NOTES AND QUERIES.


Trent: six heralds, Windsor, Chester, Lancaster, Richmond, Somerset, and York; and four pursuivants."—C.
EDWARD H. MARSHALL, M.A.

This office was created by Henry VII, in the ninth year of his reign. The title was given in honour of the house of Somerset, from which he was descended, and through which he claimed the crown.

F. R. O.

SAXTON'S MAP OF YORKSHIRE: AUGUSTINE RYTHIE (6th S. xii. 361).—Let us hope that the able and interesting article on Saxton and Ryther in "N. & Q." will lead to a more minute examination of the dates and characters of the latter's map of London. I remember seeing the one ascribed to the year 1604 in the Crace Collection, when on view at the South Kensington Museum; but no date of any kind could be seen, and I believe it to belong to a much later period. If I remember rightly, Mr. William Rendle, who was with me at the time, concurred in this opinion—one which may be said to be confirmed by the plan only showing one theatre in Southwark, and that an octagonal one. The Crace maps are now in the British Museum.

J. O. HALLIWELL-PHILLIPS.

VARIETIES OF KNIGHTHOOD (6th S. xii. 328).—As one who has taken trouble to obtain an amendment of the absurd condition of the law as regards baronets, permit me to ask where Mr. JOHN J. STOCKEN obtained the information that James I. sold baronetcy in 1614 to any persons who would pay him 1,000£, for the title? The fees of the Garter are now over 1,000£; but I doubt that the Chapter would elect a knight for even twice that sum. I have always believed that the first baronets were men of ancient race and very good social position. W. F. FRASER, of Ledeclune, Bt.

["James offered the title of baronet to all persons of good repute, being knights or esquires possessed of lands worth 1,000£ a year, provided that they were ready to pay the Exchequer 1,000£ in three annual payments, being the sum required to keep thirty foot soldiers for three years."—Gardiner, History of England, vol. ii. p. 112. This quotation refers to baronets, and not to knights, but is advanced as bearing upon the subject.]

ASTRONOMICAL PARADOX (6th S. xii. 347).—I suspect that the paragraph quoted by C. M. I. was not written by a Fellow of King's, and I am tolerably sure that the officials of the Nautical Almanac office would not sanction the statement. The writer was probably thinking of refraction when a ray of light approaches the earth it makes a slight curve, owing to the atmosphere which surrounds our sphere. The effect of this inclination is to make the object from which the ray proceeds appear slightly higher than its real position. In calculating, therefore, the height of heavenly bodies an allowance is always made for refraction. So far as the statement goes that towns and islands cannot have the position now assigned to them, I can state from personal experience that the assertion is an error. Not only can we fix the position of towns and islands, but also we can ascertain within a few yards the position of a single house.

F. G.

The "gentlemen who are responsible for the contents of the Nautical Almanac," have evidently been indulging in a little chaff, which seems to me to be quite justifiable under the circumstances. Most certainly if the angle of incidence of a ray of light be not equal to the angle of refraction, every measure made with the reflecting sextant is utterly wrong. We may add that if the three angles of a plane triangle be not equal to two right angles, every proposition of Euclid is utterly wrong. It is well known, however, that Horne Tooke's etymology of if from the imperative of give has been long since exploded; it is really derived from a Gothic word meaning "doubt"; and we may venture, I think, to be very sceptical about either of the above propositions.

W. T. LINN. Blackheath.

PALEY (6th S. xii. 369).—I have heard this story told of Charles Austin or one of his Cambridge friends. Being congratulated by his friend as the successful author of an essay on "Christian Evidences," he remarked, with a shrill twinkle in his eye, "Yes; but I could have written a much better one on the other side."

This reminds me of a similar story attributed to Austin, I think. Being asked in an examination to state and refute Hume's celebrated argument on miracles, he proceeded to state it with the utmost clearness and calmly added, "There is no answer to this argument."

W. J. GREENSTREET, B.A.

POLITICAL BALLAD (6th S. xii. 368).—"N. & Q." supplies the lines which J. PITT asks for in 6th S. vi. 166.

ED. MARSHALL.

[These lines, which appeared under the heading: "The Duchess of Devonshire," were supplied from an autograph manuscript by D. C. E., who is kind enough to send them again.]

DR. JOHNSON'S WATCH (6th S. xi. 348; xii. 345).—I can inform O. M. that Dr. Johnson's watch, with the Greek inscription on the dial, is in my possession. Boswell says Johnson gave it to Stevens, Stevens gave it to his cousin, Mr. Boswell, and Mr. Boswell gave it to me.

JAMES PYCROFT.

CALLIMANCHE (6th S. xii. 340, 357).—Wood and plaster houses have been called by this name.

HAROLD MALET.

Dublin.

S.S.F.C. (6th S. xii. 348).—Surely these letters can mean nothing else but "Socii eti si cunere"?

E. WALFORD, M.A.
petite médaille de bronze, mais la plupart étaient telle-
ment oxydées qu'elles se sont brisées au premier frotte-
ment....les bronzes étaient de Trojan et d'Antonin.
—Cochet, Normandie Sauvage, Paris, 1856.

This mode of disposing the coins seems to me ex-
ceptional; I have therefore "made a note of it."

J. MARSHALL
Emmanuel Hospital, S.W.

**Queries.**

We must request correspondents desiring information 
on family matters of only private interest, to affix their 
names and addresses to their queries, in order that the 
answers may be addressed to them direct.

**Stabrobes or Staurobates.**—In the second 
appearance of Oberon after the first act of Greene's 
play of James IV, the first dumb show represents a 
battle between Semiramis and Stabrobes, else-
where called Staurobates, in which the former flies, 
loses her crown, and is hurt. What is the authority 
for this Stabrobes, &c., and what is the true 
spelling of his name? Or is it a coinage by Greene 
indicating that he was the cross or affliction pre-
pared for the mighty empress? I cannot find 
either form of the name, nor does the account of 
Semiramis (Smith's Dict., &c.) state that she fell 
in this manner, but that she bequeathed her em-
pire to Ninyas and disappeared from the earth.

I use the word "fell." advisedly, for the whole in-
tended moral of the show is lost unless she then lost 
s her crown and fell. See, for instance, the following 
dumb shows to the same purport—"What is the 
pomp of this world?"

Might I add one item to the representation 
this part of the play, and very probably of 
"Midsummer Night's Dream?" a matter hitherto, I 
believe, unnoticed. Bohun speaks of every "weane" 
in the show as "all belaint with blood." The 
maid show was produced by Oberon. In all pro-
bability, therefore, the actors were supposed to be 
fairies; and certainly, as appears from "weane," 
those actors were represented by children. In 
the manner Bohun calls Oberon "little king," 
and on his first appearance says, "Thou lookest 
not so big as the King of Clubs," with other refer-
tences to the kings of spades, diamonds, and hearts.

Nor is it difficult to understand that Oberon could 
be played by a child when the little eyasses 
played whole comedies and tragedies, and in fame 
and profit outside Shakespeare's company.

E. NICOLSON.

**Astronomical Paradox.**—The following is 
extracted from a letter published in a newspaper 
called the People, signed "Percival J. Brine," and 
therefore presumably written by the gentleman of 
that name who is a senior fellow of King's College, 
Cambridge. He asserts that "the officials of the 
Nautical Almanac office" have sanctioned the fol-
lowing statement—which he professes (apparently) 
to give in their own words—viz., that in conse-
quence of his discovery of the inequality of the 
angles of incidence and reflection,

"the places on the earth and sea, such as towns and 
and islands, cannot have the positions that are now assigned 
to them; and as regards nautical astronomy the angular 
distance of any two objects, such as the angle of distance 
of the moon from the sun, will not be that given by the 
sextant, because the instrument is made on the assump-
tion that the incident and reflecting angles are equal. 
If there is a great difference in the two angles, the whole 
of the positions of the stars will be different from their 
supposed present ones; in fact, the whole system will be 
upset, because no observation can be correct, on account 
of the local position of the observer not being able to be 
given satisfactorily. Without assuming that these two 
angles of incidence and reflection are equal, it is im-
possible to determine accurately the position of the 
observer."

One is landed in a difficulty, from which I ask 
for extirication. One may presume that a senior 
 fellow of King's knows what he is writing about, 
and certainly would not publish what he knows to 
be untrue. On the other hand, it is incredible, to 
me at least, that the gentlemen who are responsible 
for the contents of the Nautical Almanac should 
ever have sanctioned such a statement as that 
given above. What is the way out? Will some 
learned correspondent of "N. & Q." come to my aid 
that I may not be led astray?

C. M. J.

**Beacham Hall, Norfolk.**

**Legends of Lakes.**—May I inquire if any of 
the English or Scotch lakes, either freshwater or 
marine, have legends attached to them accounting 
for their origin? Many of the Irish loughs are 
spelled in the ancient annals of the nation to have 
burst forth in certain years, and to some are 
attached legends which give circumstantial ac-
counts of the occurrence. Usually an enchanted 
well, which has been carefully guarded, and the 
door of which has been closely attended open, 
avantage of a moment of neglect and bursts forth, 
filling up a fertile valley or plain and drowning all 
the inhabitants. A woman is usually the cause of 
the disaster. There are also in Ireland legends as 
to supernatural monsters—a hound, a serpent, or 
something else—living under the waters of certain 
lakes. Are such legends as these connected with 
any English or Scotch loughs?

W. H. P.

**Bungtong Coppers.**—This name was given 
in New England, in the early decades of the 
century, to copper coins which were thought of an 
inferior type. Has Bungtong any geographical 
reality? If so, where is it? And how old is the 
phrase "Bungtong copper?"

JAMES D. BUTLER.

Madison, Wis., U.S.

**Dr. Mead.**—Where did Dr. Mead live near 
Windsor? He used to drive down to his country 
house with a coach and six. Also he used daily