Not only Lord Macanlay's famous schoolboy, but every reader of Grecian history, knows that Xerxes, when about to pass from Asia into Europe, looked upon himself as a "future conqueror." May we not say, indeed, that every invader of a country does so? Certainly Cassius did when he told the Parthian ambassadors that he would give his answer at Seleucia. But Abah's advice to Benhadad (1 Kings xx. 11) should be laid to heart by these would-be conquerors. What does Mr. Marshall mean by "such (i.e., that of a conqueror) was a proper description of him at the time"? Had the time been when he "sat on the rocky brow" and was in temporary possession of Athens, we could have understood it. But at the period under consideration the expedition had not left Asia, and the "success" (if it may be called so) was only in having gathered the mighty host together. One cannot help thinking of the estimate Wellington is said to have expressed of Soult,—"There is no general so capable of bringing a certain force to a certain place at a certain time; but when he has got it there, he does not know what to do with it."

As I remarked before, I yield to none in appreciation of the 'Christian Year,' but surely that feeling need not exclude any criticism.

W. T. Lynn.

Blackheath.

There is another royal coxwain to be noted, viz., Canute, who is said to have steered the barge in which the remains of Archbishop Alphege, saint and martyr, were carried over the river from St. Paul's to Bankside. Alphege was martyred by the Danes at Greenwich in the year 1011, and buried at St. Paul's. But Canterbury obtained permission, twenty-one years afterwards, to remove his body from London; and it may have been not only with the purpose of doing honour to the saint, but also to prevent opposition at St. Paul's to the removal of the sacred relics, that Canute steered the vessel across the Thames.

Charlotte G. Boger.

Charles I. at Little Gidding (8th S. viii. 321, 412, 472, 512; viii. 78).—If Mr. Jos. Phillips will refer to Dr. Peckard's 'Life of Mr. Nicholas Ferrar,' folio 327, he will see that Charles I. was at Little Gidding on May 2, 1646. This visit of Charles I. is also mentioned in 'Nicholas Ferrar, his Household and his Friends,' edited by Rev. T. T. Carter (Longmans, 1892), folios 310, 311.

W. A. Ferrar.

Spider-wort called "Trinita" (8th S. viii. 109).—I have never heard this plant so called, nor do I find the name applied to it in any of my books. Gerard figures the plant under the name of Phalangium virginianum, Tradesc., but gives the name "Herb Trinity" to the pansy (Viola tricolor); and noble liverwort (Anemone hepatica), following in this Dooneans and Lyte. In most modern books, and generally, I think, in popular speech, the name is now given only to the pansy. The pious Culpeper, by the way, was much offended by this "blasphemy."

C. C. B.

The name "Herb Trinity" is given to the trefoil (Trifolium pratense), called also "herba benefica" and "herb benedicta" (R. J. King's 'Sketches and Studies,' p. 86). But this name comes from the shape only, not the date of the plant also.

Edward H. Marshall, M.A.

Hastings.

Burial Custom (8th S. viii. 108).—In the parish of High Halstow, near Rochester, in Kent, are about half a dozen cottages on the north side of the church, to which there is a footpath through the churchyard, west of the church, which has the porch on the south side, and also a door on the north, not often used. A person died in one of these cottages, and on my suggesting to the rector it would be nearer and more convenient for the body to be brought in through the north door, the reply was, the friends would be offended, and think the body was not properly buried, unless brought through the south porch. This was in 1890; but I believe the rector was a Yorkshireman.

Arthur Hussey.

Wingham, Kent.

Portrait of Dr. Richmond (8th S. viii. 128).—Though unable to answer this query, I may point out that the head master of Rugby School from 1751 to 1755 was Joseph Richmond, not John. As supplementing the note under his name in Foster's 'Alumni Oxoni,' it may be noted that he entered Queen's College, Oxford, March 30, 1737, was usher at Rugby under Dr. Knall, was elected Fellow of Queen's Dec. 20, 1753, lived in college 1755-1762, was presented to the rectory of Newnham, Hants, with the chapelry of Maple-durwell, Feb. 19, 1762, and survived his resignation of the head mastership sixty-one years.

A. T. M.

Coincidences (8th S. viii. 124).—The most curious coincidence that ever happened to me was some years ago, when I sat in the garden of Kensington Square reading over Myer's poem 'The Translation of Faith.' I came to the end of the first section, which concludes thus:—

How faint, how fair that immaterial wreath.

But looking long I saw that she was Faith.

I then looked up, and saw standing in front, looking quietly at me, a pretty little girl, seemingly about six years old. "Well, little lady," I said, "and what is your name?" "Faith," she answered. Just then some one called her from the other end of the garden; she ran away, and I did not see her again. The lady at whose house in the