

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

Frederick William Rolfe

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT</u> | 1 |
| <u>Frederick William Rolfe</u> | 1 |
| <u>EPISTLE DEDICATORY</u> | 1 |
| <u>OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE</u> | 2 |

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

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- EPISTLE DEDICATORY
 - OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE
 - OF THE MATERIAL CAUSE
 - OF THE FORMAL CAUSE
 - DE ARTE PICTURAE
 - OF THE FORMAL CAUSE
 - EPILOGUE
-

DIVO AMICO
IGNOTO
DESIDERATISSIMO

EPISTLE DEDICATORY

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROLFE TO
APISTOPHILOS ECHIS:
GREETING, AND THESE LETTERS.

THESE are the words of the book which I, Frederick William, the son of James, the son of Nicholas, the son of William, the son of Robert, wrote in London and in Rome.

Because you, o painter, incessantly perturb me with inquisitions concerning the sources of my curious knowledge of matters archaick and abnormal, because you incessantly transfix me with the intent regard of your Kretan brows, and molest me with entreaties that I, as man to man or (at times) as artificer to artificer, should demonstrate to you the Four Causes of my gests, especially that I should tell you how I do my deeds (and you know how many and how rare these be)—I will give you this book.

A life, as of an anachoret, as of an eremite, in severance from the world of articulately-speaking men, while rendering me inhabile in expressing thoughts, creeds, opinions, in spoken words, has made me subadept with the pen—a very detestable condition. On this account, time and human patience would be exhausted before I should be able to satisfy you by word of mouth: but, thirteen months occupied by me in writing, and seven nights or three days (when your workshop may be obscured by London fog) occupied by you in reading, will make clear to you at least one of the sources of my knowledge.

Yet, for your hypotechnical inquiry as to How the Thing is Done, I am unable to supply an apophthegm. My own consuetude, in matters of which I desire to be informed, is to place very many interrogations among experts; and, from the responses received, to respond to myself. This mode has advantages and disadvantages. On the whole it produces satisfaction; and I know no better. Indeed I doubt whether any artificer could respond to your inquiry either in spoken words or in written. I doubt whether von Herkomer himself ever told you How. He did the thing: you observed him doing it; and, from your own aisthesis (which, I may remind you, according to Epikoyros neither can be proved nor contradicted), you invented your own How. You concisely know that your How is not von Herkomer's How, although you learned your subtile How from his vivid How. I am no sophist: nor do I

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

presume to liken myself to your master, or my works to his. I only say that, if he could not tell you How, neither can I.

But, ever since you began to inquire of me, I have pondered you and your inquiry; and, because I myself from my boyhood very gravely have laboured barehanded to obtain a little knowledge, I am the more unwilling to deny to so eager and so exquisite an artificer, that counsel and assistance which have been denied to me. For men (as far as I know them) always will tell you what they think you ought to know, and always will give you what they think you ought to want: but they never will give you what you want, and they never will tell you what you want to know. Perchance they cannot. Perchance I myself shall fail. But I will try.

Feliciter.

From Hampstead. The day before the Ides of November, mcmvi.

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROLFE TO
APISTOPHILOS ECHIS:
GREETING, AND THESE LETTERS.

ABOUT two years ago, I was present at a symposium consisting of myself and three publishers' managers, a Scot, an Israelite, and a Cockney. They disputed of the matter of, and the mode of making, books: but I was the attentive audience. Much of what they said was the merest katharma; and, as such, has been cast into oblivion by me. Two dogmas, however, were announced, and noted.

The first was the secret opinion of the dark Scot concerning the future of historick romance. He obscurely said that the Waverley Novels obtained success, because their form was new and plausible and probable. He said that The Cloister and the Hearth, Joan of Arc, Quo Vadis, in turn obtained success, because their form was new and plausible and probable. Further, he gloomily said, although more recent writers are as habile as, if not more habile than, Sir Walter Scott and Dr. Charles Reade and Mark Twain and Henryk Sienkiewicz, in the invention and creation of stories, yet they fail in the matter of form; and, on this account, their romances lack the newness, and the plausibility and probability, which qualities are essential to any book not intended to rot in the two-penny box until the crack of doom. Hence, he wilily concluded, no writer of historick romance may hope to obtain success, unless he can invent a new (that is a strange) form which also is plausible and probable, convenient to (and uniquely convenient to) his story.

Do you see the point? As a painter, you know that some portraits require the solid megaloprepeia of oils, others the delicate allure of pastel, and others the diaphaneia of aquarelle. Suum cuique. Oh, you ought to see that part of the point!

The Israelite took up his parable and said that this was all gerrae and phlyaria; for the day was gone in which writers might have consumed the sweat of their brains in elaborating masterpieces. In this more vivid age, when books are read in hammocks or in week-end railway jaunts, (so he affirmed), the public will accept anything which shall come within its capability of comprehension, which shall be topical, written in a fluent and popular style, obtainable at all the libraries, and insisntly and clamorously advertised on sky-signs and sandwich-boards. (Divine Arcitenent Smintheys, afflict me this man!) It was his opinion that the successful publisher of the Twentieth Century would be he who kept one eye on the Publick's whimseys, the other eye on his bagmen and advertisements, and a score of threadbare specialists at a pound a week in his back office, to whom he himself would adumbrate matter, form, and all things connected with the confection of books which could be sold in demimillions. In brief, he would reconstitute Grub Street, this publisher's manager of the Twentieth Century, this "bleating echo of the far away past." chance, Messer Giacopo omitted his siesta, and returned. Johia,

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

cries he, perceiving pinguitude, rubicund, membrose, and terete, I knew not that it was the Divine Juvenal Bacchus who distended the shirt and the hosen of Pino. Conducting the putt, as he was, by the ear, on a pedestal as an example he constituted him. Day by day in the workshop Pino exposed his form. Day by day in the workshop the sculptor effected his effigy. Winter advened. Cold and damp was the workshop by cause of the wet clay. Still Messer Giacompo ceased not his labor. Still Pino the Pinguid ostended connodate membrature. Fever molested him on the Solempnity of St. Thomas Apostle, the image at length being complete. After viiii. days the fever became malignant; and, his mind being alienate, incessantly he leaped from his bed in order to dilate himself as Divine Juvenal Bacchus. So, vexed by delirium, anon the victim died.

Artificers perceive here a delicate nose, there a speciose belly, here an egregious hand, there a noble head, here a candid breast, there a sinuose leg. Producing tablets and silver-points, they delineate these particulars. And now comes the time when a patron requires an effigy of himself in the similitude of, let us say, Divine Auricomous Hyperion. Instantly, the astute artificer effects numerous antecedent delineations, wherein is preserved something of the aspect of the patron: but the strawberry nose has languished in pallor, the warts and the pimples not less than the moles and the pustules have evanesced, rugosity is smoothed, ventriosity is eliminated, beneath luxuriant tresses calvity absconds, direct are the members and most formose. The patron lauds the work. Anon, in his workshop, in secret, the said astute artificer coacts all the innumerable charts, specimens of particular lineaments, which, from time to time, he has made from diverse conformations more or less perfect. Adsisted by these, for his patron he composes an heroick effigy excessive in pulchritude, totally dissimilar to anything, or to any creature, in the heavens above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth, but grateful to the vanity, and productive of zecchini or even of dobloni.

Far contrariwise is the method of my Lord's Supernity. He uses no examples, except such as are consummate in every art and part, face, form, body, members, color, texture, habit, all eximious, all of equal speciosity. He neither fatigates nor inmolates his said sublime examples, nor exposes them to perils of fevers; for the audience-chamber is heated, even before the Solempnity of Saint Katharine the Martyr, by fires on the hearth and in braziers. Moreover, the intellect of the said examples being equal to their pulchritude, they relax, they pandiculate their members, they rest their bodies, they quietly play micating their digits, while my said Lord meditates; and, at his supernal signal, by the aid of the chalked carpet, they reproduce themselves in the accurate position wherein they had been collocated.

Nor does this patrician artificer fiddle-faddle with innumerable scraps of paper containing adumbrations of particulars, minute delineations of singulars. He immutably stands or sits at a just interval from the examples, sometimes during as long as half an hour, contemplating them, comprehending in his memory the divers curvements of their forms and flexures, the divers forms of their colors effected by light and shade. Veiling his eyes, pacing to and fro, in his supernal mind he will deliberate, selecting phaenomena worthy to be remembered, rejecting all the rest, while the examples indulge themselves. So, he will continue his studies during days, during weeks, during months, before exsecuting a singular line. Anon, with a charcoal-stick, he indicates on his canvas or on his panel, primo, the form of his example; secondo, the accurate forms of the light and shade of the whole composition, subtilely very subtilely, exquisitely very exquisitely. This, with infinite eximious assiduity, having been done, the labor of the examples is mitigated: for, finally, the Supernity of my Lord applies pigments in successive crusts, without hesitation, without emendation, simplicity redintegrating his memory by an inspection of the examples from time to time. Long diligent preparation, sedulous care, finally celerity of exsecution, is the method used by benign Nature in her operations: says he. The seed of a flower in the earth germinates during long months of autumn and winter: spring comes: like magick it buds and blooms: supernally says he. The Celitude of Duke Renato, during a dozen years was nothing but a long-legged white-bodied fiery-haired, astrilucient-eyed lump of puerine loquacity, dicacity, scurrilily, garrulity, pernacity, agility: puerice begins to bud: blooms in adolescence in ii. brief years: and lo, vivid serene formosity in excelsis: most supernally says he.

For these causes it is evident that the Supernity of my Lord is supreme among artificers, as among Roman patricians. Nor is it less evident, o Pinarj, Pinario, Secondo, Tertio, Quarto, et Quinto, that this is the stile of an

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

epistule of Messer Quinctus Horatius Flaccus.

(Thursday, xxviii Sept) This day, a.d. iii. Kal. Oct., came from Ardea iiii. puncheons of quince wine. Very succulent. Also, came from the Curia Messer Gabinio Gabinj, saying that cl. of the most ample citizens of Fiorenza, for their crime of treason have been banned during this month of September. Now, if the argute Messer Niccolo Machiavelli had not migrated to The Lord iii. years ago, and were here to tolerate this exemplication of his sentence, He who becomes master of a city used to liberty and who neglects to destroy the same must prepare himself to be undone by it, or some such words as those, I doubt not but that he himself, being a Fiorentino, precipitevolissimevolmente would erase that from his Principe. Iugulatur suo gladio, as Messer Publius Terentius Afer says.

(Friday, xxx Sept) This day, Prid. Kal. Oct., I have deliberated in my mind that it will be well to fix upon some permanent domicile, before I shall be numbered among the seniors; unius lacertae me dominum facere, as Messer Decimus Junius Juvenal says. And, seeing that at Ardea is established my nephew Cristoforo with an honest spouse, and v. grand infants verisimilar to cherubs, and twice as many more, I doubt not, about to come; seeing that these are of my own blood, the only ones; seeing that the Celsitude of Duke Renato is benevolent to me, and I to him; I think I will seek an opportunity to invade Ardea, where my apartment is more commodious, the view more amoene, and where I can cultivate my own herbs. Then, if, at any time, our Lord the Pope should deign to erect Ardea as a bishoprick, and to preconize me to that episcopal dignity, no prolonged inquisition will be necessary to invent either the bishop or the amethyst for his ring. Better is a chaffinch in the hand than a thrush in the bush, d to hold my wife in mine arms.

Thou didst pause in thy pacing near us. Fixed in high meditation were thine eyes, o father.

Dom Gheraldo read his psalm to the end. He doubted. I gave him a sign. He descended to us; he knelt by us. I ostended to thee his open book.

The movement drew thee from thy trance of contemplation. Thine eyes considered the act of my marriage. In a moment of time thou didst dash the book from mine hand. Thou didst stab the head of that good priest. He fell on me. Marcia swooned on me. By these and the wings I was impeded.

Thou didst rush to thy throne. Thou didst stamp with thy foot in violent fury. Thou didst shriek, Descend to hell. By thy magick art, thou didst effect the aperture of a fissure in the floor.

I seized my wife. The carpet slid and sank. Dom Gheraldo slid and sank. I heard the thud of him. The threads of the wings snapped, and I sank with Marcia.

Looking up, I saw the fissure closing above mine head. It was dark. I struggled, thrusting out my legs in falling. My wings scraped walls in the descent.

Suddenly, with some concussion, I fell on the body of that priest. I was lying on my back, astonished, shaken. My wife was on my breast.

I intended the force of my mind to this event.

(The contents of the fourth skin) Supine I remained, till tranquillity came back to me, and the slight dolor of the fall evanescd. Thou shalt remember my propriety of seeing in the dark. Around me I saw walls of stone. Rising I spread mine hands and touched them. There was a floor of stone, not level, but oblique. From a distance was heard a sound of water.

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

I denuded myself from the wings. I kissed my wife on her lips till she returned my kisses. Together we thanked The Lord God and our saints for preserving us from injuries. I felt Dom Gheraldo dead. I was unable to extract thy poignard from his tonsure. We were drenched in his blood. We took his book. We prayed in the dark that The Lord God would look propitiously upon his soul.

I bade Marcia confide herself to me. Hand in hand, we cautelously descended the oblique floor. We slowly proceeded by an inclosed way, apparently of stone. We ceased not to touch those walls with our hands. At a certain place the floor became slimy. On hands and knees we crawled. Suddenly, terminated the descent, being traversed by a rather narrow cave. Water flowed through that cave. Prone on the verge of the oblique floor, I was able to extend mine arm downward, and to prove the flood. I knew that flowing water must have an exit. Holding the verge in mine hands, I lowered myself into the water. It was deep and commodious for swimming.

I said to Marcia that she must commit herself to the firmity of my body and limbs. Ubi Gajus ibi Gaja, she responded. I took from her her vestment. I bound her to me, breast to breast. Into her hands I gave the book of Dom Gheraldo. I bade her clasp her arms round my neck. I adjured her to hold that book on that neck, until we attained safety, or until death came. I bade her to engirdle me in such a manner as that mine arms and legs should not be impeded. Thou shalt remember how that thy son, in his boyhood, used himself to swim burthened with Eros or with others. Thus, then, bearing my pearl, I let myself down into the flood; and I swam.

The water was foul. There was a stench as of hell. Rats swam away from me. The hair of Marcia floated by my flanks. I was sensible of her breathing under me. She was not timid in the darkness. I swam with the flood. I saw her face lying on the water under mine. Her eyes were closed. The cave was very long. There was a little light, and a little more light, augmenting. At my kiss, she opened her eyes and smiled. She had full faith in me. I swam more strenuously. Swift was the flood. Daylight invaded the cave. I swam as strenuously as possible. We passed through an arch, leaving the cave behind. Thou mayest suppose that that cave was Cloaca. Now I knew the river where I continued to swim.

I have written these things as they seemed to me. But I believe all that I have written, from the initial of this fourth chart of membrane to this place, indubitably to have been a delusion of the devil evoked by thy magick art. For otherwise the conception in the mind of a passage, from thine audience—chamber through Cloaca, is dementia. If the truth were manifest, it without doubt would be that our angelick guardians extorted us from the talons of thy genius—companion, abrupt fall into a slightly larger tunnel of more ancient masonry, through which a horrid putid stream was flowing.

Signori Macelli and Longhi, without hesitation, pronounced this to be an actual Cloaca; and, with consideration, Cloaca Maxima. They elaborately discussed the error of the tunnel's constructor, (whoever he was), who evidently had wished tumid Tiber to invade his shaft and to clear it of whatever he might have cast therein. But the perpendicular shaft had not been carried deep enough, or Tiber in flood had not risen high enough since 1530; and the angle of the slanting tunnel had not sufficed to correct the prime miscalculation. Otherwise Dom Gheraldo's remains would have found sepulture in Tiberine sand many centuries ago. Very curious.

Some days later, I was paying my respects to the Countess of Santa Cotogna. Her lovely fair head emerged triumphant from a great green—velvet gown, and round her neck she wore a rosary of lapis—lazuli from which depended a crucifix and a bunch of jewels. These I admired. They were amethyst, coral, bloodstone, crystal, amber, jacinth, chrysolith, catseye, opal, chalcedonyx, sapphire, agate, green jasper, purple carnelian. We talked long of matters already narrated here. When I was about to take my leave, I said that, if she should have no other use for it, I earnestly desired to have the skull of Dom Gheraldo as a memento. O terrible Man, she responded, I have ordained Fra Pierpaolino to give him decent sepulture and, for his poor soul, to say a mass for each year during which he has lain unburied beneath my floor. Do you imagine that I want him to haunt my new palace? No. And, by the bye, how do you like my new paper—knife?

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

She handed to me from the table a bright and shining thing, a long thin blade, clean, polished, sharpened, with a massive hilt of gold rilievo. I took it to the light for inspection. It was the poignard from the skull of Dom Gheraldo.

* * * * *

Now, o Apistophilos Echis, you ought to know the Four Causes, the Material, the Formal, the Efficient, and the Final, of this my attempt at Historick Romance. And here I will make an end. And if I have done well, and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain unto. For as it is hurtful to drink wine or water alone: and as wine mingled with water is pleasant and delighteth the taste: even so speech finely framed delighteth the ears of them that read the story. And here shall be an end. Live, love, be happy.

From the "Bucintoro" of Venetia. The Nones of November,

GLOSSARY

N.B. KIPLING appends a glossary to his Departmental Ditties. I suppose that that great writer also knows how gladly The Public takes a little trouble over its higher pleasures.

A

abominable (Juliana Berners) adj. odious, excellent, large, used

in modern vulgar sense of "awful" (abominabilis)

ablegateship subst. an embassy to a foreign court (ablego)

acerb (De Quincey) adj. sour, sharp (acerbus)

adept (Cowper) adj. skilful through effort (adipiscor)

adolescent subst. adj. between the ages of 15 and 30 (adolescens)

adolescentule subst. one just past puberty, cf. peradolescent

(adolescentulus)

aegritude (Elyot) subst. indisposition of mind or body

(aegritudo)

aestival adj. pertaining to summer (aestivalis)

aestive adj. pertaining to summer (aestivus)

aestuouse adj. very hot or agitated (aestuosus)

alate adj. winged (alatus)

alexipharmick subst. antidote (alexipharmacon)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

ament adj. distracted (amens)

amicity subst. friendship (amicitia)

amoene adj. pleasant (amoenus)

amoenity subst. pleasantness (amoenitas)

amyct subst. linen hood worn by clerks: part of the Vestment
(amyctus)

angor subst. strangling, trouble of mind, cf. dolor (angor)

anguicomous adj. with snaky hair (anguicomus)

animose adj. spirited, undaunted (animosus)

animosity (Skelton) subst. courage (animositas)

antecessor (Carlyle) subst. one who goes before (antecessor)

apert (Fotherby) adj. open, uncovered (apertus)

argute (Sterne) adj. active, keen, witty (argutus)

argyrocorsinthian adj. silver-colored brass (argyrocorsinthius)

arts subst. the larger limbs (artus)

astrilucens adj. gleaming like stars (astrum luceo)

atrid adj. dead black, opp. to albus, dead white (ater)

aulick adj. pertaining to a royal court (aulicus)

aurate adj. golden (auratus)

aureate adj. decorated (aureatus)

auricomal, auricomus adj. golden-haired (auricomus)

aurochs subst. the Bos Urus or bison of Poland (German,
aurochs = a wild ox)

B

balbous adj. stuttering (balbus)

balbute (Browne) verb to stutter (balbutio)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

ban subst. publick proclamation of outlawry, banishment

(abalieno)

bandit subst. outlaw under the ban (abalieno)

barbarism subst. a fault in the native language (barbarismus)

barbarolexis subst. a fault in the foreign language

(barbarolexis)

basilick adj. king-like (basilicus)

bellator subst. warrior (bellator)

bezel subst. the part of a ring which confines the stone (Chald

bezal = limits)

bifid adj. cleft (bifidus)

brumal adj. wintry (brumalis)

C

cachinnate verb to laugh loudly (cachinno)

cadaver subst. dead body (cadaver)

caesarial adj. dark-haired, i.e., beautiful-haired according to
the Roman taste (caesaries)

calid adj. hot, rash, fiery (calidus)

callid adj. shrewd, skilful (callidus)

callidity subst. shrewdness, skill (calliditas)

calor subst. glowing heat (calor)

calvaria subst. skull (calvaria)

calvity subst. baldness (calvitium)

camis (Spenser) subst. shirt, chemise (camisia)

candid (Dryden) adj. glittering white, opp. to niger, glossy black
(candidus)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

candor (Massinger) subst. glittering whiteness (candor)

capital adj. pertaining to the head (capitalis)

cataphractor subst. mailed cavalryman (cataphractor)

catulaster subst. stripling (catulaster)

cerussa subst. white-lead (cerussa)

citharoedick adj. pertaining to one who plays the cithara

(citharoedicus)

coact (Hale) verb to gather (cogo)

coerulean adj. dark blue (coeruleus)

comity subst. courteousness, gentleness (comitas)

compt adj. spruce, smart (comptus)

connudate adj. stark-naked (connudatus)

contortuplicate verb violently to writhe and twist (contortus

plico)

contuberne subst. tent-companion, comrade, mate

(contubernalis)

cotidian adj. daily (cotidianus)

crass adj. thick, solid (crassus)

creature (Bacon, Fuller) subst. the thing created (creatura)

crepuscule subst. twilight (crepusculum)

crisp (Vives) adj. curly (crispus)

crural adj. pertaining to the shins (cruralis)

cubicularius subst. valet-de-chambre (cubicularius)

cubicule subst. bedroom (cubiculum)

cymar subst. gown, overcoat (It. zimarra)

D

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

deaurate adj. gilded (deauro)

debile adj. feeble (debilis)

decorous (Motley) adj. seemly, beautiful (decorus)

dedecorous adj. unseemly, ugly (dedecorus)

delfin subst. dolphin (delfinus)

delicate (Evelyn) adj. charming (delicatus)

devolute adj. rolling down, falling headlong (devolvo)

dicacity subst. pertness, biting wit (dicacitas)

dicaculous adj. talkative, bitterly witty (dicaculus)

dierect adj. stretched out and raised up (di-erigo)

digladiant adj. fighting for life,

digladiation (Evelyn) subst. a fight for life (digladior)

dilucid (Bacon) adj. clear, bright (dilucidus)

direct adj. straight,

direct verb to straighten (dirigo)

discruciation subst. chagrin, torment (discrucio)

dival adj. god-like (divalis)

divaricate adj. stretched wide, straddling (divarico)

dole subst. trick (dolus)

dolor (Spenser) subst. trouble of body, cf. angor (dolor)

E

effrenate adj. unbridled, unruly (effreno)

enucleate adj. stripped, e.g. a kernel stripped of its husk

(enucleo)

ephebe subst. male youth of 17 to 20 years (ephebus)

equipollent (Bacon) adj. of equal value or significance

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

(aequipollens)

erubescence subst. blushing (erubescens)

esurient adj. hungry (esuriens)

exalbid adj. whitish (exalbidus)

excandescence (Blount) subst. irascibility (excandescencia)

eximious adj. select, extraordinary (eximius)

existimate (Steele) verb to judge a thing after having estimated
its value (existimo)

exitial (Evelyn) adj. deadly, pernicious (exitialis)

exitiose adj. deadly, pernicious (exitiosus)

expetent adj. longing (expetens)

explete adj. full, perfect (expletus)

exquisite (Shakespeare) adj. daintily–finished, carefully sought
out (exquisitus)

exsult verb vigorously to spring up, to gambol (exsulto)

exsultant adj. vigorously springing up, gambolling (exsultans)

exsultation subst. frisking, rejoicing (exsultatio)

F

fascinator subst. one with the evil eye (fascinator)

fascine subst. bundle, phallus–shaped charm against evil eye
(fascinum)

fastidiose adj. squeamish (fastidiosus)

fastidy subst. squeamishness (fastidium)

fatidick adj. foretelling destiny (fastidicus)

faustine adj. fortunate (faustus)

femoral subst. thigh (femur)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

feral adj. pertaining to the dead (feralis)

firm adj. strong, steadfast (firmus)

firmitude (Bp. Hall) subst. strength, steadfastness (firmitudo)

flabellifer subst. fan-bearer (flabellifer)

flabellum subst. fan (flabellum)

flavian adj. flaxen, pale golden-yellow (flavus)

fleam subst. lancet (phlebotomus)

flebile adj. causing to weep, lamentable (flebilis)

flume (Howitt) subst. flowing water (flumen)

formose adj. finely formed, beautiful (formosus)

formosity subst. fineness of form, beauty (formositas)

fort adj. powerful, brave (fortis)

frigor subst. coolness (frigor)

frondose (Gray) adj. leafy (frondosus)

frondosity subst. leafiness (frondositas)

fulgid (Pope) adj. glittering (fulgidus)

fulguration (Dr. Donne) subst. brightness, lightning-flash

(fulguratio)

fulmination subst. lightning that strikes and sets on fire,

thunderbolt (fulminatio)

fuscous (Burke) adj. dark, swarthy (fuscus)

fusky adj. dark, swarthy (fuscus)

G

galbanate adj. delicately clothed (galbanatus)

gelid (Goldsmith) adj. icy-cold (gelidus)

gelidity subst. icy-cold (geliditas)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

genuals subst. garters (genualia)

genuinely adv. pertaining to cheek or jaw (genuinus)

germanity subst. faithful brotherhood (germanitas)

gibberose adj. very humpty-backed (gibberosus)

gingilism subst. pealing laughter (gingilismus)

gracile adj. slim, slender (gracilis)

gracility (Milman) subst. slimness, slenderness (gracilitas)

grandity (Camden) subst. greatness (granditas)

graveolent (Boyle) adj. noisome (graveolens)

gravid (Herbert) adj. laden (gravidus)

gymnick (Burton) adj. lightly-clothed (for bodily exercise)

(gymnicus)

gynaeceum (Tennyson) subst. the women's quarters (gynaeceum)

H

habile (Spenser) adj. skilful, nimble, swift, able (habilis)

hability (South) subst. ability (habilitas)

habit (Irving) subst. deportment (habitus)

habitude subst. plight, habit, appearance (habitudo)

hariol subst. soothsayer (hariolus)

hebdomadally adv. weekly (hebdomadaliter)

hebetae adj. dull, faint, weak, exhausted (hebes)

hebetude (Harvey) subst. dulness, faintness, weakness, exhaustion

(hebetudo)

hestern adj. of yesterday (hesternus)

hircose adj. goatish (hircosus)

hispid (Martyn) adj. bristly (hispidus)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

horripilation subst. bristling hair (horripilatio)

I

ilicet subst. oak-forest (ilicetum)

ill-intellected adj. misunderstood (mala intelligere)

inbelline (Junius) adj. peaceful (inbellis)

inberb adj. beardless (inberbis)

inclyte adj. celebrated (inclytus)

incruent (Brevint) adj. bloodless (incruentus)

indecorous (Burke) adj. unseemly, ugly (indecorus)

index subst. spy, informer (index)

infandous (Howell) adj. unspeakable (infandus)

inhabile adj. unable, clumsy (inhabilis)

inloricate adj. unclothed in mail (inlorico)

inlutibard adj. filthy-bearded (inlutibarbus)

innable adj. that which cannot be crossed by swimming

(innabilis)

inpavid adj. fearless (inpavidus)

improvised (Browne) adj. unforeseen (improvisus)

inremeable (Dryden, Max Beerbohm) adj. from which one cannot
return (inremeabilis)

instaure (Marston) verb to renew (instauro)

insulstity (Milton) subst. silliness (insulstitas)

intemerable adj. inviolable (intemerabilis)

intercalate (Mantell) verb to put in between (intercalo)

invect (Beaumont Fletcher) verb to inveigh (inveho)

inverecund adj. without shame (inverecundus)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

investite adj. unclothed, inpublic, innocent (investis)

invituperabilissimus adj. that which by no means can be
blamed (invituperabilissimus)

J

juvenal (Shakespeare) adj. youthful (between the ages of 30 and
46) (juvenalis)

juvencal adj. young (man or bullock) (juvencus)

juvence subst. youth (from age of 30 to 46) (juventus)

L

lacertose adj. muscular (lacertosus)

laneous adj. woollen (laneus)

Lar subst. Lord (Lar, Lars, Larth)

latrocinity subst. highway robbery (latrocinium)

laureole subst. laurel-crown (laureola)

lauret subst. laurel-grove on the Aventine Hill (Lauretum)

lepid adj. pretty, pleasant (lepidus)

lethiferous adj. death-bringing (lethifer)

livid (Dryden) adj. bluish, black and blue, envious (lividus)

lorica subst. mail-shirt (lorica)

lubidinose adj. sensual (lubidosus)

lubricity subst. slipperiness, deceit, lewdness (lubricitas)

lubrick adj. slippery, deceitful, lewd (lubricus)

lucrifick adj. profitable (lucrificus)

luctifick adj. baleful (luctificus)

lucubration (Irving) subst. study by lamp-light, night-work
(lucubratio)

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

lymphatick adj. panick–struck, frantick, distracted (lymphaticus)

M

macilent adj. thin, scraggy (macilentus)

mansuete adj. gentle (mansuetus)

mansuetude (Herbert) subst. gentlehood (mansuetudo)

manuinspection subst. palmistry (manuinspectio)

margaritiferous adj. producing pearls (margaritifer)

marmoreal adj. made of marble, marble–like (marmoreus)

medullose adj. marrowy (medullosus)

membrature subst. formation of the members (membratura)

membrose adj. large–membered (membrosus)

micate verb to glitter, quiver (mico)

micant adj. glittering, quivering (micans)

milesian adj. obscene (milesius)

minate verb to threaten (minor)

minim subst. the little finger (minimus)

minium (Burton) subst. cinnabar, red–lead, vermilion (minium)

miracidion subst. a lad of 14 (miracidion)

mollitude subst. suppleness, softness (mollitudo)

morose adj. peevish, wayward (morosus)

morse subst. a clasp (morsus)

mulierity subst. womanhood (mulieritas)

mulierose adj. fond of women (mulierosus)

mund adj. clean, nice, neat (mundus)

mundity subst. cleanliness, niceness, neatness (munditia)

musty adj. young, new, fresh, unfermented (mustus)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

N

nasute (Bp. Gauden) adj. large-nosed, witty (nasutus)

natrix subst. an eelskin scourge (natrix)

naumachy subst. mock sea-fight (naumachia)

navarch (Mitford) subst. ship-captain (navarchus)

nemoral adj. woody (nemoralis)

nemorose (Evelyn) adj. woody (nemorosus)

nervose (Pope) adj. sinewy (nervosus)

nictate verb to wink (nicto)

nigrick adj. glossy black, opp. to candid, glittering white

(niger)

nigrify verb to blacken (nigrifico)

nigritude subst. glossy blackness (nigritudo)

nitid (Reeve) adj. plump, healthy-looking, bright (nitidus)

nitidity subst. plumpness, healthy beauty, brightness (nitiditas)

nitor subst. brightness, sheen (nitor)

nothus subst. an illegitimate son (nothus)

nubile adj. marriageable (nubilis)

nude adj. unarmed, bare, wearing a single garment (nudus)

O

obfuscate (Sterne) verb to darken (obfusco)

olid (Boyle) adj. stinking, frowsy (olidus)

olitor (Evelyn) subst. olive-dresser (olitor)

olivet subst. olive-garden (olivet)

opt verb to choose (opto)

ostend (Webster) verb to shew (ostendo)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

P

pagan adj. pertaining to the country (paganus)

paganick adj. pertaining to the country (paganicus)

palpate verb to stroke (palpo)

pandiculate adj. stretched as in yawning (pandiculator)

pandiculation subst. stretching as in yawning (pandiculator)

papaver subst. poppy (papaver)

pavid adj. frightened (pavidus)

pavonine adj. colored like a peacock's pride (pavoninus)

pavor subst. fright (pavor)

pensile (Howitt) adj. hanging down (pensilis)

per- in composition equals very (per)

peradolescent subst. adj. on the verge of adolescence

(peradolescens)

percandid adj. very white and shining (percandidus)

percandity subst. extremely brilliant whiteness (percanditas)

perdurable (Shakespeare) adj. very durable (perdurabilis)

peregrine (Bacon) adj. foreign (peregrinus)

perfricate verb to rub (perfrico)

perlepid adj. very pretty (perlepidus)

pernicitly adv. nimbly (perniciter)

pernicity subst. nimbleness (pernicitas)

pernick (Milton) adj. nimble (pernix)

perose adj. very odious (perosus)

perpallid adj. very pale (perpallidus)

perridiculous adj. very ridiculous (perridiculus)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

perturpid adj. very shameful (perturpis)
perturpitude subst. a very shameful deed (perturpitude)
pervalid adj. very strong (pervalidus)
pinguid (Mortimer) adj. fat, sleek (pinguis)
pinguitude subst. fatness, sleekness (pinguitudo)
potesty subst. power (potestas)
praecellent (Sheldon) adj. very distinguished (praecellens)
prasine adj. leek–green (prasinus)
prave adj. crooked (pravus)
precation (Cotton) subst. prayer (precatio)
preconize verb to proclaim (praeconor)
predicable adj. praiseworthy (praedicabilis)
prepete adj. fleet–footed (prepes)
prepollent (Boyle) adj. very distinguished (prepollens)
prisk adj. old–fashioned (priscus)
probose adj. good (probus)
procacious (Barrow) adj. pert (procax)
procacity subst. pertness (procacitas)
procere adj. tall (procerus)
procerity (Dr. Johnson, De Quincey) subst. tallness (proceritas)
progymnast subst. slave who performs gymnastics with (but preceding) his master (progymnastes)
proterve adj. violent, wanton (protervus)
pube subst. one arrived at puberty (pubes)
pudibund adj. modest (pudibundus)
puerice subst. boyhood (pueritia)

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

puerine adj. boyish (puerinus)

pulchritude (Chaucer) subst. beauty (pulchritudo)

pure pute adj. perfectly pure (purus putus)

putid (Bp. Taylor) adj. stench, rottenness (putor)

putt subst. boy (Italian puto; modern Italian putto) (putus)

pyladean adj. very faithful (pyladeus)

R

raucisonous adj. hoarse-sounding (raucisonus)

ravid adj. greyish (ravidus)

recent adj. young, fresh (recens)

repentine adj. sudden, unlooked-for (repentinus)

resilient (Bacon) adj. rebounding (resilio)

rigor subst. stiffness, cramp (rigor)

roborate adj. strong, vigorous (roboro)

robust adj. oaken, hard, lusty (robustus)

rugose adj. wrinkled (rugosus)

rugosity subst. wrinkles (rugositas)

rutilant (Evelyn) adj. glowing red (rutilans)

S

sabbatick adj. pertaining to Saturday (sabbaticus)

salient (Burke) adj. springing, throbbing (saliens)

sapor (Browne) subst. taste (sapor)

scitulous adj. neat, adroit (scitulus)

sensile adj. endowed with sensation (sensilis)

sentence (Milton) subst. opinion (sententia)

silvan (Dryden) adj. woody (silva)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

silvestrine adj. woody (silvestris)
sime adj. snub-nosed (simus)
sitibund adj. very thirsty (sitibundus)
smaragd subst. emerald (smaragdus)
solert adj. clever, adroit (solers)
solivagous adj. wandering alone (solivagus)
spadonick adj. castrated (spado)
speciose adj. beautiful (speciosus)
speciosity subst. beauty (speciositas)
splendescant adj. brightening (splendesco)
spurious (Milton) adj. illegitimate (spurius)
stelliferous adj. bearing stars (stella fero)
stuprate adj. deflowered (stupro)
sub- in composition equals rather (sub)
subhilariously adv. rather hilariously (subhilariter)
subingenious adj. rather ingenious (subingenius)
subtile (Spenser) adj. fine, slender, unadorned, exact (subtilis)
subturpularly adv. rather shamefully (subturpulariter)
subturpularious adj. rather shameful (subturpularius)
succussature subst. jolting (succussatura)
succussion subst. shaking (succussio)
sucid adj. juicy, fresh (sucidus)
sufflavian adj. pale-yellow (sufflavus)
suggrand adj. rather large (suggrandis)
sugillate (Wiseman) adj. beaten black and blue (sugillo)
surrircularious adj. rather ridiculous (surrircularius)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

T

tabid (Arbutnot) adj. decaying (tabidus)

talarian adj. reaching to the ankles (talaris)

taratarantara subst. Ennius's onomatopoe for the sound of the trumpet (taratarantara)

tenebricose adj. dark (tenebricosus)

tenebricosity subst. darkness (tenebricositas)

tenerity subst. tenderness (teneritas)

terete adj. rounded, well-turned, smooth (teres)

teretude subst. roundedness, well-turnedness, smoothness (teretudo)

thrasonian adj. bragging (thrasonianus)

titule subst. each of a certain number of Roman churches which are served by Cardinal-Presbyters (titulus)

torose adj. lusty, brawny (torosus)

torvid (Webster, 1654) adj. fierce (torvid)

torvine adj. stern, grim (torvus)

tralucid adj. clear (tralucidus)

tripudiation (Carlyle) subst. a measured stamping, religious dance (tripudio)

tripudiator subst. one who performs a tripudiation (tripudio)

trucid adj. given to slaughter (trucidus)

trull subst. a dipper, bason (trulla)

tumid (Milton) adj. swollen, protuberant (tumidus)

turible subst. censer (turibulum)

turpid adj. shameful, nasty (turpis)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

turpilucricupidous adj. covetous of base or dishonest gain

(turpilucricupidus)

turpitude (Shakespeare) subst. shamefulness, nastiness

(turpitude)

U

umbriferous adj. shade-giving (umbrifer)

umbrose adj. shady (umbrosus)

urbane adj. pertaining to the City (i.e. Rome), in the fashion of
that city (urbanus)

V

valent adj. strong, healthy (valens)

valetude subst. good health (valetudeo)

valgous adj. bandy-legged (valgus)

varicate adj. with legs apart (varico)

vaticination (I. Taylor) subst. soothsaying (vaticinatio)

vegete (Bp. Taylor) adj. vigorous, lively (vegetus)

veneficous adj. poisonous (veneficus)

venete adj. sea-blue, Venetian-blue (venetus)

venustous adj. lovely (venustus)

venusty subst. loveliness (venustas)

vepallid adj. very pale (vepallidus)

verberate verb to beat (verbero)

veridical adj. truth-telling (veridicus)

vermicular (Vulgate) adj. scarlet (verimiculus)

vesticipal adj. clothed, pubick, manly (vesticeps)

vicinal (Glanville) adj. near (vicinalis)

OF THE EFFICIENT CAUSE

DON RENATO: AN IDEAL CONTENT

vigent adj. blooming, flushing (vigeo)

virent (Browne) adj. verdant, fresh (vireo)

virid (Crompton) adj. green, fresh, youthful, lively (viridus)

virtue subst. the sum of all corporeal and mental excellences

of man (virtus)

EXPLICI*