Readers’ Queries.

CAPTAIN SIMON GORDON, ST. ALBANS. — A curious epitaph in St. Stephen’s Parish Church, St. Albans, states that Captain Simon “Gordan” of Bornhill, Herts, died Oct. 18, 1669, aged sixty-eight. He was connected with St. Christopher’s and was probably identical with the Captain Simon Gordon who deposed on July 25, 1660 that he and several other gentlemen had emigrated on the William and John in 1626 to Barbados (Calendar of Colonial Papers, 1574-1660). A Simon Gordon of St. Albans had a son who matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford on Dec. 17, 1680, aged eighteen. That may have been one of the two sons of Captain Simon “Gordan” as noted in the St. Stephen’s epitaph. What is known of him? The name is a very rare one in the Gordon family.

J. M. BULLOCH.

SCOTS FIRS IN ENGLAND.—When were Scots firs planted in England? The ordinary theory is that they were imported about the time of James I. The Pinus Montana wins, which is quite a different tree from the Scots fir, was planted much later.

J. M. BULLOCH.

CHRISTOPHER ROPER, “WRONGLY EXPELLED.”—The identification is desired of Christopher Roper, “servant to the Duke of York” (afterwards Henry VIII), who sued John Islip, Abbot of Westminster, for expelling himself and his wife (widow of Roger Foster) from the position of Keeper of the Demesne of Hendon Manor. The Abbot sues Roper for £48 arrears of rents collected, and in default of his finding securities Roper is to be committed to prison. Custance Foster had, as the widow of Roger Foster, been the bailiff or farmer of the rents of Hendon. Roper married the widow, secured the rents and escaped penalties, owing, doubtless, to his royal master’s influence. The Roper family were closely allied with many at court, but Christopher does not appear on the pedigrees. There are several documents relating to this unusual case in the Record Office and Westminster Abbey. (The site of the Fosters’ house in Hendon is still known as Fosters; they soon after this alienated their land and left the parish).

FRED. HITCHIN-KEMP. 102, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, N.W.4.

RALPH ALLEN OF PRIOR PARK.—What relation, if any to Ralph Allen of Prior Park was Ralph Allen, Ba. of C. of Bath who married Aug. 26, 1721 at the Charterhouse Chapel, Elizabeth Buckridge, spinster, of St. Bride’s, London? She was a sister of Anthony Rodney Buckridge, Esq. of Ware, Herts, and daughter of Seaborne Buckridge by Sarah daughter of John Pierrepont, who, then a widow, June 17, 1704, married at the same chapel Joseph Pember, attorney.

A. STEPHENS Dyer. 207, Kingston Road, Teddington.

PEDIGREE OF BARTON.—I wonder can any reader supply me with additions or corrections to the following pedigree:

Edward Barton, of = Mildrethe, sister of Bowe (Beau) Island. Robert Coonyng-Co. Fermanagh; b. c. 1663; d. 10 March, 1729 (see ‘Landed Gentry of Ireland’).

William Barton = dau. of —
(I am particularly anxious to identify her). c. 1772.

Gustavus Barton = Harriett, dau. of —
Johnston, of Co. Monaghan. Her paternal or maternal ancestry is desired.

Major Baptist Johnston Barton, 64th Foot, of Drumsallogh, Co. Monaghan, b. 1774; m. 1815, Catherine, dau. of Ralph Babington, of Greenfort, Co. Donegal (see Burke’s ‘Family Records’).

E. S. GRAY.

PLOMGREN FAMILY.—I should also be very grateful for data concerning the Swedish family of Plomgren, previous to 1760, especially the ancestry of Hedwig Sophia Plomgren, wife of John Jennings. The Plomgrens have since, I believe, been created Barons in Sweden.

E. S. GRAY.

'THE HABITS OF GOOD SOCIETY': A HANDBOOK OF ETIQUETTE. — Wanted the date of publication of the above, (James Hogg and Son, London), and the author’s name. He describes himself as “The Man in the Club-window.” To what does the following note refer: — “It was a barber who, at the beginning of the present [? nineteenth] century was the bottle-imp of a Bishop of Hereford.”

P. D. M.