

A CENTURY OF CHARADES

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A Century of Charades by William Bellamy

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WILLIAM BELLAMY

**A CENTURY
OF CHARADES**

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BY

WILLIAM BELLAMY



"Language was given to man that he might conceal his thoughts."



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Ἐχθρὸς γὰρ μοι κείνος ὁμῶς Ἄϊδαο πύλῃσιν,
ὅς χ' ἴτερον μὲν κεύθῃ ἐπὶ φρεσίν, ἄλλο δὲ εἶπα
Πιστ ix. 312-313.

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PREFACE.

To give an answer to a riddle is like explaining a joke,—something never to be done, unless reluctantly, and with averted face, as Strato held the sword for Brutus to fall upon.

But as we all like to be told when we are right, and as the first answer that suggests itself may not be the one that fits best, I have prepared a key by which any guess may be confirmed if correct or rejected if wrong. The mathematical mind that is better at exhausting combinations than at catching allusions may use it as a last resort to obtain a solution.

To start fair let me state that my charades are all accurate either to the sound or to the spelling, but not necessarily to both, and that the parts into which my words are divided are all monosyllables.

W. B.

DORCHESTER, MASS., October, 1894.



I

My first endured a hundred years,
A prodigy of logic and of wit ;
My last the faro banker fears,
King Solomon was not arrayed like it.
My whole, dear reader, you 'll divine
When you peruse this book of mine.