MARTIN GARDNER and GILBERT CHESTERTON

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In one of his last published books The Fantastic Fiction of Gilbert Chesterton
Martin Gardner remarks:

GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON and Herbert George Wells, together
with George Bernard Shaw, were the three most famous writers of Edwardian
England. Chesterton became a devout Catholic. Wells became an equally
devout atheist. Shaw was an agnostic with a Protestant background.
In spite of vast differences in their fundamental beliefs, the three men were
friends. Chesterton wrote an entire book about Shaw which Shaw
himself reviewed at length in The Nation. In his utopia novel Men Like Gods,
Wells caricatured Chesterton as Father Amerton, a simple-minded Catholic priest.

I greatly admire all three men, especially Wells and Chesterton.
Elsewhere I have written that if you can understand how it is possible for me to
relish the books of both G.K. and H.G. you will begin to understand my
idiosyncratic brand of theism.

A more recent book, The Universe According to G. K. Chesterton, edited by Dale
Ahlquist, Dover, 2011, is a dictionary of “Mad, Mundane and Metaphysical” definitions
attributed to Chesterton. We suspect that Gardner would have immensely enjoyed this
collection of “Chesternitions”.

To illustrate a few of our favorite of these definitions we offer this crossword
puzzle.

ACROSS

1 Inform on
5 “the great mass of mankind” (“The Boy-
hood of Dickens,” Charles Dickens)” 
9 German river
10 Lincoln or Zumwalt
11 Princess Organa
12 Kind
13 “an acute artistic device for reviving
in adults the pleasure which infancy has
in the daily comedy of things. (Daily
News, Sept. 9, 1911)”
15 Amin
16 “that frame of mind in which all men admit,
with a half-humorous and half-
magnanimous weakness, that they all
possess the same secret, and have all
made the same discovery; a conventional
term of abuse to be applied to
Catholicism. (The Speaker, July 27, 1901;

DOWN

1 ___-pity: “an evil that comes when a man
thinks himself so very miserable a
sinner that his misery is more
more important than his sin.
his sin. (Illustrated London News,
July 31, 1909)”
2 “something that a man can agree
or disagree with. (Illustrated in
London News, August 9, 1930)”
3 European denial
4 “happiness doubled by wonder.
(“The Age of the Crusades”, A
Short History of England)”
5 “a modern irritation, an itch to
to torment the spirit; a debased
and barbarous superstition, a
denial of all value in existence of
any kind; a renunciation of the
universe as well as the world; the
"The Hat and the Halo, "The Thing"
22 Baseball name
23 Aha!
24 German lyric
25 Resorts
26 Sometimes tall
27 "the gossip of the gods. ("Man and Mythologies," The Everlasting Man)

belief in the failure of existence and the harmonious hostility of the stars. (Illustrated London News, October 20, 1923; June 10, 1922; G.K.'s Weekly, June 13, 1929; "The Optimism of Byron," Twelve Types)"

6 Northeastern Spanish town
7 A king of Israel
8 College gp.
14 Indonesian island
16 "a corrective; something which we cannot live on, but cannot live without. (Illustrated London News, Oct. 30, 1915)"

17 "Essays of ____"
18 Certain Coward
19 Catch sight of
20 Tidy
21 Musician, TV host