

IF...

(*conj* on condition that)

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on *the preamble*.
If you can trust yourself to read a clue,
And answer it without the need to gamble;

If you can find a word in Chambers Diction'ry,
Or track it down in Bradford's (version six),
Or at a pinch get help by using TEA,
But draw the line at other dirty tricks:

If you can manage to defy the thief of time,
And like a camera view the world *en clair*;
If you can play a tune on Dodgson's cryptic rhyme,
And count your fellow man without despair;
If you are down-to-earth, despite the fact *It Moves!*
If you sympathise with Andrew Preview's plight,
If you can understand that Caesar's movement proves
Some things are just as cold in Fahrenheit.

If you can *not* get cross when you see red,
And face the changing elements' rebuke;
Tis tragi-comic, that it must be said,
To lose at Scrabble with a famous Duke.
If you can keep from Clever Clogs' disgrace,
And spare a groan when darkness falls around;
If you can solve and show a smiling face,
And still hold fast, despite the shaking ground.

If you can deign to take a walk-on part,
And not get cross when you're a little blue;
If you can take a lost friend's name to heart,
And help to give that *gentle knight* his due.

If you can make your name in bars, and do it earnestly,
And travel, but refuse to cross your path -- *how like a Taurus!* --
Then yours is the World and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - it'll be a world where left and right have no obvious meaning.