from its original position next to Scone Palace, ancient crowning place of the kings of Scotland, a mile east of where it stands now.
Rheims: Reims (English traditionally Rheims) is a city of north-eastern France, 98 miles east-northeast of Paris. Its history can be traced back to the Roman Empire.
oriflamme: a banner, symbol or ideal inspiring devotion of courage
Louis le Grand: Louis, the Grand Dauphin (le Grand Dauphin in French) (1661-1711) was the eldest son and heir of King Louis XIV of France, hence "dauphin".
Westminster: Westminster Abbey, The Collegiate Church of St. Peter in London, a mainly Gothic church, on the scale of a cathedral, is the traditional place of coronation and burial site for English monarchs.
Gabriel: appears first in the Book of Daniel in the Hebrew Bible. He is an archangel who serves as a messenger from God. The name Gabriel can mean "man of God", "God has shown himself mighty", or "hero of God."

Darius, Medes, Persians: Darius the Great the son of Hystaspes, Persian Emperor, from 521 to 485 BC. He ruled over Media and Persia, among other lands.

Bactria: was the ancient Greek name of the country between the range of the Hindu Kush (Caucasus Indicus) and the Amu Darya (Oxus), with the capital Bactra (now Balkh). To the east, it was bordered by the ancient region of Gandhara in the Indian subcontinent. Bactria's inhabitants spoke one of the Iranian languages. Today's Persians of Central Asia are their descendants.

Beau Brummel: George Bryan Brummell (1778 - 1840), better known as Beau Brummell, was an arbiter of fashion in Regency England and a friend of the Prince Regent. He led the trend for men to wear understated, but beautifully cut clothes, adorned with elaborately tied neckwear. He claimed to take five hours to dress, and recommended that boots be polished with champagne. His style of dress came to be known as dandyism.

Jupiter, Olympus: Jupiter is the Roman version of Zeus. Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece and in Greek mythology is the home of the Twelve Olympians, the principal gods in the Greek pantheon. The Greeks thought of it as built up with crystal mansions wherein the gods dwelt. It is the spiritual analogue of the Upper World of shamanic cosmology.

Sinai: Mt. Sinai is where Moses ascended to receive the Ten Commandments

Helots: were Peloponnesian Greeks who were enslaved under Spartan rule. Helots lived in their master's household but were owned by the state; unlike regular slaves, their master could not declare them free. They served as agricultural and domestic slaves, and sometimes military servants as well.

Ponce de Leon...fountain: Juan Ponce de León (c. 1460? - 1521) was a Spanish conquistador. He became the first Governor of Puerto Rico by appointment of the Spanish Crown. He is known as the first European known to have visited Florida. In this exploration, he was searching for the Fountain of Youth.

Mausolus: was ruler of the Persian empire and practically ruler of Caria (377-353/352 BC). He is best known from the tomb erected for him by his sister and widow Artemisia. The architects Satyrus and Pythis, and the sculptors Scopas, Leochares, Bryaxis and Timotheus, finished the work after her death, for the honor and glory of the work. The name of the "Mausoleum" came to be used generically for any grand tomb. Its site and a few remains can still be seen in the Turkish town of Bodrum.

vile dragon's molars: In Greek myth, dragon's teeth feature prominently in the legends of the Phoenician prince Cadmus and Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece. In each case, the dragon's teeth, once planted, would grow into fully-armed warriors.

witch of Endor: In the Hebrew Bible, the Witch of Endor of the First book of Samuel, chapter 28:4–25, was a witch, a woman "who possesses a talisman", through which she called up the ghost of the recently deceased prophet Samuel, at the demand of King Saul of Israel.

King Saul: see above note
**Banquo**: a character in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*. Macbeth murders Banquo, on route to becoming king, and Banquo returns to haunt him in the famous banquet scene.

**Purchas**: Samuel Purchas (1575?-1626), was an English travel writer, a near-contemporary of Richard Hakluyt. In 1613 he published the first volume of his *Pilgrimes* series. The last of these, *Hakluytus Posthumus* is a continuation of Hakluyt's Principal Navigations and was partly based on manuscripts left by Hakluyt.

**Hakluyt**: Richard Hakluyt (1552 -1616) was an English writer, famous for his Voyages which provided William Shakespeare and others with material. Entering Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1570, "his exercises of duty first performed," he set out to read all the printed or written voyages and discoveries that he could find. As a result of his research, he wrote and published, in 1582, his *Divers Voyages Touching the Discoverie of America and the Ilands Adjacent unto the Same, Made First of all by our Englishmen and Afterward by the Frenchmen and Britons*. He went on to produce *The Principall Navigations, Voiajes and Discoveries of the English Nation*… in 1589, using eye-witnes accounts as far as possible.

**Thevenot**: Jean de Thevenot (1633-1667); French traveller in the East, was born in Paris. He travelled to (and then wrote and published about) Greece, Egypt and many of the areas that now make up the Middle East.

**Ramusio**: Ramusio, Giambattista. (1485-1557), Italian editor and compiler. He is remembered for his monumental *Delle navigationi e viaggi* (1550-59), a collection of geographical accounts of explorations. This work provides many of the extant accounts of early voyages of exploration; it includes a fine edition of Marco Polo's account and an early description of Magellan's circumnavigation.

**De Bry**: Theodor De Bry, German engraver and translator. He translated various account of the New World and his books are mainly famous for the elaborate engravings they contained.

**Gaudentio di Lucca**: allegedly an 18th-century explorer who published about his extensive travels in Africa, but these writings have been attributed to an Englishman, Simon Berington.

**Nero**, etc. Long paragraph of wonders of classical and medieval architecture and engineering. Also included are “natural” wonders, such as Virginia’s Natural Bridge. If you didn’t already get the point, Rome was not built in a day.

**Aldebaran**: The star Aldebaran is the brightest star in the constellation Taurus. Astrologically, Aldebaran was a fortunate star, portending riches and honor. This star is one of the four "royal stars" of the Persians from around 3000 BC. In the religion of Stregheria, Aldebaran is a fallen angel and quarter guardian of the eastern gate.

**Noah’s dove**: After the flood, Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had subsided – it was supposed to bring back evidence that there was land nearby.

**Alarics**: the name of several powerful Goth kings; Alaric I is the first Germanic leader to conquer Rome.

**Aspasia**: (c. 469 BC- c. 406 BC) was the mistress of Pericles. Although she lived in Athens, she was not from there, having been born in Miletus. Being a foreigner, she could not legally marry an Athenian. Aside from her foreign birth, she was also a “hetaira,” essentially a high-
class prostitute or courtesan, who could not marry Athenian citizens. These laws were established by Pericles and his predecessors before he met Aspasia. However, Pericles thought so much of her beauty and talents that he considered her his wife and she lived with him until his death.

page 244
Solyman: also Suleiman. Sultan of the Ottoman empire in the mid-16th-century.

page 246
arva-root: From Ch 23 in Typee, in case you’ve forgotten: 'Arva' is a root very generally dispersed over the South Seas, and from it is extracted a juice, the effects of which upon the system are at first stimulating in a moderate degree; but it soon relaxes the muscles, and exerting a narcotic influence produces a luxurious sleep.

page 251
donjon: another way to spell “dungeon”
Verres: Gaius Verres (c. 120–43 BC), was a Roman magistrate, notorious for his misgovernment of Sicily.
Carmelites: an order of Roman Catholic monks founded in the 12th century
Gloster Richard: King Richard III (subject of Shakespeare’s Richard III) who was known for, among other things, his physical deformity, often represented as a humpback. He also imprisons two of his nephews (and heirs to the crown) in the Tower of London so he can be king.
Phidias: (or Pheidias), son of Charmides, (circa 490 BC - circa 430 BC) was an ancient Greek sculptor, universally regarded as the greatest of Greek sculptors.
John Caspar Lavater: (actually Johann Kaspar Lavater) (1741 - 801) Swiss poet and physiognomist.
Merovingians: a dynasty of Frankish kings who ruled a frequently fluctuating area in parts of present-day France and Germany from the 5th to 8th century AD. They were sometimes referred to as the "long-haired kings" by contemporaries, though the significance of their long hair is not clear.

page 257
Rhine and Rhone: two major rivers in Europe
Tokay: Originally, it was the Anglicized name for the famed wines of Tokaji

page 258
Nimrod: see note, page 41

page 259
Alexander: see note, page 97
Cambyses: Cyrus the Great, conquered Babylon in the 6th century.

page 269
Montbars: a famous French pirate, born 1667. Nicknamed “the Exterminator.”
L’Ollonias: another French pirate
Bartolomeo: “el Portugues” (active 1660's - 1670's). Famous for his lucky escapes, this Portuguese buccaneer was one of the first to be based in Jamaica. His luck finally ran out in a shipwreck.
Peter of Dieppe: The first Pirate that was known upon the Island of Tortuga was named Pierre le Grand, or Peter the Great. He was born at the town of Dieppe, in Normandy.
kidney: sort or kind, especially with regard to temperament

page 282
manikin: a little man, sometimes means dwarf or pygmy
Daniel Lambert: (1770, 1809) was an English man who became nationally famous for his obesity. When he died he weighed 739 pounds.

St. Anthony: Saint Anthony of Padua, also venerated as Anthony of Lisbon, particularly in Portugal (1195 - 1231) is a Catholic saint born in Lisbon. He is said to have been an eloquent preacher with a loud and clear voice, so lovely even the fish liked to listen to him.

Nineveh: (Assyrian city of "Ninua") was an important city in ancient Assyria, lying within the area of the modern city of Mosul in Iraq. This "exceeding great city" as it is called in the Book of Jonah, lay on the eastern bank of the Tigris, along which it stretched for some 50 kilometres (30 miles), having an average breadth of 20 km (10 mi) or more from the river back toward the eastern hills. This whole extensive space is now one immense area of ruins.

St. Paul: Paul of Tarsus (originally Saul of Tarsus) or Saint Paul the Apostle (fl. 1st century AD) is considered by many Christians to be the most important disciple of Jesus, and next to Jesus the most important figure in the development of Christianity. I'm not quite sure why Melville describes him as a warrior here – maybe a metaphor for his importance and strength?

Milton: famous English poet, author of the epic poem, Paradise Lost (1667).

Athanasius of Alexandria (also spelled "Athanasius") was a Christian bishop of Alexandria in the fourth century. He is revered as a saint by both the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Before reaching the age of 20, Athanasius wrote a treatise entitled On the Incarnation, affirming and explaining that Jesus was both God and Man.

Thomas: Saint Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, was not present when the resurrected Christ first appeared to his disciples. Until he had seen for himself the wounds of Jesus' Crucifixion, Thomas refused to believe in the Resurrection. When Jesus appeared again, he instructed Thomas to touch the nail holes in his hands and feel the gash in his side. Finally, "Doubting Thomas" believed.

And then, courtesy of Prof. Julia Walker, a suggestion of how these comparisons can be read: Milton was absolute (at least in Paradise Lost) in his insistence that the Son pre-existed any earthly creation. Somewhere in Book 5 God says "this day I begat my only son," but the nature of this begat is problematized by the fact that the entity (the Son) was already there and implicitly always had been. It's his elevation that pisses off Lucifer and starts the war in heaven. Short summary: the Son of God is part of God and also named by God; the Son is not called Jesus until he comes down to earth; he's born of Mary, but Milton ignores the theology of incarnation, at least in relation to the mechanics of it. Milton isn't a trinitarian, so there's only God and the Son. Athanasius and other patristics used metaphors such as torch/radiance, fire/light, fountain/stream to get at the relationship. But Milton sweeps these aside and goes for the essential one-ness of God and the Son. Maybe this is why Melville thought his faith exceeded that of Athanasius, because it's so Platonically abstract and absolute?

Tyre: is an ancient Phoenician city in Lebanon on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It was captured after the First Crusade and was one of the most important cities in the Kingdom of Jeruselum.
Gomorrah: Sodom was the chief town of a group of five towns on the plain of the Jordan River in an area that constituted the southern limit of the lands of the Canaanites (Genesis 10:19). Lot, a nephew of Abram (Abraham) chose to live in the city. According to the Bible, both Sodom and Gomorrah — called as a group The Cities on the Plain — were destroyed by God for their sins. Opinions differ as to what the sin actually was.

Deluge: Noah’s flood

Manetho: Manetho or Manethon of Sebennytos, (ca. 3rd century BC) was a Hellenistic Egyptian historian and a priest of Serapis in Heliopolis during the reigns of Ptolemy I and Ptolemy II. His works were lost over the centuries, except for what was quoted in works of later authors.

Diocletian: Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletian (245-313 AD/CE), born Diocles, was Roman Emperor from November 20, 284 to May 1, 305. In 305, Diocletian retired to his palace near the administrative center of Salona on the Adriatic Sea. The palace later became the seed of modern Split, Croatia. He was the only Roman emperor to remove himself from office; all of the others either died of natural causes or were removed by force.

Charles the Fifth: Charles (1500 – 1558) was Holy Roman Emperor (as Charles V) from 1519-1558; he was also King of Spain from 1516-1556, officially as Charles I of Spain, although often referred to as Charles V (“Carlos Quinto” or “Carlos V”) in Spain and Latin America. In 1556 Charles abdicated his various positions, giving his personal empire to his son, Philip II of Spain, and the Holy Roman Empire to his brother, Ferdinand. Charles retired to the monastery of Yuste (Extremadura, Spain) and is thought to have had a nervous breakdown.

Isabella: Queen Isabella (along with King Ferdinand) of Spain, funded Columbus’s voyages to the west

Charter oak, Hartford: white oak tree that until 1856 stood in Hartford, Conn., and was thought to be 1,000 years old. There is a tradition that when Sir Edmund Andros, as governor-general of New England, demanded (1687) that the charter of Connecticut be surrendered by the colonists at Hartford, the document was hidden in a hollow of the tree.

Goffe and Whalley: both were 17th century Englishmen, both followers of Oliver Cromwell, and so took part in bringing King Charles I to trial and finally executing him.

Mohawk masks, Old Commonwealth, Souchong: references to the Boston Tea Party, which of course was part of the boycott of British products, including tea, and an important event leading up to the American Revolution.

Vailed Persian Poet: the leader of a heretical movement in 8th century Persia. He was called al-Muqanna (The Veiled One) because he always covered his face. Some say it was covered by a gold mask, others say it was a green silk veil. His followers claimed that he covered his face because he claimed it was too luminous for mortals to see, while his opponents claim that he was bald, one-eyed, and outright ugly, and therefore took that veil to hide his appearance. Moreover, he claimed to be the incarnation of God

the man in the iron mask: is a myth that developed after the death of a mysterious prisoner in the Bastille prison on November 19, 1703. From then on, the identity of this man has been thoroughly discussed, mainly because no one ever saw his face, hidden by a black velvet mask (not iron as later fiction claimed).

Junius: the pseudonym of a writer who contributed a series of letters to the London Public Advertiser, from January 21, 1769 to January 21, 1772. The letters all contained attacks on the government.

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Bruce: James Bruce (1730 - 1794) was a Scottish traveller and travel writer. After various travels in Europe he set out in 1768 on his expedition to Abyssinia, and in 1770 reached the source of the Blue Nile. He returned to Britain in 1774, and in 1790 published his Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile. His notorious vanity, the singular adventures he related, and the generally embellished character which he imparted to his narrative excited some degree of scepticism, and he was subjected to a good deal of satire, to which, though much annoyed, he did not reply. It is generally recognised that he had shown great daring, perseverance, and zeal in his explorations, and that he made a real addition to the geographical knowledge of his day. For example, he did claim that Abyssianians cut raw meat from the side of live cows to eat.

Baron Munchausen: Karl Friedrich Hieronymus, Baron von Münchhausen (May 11, 1720 - February 22, 1797) was a German nobleman who in his youth was sent to serve as page to Anton Ulrich and later joined the Russian military. He served until 1750, in particular taking part in two campaigns against the Turks. Returning home, Munchhausen supposedly told a number of outrageous tall tales about his adventures.

cousin-german: full cousin; Melville probably just means “related,” figuratively

Abyssinians: Ethiopians

Mandeville: Jehan de Mandeville ("Sir John Mandeville"), the name claimed by the compiler of a singular book of travels, written in French, and published between 1357 and 1371. By aid of translations into many other languages it acquired extraordinary popularity, while a few interpolated words in a particular edition of an English version gained for Mandeville in modern times the spurious credit of being "the father of English prose."

Gehenna: Originally it referred to a garbage dump in a deep narrow valley right outside the walls of outside Jerusalem (in modern-day Israel) where fires were kept burning to consume the refuse and keep down the stench. It is also the location where bodies of executed criminals, or individuals denied a proper burial, would be dumped.

Sir John: see note for “Mandeville” above

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thews: muscles, sinews

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nettles: a plant with long hairs that sting when touched by the skin; nettles have been known to kill horses and dogs.

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pontiff: pope

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Maramma is meant to be a representation of the Vatican.

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Laocoön: son of Acoetes, was allegedly a priest of Poseidon (or of Apollo, by some accounts) at Troy; he is famous for warning the Trojans in vain against accepting the Trojan Horse from the Greeks, and for his subsequent divine execution (sea serpents were sent to strangle him and his sons).

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Ahasuerus: Probably to be identified with Xerxes I (486-465 BCE), who is mentioned by the Greek historian Herodotus. As portrayed in the bok of Esther, Ahasuerus oscillated between the threat of a holocaust at the instigation of Haman, followed by protection of the Jews throught the intervention of his Jewish queen Esther. The story is fictitious and written to provide an account of the origin of the feast of Purim.
Danae: In Greek mythology, was a daughter of King Acrisius of Argos and mother of Perseus by Zeus. Zeus came to her in the form of rain or a shower of gold, and impregnated her.

Bruce: see note for p. 298

Bannockburn: Bannockburn is a village immediately south of the city of Stirling in Scotland. It is named after the Bannock Burn, a stream running through the village before flowing into the River Forth.

Andes: mountain range in South America

Alps: mountain range in Europe

Amazon, Orinoco: rivers in South America

Parthians: a member of the Parni tribe, a nomadic Iranian people thought to have spoken an Iranian language, who arrived at the Iranian plateau from Central Asia. They were consummate horsemen, known for the 'Parthian shot' turning backwards at full gallop to loose an arrow directly to the rear.

frigate: a coastal defense ship that of 5000 to 7000 tons that is smaller than a cruiser and larger than a destroyer.

Himmaleh: used here as an adjective for size, probably refers to the Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world, located in Asia.

Anacreon: (born c. 570 BC) was a Greek lyric poet, notable for his hymns.

Hafiz: Hafiz or Hafez is a term used by Muslims for people who have completely memorised the Koran. Those who are entitled to use the word are tested for the accuracy of their recall by being asked to continue the reading of a passage taken randomly from the Qur'an.

Canute: is the name of several kings of medieval Denmark, two of whom reigned also over England during the first half of the 11th century.

Ossian: is a legendary warrior bard who appears as the narrator in the Celtic legends of Fionn mac Cumhail. These tales were known as the Fenian Cycle or the Ossianic Cycle and make up one of the four great cycles of Celtic mythology and legend. They were supposed to have taken place during the 3rd century AD.

Waller: probably Edmund Waller, (1606-1687), English poet known for the smoothness and harmony of his verse.

Petrarch: Italian poet and scholar, and a major force in the development of the Renaissance and European culture generally.

Prior: Matthew Prior (1664-1721), English poet and diplomat, known chiefly for his epigrams, satires and “society” verse.

Montaigne: (1533-1592), French moralist and creator of the personal essay. Known for his skepticism.

Julian the Apostate: (Flavius Claudius Julianus, AD 331-363). Roman emperor, nephew of Constantine the Great. Although educated in monastic schools, he renounced Christianity when he became emperor and attempted to reinstate polytheism.

Augustine: St. Augustine, early Christian father and philosopher. His Confessions vividly record his spiritual experiences and development.

Thomas-a-Kempis: German monk and writer, regarded as the author of Imitation of Christ, a treatise which has been enormously influential on Christianity and explores the inner life and the value of contemplation.
Zeno: either Zeno of Elea (490 BC? – 430 BC?) was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher and called by Aristotle the inventor of the dialectic, he is best known for his paradoxes. OR Zeno of Citium (The Stoic) (333 BC-264 BC) was a Hellenistic philosopher whose teachings were the beginning of Stoicism.

Democritus: was a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher (born at Abdera in Thrace around 460 BCE; lived to be very old and died in 370 BCE). Democritus is also the first philosopher we know who realized that what we perceive as the Milky Way is the light of distant stars. Other philosophers, including later Aristotle, argued against this. Democritus was among the first to propose that the universe contains many worlds, some of them inhabited.

Pyrrho: Pyrrho (c360 BC - c270 BC), a Greek philosopher from Elis, is usually credited as being the first skeptic philosopher and is the founder of the school known as Pyrrhonism.

Plato: (427-348 BC), Greek philosopher and prose writer; he turned toward philosophy in search of an alternative to the unstable and unjust public life of the time. He also sought unity behind the changing impressions of the visible universe.

Proclus: (c410-485), Greek Neoplatonic philosopher, presented the fullest systemization and extension of the Neoplatonic position.

Verulam: another name for Francis Bacon, an English philosopher, statesman and essayist. He was violently oppose to speculative philosophies and syllogistic quibbling; instead, he argued the only knowledge of importance to man was empirically rooted.

Zoroaster (also Zarathustra): founder (in about 1000 BC) of the Perso-Iranian national religion. The theology is fundamentally dualistic.

Mungo Park: Mungo Park (September 20, 1771 - 1806) was a Scottish explorer of the African continent.

Bajazet: is the name of two sultans of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey.

Bacchus: another name for Dionysius, the Thracian god of wine, represents not only the intoxicating power of wine, but also its social and beneficent influences. He is viewed as the promoter of civilization, a lawgiver, and lover of peace — as well as the patron deity of both agriculture and the theater.

Virgil: Publius Vergilius Maro (October 15, 70–19 BC) known in English as Virgil or Vergil, Latin poet, is the author of the Eclogues, the Georgics, and the Aeneid, this last being a narrative poem in twelve books that is deservingly called the Roman Empire's national epic.

Philip Sidney: Sir Philip Sidney (1554 - 1586) became one of the Elizabethan Age's most prominent figures. Famous in his day in England as a poet, courtier and soldier, he remains known as a writer of sonnets.

oriel: a large bay window projecting from a wall and supported by a bracket

Mississippi, etc. All major American rivers named here.

many satellites, etc. reference to Copernicus, Polish astronomer, who was the first to suggest that our solar system was heliocentric – that is, the planets revolved around the sun rather than everything revolving around the Earth. This idea is considered one of the most important discoveries ever, and inaugurated the Scientific Revolution.

Bactrian: Bactria (Bactriana) was the ancient Greek name of the country between the range of the Hindu Kush (Caucasus Indicus) and the Amu Darya (Oxus), with the capital Bactra (now Balkh). To the east, it was bordered by the ancient region of Gandhara in the Indian subcontinent. Bactria's inhabitants spoke one of the Iranian languages. Today's Persians of Central Asia are their descendants.
Erostratus: Herostratus was a young man who set fire to the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus (currently Turkey territory) in his quest for fame on July 21, 356 B.C.

Genghis Khan: was a remarkable military leader who conquered some of Asia, and his successors expanded much further. As the first Great Khan of the Mongol Empire, he is regarded as the founding father of Mongolia, admired by almost all Mongolians. He is also considered a military and political genius.

Cambyses: Cambyses II (Persian Kambujia) was the name borne by the son of Cyrus the Great, known for conquering Babylon and Egypt.

Xenophon: Xenophon (circa 427-355 B.C.) was an Athenian citizen, an associate of Socrates, a Philodorian and is known for his writings on Hellenic history and culture.

Eagles devour: perhaps a reference to Proverbs 30:17: The eye that laughs to scorn a father, and dishonours the old age of a mother, let the ravens of the valleys pick it out, let the young eagles devour it.

Dionysius: probably Dionysius (c. 432-367 BC), tyrant of Syracuse, began life as a clerk in a public office, but by courage and diplomacy succeeded in making himself supreme.

Hind: archaic word for English peasant farmer

Versailles: French royal palace

Hydra: in Greek mythology, a many-headed serpent which Heracles defeated.

Pan: Pan is the Greek god who watches over shepherds and their flocks. He has the hindquarters, legs, and horns of a goat, in the same manner as a satyr, and is one of the deities within the archetype of the Horned God. He is famous for playing on his pan pipes.

Marshall Ney: (1769 - 1815) called Le Rougeaud ("the ruddy") and le Brave des Braves ("the bravest of the brave") was a marshal of the French army who had fought in the French Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic Wars (which included the battle at Waterloo).

Anglesea: bizarrely, the Napoleonic wars played their part in prosthetics development, mostly in France and in England. Lord Uxbridge, Wellington’s cavalry officer at Waterloo became the wearer an above knee prosthesis that became known as the Anglesea Leg after the island of Anglesea where Uxbridge resided after the war.

Howitzer: a short cannon used to fire projectiles

Ambergris: a waxy substance found floating in or on the shores of tropical waters, believed to originate in the intestines of a sperm whale.

Belzoni: Giovanni Battista Belzoni. (1778-1823). Giovanni Battista Belzoni was an engineer and an explorer of Egyptian antiquities.

Bologna: exactly what is says – bologna, the meat.

Stilton, Cheshire: pungent English cheeses

Logan: probably a reference to Tah-gah-jute (~1725-1780), sometimes known as Chief Logan or James Logan, was a Mingo chief in the pre-Revolutionary War era, who had befriended the white settlers. He is betrayed by whites into giving up tribal lands and he refuses to be part of a peace. Having seen his entire family murdered, he ended with the chilling statement: "Who is there to mourn for Logan? No one."
Luxor: Luxor is a city in Upper (southern) Egypt. It has often been called the "world's greatest open air museum", with the ruins of the temple complex at Karnak, Luxor Temple, and the monuments, temples and tombs on the West Bank of the Nile, including the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens.

Tadmor: Tadmor a city built by Solomon "in the wilderness" (2 Chr. 8:4).

Palenque: a Mayan archeological site not far from the Usumacinta River in the state of Chiapas, Mexico; it contains some of the finest architecture, sculpture, and stucco reliefs the Mayans produced.

Piaggio, Herculanean: The ancient city Herculaneum lay under tons of volcanic debris for hundreds of years. Then, in 1752, the rulers of the time commissioned a dig and, through a series of tunnels, partially excavated the Villa of the Papyri. Wonderful works of art, including portraits of philosophers and orators, dazzled the explorers, who at first thought the papyrus rolls were just thick sticks of charcoal because they were so completely carbonized. Between 1800 and 2000 papyri were discovered. The daunting task of trying to unroll the scrolls and decipher the writing began in earnest. But the going was excruciatingly slow. Father Antonio Piaggio built a machine in 1756 to unroll the papyrus without its crumbling. But it took about four years to unfurl just one roll.
**philosopher's stone**: a longtime "Holy Grail" of Western alchemy, is a mythical substance that supposedly could turn inexpensive metals into gold and/or create an elixir that would make humans immortal.

**Ahithophel**: "brother of insipidity or impiety", a man greatly renowned for his sagacity. At the time of Absalom's revolt he deserted David (Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14) and espoused the cause of Absalom (2 Sam. 15:12).

**Machiavel**: Niccolò Machiavelli (1469—1527) was an Italian political philosopher during the Renaissance. His most famous book, *Il Principe* (The Prince), was a work intended to be an instruction book for rulers. Published after his death, the book advocated the theory that whatever was expedient was necessary.

**Greenwich**: a port southeast of London on the Thames river

**Waterloo pensioners**: the soldiers who had fought in the battle of Waterloo

**clavicle**: bone which connects shoulder to front of chest

**ulna**: one of the two bones in the forearm

**Kenilworth**: is a town in Warwickshire, England. It is perhaps best known for its castle (Melville calls it “baronial barn.”)

**Queen Bess**: Queen Elizabeth

**Leicester**: The Earl of Leicester -- the earldom was created for Queen Elizabeth I's favourite, Robert Dudley. Since Dudley died without heirs, the title became extinct at his death. Queen Elizabeth also granted a royal charter to the city of the same name (and where the “earls of” live). The motto of the city is "Semper Eadem." It means "always the same". The crest on top of the arms is a white or silver legless dragon with red and white wounds showing, on a wreath of red and white.

**Pharsalia**: In 48 B.C. following his defeat at Dyrrhachium, Julius Caesar faced Pompey in a decisive battle named Pharsalus for the location, which was in Greece. Julius Caesar had about 22,000 men and Pompey had twice that, but Caesar still won, losing only about 250 men. 24,000 of Pompey's men surrendered; the rest were dead or had fled the battle.

**Pompey**: Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, known in English as Pompey (106 BC –48 BC) was a Roman general and politician who was defeated by Caesar and murdered in Egypt.

**Sebastiano**: an Italian Renaissance painter who was friends with Michaelangelo

**tiffin**: lunch

**Diodorus**: a famous Greek historian (Melville is using this to playfully refer to Mohi, the resident historian).

**Dominora**: this island is meant to represent England for Melville. His descriptions of Dominora include its land-greedy king, Bello. At this point in the 1840’s (in the real world outside the novel), Queen Victoria is in power in England (and will be until 1901), but she was preceded by 5 English kings, four Georges (who collectively rule from 1714-1830) and one William (1830-1837).
**Porpheero**: is meant to represent Europe, Franko is France, Ibeereea is Spain/Portugal, Latianna is Italy, etc.

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**Vivenza**: is meant to suggest the U.S.

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**Arcturus**: In astronomy, it is the third brightest star in the nighttime sky at magnitude −0.05, after Sirius and Canopus. It is the second brightest star visible from northern latitudes and the brightest star in the northern celestial hemisphere.

**St. John**: John the Baptist (also called John the Baptizer or John the Dipper) is regarded as a prophet by at least three religions: Christianity, Islam, and Mandaeanism. According to the Gospel of Luke, he was a relative of Jesus.

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**sangredo**: literally, “bleeder;” doctors were often referred to this way in the nineteenth century (“leech” is also common) because this was one of their treatments for the ill.

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**Jason**, etc. In Greek mythology, the Argonauts were a band of heroes who, in the years before the Trojan War, accompanied Jason to Colchis in his quest for the Golden Fleece. They sailed the ship the Argo – hence their name, which literally means "Sailors of the Argo".

**Aeneas** or Aineas, is a legendary or mythical character. He was a famous Trojan hero, son of king Anchises and the goddess Aphrodite, and one of the most important figures in Greek and Roman legendary history. Virgil's epic the Aeneid, arguably the greatest literary epic of the Roman era, recounts the journey of Aeneas following Troy's destruction to found the city that would eventually become Rome. Prior to Virgil's work Aeneas was known as a minor character in Homer's Iliad.

**Cleopatra**, etc. Cleopatra VII of Egypt, last of the Ptolemaic rulers of Egypt, lover of Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, and the subject of several plays (including one by Shakespeare)

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**Xerxes**: see note for p. 362

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**Great Bear**, etc: this paragraph is filled with references to stars and constellations

**Ptolemy**: Greek geographer, astronomer, astrologer, who came up with the geocentric (earth-centered) model of the solar system; his numbers were close enough to being correct that his model was used until supplanted by Copernicus’s ideas.

**Vesuvius**, etc. Mount Vesuvius (Italian: Monte Vesuvio) is a volcano east of Naples, Italy, The mountain is notorious for its destruction of the Roman city of Pompeii in AD 79; it has erupted many times since and is today regarded as one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world.

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**Ham**: a reference to one of the biblical justifications for slavery. It is based on Genesis 9:25-27. According to the Bible, the worldwide flood had concluded and there were only 8 humans alive on earth: Noah, his wife, their six sons and daughters in law. Noah's son Ham had seen "the nakedness of his father." So, Noah laid a curse -- not on Ham, who was guilty of some type of indiscretion. The sin was transferred to Noah's grandson Canaan. Such transference of sin from a guilty to an innocent person or persons is unusual in the world's religious and secular moral codes. It is normally considered highly unethical. However, it appears in many biblical passages. The curse extended to all of Canaan's descendants: Genesis 9:25-27: "Cursed be Canaan! The
lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers. He also said, 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japeth live in the tents of Shem and may Canaan be his slave'. " Christians traditionally believed that Canaan had settled in Africa. The dark skin of Africans became associated with this "curse of Ham."

wag: joker

**page 515**
St. Peter: St. Peter’s Basilica, in Rome
Saturnina: probably a reference to the adjective “saturnine,” meaning a gloomy or sullen disposition.
Gall and Spurzheim: two eighteenth-century German physicians who believed that the mental characteristics of a brain can be understood by measuring the physical characteristics of a skull.
Popocatepetl: an active volcano in Mexico

**page 517**
Grand council meeting: the description of these men are meant to suggest Daniel Webster (1782-1852, Senator and later Secretary of State; known as a fiery orator and his devotion to the Union), John Van Buren (was the second son of President Martin Van Buren. He served in numerous political offices, including serving in Congress. There, he opposed the impeachment of President John Tyler and fought the spread of slavery), James K. Polk (1795–1849, an American politician and the eleventh U.S. President. Polk also served as Speaker of the House (1835–1839) and Governor of Tennessee (1839–1841) prior to becoming president. He is noted for his expansionist beliefs, pledge to serve only one term, and becoming the first "dark horse" president and the youngest President to die outside those who have been assassinated), and William Allan (a senator from Ohio).

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Nulli: this character is meant to suggest John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), who was U.S. senator from South Carolina. He developed his theory of nullification (thus the name Melville gives this character) that states could nullify federal legislation. This was in response to increasing divergent interests between the North and the South, and Calhoun was a fierce pro-slavery advocate. He also attempted to censor the Southern anti-slavery press.
Corposant-balls: reference to the appearance of his eyes, fiery and unearthly

**page 544**
Windermere: Windermere is a town in Cumbria, England, lying above the lake of the same name.
Horicon: a small down on Lake George in eastern upstate New York

**page 545**
gold-hunters: 1849 (the year of *Mardi*’s publication) is the year of the California gold rush

**page 549**
Proserpines: reference to Greek goddess Persephone. She lived a peaceful life before Hades abducted her and brought her into the underworld. She was innocently picking flowers with some nymphs in a field in Enna when he came, bursting up through a cleft in the earth.

**page 553**
Mars: the god of war
Moloch: a divinity worshipped by the idolatrous Israelites
Ludwig: name of three successive kings of Bavaria

**page 557**
**Palos:** Palos de la Frontera is a town located in the Spanish province of Huelva. Columbus’s boats sailed from this town to discover the Americas, in 1492.

**Balboa:** Spanish explorer and discoverer of Pacific Ocean
banian: East Indian tree that puts out aerial shoots that grow down into the soil forming additional trunks

gossiping with his fingers: although there wasn’t an international standard the way there is today, sign language did exist in the nineteenth-century. For example, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, was an energetic Congregational minister, became interested in helping his neighbor's young deaf daughter, Alice Cogswell. He traveled to Europe in 1815, when he was twenty-seven, to study methods of communicating with deaf people. While in England he met Abbe Roche Ambroise Sicard, who invited him to study at his school for deaf people in Paris.

Timonian: see note for “Timon,” page 41

Aeneas: see note for “Aeneas,” page 481
Achates: In Roman mythology, Achates was a close friend of Aeneas.

Beaumont and Fletcher: Francis Beaumont (1584-1616) and John Fletcher (1579-1625), English dramatists. Their names are always linked because of the plays on which they collaborated, such as Philaster. In these and other plays, they foreshadowed and influenced Restoration drama.

major-domo: A man who has authority to act, within certain limits, as master of the house; a steward; also, a chief minister or officer.

Pleiades: it's not clear what this reference has to do with ethics. The word refers both to seven sisters in Greek mythology and the stars. In the Pleiades star cluster only six of the stars shine brightly, the seventh, Merope, shines dully because she is shamed for eternity for having an affair with a mortal. Some myths also say that the star that doesn't shine is Electra, mourning the death of Dardanus, though a few myths say it is Sterope. One of the most memorable myths involving the Pleiades is the story of how these sisters became, quite literally, stars. According to some versions of the tale, all seven sisters committed suicide because they were so saddened by either the fate of their father, Atlas, or the loss of their siblings, the Hyades. In turn Zeus, the ruler of the Greek gods, immortalized the sisters by placing them in the sky. There these seven stars formed the constellation known thereafter as the Pleiades.

synod: An ecclesiastic council or meeting to consult on church matters.

Sagittarius: the constellation, Sagittarius has the rough appearance of a stick-figure archer drawing its bow, and when including the fainter stars, appears to have a horse-like body. The Greeks identified such a figure as a centaur, whereas earlier cultures, such as the Babylonians, identified it as the god Pabilsag (which also had wings and a lion's head). In Greek mythology, Sagittarius was sometimes identified as Chiron, aiming his bow at the Scorpion, although the more usual identification of Chiron was with the constellation Centaurus. The constellation Sagitta was sometimes considered to be an arrow fired by Sagittarius.

Arcturus: see note p. 472

Bootes: another name for Acturus
Pharisaic: adj. of “Pharisee”: The Pharisees were, depending on the time, a political party, a social movement, and a school of thought among Jews that flourished during the Second Temple Era (536 BCE–70 CE). After the destruction of the Second Temple, Pharisaic Judaism came to be known as Rabbinic Judaism, and then, simply as Judaism. The Pharisees were an ancient sect of Judaism; they existed during the time of rabbis Hillel the Elder and Shammai, and during the time of Jesus. They are the direct predecessor to what eventually became known as Rabbinic Judaism.

keystone: a central cohesive source of support and stability; "faith is his anchor"; "the keystone of campaign reform was the ban on soft money"; "he is the linchpin of this firm"

animalculae: A small animal, as a fly, or an animal, invisible, or nearly so, to the naked eye.
dog-vane: A small vane of bunting, feathers, or any other light material, carried at the masthead to indicate the direction of the wind.

St. Vitus: Vitus is a Latin given name meaning lively. Saint Vitus was a Christian saint from Sicily, Italy. He was one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers and he died as a martyr in 303. Saint Vitus' Day is celebrated on June 15 according to the Gregorian calendar, and on June 28 according to the Julian calendar. In medieval times, people from central/northern Europe (Germany, Latvia etc) celebrated the feast of Saint Vitus with the so-called Saint Vitus Dance, though that term also has a meaning of a nervous disorder exhibited by trembling, see Chorea (disease). St. Vitus is considered the patron saint of actors, comedians, dancers, and finally epileptics. He also protects against lightning, animal attacks and oversleeping.

unities: the dramatic unities, three rules of dramatic construction prescribed by Aristotle, observed by the French dramatists, but ignored by Shakespeare, that (1) a play should represent what takes place within eight hours, (2) there must be no change of locality, and (3) there must be no minor plot.

faggot: ornament or join (fabric) by faggot stitch; "He fagotted the blouse for his wife." Alt., to fasten together rods of iron in order to heat or weld them. Alt., to bind or tie up in or as if in a faggot. "faggot up the sticks"

Jove: In Roman mythology, Jupiter (sometimes shortened to Jove) held the same role as Zeus in the Greek pantheon. He was called Jupiter Optimus Maximus as the patron deity of the Roman state, in charge of laws and social order.

Woden: A god of the Anglo-Saxon /Early English tribes brought with them from continental Europe, around the 5th and 6th centuries until conversion to Christianity in the 8th and 9th centuries AD. Woden is the carrier-off of the dead, but not necessarily with the attributes of his Norse equivalent Odin, the valkyries.

Brahma: Brahma is the Hindu creator god, and one of the Trimurti, the others being Vishnu and Shiva. He is the husband of Sarasvati. However, being the Creator, all of his "sons" are "manasputras," or mind-sons, indicating their birth from Brahma's mind and not from his body.

Ahasuerus: the name under which king Xerxes I of Persia is known in the Bible

Montezuma: the first great leader of the Aztecs

Powhatan: The Powhatan (also spelled Powatan and Powhaten) were a very powerful tribe of Native Americans, speaking an Algonquian language, who lived in what is now Virginia at the
time of the first European-Native encounters. Powhatan was originally the name of the town that the chief Wahunsunacock came from. When this chief created a powerful empire by conquering much of Virginia, he called his lands Powhatan and titled himself Chief Powhatan.

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**Pluto**: here Melville gives a long name of famous leaders, both specific (Pluto) and in categories (emperors and czars). For this long list of (relatively speaking) synonyms, he travels across both time and geography.

**page 615**

**Democritus**: see note for p. 367

**highlander**: a person from the Scottish highlands

**page 632**

**Berenice**: was the daughter of Magas, king of Cyrene, and the wife of Ptolemy III Euergetes I, the third ruler of the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt. During her husband's absence on an expedition to Syria, she dedicated her hair to Venus for his safe return, and placed it in the temple of the goddess at Zephyrium. The hair having by some unknown means disappeared, Conon of Samos, explained the phenomenon in courtly phrase, by saying that it had been carried to the heavens and placed among the stars. The name Coma Berenices or Berenice's hair, applied to a constellation, commemorates this incident. Callimachus celebrated the transformation in a poem, of which only a few lines remain, but there is a fine translation of it by Catullus. Soon after her husband's death (221 BC) she was murdered at the instigation of her son Ptolemy IV, with whom she was probably associated in the government.

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**Cereus**: The night-blooming cereus, also known as the large-flowered cactus, queen of the night, organillo, sweet-scented cactus, vanilla cactus is a cactus originating from the Antilles. The night-blooming cereus has branching stems about 1/2 inch wide with 5-8 edges. Its flowers are white, up to 30 centimetres in diameter and have a scent redolent of vanilla. The flowers are sometimes said to be among the most beautiful flowers in existence. The flowers open after sundown, closing and wasting after a few hours. As an ornamental houseplant the night-blooming cereus is not easy to take care for and therefore it is the pride of every cactus enthusiast whose plant bears flowers. Selenicereus species were often crossed with species from the genus Epiphyllum to produce more durable houseplants with nice big flowers. The plant is used in homeopathy, and is also assumed to be an aphrodisiac.

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**philter**: To impregnate or mix with a love potion; as, to philter a draught.

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**golconda**: see note, p. 179