or large and penetrative intelligence enough, to have been made the chosen confidant of the first intellect and finest nature in Denmark; but beyond this, Shakspeare has been as careful to mark the seniority of Horatio as he has the age of Hamlet.

The same year Hamlet was born, Horatio was an attendant on the wars, and a witness of the great combat between Hamlet's father and Fortinbras.

"I saw him once, he was a goodly king."

"Such was the very armour he had on When he the ambitious Norway combated. So frowned he once when in an angry parle He smote the sleded Polack on the ice."

Horatio, therefore, at sufficient age to mark, had watched the king through the day's battle which happened precisely thirty years previous to the burial of Ophelia.

His proper figure, in statuary, picture, and on the stage, should be that of full-bearded and mature manhood, somewhere between five and eight and forty—strong, calm, and philosophic, the figure of a man who, in suffering all, had suffered nothing; securely advanced beyond the impetuousity of youth; too wise, and staunch, and personal and mental, a friend on whom the Galileo of an almost unrevelable truth, the task-crushed Hamlet, might lean in his infinite trouble for support.

Both Hamlet and Horatio are the outcome of the university. The university and the religion so strongly marked in the play are to show that Hamlet is the outcome of thought and knowledge in an age thoroughly subjected to Christianity.

In acting, no part of this play should be excised. It contains no superfluous part or line, as, when its true interpretation takes place, will be seen.

R. H. LEGIS.

"A SEA OF TROUBLES" (Hamlet, Act iii. sc. 1).

—There does not appear to be any pretence for substituting siege for sea. Pope proposed siege; Warburton, assault. Singer, who gives "sea," says the word was essay (which was easily mistaken for a sea), which was no doubt used in the same sense as assault. But Johnson, Theobald, Holt White, and Malone are of a different opinion; and Theobald gives the Greek:—

κακῶν θαλασσα, κακῶν τρικυμια.

Holt White quotes from Menander:—

Ες τελαγος αυτον εμβαλεις γαρ πραγματων.

And Malone refers to two passages in Prometheus Vinctus, viz.:—

Δυσχεμερον γε τελαγος ατηρας δυσς,

and—

Θαλεροι δε λογοι παινων εικη

Στυγνης προς κυμασιν ατης.

Even at the present day ocean, or, at all events, oceans, is used in the same sense, as "oceans of this," "oceans of that." It occurs also in Spanish. The Dicte. de la Acad. Españo, gives:—

"Oceanos, metaphoricamente se usa muchas vezes para expressar las cosas, que no pueden ponderarlas la lengua por su grandeza ó inmensidad. Lt. oceanus. Fr. l. de Gran., Symb., part. i. cap. 2. Mas á vos, gran Mar, ocean, quien podrá rodear? Eterno sois en la duración infinito, en la virtud, y supremo en la jurisdicción."

Junior Garrick Club.

"BUSYLESS." Tempest, Act iii. sc. 1 (5th S. iv. 181, 365; v. 105; vi. 25.)—I think your correspondent, at the last reference, is mistaken in supposing that tameless is formed from the adjective tame. It is, I have not the least doubt, formed from the verb to tame. Unfortunately for the proposed parallel, busy is not a transitive verb. Whatever may be thought of such an adjective as busyless, it should be ever borne in mind that (pace Todd's Johnson) the word never existed till Theobald coined it.

Jabez Athenæum Club.

SAMUEL SHEPPARD.—I have a work by Sheppard which is not mentioned in Lowndes, Hazlitt's Handbook, or the Bodleian Catalogue:—


The volume contains sixty-three pages and is inscribed to Selden. In the dedicatory epistle the writer says:—

"These Essays (for the most part) found production in the infamous Goal of Newgate, where (for my loyalty to the late king) I suffered a severe restraint almost fourteen monetha."

The address "To the Peruser" is a very characteristic production:—

"Some of my friends (whom I unfeignedly honour for their learning, &c.) have of late been pleased to tax my studies (referring to somewhat I lately divulged) an incompatible with my profession, &c. but did they know how meanly I prize those pieces of frivolity, they would suspend their censures; and be confident that their Severitia (in that kind) cannot exceed mine: he that thinks worse of those Rimes then myself, I scorn him; for he cannot: he that thinks better is a fool. We know that the greatest Kings and Statesmen sometimes purposely desert their stations, yet not forget who they are, nor what power they manage. But to let my friends know I can be serious, and (sitting in Portico Zenonis) seem a sullen as the sorest of them, I present this to publick view, wherein I have endeavoured to stive as much good matter as I could in a little room (perhaps) to afront partiality, and opinion (the Goddess of the world), and heard the Zanzzumims or Gyant wits of the time. These Essays, and delineations I dedicate only to