

**I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major-General**  
**By W. S. Gilbert**

Found at <http://math.boisestate.edu/gas/pirates/html/p13.html>

**GENERAL:**

I am the very model of a modern Major-General,  
I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical  
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical;  
I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters mathematical,  
I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical,  
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot o' news,  
With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse.

**ALL:**

With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse.  
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With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse.

**GENERAL:**

I'm very good at integral and differential calculus;  
I know the scientific names of beings animalculous:  
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General.

**ALL:**

In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
He is the very model of a modern Major-General.

**GENERAL:**

I know our mythic history, King Arthur's and Sir Caradoc's;  
I answer hard acrostics, I've a pretty taste for paradox,  
I quote in elegiacs all the crimes of Heliogabalus,  
In conics I can floor peculiarities parabolous;

I can tell undoubted Raphaels from Gerard Dows and Zoffanies,  
I know the croaking chorus from the *Frogs* of Aristophanes!  
Then I can hum a fugue of which I've heard the music's din afore,  
And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense *Pinafore*.

**ALL:**

And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense *Pinafore*.  
And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense *Pinafore*.  
And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense *Pinafore*.

**GENERAL:**

Then I can write a washing bill in Babylonian cuneiform,  
And tell you ev'ry detail of Caractacus's uniform:  
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General.

**ALL:**

In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
He is the very model of a modern Major-General.

**GENERAL:**

In fact, when I know what is meant by "mamelon" and "ravelin",

When I can tell at sight a Mauser rifle from a javelin,  
When such affairs as sorties and surprises I'm more wary at,  
And when I know precisely what is meant by "commissariat",  
When I have learnt what progress has been made in modern gunnery,  
When I know more of tactics than a novice in a nunnery--  
In short, when I've a smattering of elemental strategy,  
You'll say a better Major-General has never *sat* a gee.

**ALL:**

You'll say a better Major-General has never *sat* a gee.  
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You'll say a better Major-General has never *sat* a gee.

**GENERAL:**

For my military knowledge, though I'm plucky and adventury,  
Has only been brought down to the beginning of the century;  
But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General.

**ALL:**

But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
He is the very model of a modern Major-General.