

Abscond

To “move in a mysterious way,” commonly with the property of another.

*Spring beckons! All things to the call respond;
The trees are leaving and cashiers abscond.*

Academe

An ancient school where morality and philosophy were taught.

Academy

(from academe). A modern school where football is taught.

Air

A nutritious substance supplied by a bountiful Providence for the fattening of the poor.

Allegiance

*This thing Allegiance, as I suppose,
Is a ring fitted in the subject's nose,
Whereby that organ is kept rightly pointed
To smell the sweetness of the Lord's anointed.*

Apologize

To lay the foundation for a future offence.

Battle

A method of untying with the teeth a political knot that would not yield to the tongue.

Circus

A place where horses, ponies and elephants are permitted to see men, women and children acting the fool.

Duty

That which sternly impels us in the direction of profit.

*Sir Lavender Portwine, in favor at court,
Was wroth at his master, who'd kissed Lady Port.
His anger provoked him to take the king's head,
But duty prevailed, and he took the king's bread,
Instead.*

Envelope

The coffin of a document; the scabbard of a bill; the husk of a remittance; that bed-gown of a love-letter.

Kilt

A costume sometimes worn by Scotchmen in America and Americans in Scotland.

Mayonnaise

One of the sauces which serve the French in place of a state religion.

Patience

A minor form of despair, disguised as a virtue.

Philosophy

A route of many roads leading from nowhere to nothing.

Positive

Mistaken at the top of one's voice.

Reverence

The spiritual attitude of a man to a god and a dog to a man.

Year

A period of three hundred and sixty-five disappointments.