

Anna Nickerson

## Furcula

*Teutonic knights in Prussia waged all their wars by the goose-bone; and as the goose-bone predicted so did they  
order their two campaigns, one in summer and one in winter*

Trading futures on the wishing bone  
clavicles fuse in birds' ancestral night  
in this revision one and one makes one

it holds the stress in the thoracal zone  
springing the bird to post-Jurassic flight  
to trade in futures on the wishing bone

Hall in *Bones and Cartilage* has shown  
the furcula might prove a midline split  
in this revision one makes one and one

turtles and all reptilian life thus thrown  
into the evolving curve of modern flight  
now trade in futures on the wishing bone

and flocks of starlings, sparrows, swallows know  
that *one for all and all for one* is right  
a living riddle of the one and one and one

but in the ritual splitting of the bone  
as Martin's morning breaks upon the night  
we trade in futures on the wishing bone  
and learn too late that one and one make none